



# John Cornyn

UNITED STATES SENATOR • TEXAS

## Our Veterans Deserve to Be Honored and Remembered

*By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn*

On this Veterans Day, we should take time to honor those who have given so much for America, and to pray for the safety of those brave men and women serving overseas even now defending the cause of freedom.

The purpose of this day is clear: to remember our veterans, pay tribute to their courage, and to resolve ourselves to uphold their legacy of justice, liberty, and opportunity for all.

I believe that we must always remember that our own freedoms were not won without cost, but bought and paid for with the sacrifices of generations. The lives of America's veterans serve as daily reminders of that truth, for us, our communities, and our children.

When someone leaves home to fight for American interests abroad, it affects their entire community, their friends and their families. While we remember those currently fighting on the battlefield, we are also mindful of the sacrifices of their families here at home. And we must remember families whose loved ones will not be coming back, who paid the ultimate price so that others can live free.

Our good men and women are helping to promote freedom and democracy abroad – and in so doing, they are ensuring our national security. And we must always ensure that the United States military has the training, the equipment, and the facilities they require to prosecute the war against terror – from Afghanistan, to Iraq, and across the world. We must use these valuable assets to maintain our military's status as the greatest fighting force the world has ever known, even as we transform to face the challenges of the future.

I'm committed to continue working with local communities, the Texas congressional delegation and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nichol-

son to ensure that Texas veterans are appropriately honored for their service. On numerous occasions, I have met with veterans groups and local officials to ensure federal funding. Recently, I was glad to announce a grant of \$8.7 million from the VA for the groundbreaking of the first State Veterans Cemetery in the Rio Grande Valley, which will eventually cover a total of 75 acres. I feel that this is an important step toward making sure that we keep our commitments to those who have served so nobly.

It's also important to recognize the many veterans throughout the state who have served this nation admirably and have won such great recognitions as the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart and other distinguished awards.

I wish our brave men and women in uniform God-speed on their journey home, and look forward to the day when these soldiers can stand beside veterans of past wars as living examples of sacrifice and courage.

I strongly believe that the honor-bound agreement between our men and women in uniform and our nation does not end at retirement. No veteran should ever be left behind. And I will continue working to make sure that Texas veterans always receive the care and benefits they need and deserve. Also, I would like to reiterate that my office continues to stand ready to serve veterans with issues involving federal agencies, in particular the Department of Veterans Affairs.

To Texas veterans, young and old, I say: Thank you for your sacrifices, your courage, and your dedicated service in defense of freedom.

*U.S. Sen. John Cornyn is a member of the Armed Services Committee and Chairman of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee.*