

# SRT to Honor Commander of the Texas Navy—Sept. 20

Harris County Judge, Ed Emmett, to speak at Founders Memorial Cemetery in Houston

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., The Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) will honor the second commander of the Texas Navy, Commodore Henry Livingston Thompson, at the historic Founders Memorial Cemetery, in Houston, as part of the SRT's official observance of Texian Navy Day. The Texas Navy Association will also participate by laying a wreath to honor Thompson and the entire Republic of Texas Navy. The keynote speaker will be Harris County Judge Ed Emmett.

Commodore Thompson launched an audacious plan to raid Mexican ports to force the Mexican Navy to defend Mexico rather than attack Texan ports during the Texas Revolution. At the time, this plan was highly controversial, but now historians agree this put the world on notice that the Texas Navy was a small, but potent force.

## About the keynote speaker

The Honorable Ed Emmett was unanimously appointed County Judge by Harris County Commissioners Court upon the resignation of former Judge Robert Eckels. Judge Emmett also serves on the Advisory Board of the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, the Board of Advisors to the Academy's Global Maritime and Transportation School, and the University of Houston College of Technology Board of Advisors.

A member of the Texas House of Representatives from 1979 to 1987, Judge Emmett is founder of The Emmett Company, a multi-faceted international consulting and marketing firm, specializing in policies, products and services related to the transportation industry.

Born August 14, 1949, in Overton, Texas, Emmett moved to Houston in 1966 and graduated from Bellaire High School. He then graduated from Rice University in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and from the University of Texas at Austin in 1974 with a Master of Public Affairs degree. Judge Emmett and his wife, Gwen, have four children and two grandchildren and live in Houston.

## About Founders Memorial Cemetery

Designated as an historic cemetery by the Texas Historical Commission in 2007, Founders Memorial Cemetery is a long-forgotten jewel of a cemetery on the outskirts of downtown Houston. The cemetery is the final resting place of one of the founders of the City of Houston, John Kirby Allen, 31 veterans of the Battle of San Jacinto, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, and many other early leaders of the Republic of Texas. Most of the burials occurred in the 1800's, although a few are dated in the 1900s, the most recent being 1949. The cemetery was badly neglected for many years. As a result, many of those reportedly interred no longer have grave markers. In 1936, when the city took back control of the cemetery, the State of Texas erected individual monuments commemorating the service of 26 of those individuals.

## Further information

Founders Memorial Cemetery is located at 1217 West Dallas at Valentine Street. There is limited parking in the neighborhood immediately surrounding the cemetery; there-

fore, people are encouraged to carpool. Further parking instructions and other details about the Texas Navy and this year's celebration of Texian Navy Day may be found on the SRT website (<http://www.srttexas.org>).

You will not want to miss this momentous tribute to Commodore Thompson and the entire Republic of Texas Navy. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. For additional information, contact SRT Texas Navy Committee Chairman David Hanover ([dhanover@suddenlink.net](mailto:dhanover@suddenlink.net)).