

Wounded Warrior Purple Heart Cemetery

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For Immediate Release:

WOUNDED WARRIOR PURPLE HEART CEMETERY ESTABLISHED

America's first "green" cemetery dedicated to honoring the remains of Wounded Warriors and Purple Heart Veterans has been established in a beautiful 2,000 acre native forest in rural San Jacinto County, Texas.

One hundred year old Dr. Kenneth Lee Russell and his 66 year old son, George Russell, have donated some 100 acres in the forest to the Universal Ethician Church to be added to the church's Green Cemetery Group. (www.cemeterygroup.org)

The Russell's have always been very concerned about the wellbeing of our soldiers who have returned from war zones after being wounded in action. During World War II, Dr. Russell served America as an Agriculture Teacher, training young men to produce the food needed to feed our troops overseas. His son George served on active duty as a crypto officer, from 1970 to 1974, three years of which were overseas at a strategic communications command.

Both men escaped injury during the war years and thus feel a special concern for those young people who were the casualties of war.

In "green burial", the bodies are laid to rest in shallow graves, without being embalmed and entombed in bronze coffins or concrete vaults.

The bodies may be wrapped in an American flag, or other shroud and placed directly into the grave. Simple pine caskets are allowed however. Family, friends, or veteran's groups may dig the graves by hand and full military honors are encouraged.

Although in "green burial", non-biodegradable materials are discouraged, cemetery rules allow for the burial of prosthetic devices along with the body if that is what is desired by the departed and his or her family as the materials used are not considered to be toxic to the environment.

The "wounded warrior" may be joined, hopefully at a later date, by family members and pets so long as they meet the criteria for "green burial". For those servicepersons who have been cremated, cremains may either be scattered or buried in a biodegradable container.

The cemetery is the property of The Universal Ethician Church which believes that all humans, regardless of faith tradition, are children of God and thus any and all “wounded warriors” will be offered a free plot on one of the cemetery’s many platted lots at no cost to the veteran or the veteran’s family. Tax deductible donations for the administration of the cemetery and the restoration of the rare and threatened plant communities therein are however greatly appreciated. Donations may be sent c/o The Universal Ethician Church, Wounded Warrior Purple Heart Cemetery, 1401 19th Street, Huntsville, Texas 77340.

Within a matter of hours micro-organisms begin to feed on the body of the deceased and soon thereafter the body is recycled into the roots of trees, and feeds myriad wildflowers, birds and butterflies. Russell believes that there are men and women who would prefer that their bodies are recycled back into what he calls “God’s Holy Creation”, in a beautiful native forest, rather than in a more formal setting in a traditional veteran’s cemetery.

Kenneth L. Russell, Professor of Education, Emeritus, Sam Houston State University Huntsville, Texas; was born on a farm near Chilhowee, Missouri on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1911.

He is founder of The Educational Video Network, Inc, also known as Educational Filmstrips, and producer of best selling titles such as “Understanding Money and Inflation” and “Parliamentary Procedure in Action” used in classrooms across the US and around the world.

Russell is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Delta Kappa, American Association of University Professors, Who’s Who in American Education, President of Alpha Gamma Sigma, University of Missouri, 1933-34. Famous the world over for his publications on Economics, Government, and Parliamentary Procedure, and showing no signs of slowing down, it is obvious that Russell has no intentions of “retiring”.

Russell and his late wife of 72 years, Marjorie, have three children. Together Kenneth and Marjorie co-founded the Universal Ethician Church and the Ethician Family Cemetery with their son George and his wife Sue.

George H. Russell, an outspoken opponent of the death penalty, is a resident of Huntsville, Texas, known worldwide as "The City of Death."

He is founder of The Patriot Network, and author of its 35+ web sites located at www.patriotnetwork.org, as well as founder of The Universal Ethician Church, an interfaith ministry with a worldwide following via the church's 275+ web sites located at www.salvationnetwork.org.

Russell, born May 22, 1945, is a film producer, educational video producer, environmental activist, historic preservation specialist, photographer, art and antique collector, philanthropist, American patriot and ethician.

Additional biographical information may be found in Who's Who in America, through Internet searches, and in other publications. Images of Mr. Russell suitable for downloading for publication may be found at www.salvationnetwork.org.