

WINTER 2009

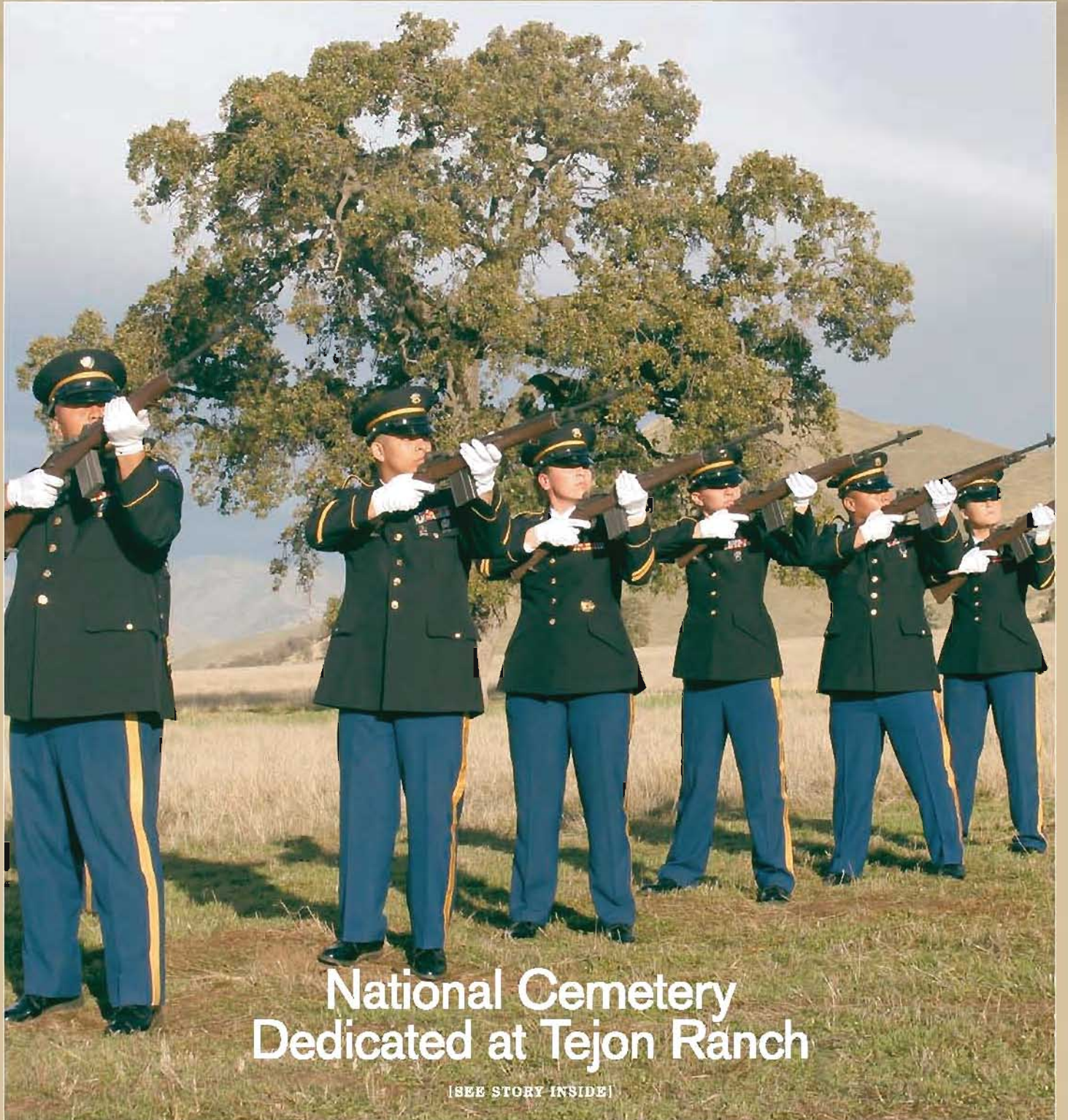
PRESERVING CALIFORNIA'S LEGACY



TEJON RANCH

PROVIDING FOR CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

GRAPEVINE



National Cemetery
Dedicated at Tejon Ranch

[SEE STORY INSIDE]



Tejon Ranch to be Home of Bakersfield National Cemetery

On December 7, 2008, itself a historic date, another piece of history was made. More than a thousand people, many of them veterans, gathered under a tent erected on the rolling hills of the northeast portion of Tejon Ranch to dedicate the country's newest national cemetery. The new Bakersfield National Cemetery rests on 502 acres of beautiful land donated by Tejon Ranch. In addition to preserving California's legacy, the Ranch will now be home to a national legacy.

"I knew Tejon Ranch was the perfect location," said Tejon Ranch President and CEO Bob Stine in his remarks to the crowd. "I contacted our Board of Directors about donating – not selling – the land, and in what may go down as our shortest board meeting ever, the Board enthusiastically said 'yes.'"

In describing the beauty of the setting, the keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony, the Honorable William F. Tuerk, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, referred to another recent historic undertaking by Tejon Ranch – the Tejon Ranch Conservation and Land Use Agreement.

"It is important to note that this Agreement will provide for the permanent protection of 240,000 acres surrounding this site, ensuring that the magnificence of these vistas will

be preserved as a legacy for all Californians – today, and into the future," said Tuerk. "We want to thank Tejon Ranch Company for all you have accomplished for California veterans – and for all of the citizens of this great State."

"This cemetery will honor the legacy of the men and women who have honorably and faithfully served their country."

**Dr. James B. Peake
Secretary of Veterans Affairs**

The Bakersfield National Cemetery joins 124 other cemeteries across the nation in the important duty of providing resting places for our nation's veterans. The complete first phase of the cemetery will include roadways, an administration and public information center, a maintenance complex, an assembly area, a memorial



*Sgt. First Class
James Wulf,
California State
Honor Guard*



walkway, two committal service shelters and public restrooms. Interment areas will include approximately 4,800 full-casket gravesites, 4,000 pre-placed crypts, 4,000 in-ground cremation sites and 3,000 columbarium niches. Subsequent phases will help the cemetery serve veterans' needs well into the next century. The VA has awarded the contract for the first phase of construction and work is expected to begin early this year.



Tejon Ranch President Bob Stine describing the company's donation of the land.

"With the start of construction on this new national shrine, we move ahead on our promise to the veterans of Central California," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This cemetery will honor the legacy of the men and women who have honorably and faithfully served their country."

"When you visit, and I want you to visit often," encouraged Under Secretary Tuerk, "I ask that you take a moment to

reflect on the values of honor, selflessness, service and sacrifice that were personified by those who will be at rest here. And I ask you to bring your children and grandchildren along so that they might learn of – so that they might appreciate and absorb – these enduring values."

"These 500 acres have been part of Tejon Ranch for more than 165 years," Stine remarked. "We are proud and honored that they are going to be used for such an important and noble purpose: to serve as the final resting place for those who have protected our freedoms and served a great and grateful nation. I can't think of any better use for this magnificent piece of land."



American flags held by members of the Patriot Guard Riders lined the entrance to the site.



Veterans from all branches of service were among the more than 1,000 people who attended.



MORE SIGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL CEMETERY DEDICATION



Phase One plans of Bakersfield National Cemetery.



Sgt. First Class James Wulf, California State Honor Guard playing Taps.



(L-R) Wes Jones, Director, Bakersfield National Cemetery; Congressman Kevin McCarthy; William Tuerk, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs; Bob Stine, President & CEO, Tejon Ranch Company



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