

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING

◆  
**McShan Florist for providing:  
The Flowers and Wreath**

**We are also grateful to the following  
who helped make this program possible:**

◆  
**Stephanie Martin, Executive Assistant,  
NAS Ft. Worth JRB**

◆  
**Dallas Police Department, Southwest Patrol  
Fort Worth Police Mounted  
The Dallas - Fort Worth National Cemetery Staff  
TNCF Public Information Center (PIC) Volunteers**

◆  
**Citi Veterans Network of Dallas/Fort Worth, Volunteers  
Volunteers who assisted with the Avenue of Flags  
AT&T Veterans**

◆  
**Texas Department of Transportation  
Dr. Elba Garcia, Dallas County Commissioner District 4 & Staff  
Department of Veterans Affairs, Dallas Office of Public Affairs**

◆  
**Reddy Ice of Dallas  
CareFlite of Dallas  
Mobile Communications America**

**No Frills Grill & Sports Bar —Mansfield  
“Be Happy Chili Cookoff”  
A Veteran’s Pool Company Mansfield**

**And we are grateful to YOU for attending**

**This Program is Produced and Directed by:  
Gary Poplin ◆ Jason Poplin ◆ Bobby Donahoo**

**Sponsored by:  
Texas National Cemetery Foundation, Inc.  
[www.tncf.org](http://www.tncf.org)**

## **Texas National Cemetery Foundation**

*PROUDLY PRESENTS THE*

# **MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**



**Monday, May 25, 2026  
11:00 AM**

*at*

**Dallas-Fort Worth  
National Cemetery**



**Thomas A. Smith**

**Special  
Assistant  
Attorney  
General**

**Criminal Justice  
Division**

Tom Smith began his legal career as a law clerk to one of the most respected conservative state jurists in American history, the Honorable Thomas J. Moyer, Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. In 1998, he joined the law firm of Jones Day in their Dallas office and embarked on a career of civil practice before returning to government as counsel in the Texas Senate in 2013. Since 2015 he has served in the Texas Attorney General's office, including for the last 5 years as a Special Assistant Attorney General for Criminal Justice.

He was one of 2 lawyers in the Attorney General's office who helped draft the state's ban on sanctuary cities, a law that is still constitutional today. He also wrote multiple bills cracking down on human trafficking, including a unique law requiring major event organizers in Texas receiving taxpayer funds to submit an anti human trafficking plan to the state before receiving money. He has also been a strong supporter of law enforcement, having worked extensively on multiple pieces of legislation on behalf of the Law Enforcement Division in the AG's office, including bills to increase officer pay, increase fund-

## **About the Foundation**

Texas National Cemetery Foundation, Inc. (TNCF), is a 501 (C ) (3) corporation, whose sole purpose is to provide direct support to the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. It serves in a liaison capacity providing immediate access to military, civilian, and various government organizations and agencies. It is able to bridge funding for non-government-provided amenities enhancing operations at the cemetery. Their special events sponsorships include but are not limited to Memorial and Veterans day events. Their broad based resources and the vast knowledge their supporters possess are readily available to the cemetery staff. The schedule for the display of the Avenue of Flags can be found on the foundation website calendar.

***Federal law prohibits fundraising on cemetery property. The Avenue of Flags extension has been approved. Please help TNCF comply with this law by contacting us off property for questions regarding the Avenue of Flag sponsorships and event financial support. Our e-mail address is:***  
***ops@tncf.org***

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers who staff the Public Information Center (PIC) provide assistance and directions to visitors as well as coordinate the flow of services throughout the day. We currently have openings for persons interested in volunteering; where we offer two shifts 8-12 noon or 12-4pm. If you might be interested in serving as a volunteer, Mrs. Mickie Prendergast, Scheduler of PIC Volunteers can be reached at 214.202.1902. Information and applications are also available our website, [www.tncf.org](http://www.tncf.org)

## Message from the Director and Staff

On behalf of the Director and staff, we thank you for joining us in our solemn remembrance of our nation's Veterans, particularly those who made the supreme sacrifice. The Dallas-Fort Worth community's unwavering generosity has been instrumental in the flourishing of this sacred place, and we express our profound gratitude to our dedicated volunteers for their tireless service. It is through your commitment, coupled with the vital work of the Texas National Cemetery Foundation, that we are able to provide essential services daily and host significant memorial observances such as this.

As you walk these hallowed grounds today, remember that each headstone and marker represents a profound act of faith – the belief that our lives and liberties are worth defending. We respectfully ask for your continued care and support in maintaining this National Shrine, a constant reminder of their profound dedication to our country.

## About Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery

Established in May 2000, encompassing 638 acres, the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery is currently undergoing significant enhancements. These include the addition of 9,000 columbarium niches, 23,000 new gravesites, and a new shelter, facilitated by three separate contracts. Since its opening, the cemetery has honored the service of approximately 93,000 Veterans and eligible dependents, including numerous individuals who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Ultimately, this National Cemetery will provide a final resting place for 280,000 eligible Veterans and their families.



ing for cybercrimes units, and was the lead lawyer assigned to the Legislature to draft the state's current law banning online solicitation of children.

The son of a public schoolteacher and an oil & gas driller, Tom was born in southern Ohio in one of the poorest counties in the state, an area similar to the one that Vice President JD Vance wrote about in his book, *Hillbilly Elegy*. Love for America goes back many decades in his family. His grandfather served as a delegate for Barry Goldwater at the 1964 Republican National Convention, and four of his great uncles served in the armed forces, three in World War II including one as a Brigadier General in the Pacific Theater in World War II, and the other, James Deal, was killed in action in World War I.

He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Akron in 1993, where he was student body president. He then graduated from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1996, and obtained a Masters in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin in 2013. A musician since the age of 7, Tom writes and records original music.

In 2024, he released a video entitled "Last Call for America", a discussion about the dangers facing our republic. It begins with sharing the story of Medal of Honor recipient Michael Thornton, and how his bravery can inspire us to respond to the threats to our freedom and way of life.

Tom is a member of Highland Park United Methodist Church. He and his wife Audrey reside in the Dallas area along with their two children and rescued cats.

## PROGRAM

Prelude Music..... Various Selections  
1st Cavalry Division Band  
CPT Curran Schenck, Commander

Call to Order ..... Brig. Gen. Patrick X. Mordente,  
USAF, (Ret)  
Master of Ceremonies

Invocation..... Lt Col John Rollyson  
301 FW Chaplain

Presentation of Colors.....Joint Color Guard  
NAS Fort Worth JRB

Pledge of Allegiance ..... TBD

*Star Spangled Banner* ..... Linda Renfro

Introduction of Distinguished Guests..... Brig Gen Mordente  
Master of Ceremonies

Greeting.....David Van Meter  
Director, Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery

*Music*..... 1st Cavalry Division Band  
CPT Curran Schenck, Commanding

*Duty, Honor, Country* .....Music by Harold L. Waters  
Text by General of the Army Douglas MacArthur  
SSG Adam Call, Narrator

*Music*..... Midlothian High School Choir  
Matthew Fisk, Director

Memorial Day Address..... Tom Smith  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Justice, State of Texas

Presentation ..... Senior Chief Poplin  
Chairman, Texas National Cemetery Foundation

*Music*.....1st Cavalry Division Band  
*This Is My Country* ...Written by Don Raye and Al Jacobs  
Arrangement by Hawley Ades

*Music* .....Midlothian High School Choir

Wreath & Flag Placement ..... Texas National Cemetery  
Foundation Ceremonial Guard  
Bobby Donahoo, Commanding

Bagpiper..... Steve Pruitt

Reading the Names of KIA Interred  
At DFW National Cemetery ..... Bobby Donahoo

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save* .....1st Cavalry Division Band

Rose Placement..... TNCF Ceremonial Guard

Cannon Salute..... 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines

Taps.....1st Cavalry Division Band  
SSGT Marcus Brooks

Benediction.....Lt Col John Rollyson

Postlude Music.....1st Cavalry Division Band

Thank you for attending  
Please visit us at [www.tncf.org](http://www.tncf.org)