



Steve Radack, Commissioner
Harris County Precinct 3

**PRECINCT THREE REPORT
APRIL AND MAY 2010**

Harris County Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack's office will host its annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the War Memorial in Bear Creek Pioneers Park on Monday, May 31st at 2 p.m. More names of local military personnel killed in war zones will be etched on the Memorial Wall there in advance of the ceremony.

In recent years, because of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, new names have regularly been added before the solemn Memorial Day Ceremony. Names of military men and women from Harris County who lost their lives in previous conflicts are also added to the wall as they are brought to the attention of Commissioner Radack's office. Such will be the case this year.

One of the names being added is that of U.S. Army Pvt. Paul C. Robb, a Houston man awarded the Purple Heart killed during World War II.

At the request of Robb's surviving niece, who lives in Harris County and still has vivid memories of a dashing young uncle who drove a cab and charmed her with small gifts, Precinct Three researched Robb with the help of the Harris County Clerk's Office, the District Clerk's Office and various military resources.

Confirmation of Robb's military record came quickly. He entered the military in Texas. He was with the 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division and was killed in the weeks after the D-Day invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe. He is buried in Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France. But it took research into his status as a Harris County resident to secure his place on the Memorial Wall – something that was done with an old marriage license unearthed by the County Clerk's Office.

As a result, and at Commissioner Radack's instruction, Robb's name will be placed on the wall, along with names being added this year from the war in Afghanistan.

Because of severe flooding at the park last year, the ceremony was cancelled in 2009 for the first time in its 25-year history. A wreath was placed at the Memorial Wall after the waters receded.

This year's ceremony will feature Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan as guest speaker. Ryan, who was elected County Attorney in 2008, previously served as an Assistant County Attorney and First Assistant County Attorney under former County Attorney Mike Driscoll from 1981 until 1987. He has also previously served on the Houston City Council.

Earlier in life, as a young U.S. Army officer, Ryan volunteered for duty in Vietnam during the war. He was later returned to active duty for Operation Just Cause -- the military operation that ousted the dictator of Panama in 1990. He later served as a U.S. Presidential appointee to the Board of the Panama Canal Commission – a job for which he was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Ryan is also a former U.S. Army reservist. He retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

The Memorial Day ceremony will also feature drills by the Houston Police Department Honor Guard, the Harris County Precinct Five Constable Color Guard and the Westside High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC). The invocation and

benediction will be given by Pastor Larry Womack of Copperfield Baptist Church and Rachael Boettcher will sing *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful*.

In other news, a small section of the popular Terry Hershey hike-and-bike trail west of the Precinct Three parking lot on Beltway 8 is expected to reopen May 12th. Access to that section of the trail, which runs behind a City of Houston sanitation plant, has been closed for about two weeks as crews removed and replaced trail surface and handrails.

Different portions of the trail have remained accessible throughout the repairs via parking locations on Interstate 10, west of North Eldridge, or on Memorial Drive, just west of North Eldridge. Anyone with questions about trail access can call the Precinct Three Parks Office at (281) 531-1592.

Work is also continuing on amenities at the Harris County Precinct Three Soap Box Derby Track in Hockley – one of the few of its kind in the nation. A playground at the site and trails linking it to the track and parking lot were recently finished. Several large trees are also being planted at the site.

On March 27th, Greater Houston Soap Box Derby hosted an event at the facility in which competitors jockeyed for enough points to qualify for a trip to the national competition in Akron, Ohio. The rally also featured “super kid” races for handicapped and special needs competitors. That event and a second one brought roughly 400 people to the Hockley facility.

Precinct Three has also constructed about a dozen cars built for adults, who will soon also get the opportunity to race down the derby hill. Construction is almost complete on a barn to house soap box derby cars that will also give competitors a place to repair their vehicles. In addition, the track will soon be open to local charities so they can use “challenge races” to raise money.

The Precinct Three track, adjacent to the Hockley Community Center at 28515 Old Washington Road in Hockley, has been in planning and construction stages for more than a decade. Before it was paved over, the hill was fashioned with dirt excavated from Commissioner Radack’s nearby “Chain of Lakes” project. The facility also includes concession stands and restrooms. The parking lot has 226 standard parking spaces and 14 handicapped spots. There are additional plans for an amphitheater at the site.

Precinct Three staffers have received calls from constituents of all ages interested in the project. In addition, the U.S. Olympic Luge Team has contacted Precinct Three about the possibility of using the facility for practice runs and training.

In other news, base repair and overlay of several roads and parking lots in Bear Creek Pioneers Park is 98 percent complete. The resurfacing of the jogging trails in the War Memorial Drive area is also complete. Construction is complete on the Brays Bayou Granite Trail from Alief Clodine to the pedestrian bridge.

Below is the status on ongoing construction projects in Precinct Three.

- Westside Senior Education Center – 90 percent complete. Construction of a new single story building of approximately 15,000 gross square feet with concrete parking lot and access drive.
- Katy Fort Bend County Road from North of Franz to North of Morton Ranch Road – 80 percent complete. Construction of a four-lane concrete boulevard with new traffic signal at Katy Fort Bend County Road and Morton Ranch Road.
- Mueschke Road from approximately one mile north of US 290 to Sandy Hill Circle – 70 percent complete. Construction of a four-lane concrete boulevard.
- Tuckerton Road from Oak Trace Island to Queenston – 40 percent complete. Construction of a two-lane concrete roadway to complete a four-lane concrete boulevard.
- Kieth Harrow Boulevard from Westfield Village to Fry – 20 percent complete. Construction of a two-lane concrete roadway to complete a four-lane concrete boulevard.

- North Eldridge from north of Cypress North Houston to north of Cypress Creek – 10 percent complete. Construction of the future southbound lanes to complete a four-lane concrete boulevard.
- Kluge Road from Huffmeister to Little Cypress Creek – 10 percent complete. Construction of a four-lane concrete boulevard.
- Morton Road from Mason to Raintree Village – 5 percent complete. Construction of a four-lane concrete boulevard.
- Cypress Rose Hill from Manor Bend to Little Cypress Creek – 2 percent complete. Construction of a four-lane concrete boulevard.
- Tuckerton at Barker Cypress – 2 percent complete. Intersection improvement project includes new westbound left turn lane and removal and replacement of concrete pavement to improve grade differentials.

As always, Precinct Three encourages comments and questions. You can mail them to Commissioner Radack's office at 1001 Preston, 9th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 or email us at pct3@hctx.net.