



COLLEGE STATION CEMETERY

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

Sponsored by the Brazos County
Historical Commission, the City of
College Station, and the Historic
Preservation Committee.



COLLEGE STATION CEMETERY

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

PATRIOTIC MUSIC

Texas A&M Singing Cadets
Directed by David Kipp

WELCOME

Tom Turbiville, Emcee
College Station Historic Preservation Committee

INVOCATION

Pastor A. C. Clark
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Sons of the American Revolution

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Texas A&M Singing Cadets

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, TEXAS FLAG

Heather White
A&M Garden Club

RECOGNITIONS

Henry Mayo, Chairman
Brazos County Historical Commission

PROCLAMATION

Mayor John Nichols, College Station
Judge Duane Peters, Brazos County

HISTORIC MARKER READING

Gerald Burgner, Chairman
College Station Historic Preservation Committee

COLLEGE STATION CEMETERY HISTORY

Sherry Frisk
College Station Historic Preservation Committee
Brazos County Historical Commission

FLAG PRESENTATION

Destinee Vargas
U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul

CLOSING

Tom Turbiville
College Station Historic Preservation Committee

MARKER UNVEILING

Officials & Sponsors

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8, 2023

COLLEGE STATION CEMETERY
2530 TEXAS AVE SOUTH

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE TEXAS FLAG

“Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.”

COLLEGE STATION CEMETERY HISTORIC MARKER

In 1946, more than 30 acres were purchased from a local farmer to establish a municipal cemetery for the City of College Station. The property surrounded two previously established cemeteries: Shiloh Cemetery (also known as Rector Chapel Cemetery) and Salem Cemetery (also known as Washington Chapel Cemetery). In 1975, the cemetery was decreased in size to create a nature preserve, later named the Anderson Arboretum.

Before the new cemetery opened, the first burial was for a two-month-old baby, Linda Frances Varvel, on May 1, 1946. Shortly thereafter, on June 15, 1946, Luke Patranella (1899-1946) was buried here, a well-loved resident and owner of Luke's Grocery. Other burials include five of the six original city council members, all of whom were Texas A&M faculty members, four presidents of the university, highly decorated World War II hero General James Earl Rudder (1910-1970), 24-year mayor of College Station Ernest K. Langford (1891-1981), and local surveyor Joseph A. "Joe" Orr (1900-1971).

Other notable burials are Texas A&M athletic department staff and National Square & Round Dance Hall of Famer Manning F. Smith (1912-1992), Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Dr. Eli Whiteley (1913-1986) and Gussie Wilborn (1905-1997), a humanitarian and descendant of early African American pioneers who won the "Outstanding Woman of Brazos County" award in 1985.

Tombstones reflect a variety of fraternal associations, including Woodmen of the World, Eastern Star, and Masons, and represent many different cultures with languages such as Chinese, Spanish, Czech, and Arabic. Lined with trees and maintained by the City and loved ones, this historic cemetery is a testament to the rich heritage of the community.



COLLEGE STATION CEMETERY

75TH

ANNIVERSARY

1948-2023

