The new 132-acre cemetery in the town of Pembroke, New York, will serve the burial needs of more than 96,000 Veterans in the cemetery’s service area for the next 70 years. This cemetery will be the seventh Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery in the state of New York.

Currently there are five VA national cemeteries open for first interments in New York: Bath (Bath); Woodlawn (Elmira); Gerald B. Solomon Saratoga (Schuylerville); Calverton (Calverton); and Long Island (Farmingdale) national cemeteries. There is no state Veterans cemetery in New York.

In May 2014, VA purchased the land located at 1232 Indian Falls Road, Pembroke, NY, for $625,000. The mailing address is Corfu, NY. The property has access off of Exit #48A from the I-90 NY Thruway. The property is located in Genesee County.

The initial phase of construction will develop approximately 70 acres and provide for approximately 10 years of interment capacity, accommodating both casketed and cremated remains. The cemetery will include other features such as a front entrance, an administration building, a maintenance building, a flagpole assembly area, a memorial walkway, committal shelters, and a public information center with electronic gravesite locator, and restrooms. Other cemetery infrastructure features will include roads, landscaping, utilities and irrigation. VA plans to award a construction contract by summer of 2017.

VA is working with an architecture and engineering firm to design the cemetery master plan throughout 2015, and will continue with the remainder of the design process through 2016. Once cemetery construction gets underway, VA will hold a public dedication and groundbreaking ceremony. The first burials are expected to begin approximately 12 to 18 months after the start of construction.

VA plans to operate a local, off-site cemetery office during construction to provide cemetery information and news updates as plans progress. For more information about the planned national cemetery for Western New York, call the National Cemetery Administration North Atlantic District at 215-381-3787.

More information about VA’s National Cemetery Administration is available online at: www.cem.va.gov

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