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Rear Admiral W. Clyde Marsh, USN, (Ret)
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NEWS RELEASE

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Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs receives property deed for state's fourth veterans home

PELL CITY – The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs received the property deed for the state's fourth veterans from the St. Clair County Economic and Development Council at a ceremony held at the Jefferson State Community College in Pell City on Thursday.

Clyde Marsh, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, and members of the State Board of Veterans Affairs accepted the property deed on behalf of all Alabama veterans.

"This is a great day for Alabama Veterans," said Marsh. This is a good deed and the epitome of caring for those who sacrificed so much for our nation. I salute the St. Clair County Commission, Pell City and the Economic Development Council on behalf of the 420,000 veterans in our great state."

The 27-acre property is adjacent to the Jefferson State campus just off Interstate 20. The veterans home will be built near the site of a new St. Vincent's, St. Clair Hospital and a future Jefferson State nursing school.

Ed Gardner, Jr., executive director for the St. Clair County Economic Development Council said the veterans home, hospital and other projects planned for the area will move St. Clair County forward by providing services that will increase the quality of life for all its citizens.

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“The St. Clair County Commission and the City of Pell City worked hard to make this a success. Without their cooperation and forward-thinking, we would not be where we are today,” Gardner said.

The veterans home will have approximately 280 beds - making it the largest of the state’s veterans homes.

The three state veterans homes in Huntsville, Alexander City and Bay Minette are 150-bed facilities with each having an average of 50 veterans on monthly waiting lists.

Marsh said the fourth home will deliver a long-term healthcare need for an underserved population of veterans in Alabama. He added that the new home will be a state-of-the-art facility that will provide world class healthcare for Alabama veterans for decades to come.

If the state VA department receives the approved federal VA funding this fiscal year, the construction phase of the home should begin sometime before the end of 2009.