

November 4, 2008

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-447-5400 ext. 286
F: 817-447-6885
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

Once again, the Burleson community is coming together to honor its veterans with the Military Veteran Tribute on Saturday, Nov. 8, at Renfro Square. The City of Burleson, B&G Commercial Development, and community volunteers are joining forces to salute, honor, and remember those who have served in the military service for the United States of America. The ceremony includes a special tribute to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Purple Heart veterans will also be recognized.

The ceremony begins at 2 p.m. at the fountain at the B&G Development at the corner of Renfro Street and I-35W. Burleson Mayor Ken Shetter is serving as emcee and will give the opening remarks. Pastor Cory Smithee will offer the invocation and the Burleson High School's Color Guard will present the colors with Soulful Sound singing the national anthem. The pledge of allegiance will be followed by Dist. 58 State Rep. Rob Orr of Burleson, who will perform the ceremonial laying of the wreath. Bagpiper Steve Pruitt, an Arlington firefighter, will play "Amazing Grace" during that ceremony.

The guest speaker is Lt. Commander Leon Saul, United States Navy Retired. The Heritage Place resident served from 1942 to 1968 during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The lieutenant commander grew up in Parker County and earned a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a master's degree from Texas Christian University. He also taught science at Dunbar Junior High and biology at Mineral Wells High. He is married with two daughters, three sons, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Councilmember Matt Powell will offer a tribute to Burleson's Moseley family, who lost several children in the wars. Soulful Sound will perform again with their rendition of the Armed Forces Medley. Rep. Orr will speak about memorial resolutions for veterans and what their service means to a grateful nation.

The names of the Metroplex service members who were killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan will be read by the City's recreation manager, David McDowell. The ceremony will close with Arlington firefighter Sam Briones playing "Taps" on his bugle followed by the mayor's closing remarks.

For those families who have service members overseas, the staff of Heritage Place will have 30 care packages ready for mailing. Those packages will be distributed on a first come, first served basis at the tribute on Nov. 8. Staff from the Burleson Public Library will also be on hand Saturday to take orders for veteran bricks and to sign veterans up for videotaped interviews that will be forwarded to the Library of Congress.

For more information about the event, call David McDowell at 817-295-8168. For more information about this release, call the City's public information office at 817-447-5400, ext. 286.