

ARMED FORCES HONOR GARDEN UNDERWAY

[DETAIL PRESENTATION SET FOR DEC. 18](#)

In a December 7 ceremony to memorialize Pearl Harbor Day Wednesday, gold-colored shovels broke ground on St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church's Armed Forces Honor Garden in Horseshoe Bay.

A presentation giving details of what will be in the garden and the opportunities to donate various memorials will take place in the Finn Family Life Center on the parish grounds at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. The public, as well as the parish, is encouraged to attend.

When completed, the garden will hold a water fountain emblazoned with memorial stars, a restive area with memorial plaques, and a walkway of paving stones, to honor those who have served in the Armed Forces or made the ultimate sacrifice.

The focal point of the garden is the "Lest We Forget" statue of Jesus Christ embracing a U.S. soldier.

"I guess we can all find our own meaning for this statue and this garden, but for me its about forgiveness and gratitude," said St. Paul pastor Father Rubén Patíño, CSP. "Forgiveness because, as Christians, we are taught to respect human life. Somehow we need to find peace with our lives and with our compromises. This has been a concern for all veterans of war.

"And this place will evoke a feeling of gratitude for those who have served our country loyally. It will show that we appreciate their valor and their service."

Construction of the first of two phases of the garden will begin in early January. Westway Custom Builders of Horseshoe Bay is the contractor and owner Tom Classen estimates the first phase of the project will be completed within 90-120 days.

Landscape architect for the project is Studio | 16:19 of Round Rock.

The garden is located on the grounds of the church at 201 Dalton Circle on Thanksgiving Mountain overlooking Lake LBJ and the Horseshoe Bay Resort.

Since the unveiling, the parish has been conducting a silent donor campaign that has raised just over \$100,000. The original cost of the project was estimated at \$160,000.

“More contributions are needed to finish the garden and I know our parishioners and others in the community will step up and help us complete this project,” said Father Patiño.

The sale is underway of memorial stars honoring deceased military, and memorial plaques honoring family and friends who have served. Paving stones are also available to recognize the support of donors to the garden project.

Forms for memorial messages for the plaques and stars are available at St. Paul’s parish office (830-598-8342) or by going to the web site at <http://stpaulshorseshoebay.org>. The Memorial Stars are priced at \$250 with the 5x3 plaques at \$200 or 15x5 plaques at \$600 and paving stones (15x3) at \$150 each. Other memorial opportunities, including scripture quotes, are available and those interested should contact Father Patiño at the parish office.

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