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## Agency News



### TDCJ's Byrd Cemetery awarded Texas historical marker

The Captain Joe Byrd Cemetery received a Historic Texas Cemetery marker during a dedication ceremony held on May 5 in Huntsville. The twenty-two-acre burial ground is located one mile from the Huntsville Walls Unit and is the final resting place for more than three thousand offenders who died while incarcerated.

The land was gifted to the state in 1855 but remained unkempt and overgrown until a longtime assistant warden at the Walls Unit,

Captain Joe Byrd, began restoration of the cemetery in 1963.

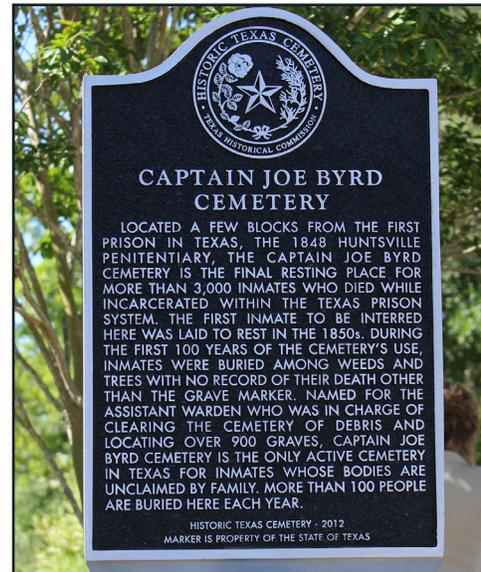
Members of the Walker County Historical Commission worked with the Texas Historical Commission to apply for and obtain the historical marker, which was presented to Region I Director Richard Alford. Accepting the marker on behalf of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Alford stated, "It is with great pride that we commemorate the Captain Joe Byrd Cemetery as

a Historic Texas Cemetery. This cemetery is a representation of TDCJ's commitment to ensuring offenders' dignity and respect, even after death."

The cemetery is located on Bowers Boulevard, just east of Sycamore Drive in Huntsville. A short history of the Captain Joe Byrd Cemetery can be found on the Texas Prison Museum website. ●



Taken around 1960, this photo shows Captain Joe Byrd standing next to a monument honoring Chief Satanta, a Native American of the Kiowa tribe. Originally buried in the prison cemetery in 1878, Satanta's remains were transferred to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma in 1963. Photo courtesy of the Byrd Family.



Visitors can now learn the story of the Captain Joe Byrd Cemetery by reading this recently-unveiled Historic Texas Cemetery marker. First used as a burial ground in the 1850s, more than 900 graves were discovered as the cemetery was cleared of debris in the 1960s.