

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration

Omaha National Cemetery

14250 Schram Road, Omaha, NE 68138

(402) 413-9121

- The new 236-acre cemetery in Sarpy County, Nebraska will serve the burial needs of more than 112,000 Veterans in the cemetery's service area for the next 100 years. This cemetery will be the second Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery in the State of Nebraska.
- Fort McPherson National Cemetery in Maxwell, Nebraska, is the only other VA national cemetery in the state. The closest national cemetery to Omaha is Leavenworth National Cemetery in Leavenworth, Kansas. There are two state run Veterans cemeteries in Nebraska: the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Alliance and the Nebraska Veterans Home Cemetery in Grand Island.
- In December 2012, VA purchased the land located along South 144th St. (Highway 50), at 14250 Schram Road for \$6 million. The property is located in Sarpy County.
- The initial phase of construction will develop approximately 60 acres of land, providing for approximately 5,000 gravesites and accommodating both casketed and cremated remains. In addition to gravesites, the cemetery will include other features such as a front entrance on Schram Road, an administration building, a maintenance building, an honor guard building, a flagpole assembly area, a memorial walkway, committal shelters, and a public information center with an electronic gravesite locator, and restrooms. Other cemetery infrastructure features will include roads, landscaping, utilities, and irrigation.
- In August 2013, VA awarded an architect and engineering contract to Vireo Planning & Design of Omaha, for the master plan design of the cemetery, which was completed in June 2014. In September, 2014, VA awarded a design build contract to Archer Western Construction, LLC located in Chicago, Illinois, for \$28.9 million. Scheduled for completion in the fall of 2018, this project includes the development of approximately 1,800 columbarium niches, 1,200 in-ground, garden niches and 2,500 pre-placed double depth crypts. Once cemetery construction gets underway, VA will hold a public dedication ceremony. The first burials are expected to begin in the fall of 2016 in an early turn-over of a portion of property while construction still continues in the cemetery.
- Burial in a VA national cemetery is open to all members of the United States Armed Forces and Veterans who have met the minimum active duty service requirements, and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Their spouse, widow or widower, minor children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities, may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran. Members of the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces who die while on active duty, or who die while on training duty, or were eligible for retired pay, or who served on active-duty except for training, may also be eligible for burial.

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- Burial in a VA national cemetery is a benefit. VA provides at no cost to the family, the gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate, and perpetual care of the gravesite.
- A local administrative office is now in place on the cemetery grounds. Ms. Cindy M. Van Bibber, Omaha National Cemetery Director, is on-site and will provide cemetery information, briefings and news updates as plans progress. For more information about the Omaha National Cemetery call the cemetery at 402-413-9121.
- More information about VA's National Cemetery Administration is available online at:
www.cem.va.gov

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