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South Dakota Receives Grant Opportunity for State Cemetery

PIERRE, S.D. – The United States Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has notified the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs they may be awarded grant funds for the construction of a state veterans cemetery.

“Today’s announcement is great news for the men and women of South Dakota and the surrounding area, who served this country,” said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA). “South Dakotans in the eastern part of the state will not have to travel 370 plus miles to bury their heroes in a veteran’s cemetery.”

“Now the real work begins,” said Aaron Pollard, Deputy Secretary for SDDVA. “Our Department will begin meeting with NCA, the State Office of Engineering and our design firm, Stockwell Engineers.”

This announcement coincides with the City of Sioux Falls’ first reading of their ordinance gifting over 60 acres of land to SDDVA for the construction of a state veterans cemetery. The link to the commission meeting agenda is:

<http://docs.siouxfalls.org/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=2774&doctype=AGENDA>)

“This state veterans cemetery is the culmination of a lot of hard work between numerous partners who are committed to taking care of our veterans,” said Zimmerman.

The NCA Design and Construction Service provides planning, design and construction project management, design and construction standards, environmental, energy, and historic preservation services and expertise to deliver high quality and cost-effective cemetery facilities that honor veterans with final resting places and commemorate their service to our nation. They provide leadership, expertise, and advice in the development, acquisition, expansion and preservation to create veterans cemeteries as lasting memorials which invoke a sense of honor and dignity for our Nation's veterans.