



CITY OF WACO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## First Street Cemetery Memorialization Ceremony

**Waco (May 11, 2018)** – On Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. a memorial service will be held in Rosemound Cemetery to honor and remember the persons whose graves were disturbed in First Street Cemetery during construction behind the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. The ceremony is being held at the burial site where the remains will be re-interred in Rosemound Cemetery.

The City of Waco established First Street Cemetery on land acquired in 1852, which makes it the oldest public cemetery in the City of Waco. First Street Cemetery was the resting place for members of Waco's early and diverse community including veterans, Masons, Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World, Knights and Daughters of Tabor, and Court of Calanthe.

In 1968, after years of neglect, the Waco City Council voted to relocate graves and/or markers in the lower terrace of First Street Cemetery to build a recreational campground along the newly constructed I-35. That campground, known as Fort Fisher Park operated until 2000.

In 2007, construction on the Texas Ranger Company "F" Headquarters and Education Center began in the lower terrace where the campground had been located. During the construction, remains were discovered indicating that only headstones were relocated in 1968. Remains were excavated between 2007 and 2010.

In November 2013, the Waco City Council appointed the First Street Cemetery Memorial Advisory Committee to work with City staff, archeologists, Texas Historical Commission and various other agencies regarding the excavated remains. The Committee has worked diligently to seek input from the community and to determine how to honor those disturbed in First Street Cemetery. A site in Rosemound Cemetery was selected as the reburial site for excavated remains. The area is marked with some masonry walls and benches and a state historical plaque to honor those individuals whose graves were disturbed.

For more information please contact Assistant City Attorney, Annette Jones at (254) 750-5680.

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