

ETHICIAN NEWS NETWORK

1401 19th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340

Reception 936-295-5767
Fax 936-294-0233

e-mail: ghr@cyberclone.net
internet: www.salvationnetwork.org

November 10, 2003
ATTN: NEWSROOM/EDITOR

CHURCH PROVIDES FREE BURIAL PLOTS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

For Immediate Release

Contact: George H. Russell 936-891-5245
or 936-295-5767

Waterwood, Texas

The Universal Ethician Church, in honor of America's veterans, who at the time of their deaths are found to be without homes or families, has dedicated a beautiful wilderness burial ground for the interment of up to 12 veterans.

Ancient pines, oaks, hollies, and other rare and beautiful trees grace the 12,000 square foot sanctuary located in the recently dedicated Ethician Family Cemetery which is adjacent to The Chapel of the Nativity and The Holy Trinity Wilderness Cathedral at Waterwood, Texas.

The cemetery is America's third "green cemetery" where the bodies of the departed are given natural burials that allow those interred to fulfill the Scriptural concept of "dust to dust," thus nurturing a sacred part of "America the Beautiful".

Ethician Church founder and Bishop, George H. Russell, who served in the United States Army on active duty from 1970-1974, has long been concerned with the plight of those men and women who so nobly served our country, only to fall on hard times, without home, friends, or family.

"Our cemetery is a family cemetery", said Russell. "In my book any veterans who gave their hearts and souls to preserve our freedoms and democratic republic, are worthy of adoption, even after death, as members of our Ethician Church family".

"It breaks my heart to read news reports of homeless or sick veterans who seem to have been forgotten by their country and who die in obscurity, only to be buried in pauper's graves. "Here, they will be honored by periodic visits from the American Bald Eagles,

that take refuge in our nearby sanctuaries and their bodies will nurture the tallest trees upon which the Eagles prefer to perch.”

Russell is in hopes that local veteran’s organizations will volunteer as members of a stewardship committee to oversee the digging of the graves, arrange the memorial services, place memorial plaques on each grave, and perhaps someday erect a flag pole on the site.

Cemetery rules require that graves be dug by hand, that the bodies be wrapped in a traditional funeral shroud, and that no embalming fluid be used which would poison the earth.

“We would like to accept the bodies of those unfortunate young men and young women who have lost their lives in the tragic conflict in Iraq, and who have no family to accept their remains”, said Russell. Should the need arise to inter bodies that had to be embalmed due to time and distance, the Bishop said that he will ask for donations to purchase an adjoining tract where caskets and embalmed remains can be interred.

The Ethician Church is committed to donating additional “green” memorial lots in the 81 acre cemetery in the future, to serve the needs of the church’s adopted homeless veterans. “I feel a special warmth in my heart thinking about how the mortal remains of these noble men and women will be part of a perpetual legacy and monument, nurturing the natural beauties of the America they so loved,” concluded Russell.

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, 58, is an 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.