

APPENDIX E

Public Notices and Comments

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Proposed Site Selection, Construction, and Operation of the Omaha National Cemetery Sarpy County, Nebraska

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the preparation and availability of a "Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment" (DPEA) for the proposed site selection, construction, and operation of a National Cemetery to be located on an approximately 235-acre site located at the northeast corner of South 144th Street (Highway 50) and Schram Road in Sarpy County, Nebraska. The DPEA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and the VA's implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26). The VA intends to issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) following a thirty-day comment period in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing NEPA, Section 1508.13 provided there are no substantive comments which warrant further evaluation. The public comment period will end on October 23, 2012.

A copy of the DPEA is available for review at the Papillion Public Library located at 222 North Jefferson Street, Papillion, Nebraska 68046. A copy of the DPEA is also available for review on the following website: www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp. For further information, please contact the VA Project Manager at the following:

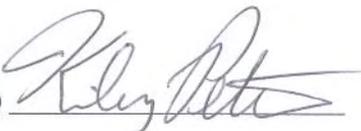
Department of Veterans Affairs
Attn: Mr. Edward Swift
Project Manager
425 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
Email: edwardswift@va.gov

Proof of publication

AFFIDAVIT

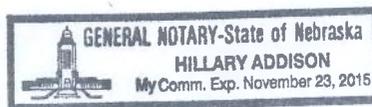
State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss:

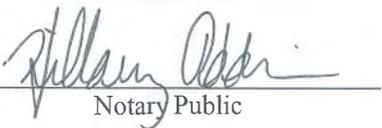
Kiley Petersen, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she is an employee of The Omaha World-Herald, a legal daily newspaper printed and published in the county of Douglas and State of Nebraska, and of general circulation in the Counties of Douglas, and Sarpy and State of Nebraska, and that the attached printed notice was published three times in the said newspaper the first insertion having been on September 21, 2012 and thereafter on September 22, and 23, 2012, and that said newspaper is a legal newspaper under the statutes of the State of Nebraska. The above facts are within my personal knowledge. The Omaha World-Herald has an average circulation of 145,620 Daily and 179,203 Sunday, in 2012.

(Signed) 

Title: Account Executive

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 25 day of September, 2012.




Notary Public

Printer's Fee \$ _____
Affidavit _____
Paid By _____

Rob Clark

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:01 PM
To: Rob Clark
Subject: Fw: Veterans Cemetary

I suppose this is in response to the PEA.

----- Original Message -----

From: fschubert@cox.net <fschubert@cox.net>
To: Swift, Edward (CFM)
Cc: fschubert@cox.net <fschubert@cox.net>
Sent: Thu Oct 11 13:23:36 2012
Subject: Veterans Cemetary

Mr Swift:

Many veterans appreciate your acceptance of comments about the cemetery.

There are numerous reasons to locate the cemetery at the 36th street location and very few reasons to locate the spot to the proposed western site.. Bellevue is the home of Offutt AFB. There are many military honor guards who attend military funerals on a daily basis. Being close to Offutt AFB would reduce the travel time in their duties. Bellevue is a military community. There is a higher concentration of military people who live in Bellevue. There will be many military funeral processions on highway 370 traveling to the western location which will cause traffic backups and complaints. All the military needs at this time is a lot of complaining about the inconveniences of funeral processions in the Omaha metro. This decision will be permanent, so it had better be the right move.

The 36th street location seems to be the perfect spot for the cemetery. It is somewhat isolated from heavy traffic. It is also a peaceful and serene area, making it a perfect spot to create a beautiful veterans cemetery. There is also space for future expansion if needed. It is accessible from both the north and south directions, which would reduce the traffic congestion following a large funeral. The land in that area will not be squeezed and threatened by future industrial needs.

Sensible people needed to take over the monumental decisions regarding this endeavor. If people are allowed to mess up this project, there may be no future considerations for Sarpy County. Please consider the items I have mentioned. We need to get this right the first time.

Warmest regards,

MSgt Fredrick A. Schubert (Ret.)

Rob Clark

Subject: FW: VA cemetery

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) [<mailto:Edward.Swift@va.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:14 PM
To: Rob Clark
Subject: FW: VA cemetery

From: Case, Jacki [<mailto:jcase@springfieldplatteview.org>]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Swift, Edward (CFM)
Subject: VA cemetery

Dear Mr. Swift,

I have heard about the cemetery that is proposed in my back yard. ☺

I live in Westmont S.I.D. #23 that sits just to the north and east of the proposed Sarpy County V.A. cemetery.

I have been a resident here for 23 years. My husband and I love this area.

We would be SO Proud to have the proposed cemetery so close to our home!!

I have read some of the comments that were from the town of Springfield and they Mayor's 'concern' that the cemetery would hinder Springfield's growth. Please, when you are part of a community for as long as we have been (Springfield sits 5 miles south of us, and 4 miles south of the southern edge of the proposed cemetery), you get to know a community very well, and all the 'small town' politics.

It is our belief that the town of Springfield is NOT opposed to the location of the cemetery because it would hinder their growth, but because it might in fact cause them to grow!! Springfield has LONG been known to be against growth. They want to maintain that 'small town' atmosphere. This is all very fine. The location of the Cemetery doesn't really need to affect them at all.

As for the rest of us, who would be directly affected, We LOVE the idea!!

Please, consider this positive when deciding to move forward with the plans of the cemetery.

Thank you for listening, and for taking on this project.

Sincerely,

Jacki and Ken Case

Jacki Case PLEASE NOTE: NEW EMAIL- jcase@springfieldplatteview.org

Bookkeeper

Platteview High School

14801 S 108th Street

Springfield, NE 68059

Rob Clark

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 7:56 PM
To: Rob Clark
Subject: Fw: Public Comment on proposed location of Omaha National Cemetery

Re: PEA

From: jeffreygillespie@aol.com <jeffreygillespie@aol.com>
To: Swift, Edward (CFM)
Sent: Wed Oct 17 19:53:11 2012
Subject: Public Comment on proposed location of Omaha National Cemetery

Dear Sir,

I think that the site on Schram Road and Highway 50 in Sarpy County Nebraska would be an excellent location for the proposed cemetery.

I am a veteran (US Army) who lives in Papillion and I have no desire to live anywhere else. When my time comes I'd like to be buried in a

VA Cemetery close to family so this would be an excellent place for me to be buried as a majority of my relatives live in Papillion, LaVista and

Millard. I remember when the VA Cemetery was built in Bushnell which is in Sumter County Florida. After a year businesses were built nearby

to take advantage of the people going to visit at the cemetery. A VA Cemetery would actually encourage business along Highway 50. I fully

support this location, I am a registered voter, and an honorably discharged veteran. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Cordially,

Jeffrey L. Gillespie

Honorably Discharged Sergeant E-5 US Army.

Rob Clark

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 12:14 PM
To: Rob Clark
Subject: Fw: veterans cemetary location

PEA response

From: Sheryl Scherer <sascherer06@yahoo.com>
To: Swift, Edward (CFM)
Sent: Fri Oct 19 12:12:36 2012
Subject: veterans cemetary location

I actually prefer the location at 36th and 370 over the one at 144th and Schram. I am a USAF retiree and live in Bellevue.
My one concern though of the closer location is flooding. However, regardless of whichever location is ultimately chosen I am so very happy that we are finally getting a veterans cemetary here in eastern Nebraska.

Sheryl Scherer

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Ps 104:33



Rob Clark

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 12:18 PM
To: Rob Clark
Subject: Fw: Public Comments on the National Veteran's Cemetery

This interesting- I'm not sure what to make of it

From: Tiffany Meinke <tmeinke@ndpt.org>
To: bellevue@bellevuenebraska.com <bellevue@bellevuenebraska.com>
Cc: Swift, Edward (CFM)
Sent: Fri Oct 19 12:17:13 2012
Subject: RE: Public Comments on the National Veteran's Cemetery

I am not sure everyone is aware of the current location; can an email be sent out with that information?

R/

Tiffany Meinke

From: Bellevue Chamber of Commerce [mailto:president@bellevuenebraska.ccsend.com] **On Behalf Of** Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 11:03 AM
To: tmeinke@ndpt.org
Subject: Public Comments on the National Veteran's Cemetery

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Public Comments on the National Veteran's Cemetery

Public comments on the National Veteran's Cemetery
are being taken through October 23, 2012.

If you Believe the 36th Street and Highway 370 location,

which sits in a Sprawling Hilly Acreage
would be a better site.

Please express your views to:

VA Project Manager Edward Swift
edward.swift@va.gov

or

Mr. Edward Swift
Project Manager
4251 I Street
NW Washington, D.C. 20001

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Bellevue Chamber of Commerce | 1102 Galvin Road South | Bellevue | NE | 68005



Try it FREE today.

Rob Clark

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 12:52 PM
To: Rob Clark
Subject: Fw: Bellevue cemetery

More

From: b.happy.enterprises@gmail.com <b.happy.enterprises@gmail.com>
To: Swift, Edward (CFM)
Sent: Fri Oct 19 12:37:35 2012
Subject: Bellevue cemetery

Your email was forwarded to me by the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce. However, it is rather vague. I would be happy to tell you whether I believe the site at 36th and Highway 370 would be a better sit, but you didn't tell me what the alternative was.

Barbara Gloria
(wife, daughter, and sister of USAF Ret)

Rob Clark

Subject: FW: Location of National Veterans Cemetery

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) [<mailto:Edward.Swift@va.gov>]
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 1:34 PM
To: Rob Clark
Subject: Fw: Location of National Veterans Cemetery

----- Original Message -----

From: Kathy Saniuk <ksaniuk@cox.net>
To: Swift, Edward (CFM)
Sent: Fri Oct 19 13:05:17 2012
Subject: Location of National Veterans Cemetery

Dear Mr. Swift,

I wholeheartedly urge you to reconsider your choice of location for the National Veterans Cemetery. Did you speak with Springfield, NE City Officials before choosing the location? From what I understand, it will be placed in an area which Springfield considered a prime opportunity for economic growth. I believe a better site would be the land available in Bellevue, Ne, home of Offutt Air Force Base. The land is at 36th and Hwy. 370, and sits on a beautiful hillside. The land is also in the AICUZ zone (flight pattern for planes flying in and out of the base). We are restricted from placing buildings or homes on that land, as it would be considered a possible danger to lives and property, and also would be considered, by the military, an encroachment on the base. It would be the PERFECT location, however, for a cemetery. What better place to honor our fallen heroes than the home of Offutt Air Force Base and the Strategic Air Command?

Please reconsider your choice of location. It would be an EXCELLENT use of the land that is available in Bellevue, NE.

Thank you,

Kathy Saniuk, Bellevue, NE citizen

Rob Clark

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 1:35 PM
To: Rob Clark
Subject: Fw: SITE FOR VETERANS' CEMETERY

More

From: Shermandor@aol.com <Shermandor@aol.com>
To: Swift, Edward (CFM)
Sent: Fri Oct 19 13:28:48 2012
Subject: SITE FOR VETERANS' CEMETERY

Mr Swift . . .

I believe very strongly the site of the Veterans' Cemetery should be at the suggested location on 36th Street, for a variety of reasons. It is a beautiful sprawling hill acreage and a wonderful setting for a Veterans' Cemetery. Among other things is the fact that the selected site in Springfield has the potential of development, whereas the 36th site does not.

Also, having worked for the Air Force at Offutt AFB for 40 years in SAC and USSTRATCOM, I met and knew many Military people of all branches of service who chose to retire in the area surrounding Bellevue. Their choice to be buried in a cemetery in this area would be a great comfort and convenience for their bereaved families.

I believe the location should be on 36th Street and Highway 370 and would appreciate your kind consideration. Thank you for managing this very special Cemetery location and we are extremely pleased with your consideration. We have many Veterans in Nebraska and we are very proud of their service and dedication to our great Country, the United States of America. It is indeed an honor to have a National Veterans' Cemetery in our wonderful State of Nebraska.

Dorene Sherman
Retired Deputy Director of Protocol
Hq SAC/USSTRATCOM
2532 Main St
Bellevue, NE 68005
402-212-0528

Your talent is God's gift to you; what you do with it is your gift to God.

Rob Clark

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 2:11 PM
To: Rob Clark
Subject: Fw: Nebraska National Cemetery

Same deal

From: Rick McBride <rmcbride@calvertsystemsengineering.com>
To: Swift, Edward (CFM)
Sent: Fri Oct 19 14:10:04 2012
Subject: Nebraska National Cemetery

I disagree with the site selection near Springfield. Please reconsider the Hwy 370 and 36th St site in Bellevue, near Offutt AFB. It is a great site and closer to the population served.

Thank you for your Re-Consideration
Rick A. McBride
USAF Retired

Rob Clark

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 2:26 PM
To: Rob Clark
Subject: Fw: Veterans Cemetery - Nebraska

More

From: Lois Tobias <loisjt@cox.net>
To: Swift, Edward (CFM)
Sent: Fri Oct 19 14:16:23 2012
Subject: Veterans Cemetery - Nebraska

Hwy 370 & 36th St. is a much better location for the new National Veterans Cemetery. Putting it at the Springfield, Ne. location is wrong !!! It needs to be in Bellevue, Ne. where it will be close to Offutt AFB and the new Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home.

Thank You
Lt.Col.,ret and Mrs. Richard L. Tobias
14403 S. 34th Ave.
Bellevue, Ne. 68123

Rob Clark

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 2:32 PM
To: Rob Clark
Subject: Fw: National Veteran's Cemetery: Sarpy County Nebraska

PEA

From: GPHanner <gphanner@cox.net>
To: Swift, Edward (CFM)
Sent: Fri Oct 19 14:29:11 2012
Subject: National Veteran's Cemetery: Sarpy County Nebraska

I have heard that a proposed site for a new National Veteran's Cemetery in Sarpy Count Nebraska is to be bounded by Nebraska Hwy 50 and Schramm Road. That is a bad location in my view. First, it is far away from any city or town in the local area. Second, it stands to inhibit the growth of the town of Springfield Nebraska. Third, the choice ignores a parcel of land northwest of the corner of 36th Street and Nebraska Hwy 370. That parcel of land is restricted in land development because it lies on the aircraft approach path to Offutt AFB Nebraska. It is part of the Offutt Control Zone; nothing can protrude into the Control Zone air space, so most commercial development if foreclosed upon. Not only that, the 36th Street and Nebraska Hwy 370 parcel is near the towns of Bellvue, Papillion, LaVista, and Ralston.

~~~~~  
Gerald P. Hanner  
600 S. Fillmore St.  
Papillion NE 68046

"I never had an interest in being a mayor, 'cause that's a real job.  
You have to produce. That's why I was able to be a senator for 36 years."

--VP Joe Biden 30 Mar 2012

**Rob Clark**

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 3:03 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Veterans Cemetery

PEA

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**From:** [MaxMoore55@aol.com](mailto:MaxMoore55@aol.com) <[MaxMoore55@aol.com](mailto:MaxMoore55@aol.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 19 14:59:58 2012  
**Subject:** Veterans Cemetery

**Sir:**

It is my firm opinion that the 36th and Hwy 370 site is a much better location for the future Veterans Cemetery.

The vast majority of retirees and veterans are in the eastern part of Sarpy County and environs. The above location will be more accessible to families and friends.

Thank you.

Max R. Moore  
LtCol USAF Retired  
201 Basswood Court  
Bellevue, NE

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 3:22 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: VA Cemetary

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**From:** [SSN80564@aol.com](mailto:SSN80564@aol.com) <[SSN80564@aol.com](mailto:SSN80564@aol.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 19 15:20:45 2012  
**Subject:** VA Cemetary

I believe the 36th st. site would be much better since it is much closer to the Omaha area and that seems to be where most of the retirees reside.

M. F. Stevens  
Col. USAF Ret.

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 3:22 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw:

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**From:** ALFRED SCHAPKER <fredschapker@gmail.com>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 19 15:21:22 2012  
**Subject:**

Sir,

I believe the site on 36th Street and Highway 370 is a much better site for the proposed VA cemetery. It is a beautiful piece of property and is located closer to the population center of Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa.

--  
FRED SCHAPKER  
11315 OAKLAND DR  
PAPILLION NE 68133  
402-592-2817

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 3:35 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: National Veterans' Cemetery

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**From:** Jim Ruane <jjmr6492@gmail.com>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 19 15:33:30 2012  
**Subject:** National Veterans' Cemetery

Mr. Swift,

The location of 36th Street and Highway 370 would be a more appropriate location for the National Veterans' Cemetery. I use the word "appropriate" because the location is very close to Offutt AFB and that location lends itself to the entire military AND civilian population in the area. If that cemetery is closer to a population center I believe it would be visited more frequently and the fact that that location is on the final approach to and or the takeoff path (depending on the wind direction) from Offutt AFB would serve as a constant reminder of the presence of the cemetery. I also believe that there would be educational value to the general population since there would be various ceremonies conducted on the site that would be announced in local newspapers, radio and TV. With a location close to the population more of the Omaha metropolitan population would attend.

Thank you for your consideration.

James J. Ruane

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 3:35 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Veterans Cemetary- Sarpy County Nebraska

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**From:** Bill Ernst <[bill.ernst1@cox.net](mailto:bill.ernst1@cox.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 19 15:34:46 2012  
**Subject:** Veterans Cemetary- Sarpy County Nebraska

I believe that the location East of 36<sup>th</sup> Street and north of HWY 370 is a beautiful area with room for expansion and should be considered the primary location selected.

William H. Ernst, Colonel, USAF (Ret)

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 3:45 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Veteran's Cemetery

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**From:** Ortiz, Abelino <Abelino.Ortiz@nebraska.gov>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 19 15:44:13 2012  
**Subject:** Veteran's Cemetery

As a veteran my comments on the 36<sup>th</sup> and Highway 370 location would be a great idea for a better site.

Thanks

Air Force Veteran

Abelino Ortiz  
Employment Specialist  
Nebraska Department of Labor  
5717 F Street Omaha, NE 68117  
Phone 402.595.3077, Fax 402.595.2701  
Email [abelino.ortiz@nebraska.gov](mailto:abelino.ortiz@nebraska.gov)

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## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 4:47 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Nebraska VA Cemetary

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**From:** Don Tweedy <[dontweedy@cox.net](mailto:dontweedy@cox.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 19 16:45:59 2012  
**Subject:** Nebraska VA Cemetary

A better, more Central location is: Highway NE 370 and South 36<sup>th</sup> St near Bellevue NE.  
A lot nearer many Veterans.

Thank You,  
Don Tweedy,  
Ret SMSgt USAF  
Bellevue NE.

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 4:55 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: NE VA cemetery

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Ron Strong <[ronstrong@juno.com](mailto:ronstrong@juno.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 19 16:51:42 2012  
**Subject:** NE VA cemetery

Don't put it way out in the weeds.  
Ronald D. Strong LtCol USAF ret.

## Rob Clark

---

**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 10:45 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Bellevue Nebraska National Cemetery

More

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Terry Harpster <[skoal33@nntc.net](mailto:skoal33@nntc.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 19 18:21:51 2012  
**Subject:** Bellevue Nebraska National Cemetery

Mr. Swift

I believe the 36th St & HWY 370 Bellevue would be a better location for our new National Cemetery as a lot of us old USAF vets would like to be a bit closer to "home".

Thank you.

Terry G. Harpster

**Rob Clark**

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 10:46 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: cemetery

Another

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**From:** [RICKJEFFER@aol.com](mailto:RICKJEFFER@aol.com) <[RICKJEFFER@aol.com](mailto:RICKJEFFER@aol.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 19 21:14:28 2012  
**Subject:** cemetery

I think the 36th St and Hwy 370 location would be a better location for the new Veterans Cemetery.

Thanks,  
Rick Jefferson  
Bellevue

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 10:47 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Site of aNebraska Vets Cemetery

More

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**From:** [JThomas927@aol.com](mailto:JThomas927@aol.com) <[JThomas927@aol.com](mailto:JThomas927@aol.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 19 21:32:19 2012  
**Subject:** Site of aNebraska Vets Cemetery

I vote for the Bellevue property. The cemetery at this location will "outlive" the golf driving range. We can expand there in the future. Sprawl....you got to be kidding me. You use that as an excuse to down play the Bellevue site! You could avoid all "sprawl" and much cost if you just dump us all at sea. I for one want to remain where I lived for years and was alive... not out in the corn fields of Nebraska...donated land or not. Just think of all the living that will see such a beautiful cemetery in Bellevue each day as they go and come for/from work. More will appreciate the project and the sentiment of caring for our veterans.

**Rob Clark**

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**Subject:** FW: National Veterans Cemetery

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) [<mailto:Edward.Swift@va.gov>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 20, 2012 6:47 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark; Post, Jacqueline (CFM)  
**Subject:** Fw: National Veterans Cemetery

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**From:** Tim Proksel <[timrenee@cox.net](mailto:timrenee@cox.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Sat Oct 20 18:31:39 2012  
**Subject:** National Veterans Cemetery

Mr. Swift I do know the area you are talking about on 36<sup>th</sup> and Hwy 370. I could not think of a better place to have the National Veteran's Cemetery. This location is close to Offutt with the Service Men and Women flying over daily. Plus it is a very beautiful location and very accessible. Thanks Tim

Tim Proksel

Boys Bellevue West Bowling

Home:402-614-1010

Cell:402-515-5810

Email: [timrenee@cox.net](mailto:timrenee@cox.net)

**Rob Clark**

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**Subject:** FW: National Veteran's Cemetery

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) [<mailto:Edward.Swift@va.gov>]

**Sent:** Sunday, October 21, 2012 7:31 PM

**To:** Rob Clark

**Subject:** Fw: National Veteran's Cemetery

---

**From:** Roland Saenz <[romeosierra35@hotmail.com](mailto:romeosierra35@hotmail.com)>

**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)

**Sent:** Sun Oct 21 19:27:07 2012

**Subject:** National Veteran's Cemetery

YES! I am very much in favor of putting the cemetery on 36th and 370 location.

**Rob Clark**

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**Subject:** FW: veterans cemetery in western Sarpy County

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) [<mailto:Edward.Swift@va.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 8:25 AM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: veterans cemetery in western Sarpy County

---

**From:** John Jones <[Joh12346@cox.net](mailto:Joh12346@cox.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 08:05:54 2012  
**Subject:** veterans cemetery in western Sarpy County

While locating the new veterans cemetery closer to Offutt air force base has some merit for the immediate near future however in the long run as the population shifts to the western part of the county and for residents that live in Nebraska and outside of the local area it makes perfect logical and commonsense to place this new cemetery in a much more accessible location such as the one now picked. It's true that there are many Offutt air force veterans that will use this cemetery however there are many more citizens in the surrounding area and States that will use this cemetery and they would be much better served with the location picked.

John Jones  
1432 N 127<sup>th</sup> Circle  
Omaha, NE 68154

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 8:46 AM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** FW: NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETARY IN NEBRASKA

REA

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Voyles, Andrew M Civ USAF ACC 55 CES/CEPMC [<mailto:Andrew.Voyles@offutt.af.mil>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 8:42 AM  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Subject:** NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETARY IN NEBRASKA

I'm only one voice and I have no vested interest except it may be my final resting place. Please reconsider the siting of the new National Veteran Cemetery you've selected in Sarpy County, Nebraska. The site chosen in Springfield infringes on potential growth along the Highway 50 corridor and is 12-15 miles from major veteran's population. The site in Bellevue is closer to the veteran population and is on land that is unusable for retail development. I know you've worked hard in determining the site, but please take into account the comments of the general public and a 20 year veteran.

Andy Voyles  
Project Manager, 55th CES  
Office (402) 232-1076  
Cell (402) 681-1682

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 9:17 AM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Eastern NE Cemetery

---

**From:** [dshly@q.com](mailto:dshly@q.com) <[dshly@q.com](mailto:dshly@q.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 09:14:44 2012  
**Subject:** Eastern NE Cemetery

I read with interest the article in this mornings Omaha World Herald that some Bellevue veterans are objecting to the location of the planned Nebraska Veterans Cemetery. I'm not sure where they get the idea that the cemetery is only for the Vets that have settled in eastern Sarpy County. I am a USAF cold war Veteran and live in far western Douglas County and know many Vets that live in my area. I'm sure there are many Vets in the Lincoln area as well as other counties surrounding Sarpy County that make the western Sarpy county location more accessible by I80 and state highway 50.

I, for one, applaud this location and the effort that is being put into this project.

Thank you.

Donald D. Sheeley

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 9:25 AM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Sarpy County, Nebraska Veteran's Cemetery Site

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Kevin Hensel <[kevinphensel@gmail.com](mailto:kevinphensel@gmail.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 09:23:44 2012  
**Subject:** Sarpy County, Nebraska Veteran's Cemetery Site

Mr. Swift-

I am contacting you in regard to the recently announced site in Sarpy County, Nebraska for a National Veterans Cemetery. While I am very pleased that a site in Sarpy County was selected, I would request that the site located in Bellevue near Highway 370 and 36th Street be reconsidered.

Sarpy County is the fastest growing county in Nebraska and I believe considered to be one of the fastest growing counties in the country. With that said, the site that was announced sits in a corridor prime for positive economic development. The Bellevue site not only appears to be an appropriate site but would also be beneficial in the community's relationship with Offutt Air Force Base. The win/win in choosing the Bellevue site would be to not only provide an appropriate site with closer proximity to the base for many of the dependents burying and visiting loved ones at the site, but the choice of the Bellevue site would also utilize land that falls in the take off and landing zone for the Offutt runway. Utilizing this site and thus making it unavailable for other development communicates to the base and the Air Force that the Omaha metro supports the base and its activities, reducing the chance that any question of reducing or closing the base would be a possibility.

I appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Hensel

**Rob Clark**

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**Subject:** FW: Natl. Cemetery Sarpy County

**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) [<mailto:Edward.Swift@va.gov>]

**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 9:27 AM

**To:** Rob Clark

**Subject:** Fw: Natl. Cemetery Sarpy County

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**From:** Whitted Mortuaries <[whitteds@3rivers.net](mailto:whitteds@3rivers.net)>

**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)

**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 09:25:28 2012

**Subject:** Natl. Cemetery Sarpy County

I was born and raised on a farm 1 mile west of Offutt, and worked at the funeral homes in Bellevue (Cambells) & Papillion (Kahlers). I helped on dozens of services in which the Military was involved at the graveside. I now own & operate 2 funeral home in Shelby & Cut Bank, Montana. The Honor Guards have to come from Helena, which have to travel 180 miles away, and do this gladly to give Veterans their final tribute. So, suck it up you Air Force wimps, if you can't travel 15 miles move to another state. Springfield would be a much more peaceful place for these Vets to rest.

Dan Whitted  
Shelby, MT

**Rob Clark**

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**Subject:** FW: Veterans Cemetary

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) [<mailto:Edward.Swift@va.gov>]

**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 10:05 AM

**To:** Rob Clark

**Subject:** Fw: Veterans Cemetary

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**From:** Leonard Yakus <[lyakus@tconl.com](mailto:lyakus@tconl.com)>

**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)

**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 10:01:41 2012

**Subject:** Veterans Cemetary

The planned site of the Sarpy County Veterans Cemetery appears to be changing at your hands. I understand you want citizens to comment but why haven't you explained your reason for changing the site before you ask for comments.

This appears to have a strong aroma. Are developers involved. Congressman Terry needs to hold local hearings to get to the bottom of this.

**Rob Clark**

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**Subject:** FW: Some Bellevue Air Force vets oppose cemetery site - Omaha.com

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) [<mailto:Edward.Swift@va.gov>]

**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 10:54 AM

**To:** Rob Clark

**Subject:** FW: Some Bellevue Air Force vets oppose cemetery site - Omaha.com

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**From:** Gumm, William [<mailto:wgumm@columbusne.us>]

**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 10:50 AM

**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)

**Subject:** Some Bellevue Air Force vets oppose cemetery site - Omaha.com

Because of time and distance concerns, I would vote to locate the cemetery in the eastern ½ of Sarpy County.

William Gumm (Viet Nam 71-72)

Columbus , NE

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20121022/NEWS/710229938/1685#some-bellevue-air-force-vets-oppose-cemetery-site>

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 11:12 AM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** FW: National Cemetery - Eastern Nebraska

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**From:** Franklin Shemek [<mailto:f.e.shemek@cox.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 11:10 AM  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Subject:** National Cemetery - Eastern Nebraska

In my opinion, the selected site for the new national cemetery for Eastern Nebraska is not in as favorable a location as the acreage north of 36<sup>th</sup> St and Hwy 370. I have heard, and read, negative comments from local officials in Springfield that the selected site would be in their proposed business corridor and therefore, not favorably received.

After driving by the selected site three times in the last two weeks, I have noticed that this site is up a ridge from Hwy 50 and you cannot even view the acreage from the road – not visible at all.

The 36<sup>th</sup> St and Hwy 370 location is easily viewed from both 36<sup>th</sup> St and also from Hwy 370 while driving in both east and west directions. And since you can see it, it would be MORE of a reminder to all those driving by, of the service that was given by those buried there.

Also, it would be more closely associated with the active Air Force Base of Offutt and would be more accessible to those from western Iowa.

And unlike the selected site (unwelcomed by the local officials in Springfield) this site would be welcomed by the local community.

Frank Shemek  
MSgt, USAF (Retired)  
11901 S 34<sup>th</sup> St  
Bellevue NE 68123

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 11:37 AM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** FW: National Veterans Cemetery, Sarpy County, Nebraska

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**From:** Ken Schaefer [<mailto:ksschaefer741@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 11:19 AM  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Subject:** National Veterans Cemetery, Sarpy County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Swift:

First of all, I laud and support the VA for their decision to go ahead with a new National Veterans Cemetery to serve the veterans of eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. **AND**, I heartily support the proposed location in the western portion of Sarpy County, just south of junction of State Highways 370 and 50. That location will serve the veterans of eastern Nebraska (population centers include Lincoln, Beatrice, Fremont, Omaha, etc.) as well as the veterans of western Iowa (population centers include Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Sioux City, etc). In fact the location is ideal for funeral processional traffic because the Interstate road system can be accessed easily from nearly anywhere on either the Nebraska or Iowa side of the river. Then, it's just a short drive (2 miles) to the VA Cemetery location from any direction.

So, I urge you to move ahead with your plans and location and not let the petty politics of eastern Sarpy County Nebraska dissuade you. I live in Springfield, Nebraska, about 4 miles south of the proposed location and work for Sarpy County (Sheriff's Department). Springfield's mayor, Mike Dill, voiced his objection to the location and "threw in" with many of the Sarpy County economic and developmental committees. The Mayor felt it would hamper development in one of "Springfield's major economic growth corridors." Don't know what he's been smoking, but he can't even keep a new, 6-unit strip mall filled nor the Main Street business storefronts filled. (Springfield residents also have to boil their water once or twice per year because it tests unsafe for drinking.) My point is, Mayor Dill should be more concerned with providing essential city services than with a proposed VA Cemetery 4 miles north of his City. The City of Springfield just approved an auto/insurance salvage auction/yard a mile north of town. Seems they'd rather have that than the VA Cemetery.

Keep up your efforts!! I know when it's finally constructed and complete, it will be a real showcase as all national VA cemeteries are. As a veteran I've visited many, and they're all kept impeccably neat and clean.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I do sincerely hope that this goes as you have planned -- location included.

I worked 35 years for the National Park Service and know how important public input is. You usually hear from only the disgruntled. I hope others let you know their support for this very worthwhile project.

Respectfully,

Ken Schaefer  
504 So. 8th Ave.  
Springfield, NE 68059

P.S. Perhaps not a good time to ask, but if you are going to have some type of Board or VA Association to deal with peripheral issues (like we do at national parks), I certainly would be available to serve. You need folks who really believe in what you do, support your efforts, and that don't sway when some politician rears his/her head for petty reasons. So, if I can do anything to help with the project, please let me know. Thank you!

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** FW: cemetery

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jeannene Rossitto [<mailto:jrossitto2@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 11:24 AM  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Subject:** cemetery

I want to thank the many people that are making the cemetery in eastern Ne. a reality. My husband served in Vietnam, he was cremated, and we are waiting for a cemetery closer to us than the one in western Ne. to bury him and give him a final resting place that he deserves. I know, like anything, not all people are going to be happy with the location.

I am very happy with the cemetery location. It is closer to us, to many families in eastern Ne. Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Jeannene Rossitto

Sent to you from Jeannene's iPad

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Sarpy County Nebraska Veterans' Cemetery

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [gretnalegion@cox.net](mailto:gretnalegion@cox.net) [mailto:[gretnalegion@cox.net](mailto:gretnalegion@cox.net)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 11:24 AM  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Subject:** Proposed Sarpy County Nebraska Veterans' Cemetery

Mr. Swift,

I am writing you today to encourage the completion of the proposed Sarpy County, Nebraska Veterans' Cemetery. Eastern Nebraska has long needed a Veterans' Cemetery, and I feel the location is a good one.

As I understand it, some Bellevue, Nebraska Veterans have opposed the proposed location of the Cemetery, as they feel it is too far for them to travel to perform Honor Guards, etc. As the Post Commander of the Gretna American Legion Post 216, Department of Nebraska, we cover Honor Guard ceremonies all over the Omaha area, including Bellevue. While admittedly, the proposed location would be fairly close to us (8-9 miles), I don't feel that the Honor Guard argument is valid, as we travel to whatever Cemetery the Veteran we are honoring is to be interred at, regardless of whether it is 3 miles away, or 20 miles away. That is part of the duty we are honored to perform for our departed Brothers and Sisters.

In closing, I strongly urge the VA to move forward with the proposed location for a new National Cemetery in Sarpy County, Nebraska, so that we can give our local Veterans a place to rest close to their homes.

Respectfully,

Richard Holley  
Commander,  
Gretna American Legion Post 216  
(402) 639-9250

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 11:39 AM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on the National Veteran's Cemetery

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**From:** Lane, Jim [<mailto:Jim.Lane@nebraska.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Cc:** DIANE LANE ([dklane1@cox.net](mailto:dklane1@cox.net))  
**Subject:** Comment on the National Veteran's Cemetery

Dear Mr. Swift:

I do not believe the 36<sup>th</sup> St. and highway 370 location for a new National Veteran's Cemetery would be a better site. I am a Viet Nam Era Army veteran and I often feel that I am considered to be a second class veteran in the Offutt/retired Air Force dominated Omaha community. I believe there are also thousands of other non Air Force "grunts" like myself here in the eastern part of Nebraska that would prefer to be laid to rest in a more pastoral location as originally designated by the Veterans Administration. Please do not cave in to the Offutt- centric power base. The cemetery should be set up to serve more than just that sizable but vocal minority.

*Jim Lane, MS, CPC*

Veterans Workforce Coordinator

[Nebraska Dept of Labor](#) | 5717 F Street | Omaha, NE 68117

☎: 402.595.3018 | 📠: 402.595.1422 | ✉: [jim.lane@nebraska.gov](mailto:jim.lane@nebraska.gov)

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## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 12:01 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Veterans Cemetery, Neb.

---

**From:** Loyd Orr <[lmorris@att.net](mailto:lmorris@att.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 11:59:13 2012  
**Subject:** Veterans Cemetery, Neb.

Mr Swift,

I agree with those other that think putting the cemetery in western Sarpy county is wrong. Trying to have funeral processions going that far over very busy roads is not a good idea. Also as said getting Honor Guards and Taps players out there would take up a lot of volunteers time in travel. The land could be put to better use, and bring in taxes.

Thank you for your time.

Loyd Orr Retired USAF

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 12:45 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Springfield NE Veterans Cemetery

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**From:** Dean Bower <[gogodgo@hotmail.com](mailto:gogodgo@hotmail.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 12:43:51 2012  
**Subject:** Springfield NE Veterans Cemetery

Good morning, Mr. Swift!

I support a veterans cemetery in Eastern Nebraska.

Some folks will be unhappy about this or that aspect. We humans tend to be picky about things.

Overall, having access to a cemetery with openings a few miles away compared to a cemetery 100+ miles away is a blessing.

Dean Bower  
4722 S. 94<sup>th</sup> Plaza Apt C7  
Omaha, Nebraska 68127

## Rob Clark

---

**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 1:15 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Veterans cemetery in Sarpy Co., Nebr.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [retiredjoe@cox.net](mailto:retiredjoe@cox.net) <[retiredjoe@cox.net](mailto:retiredjoe@cox.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Cc:** d. Dale <[got2gohunt@yahoo.com](mailto:got2gohunt@yahoo.com)>; d. John <[fillmoreb1@cox.net](mailto:fillmoreb1@cox.net)>; d. Steve F. <[stephent@windstream.net](mailto:stephent@windstream.net)>;  
[rdupell@cox.net](mailto:rdupell@cox.net) <[rdupell@cox.net](mailto:rdupell@cox.net)>; [mjkeske@cox.net](mailto:mjkeske@cox.net) <[mjkeske@cox.net](mailto:mjkeske@cox.net)>; [Ethridge13@cox.net](mailto:Ethridge13@cox.net)  
<[Ethridge13@cox.net](mailto:Ethridge13@cox.net)>  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 12:47:06 2012  
**Subject:** Veterans cemetery in Sarpy Co., Nebr.

Mr. Swift,

I am an Air Force Vet. (SMSgt E-8) serving from July 1964 thru July 1986. I live in Bellevue, Nebraska and a lifetime member of the VFW post 2503.

I would like to express my opinion on the location of the National Veterans Cemetery at 144th St. and Schram Rd. near Springfield, NE. This would be a far and remote location for most of the military veterans and their families. Most of whom live near the eastern side of the county in Bellevue and Omaha. There is currently a Veterans Home near 36th St. and Capehart Rd. and would be an ideal location for a National Cemetery also being within a short distance from Offutt AFB.

The location near 36th & Capehart Rd. is a quiet, scenic countryside acreage with easy access from all directions. I really hope you will give this project added consideration and adopt this new location for better support to the vet's and their families.

Sincerely'

Joseph Bass

5209 Aspen Dr.

Bellevue, Nebraska 68157

[Retiredjoe@cox.net](mailto:Retiredjoe@cox.net)

(402) 731-5227

## Rob Clark

---

**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 1:15 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: National Veterans Cemetery

---

**From:** [CrMill4@aol.com](mailto:CrMill4@aol.com) <[CrMill4@aol.com](mailto:CrMill4@aol.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 12:55:24 2012  
**Subject:** National Veterans Cemetery

Dear Mr. Swift,

I hope you will reconsider locating the National Cemetery that is currently proposed to be at 144th and Shram Road. Bellevue Nebraska is where Offutt Air force Base is located and most of its retirees live in or near Bellevue. Bellevue already has a site that is more appropriate for the cemetery, more convenient for family to visit. As a 30 year veteran myself, who plans on being in that cemetery someday, why put it way out in the boondocks and make it difficult to get to. This was bad planning on someone's part. Please change the location to Bellevue.

Thank you,  
C.A. Miller

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 1:30 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** FW: Sarpy County

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**From:** Kostal, Jerry [<mailto:Jerry.Kostal@nmhs.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 1:26 PM  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Subject:** Sarpy County

Really, did I just read an article complaining about the 15 minute drive to the location of the new proposed cemetery in Sarpy County? Cudo's to you and the federal government for even considering Sarpy county, I've lived in Papillion my whole life 50 years with the exception of my Marine Corps service of 6 years. I already talked to my wife and were both planning of being buried there, thank you for that opportunity! Good luck on the project!

Jerry Kostal  
Papillion, NE.

Jerry Kostal | Nebraska Methodist Health System / Shared Services | 402-536-5355 (SSS) / 402-354-6711 (Corp) |

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## Rob Clark

---

**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 2:49 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Veterans Cemetary

---

**From:** Norman Crocker <[normcrocker@yahoo.com](mailto:normcrocker@yahoo.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 14:47:05 2012  
**Subject:** Veterans Cemetary

The idea that some people can't drive 15 miles to a cemetary is beyond belief! They almost never start off that close to populated areas. Ask some of the veterans about Sidney.

I am an Air Force vet with 21 years active duty.

Thomas N. Crocker  
LtCol USAFRet.

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 4:40 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** FW: Eastern Nebraska Veteran Cemetary

---

**From:** Bonnie Sanchez [<mailto:missybonnie@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 4:25 PM  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Subject:** Eastern Nebraska Veteran Cemetary

Mr. Edward Swift,

My father was a lifelong member of the Air Force. My husband is also a veteran. My mother is in the Eastern Nebraska Veteran's Home. As a member of the military community of Bellevue, Nebraska, I wish to voice my disappointment in the site selected for the new Veteran's Cemetary in Springfield, Nebraska. My husband will be buried there. My mother will be buried there. I will be buried there. The cemetary should be in the Bellevue area where the veterans live.

Bonnie Sanchez, Bellevue, NE

**Rob Clark**

---

**Subject:** FW: Location of Sarpy County veterans cemetery

-----Original Message-----

From: Swift, Edward (CFM) [<mailto:Edward.Swift@va.gov>]  
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 5:29 PM  
To: Rob Clark  
Subject: Fw: Location of Sarpy County veterans cemetery

----- Original Message -----

From: [wxfcstr@cox.net](mailto:wxfcstr@cox.net) <[wxfcstr@cox.net](mailto:wxfcstr@cox.net)>  
To: Swift, Edward (CFM)  
Sent: Mon Oct 22 17:23:52 2012  
Subject: Location of Sarpy County veterans cemetery

Mr. Swift,

I like many eastern Sarpy County and western Iowa veterans am very displeased with the selection of an area of land in Springfield NE as the location for the new veterans cemetery. It makes no sense to put a cemetery where residence and local government do not want it. The plot of land off of 36th street in Bellevue seems like the more appropriate location. It is close to Offutt AFB and the land can not be developed for any other reason. I had also heard that the owner of this land was willing to donate the land. If the selection of the Springfield site is politically motivated, shame on you. If it is financially motivated, shame on you. I spent 25 1/2 yrs in the Air Force, 9 of them at Offutt AFB. I also spent 19 yrs as a government contractor/civil service rep at Offutt AFB. I've lived in Bellevue for the past 23 years. Upon hearing that Sarpy County was getting a veterans cemetery and the Bellevue location was in the running, I was happy to hear my final resting place would overlook the location where I spent most of my life. Do the right thing. Select the Bellevue site.

Sincerely,  
James L. Reardon, Capt (ret), USAF  
12710 Ridgeview Cir  
Bellevue, NE 68123

**Rob Clark**

---

**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 5:32 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: VA cemetary site in Sarpy County, Nebraska

---

**From:** Richard Dickson <cw4richdickson@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Cc:** Richard Dickson <cw4richdickson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 17:28:02 2012  
**Subject:** VA cemetary site in Sarpy County, Nebraska

Mr. Swift:

I served in the Army for 30 years and live in Papillion (96th St. and Schram Road), only a few miles from the proposed VA cemetary near Springfield, Nebraska. According to many sources, there are only 67,000 veterans in Nebraska, including 16,000 military retirees.

The majority of the veterans/retired military live in Lincoln and Omaha. The site you have chosen near Springfield (144th St and Schram Road) is an ideal place for the cemetary.

There are many veterans group chapters (VFW, American Legion, etc.) in the area close to the chosen site. My family and I hope this will be your choice for the national veterans cemetary in Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Richard Dickson  
CW4 US Army Retired

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 8:05 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: VA Cemetery Near Springfield, NE

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**From:** Jim Daugherty <jimd2k@gmail.com>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 19:34:08 2012  
**Subject:** VA Cemetery Near Springfield, NE

Dear Mr. Swift,

As a Viet Nam era USAF vet, I have no problem with the proposed VA cemetery near Springfield, NE. Glad to see eastern Nebraska is getting the consideration it deserves. Thanks for keeping the public included in your thoughts.

--

Jim Daugherty

## Rob Clark

---

**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 8:05 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw:

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [kre52@cox.net](mailto:kre52@cox.net) <[kre52@cox.net](mailto:kre52@cox.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 20:03:39 2012  
**Subject:**

Mr. Swift:

What better place, than Bellevue for a "military cemetery"??? I have been a resident of Bellevue for 55 years and think this is this ideal place!

Please think again!

Kim Embrey  
Bellevue, NE  
[kre52@cox.net](mailto:kre52@cox.net)

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 9:09 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: National Cemetery

---

**From:** Bud Erickson <buderickson@gmail.com>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 20:25:57 2012  
**Subject:** National Cemetery

Sir,

I am a retired AF veteran. I wholeheartedly support placing the cemetery at the site near Springfield. While I am a Sarpy county resident, I like many other AF veterans do not live in Bellevue. For many of us, our post military world does not revolve Offutt AFB. I am sure that the reasons the announced current site was chosen took into account many factors. Let's face it, to get a new national cemetery--anywhere eastern Nebraska-- is a great opportunity. With 100,000 of us turning 65 years of age each day, we don't need to delay any further. When can I sign up?

Thank you,  
R.W. Erickson, LtCol, USAF (Ret)  
Papillion, Ne

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 9:09 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: National Cemetery Sarpy County, NE

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**From:** Allen Marsh <[aj.marsh@cox.net](mailto:aj.marsh@cox.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 21:03:53 2012  
**Subject:** National Cemetery Sarpy County, NE

MR. Swift;

After reading about a concern in the newspaper this evening regarding placing a national cemetery in western part of Sarpy County, Nebraska I feel obliged to address the issue set forth therein.

The concern was over not locating the cemetery in eastern Sarpy County where the Air Force has a base.

I believe that this is a National Cemetery to serve all branches of the armed forces, not just the Air Force.

I have visited the National Cemetery near Maxwell, Nebraska a few hundred miles from Sarpy County to visit grave sites with no problem.

Offutt is staffed by all branches of the armed services, not just Air Force.

Thanks you for getting a National cemetery in Eastern Nebraska, regardless of where it is.

Allen J. Marsh  
LTC Ret, U S Army

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 9:25 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Veterans cemetery in Sarpy Co., Nebr.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Ron Dupell <[rdupell@cox.net](mailto:rdupell@cox.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 21:23:50 2012  
**Subject:** FW: Veterans cemetery in Sarpy Co., Nebr.

I second Mr. Bass's comments.

Ronald J. Dupell, CMSgt (Retired), USAF

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [retiredjoe@cox.net](mailto:retiredjoe@cox.net) [<mailto:retiredjoe@cox.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** [edward.swift@va.gov](mailto:edward.swift@va.gov)  
**Cc:** d. Dale; d. John; d. Steve F.; [rdupell@cox.net](mailto:rdupell@cox.net); [mikeske@cox.net](mailto:mikeske@cox.net); [Ethridge13@cox.net](mailto:Ethridge13@cox.net)  
**Subject:** Veterans cemetery in Sarpy Co., Nebr.

Mr. Swift,

I am an Air Force Vet. (SMSgt E-8) serving from July 1964 thru July 1986. I live in Bellevue, Nebraska and a lifetime member of the VFW post 2503.

I would like to express my opinion on the location of the National Veterans Cemetery at 144th St. and Schram Rd. near Springfield, NE. This would be a far and remote location for most of the military veterans and their families. Most of whom live near the eastern side of the county in Bellevue and Omaha. There is currently a Veterans Home near 36th St. and Capehart Rd. and would be an ideal location for a National Cemetery also being within a short distant from Offutt AFB.

The location near 36th & Capehart Rd. is a quiet, scenic countryside acreage with easy access from all directions.

I really hope you will give this project added consideration and adopt this new location for better support to the vet's and their families.

Sincerely'

Joseph Bass

5209 Aspen Dr.

Bellevue, Nebraska 68157

[Retiredjoe@cox.net](mailto:Retiredjoe@cox.net)

(402) 731-5227

**Rob Clark**

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 10:36 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Sarpy County Nebraska National Veterans Cemetary

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**From:** [kostal.mail@cox.net](mailto:kostal.mail@cox.net) <[kostal.mail@cox.net](mailto:kostal.mail@cox.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 22:14:40 2012  
**Subject:** Sarpy County Nebraska National Veterans Cemetary

Mr. Swift

I was disappointed to read criticism of the Sarpy County Nebraska national cemetery site in today's newspaper. To me, it's a logical and fantastic selection. It offers a great location accessible to the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro area and the entire states of Iowa and Nebraska via I-80. It's just a couple miles off the interstate - easy to get to from everywhere. And it came at what seemed to me to be a reasonable cost.

You'll never satisfy everyone, but this looks like a selection that should satisfy most of Iowa and Nebraska. Good luck in getting this approved.

Bruce Kostal

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 6:48 AM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Veterans National Cemetery in Eastern Nebraska  
**Attachments:** Bellevue.docx; Cost Estimate-1.xls; SAC CEM.docx; Cost Estimate-CASS.xls; Cost Comparison.xls

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**From:** Michael.Cook <Michael.Cook@cox.net>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Cc:** Michael.Cook.ctr@offutt.af.mil <Michael.Cook.ctr@offutt.af.mil>  
**Sent:** Mon Oct 22 22:43:21 2012  
**Subject:** Veterans National Cemetery in Eastern Nebraska

Mr. Swift

**Background** – Several years ago, Michelle Malkin wrote an article on Arlington National Cemetery with respect to running out of space for military burials. With that in mind, I forwarded a suggestion to Congressman Lee Terry that a new Veterans national Cemetery was needed in Eastern Nebraska to serve not just the veterans living in Nebraska and Iowa but for all veterans everywhere. Not only did I suggest it, I forwarded him a plan for its location to be near Ashland Nebraska, next to the Strategic Air and Space Museum and Mahoney State Park. It was summarily dismissed by the Congressman because his staff contacted the Museum and they informed him that they had no plans or ambitions for a cemetery.

**Discussion** - As I attempted to raise awareness on my proposal, I found that an organization - Memorial Ridge of the Midlands Foundation, was attempting to press our representatives to support the VA for a Veterans Cemetery to be funded and located in Sarpy County. When I attempted to present my thoughts to the leadership of this organization, I pretty much was told to shut up and color. The only acceptable plan was to be limited to Sarpy County and in particular Bellevue. However, I submit to you my plans that include a cost and area comparison. Although not in Sarpy county, it is in Cass county – approximately half way between Omaha and Lincoln. The cemetery would be located just off of I-80, convenient to the cemetery, but also the Strategic Air Space Museum and a beautiful State Park. As ground breaking has not occurred, I would respectfully request that you at least look at the plan. Further with all the veterans of the former Strategic Air Command, I personally believe that an appropriate name would be The Strategic Air Command Memorial National Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Questions Call 402 232-5410.

Michael J. Cook, Colonel  
USAF Retired.

Proposed Area in Bellevue, NE



Proposal for Veterans Cemetary  
Bellevue, Nebraska



|    | PARCEL NUMBER | OWNER            | ACREAGE | VALUE          |
|----|---------------|------------------|---------|----------------|
| 1  | 10485988      | Thomas Glesinger | 40      | \$39,047.00    |
| 2  | 11162155      | Harry Gates      | 27.1    | \$24,317.00    |
| 3  | 11170654      | RBLT, INC        | 20      | \$268,000.00   |
| 4  | 10480153      | Harry Gates      | 25.77   | \$20,339.00    |
| 5  | 11067136      | Margaret Week    | 20.08   | \$24,274.00    |
| 6  | 10943927      | Thomas Riha      | 10.19   | \$157,072.00   |
| 7  | 10748067      | Michael Hogan    | 72.68   | \$64,037.00    |
| 8  | 11170662      | Michael Hogan    | 2.33    | \$1,775.00     |
| 9  | 11304138      | DPC              | 14.32   | \$1,290,000.00 |
| 10 | 10480145      | UPRR             | 21.7    | \$7,703.00     |
| 11 | 10610057      | UPRR             | 52.32   | \$15,125.00    |
|    |               |                  | 306.49  | \$1,911,689.00 |

Ashland Proposed Area



Proposal for Veterans Cemetary  
Bellevue, Nebraska



|    | PARCEL NUMBER | OWNER                     | ACREAGE  | VALUE          |
|----|---------------|---------------------------|----------|----------------|
| 1  | 130115835     | Mary Reinke               | 77.51    | \$70,754.00    |
| 2  | 130116114     | Richards McCain Farms     | 96.84    | \$118,089.00   |
| 3  | 130116017     | Mary Reinke               | 40       | \$35,240.00    |
| 4  | 130115932     | Francis Reinke            | 40       | \$34,355.00    |
| 5  | 130116122     | Richards McCain Farms     | 48.98    | \$66,789.00    |
| 6  | 130115916     | Francis Reinke            | 40       | \$46,700.00    |
| 7  | 130115924     | Francis Reinke            | 40       | \$49,460.00    |
| 8  | 130115347     | Ray Buel                  | 36.3     | \$43,567.00    |
| 9  | 130115266     | Ray Buel                  | 39.84    | \$50,338.00    |
| 10 | 130115355     | Mary Reinke               | 159.693  | \$140,298.00   |
| 11 | 130115991     | Marilyn Marsh             | 87.89    | \$129,265.00   |
| 12 | 130116009     | Francis & Mary Reinke     | 80       | \$101,410.00   |
| 13 | 130115117     | Francis & Mary Reinke     | 79.37    | \$98,196.00    |
| 14 | 130116246     | Francis & Mary Reinke     | 78.79    | \$113,525.00   |
| 15 | 130116084     | Francis & Mary Reinke     | 80       | \$209,906.00   |
| 16 | 130115096     | Francis & Mary Reinke     | 78.49    | \$91,571.00    |
| 17 | 130114944     | Gerald & Jacqueline Fudge | 160      | \$411,514.00   |
| 18 | 130116416     | Otto Ludewig              | 38.78    | \$68,404.00    |
| 19 | 130116327     | Russell Arlington         | 40       | \$59,639.00    |
| 20 | 130116157     | FirstTier Bank            | 40       | \$60,420.00    |
| 21 | 130116076     | FirstTier Bank            | 38.58    | \$167,012.00   |
| 22 | 130115061     | Francis & Mary Reinke     | 78       | \$163,469.00   |
| 23 |               |                           |          |                |
| 24 |               |                           |          |                |
| 25 |               |                           |          |                |
| 26 |               |                           |          |                |
| 27 |               |                           |          |                |
|    |               |                           | 1499.063 | \$2,329,921.00 |



**Rob Clark**

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**Subject:** FW: Location of Nebraska Veterans Cemetery should be near Offutt AFB.

**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) [<mailto:Edward.Swift@va.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 11:41 AM

**To:** Rob Clark

**Subject:** Fw: Location of Nebraska Veterans Cemetery should be near Offutt AFB.

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**From:** [bfstarke@aol.com](mailto:bfstarke@aol.com) <[bfstarke@aol.com](mailto:bfstarke@aol.com)>

**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)

**Cc:** [bfs52@aol.com](mailto:bfs52@aol.com) <[bfs52@aol.com](mailto:bfs52@aol.com)>

**Sent:** Tue Oct 23 11:37:44 2012

**Subject:** Location of Nebraska Veterans Cemetery should be near Offutt AFB.

VA Project Manager, Edward Swift

I don't want my final resting place to be an area near retail, commercial and residential development, where my family seldom, if ever, have or will visit . I would much prefer being under the Offutt flight path on sprawling hilly acreage, as suggested in the October 17, 2012 Bellevue Leader article by Eugene Curtin, Leader Staff Writer. I fully agree with all the comments from other veterans in the area, written about in the article.

Bruce Starke

Lt Col., USAF, Ret.

"Retired B-52 pilot"

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:33 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** When Is deadline?

When is the deadline

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Mary Cabral <yoyoymary@cox.net>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Tue Oct 23 12:20:11 2012  
**Subject:** VA Cemetery, Bellevue NE

Dear Mr. Swift: It seems logical to me to locate the veterans cemetery in Bellevue, Nebraska, near the Veterans Home there. There is plenty of land in eastern Sarpy County and should be considered for this cemetery.

Many of the reasons for locating it in eastern Sarpy County are the right ones. Retired Airmen live there. The Veterans Home is there. 144th street is too far west for travel there from Bellevue. It would put a strain on the traffic. Widows would have a hard time getting access there. It's just plain not a good idea.

Thank you.

Mary Cabral  
5505 S. 93rd St.  
Omaha, NE 68127

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:34 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: cemetery

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Darlene Gordon <[ddgordon70@gmail.com](mailto:ddgordon70@gmail.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Tue Oct 23 12:33:04 2012  
**Subject:** cemetery

Dear Mr. Swift,

Public comments being taken until tuesday, which is today, so the article in the Bellevue paper states. My comment is to put the cemetery in Bellevue.

This is where the base is and so many retired military live. We are a military community and would be proud to bury our members near the base, not so much so at 144th St. I am the wife of a retired AF Officer, have lived in Bellevue for over 37 years and want my body buried here. My husband wants to be buried in the national cemetery. This is fine with me as long as it is Bellevue, so we have a household issue here.

I do not like the sight selection period.

Sincerely,

Darlene Gordon

[ddgordon70@gmail.com](mailto:ddgordon70@gmail.com)

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 1:06 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw:

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**From:** Marge <[paradise@atmc.net](mailto:paradise@atmc.net)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Tue Oct 23 12:57:45 2012  
**Subject:**

Reference national veterans cemetery. I wholeheartedly agree with the retired Air Force veterans who desire the vets cemetery site to be located in eastern Sarpy County. As noted in the World Herald news article published 10-22-12, the difficulties are certainly real for the retirees and volunteers as noted by Don Tuziw and Fred Schubert, who served in the U.S Air Force.

Question:

Has the land for the western location been donated by the Schram group, or has the money for the cemetery been raised by donations?

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Reeks

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 5:00 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: Veterans' cemetery near Bellevue, NE

**Importance:** High

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**From:** Grant Brollier <gra33bar1b@earthlink.net>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Tue Oct 23 16:56:52 2012  
**Subject:** Veterans' cemetery near Bellevue, NE

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Dick Purdum  
**To:** Grant Brollier  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 4:06 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Veterans' cemetery near Bellevue, NE

Hi Grant,

Your words sound good to me – I have changed a couple items and yes I will be glad to support this as well.

No I have not see Jim McCoy recently.

**From:** Grant Brollier  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** Dick Purdum  
**Subject:** Veterans' cemetery near Bellevue, NE

Dick, I am about to send the something like the following email in regards to the possible location of a military cemetery in our area. I would appreciate your editing and adding to the message and possibly us sending it together as one to the Project Manager. Perhaps we could gather additional comments from vets we know for a follow up later. I think we have to have any inputs in by Tues a week from tomordrow.

What about Jim McCoy? Have you talked to him lately?

Grant

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To: Edward Swift, Project Manager.

I am writing this in reference to an article in the Monday, October 22, 2012 issue of the Omaha World Herald newspaper, page 3B entitled "Some Bellevue vets aren't happy with cemetery site".

I, too, believe the location of a military cemetery at 144th street and Schram Road , approximately 15 miles from Omaha, NE. would not be desirable for the following reasons:

- It is just too far away for families from the Omaha/Bellevue/Papillion/Council Bluffs area to attend to the graves of their loved ones.
- Traffic on access highways would be interrupted during funerals.
- 144th and Schram Road is near the small town of Springfield, NE. There has been negative comments from that community stating that a fair amount of acreage is needed for their development and a cemetery would deprive them of that option. . .
- Areas closer to the metro area have been identified that would be much more appropriate for a Veterans Cemetery such as near 36th Street, Bellevue, NE. where there are beautiful rolling hills, and it is quite accessible and noteworthy for the military community. In addition the flight path into Offutt AFB is over this area meaning it cannot be used for housing or industrial development., In addition it is quite accessible for the military community. therefore ideal for the veterans' cemetery.
- Most military funerals include the sound of taps and gunshot, and these frequent sounds may be undesirable to the Springfield residents.

Grant Brollier, retired US Air Force  
Bellevue, Nebraska

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 5:00 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: National Veterans Cemetery

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**From:** Sharon Erickson <sharerick@aol.com>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Tue Oct 23 16:58:27 2012  
**Subject:** National Veterans Cemetery

I need to let you know how upset I am with the proposed location of the national veterans cemetery. Yes, I appreciate that the decision has finally been made that there will be one established. Yes, I appreciate that the location is proposed to be in Sarpy County. But, I, and many other veterans have been told the last couple of years, that the location was "locked in" for the ideal space between 25th and 36th Sts and Highway 370.

This location in Bellevue was ideal and seemed so logical. First, it is in the flight path for planes entering and departing Offutt and not conducive to commercial nor residential development for safety reasons. Most importantly, where are most retirees located? The Bellevue area. As an Air Force retiree, I know that military retirees tend to locate near military bases. Not just for benefits but for the continuing closeness military members feel for one another. The veterans home is located near Offutt. Why?

Because of the closeness of Offutt. The support in this area is not just by active military members but the many retired members. The support from the community and the base is right here!!! For Honor Guard volunteers, for friends and family of deceased veterans, and all ceremonies recognizing veterans. As we age, we are unable to travel too far and the extended distance for funeral processions would be another difficult item. This area was so ideal, I heard from many organizations that this was the most logical location. Sen. Nelson said he had been told that "a beautiful site had been selected". Of course we all agreed!!! The Bellevue location!!!

The location near Springfield has raised so many objections. They are concerned about economic development. Some of the proposed area is intended for industrial use.

So, will the cemetery end up with McDonalds, Wendys, or whatever next door?? The mayor of Springfield is concerned about the the impact the cemetery might have on potential for future commercial development. The MAPA is concerned that the "cemetery takes away a prime site for commercial development in Sarpy. They are concerned with the future of economic development goals. What about the concerns of veterans being placed in the middle of commercial, business, industrial interests?

I had heard, in the past, of the difficulty of getting a national cemetery located here because of the sparse population. I had heard that the majority of potential users had to be located within 75 miles. Then, I heard that this requirement had been lifted for this area because of the large number of retirees located around here. I understand that this cemetery is to cover not only the Bellevue area (eastern Nebraska) but the western part of Iowa. Well, if you add another 15 miles from Offutt, you will find many of our veterans having to travel over 100 miles to visit the proposed location.

Please, reconsider the location. We retirees want the Bellevue location. We need the Bellevue location. The Bellevue area always has and will always appreciate us veterans. I already feel unwelcome in the Springfield area!!! When I heard that a national cemetery would be located here, I immediately told my family that I wanted to have my final resting place with my fellow veterans here instead of the family plot in my home town. They were surprised but I told them that my eternal family would always be my beloved fellow veterans that I served with. I remember how we were treated when we served during the Vietnam era. I remember how we were treated when we returned from serving in that area. Now, the thought of finding my final resting place being decided based on economic development? This would not happen in the Bellevue area!!!

Thank you.

Sharon L. Erickson

Major, USAF, retired

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 9:58 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: National cemetery in Nebraska

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**From:** Scott Daves <[scottdaves\\_99@hotmail.com](mailto:scottdaves_99@hotmail.com)>  
**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)  
**Sent:** Tue Oct 23 20:21:26 2012  
**Subject:** National cemetery in Nebraska

Dear Mr. Swift,

I had just earned of the plan to put a veteran cemetery in western Sarpy County Nebraska. I believe the VA has picked the wrong spot for this cemetery. If I remember, the VA had seen a spot in eastern Sarpy County around Highway 370 and 36th Street. This is closer to Offutt Air Force Base, making it easier for the base Honor Guard to attend the services. Also, the site is in the flight path of Offutt AFB. There would be no change in building zones and being in the flight path it would seem to honor those veterans and their families. This area of Sarpy County has more military retirees in the area. In three blocks around my house there is at least five retirees from Air Force Weather Agency and more than double that of other retirees and veeterans from other sections of the Air Force and branches of the military. I think this is a better site pleasing more people and having less problems the VA would have obtaining this plot of land. So, I am asking you and VA to reconsider putting the site at the location I listed above. Thank you for your time.

Scott Daves  
1801 Dianne Ave.  
Bellevue, NE 68005

## Rob Clark

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) <Edward.Swift@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 10:23 PM  
**To:** Rob Clark  
**Subject:** Fw: National Cemetery Sarpy County Nebraska

----- Original Message -----

From: Ted <[teddyandlinda@cox.net](mailto:teddyandlinda@cox.net)>  
To: Swift, Edward (CFM); Joel Strominger <[joel.strominger@cox.net](mailto:joel.strominger@cox.net)>; jon strominger <[stromonster@hotmail.com](mailto:stromonster@hotmail.com)>; Jay Strominger <[Jason.Strominger@us.army.mil](mailto:Jason.Strominger@us.army.mil)>; Steve sstromin1 <[ssstromin1@earthlink.net](mailto:ssstromin1@earthlink.net)>; Jay [jason.strominger@yahoo.com](mailto:jason.strominger@yahoo.com) <[jason.strominger@yahoo.com](mailto:jason.strominger@yahoo.com)>; Don Tweedy <[dontweedy@cox.net](mailto:dontweedy@cox.net)>; lynn strominger <[lynnstrominger@email.com](mailto:lynnstrominger@email.com)>  
Sent: Tue Oct 23 22:21:30 2012  
Subject: National Cemetery Sarpy County Nebraska

Dear Sir; I entered the Armed Forces in March of 1969. I served in Vietnam in 1972-1973. I served during the Lybian Conflict and both Persian Gulf Wars.

When I die I prefer burial at a National Cemetery in Eastern Nebraska.

I understand the cemetery is currently planned to be near Springfiled Nebraska. Although Springfield is not all that far from home it lacks a strong military connection to deceased veterans. Most veterans such as I live at/or near Bellevue Nebraska.

I understand the plot of land which was also evaluated was just north of Highway 370 and 36th St in Bellevue. Offutt Air Force Base is approximately 2 miles east of this plot. The flight path for planes taking off and landing at Offutt AFB fly directly over this plot.

Wouldn't it be awesome if the pilots and crews of these planes could pay homage and respect to those who served in earlier days during their flyovers? Family members feel pride in their loved ones and for their time served. What a fitting tribute to these veterans. I would be proud in my "sleep" knowing those serving are thinking of me daily as they passover.

Additionally, this plot would be highly visible from Highway 370 providing additional visibility to those who have served and to those serving now. I don't know for sure how many thousands of automobiles traverse this highway on a daily basis but I can guarantee you it is probably one hundred times or more than would pass the Springfield plot.

Bellevue is the fourth largest city in Nebraska. It employs thousands of people at Offutt Air Force Base. Numerous defense contractors have their headquarters on Highway 370. These contractors employ veterans. Spouses of veterans both alive and deceased live here, not in Springfield. "We deserve the honor of being the HOME of Eastern Nebraska National Cemetery".

Please reconsider your decision and change it to Bellevue Nebraska. We veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces and our spouses, either stationed or retired at or near Bellevue, deserve it.

Note: I have info'd my sons and my brothers who also served on this email. They are all veterans as well.

Theodore J Strominger  
Chief Master Sergeant, Retired

506 W 14 Ave  
Bellevue Ne 68005  
Phone: 402-321-6631  
Email: [TeddyandLinda@cox.net](mailto:TeddyandLinda@cox.net)

**Rob Clark**

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**Subject:** FW: National Cemetery

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**From:** Swift, Edward (CFM) [<mailto:Edward.Swift@va.gov>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:23 AM

**To:** Rob Clark

**Subject:** FW: National Cemetery

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**From:** Barbara Mills [<mailto:blmills19@q.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:21 AM

**To:** Swift, Edward (CFM)

**Subject:** National Cemetery

My husband was over joyed that there will be a National Cemetery in Sarpy County. The location is not far from our home. We were dismayed that vets from Offutt Air Force Base think it is too far away. Sarpy County is the smallest county in Nebraska, it is not Cherry County! This is much closer than Ft. McPherson which serves the vets in the western part of the state. We hope that you will stay at the Hiway 50 and Schram road location. There are more Veterans in Nebraska who have served in Army, Marines, and Navy who do not live in Bellevue but in the counties surrounding that would benefit from this location.

Edward Mills

US Army, served in Viet Nam