APPENDIX C: RESPONSES TO COMMENTS ON THE OCTOBER 2018 DRAFT EA
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Table of Contents

Letter from Mayor of Hoffman Estates ......................................................................................................................... 1
Letter from Mayor of South Barrington ........................................................................................................................ 2
Letter from Barrington Area Council of Governments ................................................................................................ 86
Comments from Mayor of South Barrington ............................................................................................................... 90
Letter from Carol Agnello ............................................................................................................................................ 95
Letter from Gino Agnello ........................................................................................................................................... 100
Letter from Joseph Allate .......................................................................................................................................... 104
Letter from Jon Anderson .......................................................................................................................................... 106
Letter from Andy Balafas ........................................................................................................................................... 108
Letter from Navrzza Basati ........................................................................................................................................ 110
Letter from Yasmeen Beg, M.D. ................................................................................................................................... 114
Letter from Maria Betancourt ..................................................................................................................................... 116
Letter from Shefali and Manish Bhuva ...................................................................................................................... 118
Letter from Blaine Bontempo .................................................................................................................................... 120
Letter from Newton Carpenter .................................................................................................................................. 122
Letter from Magdalena Chlebowicz .......................................................................................................................... 124
Letter from Tomasz Chlebowicz ................................................................................................................................ 128
Letter from May Chua ............................................................................................................................................... 140
Letter from Angelo Diliberts ...................................................................................................................................... 144
Letter from Carri Dohe .............................................................................................................................................. 146
Letter from Neil Dohe................................................................................................................................................ 208
Letter from Ashvin Domadia ...................................................................................................................................... 211
Letter from Andrej Dymon .......................................................................................................................................... 219
Letter from Aneta Dymon .......................................................................................................................................... 221
Letter from Michal Dymon .......................................................................................................................................... 223
Letter from Vince Emery ............................................................................................................................................ 225
Letter from Denise and Victor Fay ............................................................................................................................. 227
Letter from Sikendar and Dr. Gulzar S. Fidai .............................................................................................................. 230
Letter from Marciela Garcia ................................................................. 232
Letter from Margarita Guadalupe ..................................................... 234
Letter from Stephen Guranovich ..................................................... 236
Letter from Jack Harrington ............................................................. 238
Letter from Colonel J.D. Helsing ........................................................ 242
Letter from Laurie Jaskot ................................................................. 244
Letter from Raymond J. Jaskot ......................................................... 250
Letter from Rasheed Jeffries .............................................................. 255
Letter from Kathy Khario ................................................................. 257
Letter from Andrzej Kielian .............................................................. 259
Letter from Shazia Khan ................................................................. 261
Letter from Jim Kingsley ................................................................. 263
Letter from Aneta Kowalski ............................................................. 266
Letter from Simon Kowalski ............................................................ 268
Letter from Evelyn M. Kurfess ......................................................... 270
Letter from Beatriz Lopez ............................................................... 272
Letter from Ludmila Lumieszko ...................................................... 274
Letter from Maria Mandin ............................................................... 276
Letter from Veronica Marmora ....................................................... 278
Letter from Joseph Marsiglia .......................................................... 280
Letter 2 from Joseph Marsiglia ...................................................... 282
Letter from Diane McDonald .......................................................... 284
Letter from Lizette Morales ............................................................ 286
Letter from Jacqueline Mendoza .................................................... 288
Letter from Angie Morales ............................................................ 290
Letter from They Moeller Family .................................................. 292
Letter from Maureen More ............................................................ 295
Letter from Rose Moy ................................................................. 297
Letter from Rae Muranski ............................................................. 299
Letter from Syed Munzir ............................................................................................................................................ 301
Letter from R. Naidu, A. Domadia, A. Saigal, S. Arora, H. Reddy, S. Bector, S. Puppala, SP Salwan, D. Kumar, and H. Mandir .......................................................... 303
Letter from Geri Nerby ............................................................................................................................................. 305
Letter from Jody Paine ............................................................................................................................................ 307
Letters from Jerry Rakowski ................................................................................................................................. 309
Letter from Terry Rakowski ................................................................................................................................. 319
Letter from Alda Reyes ....................................................................................................................................... 321
Letter from Deborah Ryan .................................................................................................................................... 323
Letter from Anil Saigal ......................................................................................................................................... 325
Letter 2 from Anil Saigal ...................................................................................................................................... 330
Letter from Pooja Saigal ........................................................................................................................................ 333
Letter from Shashi Saigal ..................................................................................................................................... 335
Letter from Alfred Saller ..................................................................................................................................... 337
Letter from Priya Saigal Shetty ............................................................................................................................ 339
Letter from Casey Shupe ...................................................................................................................................... 341
Letter from Donald Sleeman ............................................................................................................................... 344
Letter from Kathy Sokalski ................................................................................................................................... 346
Letter from Magadalena and Adam Stec ............................................................................................................. 350
Letter from Andy Stec ......................................................................................................................................... 355
Letter from Paul Swanson .................................................................................................................................... 357
Letter from Suni Vetticad ..................................................................................................................................... 360
Letter from Tom and Suni Vetticad ...................................................................................................................... 368
Letter from Shubhraj Wadyal, MD ........................................................................................................................ 374
Letter from Jack Wu ............................................................................................................................................. 376
Letter from Beata Yormark ................................................................................................................................. 380
Letter from Ni Zeng ............................................................................................................................................ 382
Columbarium Cemetery Project Petition ........................................................................................................... 384
National Cemetery Administration
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery Environmental Assessment Comment Sheet

Name: Neil Dohe
Address: 14 Mohawk Drive, South Barrington IL 60010
Affiliation: Local Resident
Email/Phone: neildohe@diesplus.com / 630-917-6777

Comment:

Being a resident to the adjacent proposed lot, I oppose the location of this Columbarium National Cemetery. #1

I have two young children who play outside all year round. I believe it would be very detrimental to be near the sound of gunfire on a regular basis. In the time of ‘bad guy’ drills and code black active shooter drills at elementary school, I think it is highly irresponsible to place such a cemetery as our neighbor. I don’t believe you would select a property next to an elementary school for the same reason. Selecting a property next to the homes of elementary aged children doesn’t make sense. #2

Secondly our neighborhood is home to a Vietnam Veteran with PTSD. He cannot tolerate the 4th of July celebrations, retreating to his basement every year during the sound of the shells going off. By placing this national cemetery in his back yard would be very troubling. He unfortunately may be buried in his own backyard sooner than he expected. The suicide rate of PTSD patients is a serious issue that must be recognized. #3

Along those same lines, my father in-law, Vincent Emery, is 50% disabled with PTSD. He will be retiring soon along with my mother in-law and had planned on visiting frequently. With the placement of this cemetery so close to our home, he will not be able to visit his own grandchildren. #4

This is our neighborhood and we are proud of its quiet and serene location. Having a neighbor shooting rifle volleys 3 to 5 times per day, more than a 1000 times per year, is not a very good neighbor.
Please be more attentive to the existing residents of more than 30 years before selecting this property as the location of the Columbarium. There are much better locations to honor our fallen solders besides the backyard of a residential neighborhood.

Thank you,

-Neil Dohe
Responses to Comments from Neil Dohe

1. Comment noted.
2. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which would not affect children (see table below).

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic. Department of Defense noise study information (VA 2019) indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in audible sound levels of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which are not known to cause PTSD.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

**Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’**

3. Comment noted.
4. Comment noted.
5. Comment noted.
Although this form is entitled Environmental Assessment, we were directed by the member of the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit general comments on this document as well. Please accept the following in response to that request.

November 20, 2018

Department of Veterans Affairs
Ms. Marianne Marinucci, CFM Realty Specialist

Dear Marianne,

My name is Ashvin Domadia and I am a resident of South Barrington, Illinois. I am writing today to express my dire concerns around the proposed extension of the Abraham Lincoln National Veteran’s Cemetery in the South Barrington area. I hope you will keep into consideration the truth behind the values and belief for which our soldiers gave their life and the below will help you better understand the impact of this decision on the residents of this community. My sincere hope also being you are able to work with our village Mayor and Board of Trustees to reconsider the decision on the selected site to honor our fallen ones.

When I moved into this country 19 years ago, I did so for the greater freedom this country had to offer. Freedom of speech, freedom of thoughts, freedom to practice your religion, to name a few amongst many. As freedom provides us with the power / right to act, speak and think as one wants without hindrance or restraint and the root cause of what our soldiers continue to and the fallen veterans gave up their life to protect – the freedom of this country and its citizens.

After my first child was born in May 2015, I started looking for a place to call home in a quiet neighborhood. In February 2017, my wife and I finally found our dream house in the Barrington Homestead Estates subdivision. But the recent news of the proposed extension of the National Veteran’s Cemetery in South Barrington has devastated our family as our home is less than 100 yards away from the proposed site.

According to Hindu Shastras, it is forbidden and considered sinister to line near a cemetery/crematory land due to the negative energy exuded in and around such a place. This new Columbarium will severely interfere with our rights to practice our religion because it will make your home sacrilegious.
Additionally, we had emptied our life’s saving to buy this house in a quiet neighborhood, with abundant of trees and wildlife to have the perfect home for our child. But the thought of our young child growing up with noises of loud multi-round rifles shoots all day everyday ravages us to the mental state that he will develop and accustom to in a child’s formative and adolescent years.

If the project is continued at the currently proposed site, my Hindu family (one amongst several others in the community) will be left with no option but to sell our house at distressed prices and lose a significant amount of money. This will limit our ability to be able to afford to buy another property to call our home for the next few decades and this will be all for practicing my religious beliefs – the question I ask you is if it is truly an attempt to honor or might it rather taint the true honor of the veterans who gave us their life fighting for the very root cause of Freedom and a stable, secure upbringing for the children who are the future of this country?

While this might just be the thoughts of a Hindu man who is a new parent but I must relay these concerns are shared across the numerous non-Hindu families living in the Barrington Homestead Estates subdivision as well. There are similarly numerous children that currently play on the streets and in the backyards but these children will be exposed to death, to watching 3-5 funerals daily and noises of honorary rifles shoot as a way of life.

To clarify and concur with the Department of Veterans Affairs Committee, in no way do we mean to disregard the need for these crematory grounds and honorary rifle shootings to pay the due respect these brave veterans of our country deserve.

But also keeping into consideration the deep grief their families go through as they pay their respects, it would be purely disrespectful to hear kids playing and jumping around in their backyards on trampolines, celebrating birthday parties and making merry or playing loud music less than 100 yards as these families mourn for their loved ones.

With all the above taken into consideration, it is my sincere and earnest request as a resident of this community attempting to pay respects to the veterans of our country, that we do not end up tainting their honor and work with our Mayor, Paula McCombie and Board of Trustees to find an appropriate site for these grounds which is not in or around a residential area.

I hope we as a country can continue to provide its citizens the freedom they have and protect the mental state of this community’s children while allowing for a respectable environment for the veteran’s grieving families. I pray that we don’t make it archaic for the children of this community to play on the streets and in their backyards!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashvin Domadia
18 Mohawk Dr.
South Barrington, IL. 60010
### Case Intake Details

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<td>OCLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Owner's Office</td>
<td>OCLA-009 Assistant Secretary of Congressional and Legislative Affairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Organization:** 40 NCA National Cemetery Administration

**Subject:** Proposed Columbarium for the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

**Description:**

My name is Ashvin Domadia and I am a resident of South Barrington, Illinois. I am writing today to express my dire concerns around the proposed extension of the Abraham Lincoln National Veteran's Cemetery in the South Barrington area. I hope you will keep into consideration the truth behind the values and belief for which our soldiers gave their lives and the below will help you better understand the impact of this decision on the residents of this community.

When I moved into this country 19 years ago, I did so for the greater freedom this country had to offer. Freedom of speech, freedom of thoughts, freedom to practice your religion, to name a few amongst many. As freedom provides us with the power to act, speak and think as one wants without hindrance or restraint and the root cause of what our soldiers continue to and the fallen veterans gave up their lives to protect — the freedom of this country and its citizens.

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According to Hindu Shastras, it is forbidden and considered sinister to live near a cemetery/crematory land due to the negative energy exuded in and around such a place. This new Columbarium will severely interfere with our rights to practice our religion because it will make your home sacrilegious. Additionally, we had emptied our life's savings to buy this house in a quiet neighborhood, with the abundance of trees and wildlife to have the perfect home for our child. But the thought of our young child growing up with noises of loud multi-round rifles shoots all day everyday navages us to the mental state that he will develop and accustom to in a child's formative and adolescent years.

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Please find the attached copy of the religious petition from the South Barrington Homestead and the Preserves communities of South Barrington residents and the religious leaders of HarICm Temple.

Sincerely,

Aashvin Domadia
18 Mohawk Dr.
South Barrington, IL 60010
626.373.7704

Case: 00149570 -- Salesforce - Unlimited Edition

Page 2 of 4

https://va.my.salesforce.com/500t000000C4Tq2/?retURL=/500t000000C4Tq2

12/27/2018
System Information

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- Last Modified By: Danielle Blumenthal, 12/27/2018 1:13 PM
- Business Days in New Status: 3

Contact Name
Priority: Medium

Associated Contacts
AC-20186
Associated Contact Name: NAIDU RAM
Role: Other

Case Attachments
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  - Checked Out
  - Type: Incoming
  - Description: INCOMING
- Last Checked In By: Alma Bourne, 12/21/2018 10:41 AM
- Created By: Alma Bourne, 12/21/2018
- Created Date: 12/21/2018

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- Last Checked In By: Alma Bourne, 12/21/2018 10:54 AM
- Created By: Alma Bourne, 12/21/2018
- Created Date: 12/21/2018

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- Action Requested: Prepare Response
- Status: New
- Response Notes
- Created Date: 12/27/2018
- Case Task Closed Date

LCT-81614
- Case Task Owner Name: NCA-44E1 Executive Correspondence
- Action Requested: Prepare Response
- Status: New
- Response Notes
- Created Date: 12/27/2018
- Case Task Closed Date
LCT-80761
Case Task Owner Name: NCA-40 Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs
Action Requested: Prepare Response
Status: Cancelled
Response Notes: 
Created Date: 12/21/2018
Case Task Closed Date: 12/27/2018 1:13 PM

Case Team
CT-60805
Case Team Name: NCA-40 Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs (NCA)
Created Date: 12/21/2018
Collaboration Call Attended

CT-61413
Case Team Name: NCA-41A Executive Director of Cemetery Operations
Created Date: 12/27/2018
Collaboration Call Attended

CT-61414
Case Team Name: NCA-44E1 Executive Correspondence
Created Date: 12/27/2018
Collaboration Call Attended

Case History
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Action: Changed Case Owner from OCLA to Alma Bourne.

12/21/2018 10:31 AM
User: Alma Bourne
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Responses to Comments from Ashvin Domadia

1. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.

2. Comment noted.

3. Comment noted.

4. We appreciate the commenter providing this information regarding Hindu beliefs. NCA takes very seriously our responsibilities to make a site selection that does not unreasonably burden communities and their residents. We balance any potential burden against our obligation, under the laws passed by Congress, to provide final resting places for our Nation’s Veterans that honor their service and sacrifice. In general, we believe that a national cemetery property is a beneficial addition to any community. We recognize that some members of the public have negative associations with cemeteries in general, and some for very specific reasons. However, because VA has a mandate to serve all eligible Veterans, NCA has proposed the South Barrington site as part of our effort to improve service to Veterans and their families by establishing columbarium-only urban cemeteries to address access concerns in densely populated areas where time and distance factors may deter families from choosing to inter a loved one at an existing national cemetery. While we expend significant resources locating property that is suitable to this noble purpose and does not create unreasonable burdens on the neighboring areas, we know that some individuals or groups may still object to the addition of a cemetery in their community.

5. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which would not affect children (see table below).

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Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.
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7. Comment noted. As stated in response 5, the potential committal shelter location in relation to residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’, and 636’. The VA does not anticipate the noise from children playing would have an adverse impact on families coming to pay their respects.

8. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
Name: Andrej Dumou
Address: 5207 N. Potanatomie
         Chicago, IL 60656
Affiliation: 
Email/Phone: 
Comment: I do not agree with the proposed project accommodating the Veteran Columbarium cemetery in Homesteads subdivision in South Barrington

[Signature]

More on back
Responses to Comments from Andrey Dymon

1. Comment noted.
National Cemetery Administration  
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery  
Environmental Assessment  

Comment Sheet  
Name: Anaeta Dymon  
Address: 860 Yosemitie Trl  
ROSELLE, IL 60172  
Affiliation:  
Email/Phone: anetadymon@yahoo.com  

Comment: I do not agree with the proposed project Veteran columbarium cemetery in new homesteads subdivision in South Barrington  

Anaeta Dymon
Responses to Comments from Aneta Dymon

1. Comment noted
Comment Sheet

Name: MICHAIL DYMOW
Address: 860 Yosemite Trl
         Roselle, IL 60172
Affiliation:
Email/Phone: michaidymow@yahoo.com
Comment:
I do not agree with the proposed project Veteran
Columbarium cemetery in Homestead subcetisg
in South Barrington

Michael Dymow
Responses to Comment from Michael Dymon

1. Comment noted.
From: Vince Emery [mailto:oldhdrider18@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2018 1:18 PM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>; Carri Dohe <carrilou5@gmail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed veterans cemetery in South Barrington, Ill.

Mayor Marinucci,

I am a U.S. Army Viet Nam Veteran and member of Patriot Guard Riders. One of the proudest moments of my life was to stand with the Color Guard of the Patriot Guard Riders during the commemoration of a veterans memorial cemetery located in the country side just outside of Spokane, Wa. What an honor it was to be part of that. I mentioned "in the country side" for a reason. The proposed area for the national cemetery for military veterans in South Barrington, Illinois, I believe is not the best location. The roads leading to this area are not very traffic friendly. There could be 50 or more vehicles and as many as 50 or more motorcycles as part of the motorcade causing heavy traffic congestion and a major inconvenience to the residents of this small residential community. I've been to and walked around the proposed area and have enjoyed it's beauty and natural wildlife. It should remain just like it is. These residents moved there for its quietness, beautiful natural landscape and its wildlife that is a part of their life. Not to be inconvenienced by frequent heavy traffic and loud motorcycles. The residents of this area should be the ones to decide if this project should be approved or not. They should have been included from the beginning and not to have been surprised by the project in the twelfth hour.

Thank you.

Vince Emery
802 Union St.
Colton, Wa. 99113

Affiliation: Concerned veteran
Email/Phone: oldhdrider@gmail.com 509-229-7578
Responses to Comments from Vincent Emory

1. Comment noted.
2. NCA funded a third-party traffic analysis in 2019. The results of this analysis will be included in this Revised Draft EA.
3. NCA utilized a noise assessment study produced by the Department of Defense. The analysis has been included in the EA. Additional mitigation has been added to the EA to mitigate the sound of the rifle volleys.
Thank you for allowing us to comment. We are totally opposed to the location of the planned National Cemetery, on the neighboring lot. We bought our distressed home 3 years ago and have worked very hard to improve our property & lives to live in this beautiful area. I grew up in Schaumburg and recently we left Elk Grove village due to the new airport routes and noise. South Barrington is a local gem of Nature and Wildlife has been forever. Everyone here has worked hard to live quietly among the wildlife. This proposal will disrupt our lives.

As an average citizen, we are of no great importance compared to a war hero. Actually therein lies the problem. This issue is about the impact to our daily life, no one a mile or so away will deal with this like we will in the Homestead neighborhood. This will and has already disrupted our lives. I have never been bullied directly until I said I opposed the location of this NCACC National Cemetery. People have actually threatened me saying they would like to have rifle practice in my backyard. I have raised a family, had my first grandson whom stays for visits, volunteered, worked hard and buried both my parents, my mom this August. We do not want to live next to a cemetery.

Feeling literally cornered on how the Homestead neighborhood has been treated, very tact.icle and deliberate at our meeting with the VA.

I am not a public speaker, an environmental engineer or an expert on this topic in any way, but this project of planning seems to have overlooked the actual community it will effect. We feel very helpless and harshly judged as I heard very sarcastic comments from your supporters at the Nov. 8th local meeting.

Now that we have to reveal our personal thoughts and information to comment on how this will destroy our peaceful neighborhood. Our family information is private under HIPPA laws and should not be broadcast and shamed publically but we do have a family member living here with documented 2007 diagnosed PTSD and sensory issues: To be forced to live next to a cemetery we...
would never choose this, living with daily gunshot round salutes is unacceptable to us. The anxiety producing sounds along with the music associated with death is too staggering to think about living with daily. Our street is a culdesac dead end there is only one way in and out causing more anxiety and fear living next to a National Cemetery of this magnitude.

In regard to the wildlife in the area there are literally deer crossing signs all along Freeman where the white tail deer cross to graze in the surrounding wetlands and grasslands. The many birds, owls, bats, dragon flies, bees migrate from the Stillman Nature Center at 33 W. Penny Road to the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve year round. We also have several dens of Coyote in close proximity. The abrupt daily gunshots would disrupt their natural habitat as well.

We support the NCACC National Cemetery in a location zoned for such purposes.
Responses to Comments from Denise & Victor Fay

1. Comment noted.
2. VA understands that this potential land acquisition and project has raised some concerns within the neighborhood and community. VA understands and respects the concerns of the community and is responding to those concerns with this Revised Draft EA.
3. Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic. Department of Defense noise study information (VA 2019) indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in audible sound levels of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which are not known to cause PTSD.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’

4. Impacts to wildlife are provided in Section 3 of the EA.
Schattel, Jill

From: SIKENDAR FIDA <sikendar@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 1:09 PM
To: Schattel, Jill [EXTERNAL] Parker, Artis L.
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Columbarium cemetery

Dear Ms Schattel and Mr. Marinucci,

My name is Sikendar Fida. Our family has lived in South Barrington, IL for past 24 years. First in Homestead subdivision at 11 Mohawk Dr. and now in Preserve subdivision at 3 Red Hill Ln, S. Barrington Il 60010.

We walk / drive multiple times a day by the 15 acre parcel which US Dept of Veteran Affairs (USDOA) is considering for construction of a Columbarium cemetery. Our family have immense respect for our veterans who make supreme personal sacrifices to protect our freedom and the life in our great country. Thank you!!

I am an computer engineer and my wife is a physician; our 30 years of hard work has allowed us to pay for our home and build it as our retirement nest. Our concern is if USDOA proceeded with the project, it would create detrimental consequences to our property value and will require us to delay or even not retire.

At this juncture we would appreciate if USDOA can work with South Barrington’s Mayor McCombe to find a suitable parcel of land in a non-residential area which would be more open and honoring of the cemetery residents and which would not affect residents with rifle sounds.

Respectfully yours,

Sikendar and Dr. Gulizar S. Fida

3 Red Hill Ln

South Barrington, IL 60010
Responses to Comments from Sikendar & Dr. Gulzar S. Fidai

1. Comment noted.
2. There is no data to suggest that property values would change as a result of a columbarium.
3. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
National Cemetery Administration
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery
Environmental Assessment

Comment Sheet

Name: Maricela Garcia
Address: 290 N. Center Ave
Chicago, IL 60634
Affiliation:
Email/Phone: babyanthony04@yahoo.com (773) 520-0913

Comment: I oppose the location of the Columbarium. I the proposed South Barrington Homestead neighborhood as it is inappropriate for the Veterans, their families as well as the surrounding residents and wildlife.
Responses to Comments from Marciela Garcia

1. Comment noted.
Comment Sheet

Name: Margarita Guadalupe
Address: 4602 N. Hamlin Ave
         Chicago IL 60625
Affiliation: 
Email/Phone: margieguadalupe11@gmail.com

Comment:
I oppose the location of the Columbarium. I live in the proposed South Barrington Homestead neighborhood, as it is inappropriate for the Veterans and their families as well as the surrounding residents and wildlife.
Responses to Comments from Margarita Guadalupe

1. Comment noted.
National Cemetery Administration
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery
Environmental Assessment

Comment Sheet

Name: STEPHEN GUARDANOVIČ
Address: 40 BEECHNUT OR.
       S. BARRINGTON, IL, 60010
Affiliation: S. BARRINGTON VILLAGE TRUSTEE
Email/Phone: CASSGLOBAL@AOL.COM

Comment:

As an elected village trustee in South Barrington, we are honored to be considered as a columbarium site.

We would respectfully request that the NCA discuss with the village other more appropriate sites within our boundaries, for the following reasons:

* Very close proximity to single family homes
* Traffic from Willow Creek Church and future developments in S. Barrington & Hoffman Estates
* Adequate area for septic field & parking
* Noise levels from salutes
* Existing high traffic situation near cemetery site

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephens Guardanovich
Responses to Comments from Stephen Guranovich

1. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
National Cemetery Administration  
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery  
Environmental Assessment  
Comment Sheet  

Name: Jack Harrington  
Address: 7 Mohawk Court  
S. Barrington, IL 60010  
Affiliation: Home Owner  
Email/Phone: mentor51@aol.com  

Comment:  

Although this form is entitled Environmental Assessment, we were directed by members of the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit general comments on the document as well. Please accept the following in response to that request.

As an individual who has participated in activities in support of Honor Flight programs, and recognition of veterans through the EAA Warbirds of America, I understand and appreciate the importance of honoring our country’s veterans. I have owned former military aircraft that were used to train Air Force, Army, Marine and Navy pilots. One of the aircraft I owned actually saw combat duty in Viet Nam as a forward air control ship. I also flew many formation flights and missing man missions in these aircraft to honor military personnel. In short, my activities over the years illustrate my support of veterans.

However, as a resident of the South Barrington subdivision that is located directly west of the proposed Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery, I find that the proposed columbarium is incompatible with the existing residential area. One of the most serious concerns is the effect of the Honor Guard rifle salutes, that are expected to occur as many as three to five times a day, will have. Considering terrorist and other gun violence, that now unfortunately seem to happen in our country on a fairly regular basis, these salutes will provoke fear in the children who reside in the subdivision. The general disruption of the peace that will occur in the adjoining residential area is unacceptable. Also, the effect upon the wildlife that inhabits the forest preserve area to the east of the proposed cemetery would be substantial. These Honor Guard rifle salutes are not just quickly occurring single shot events. They will be loud, multi-round, multi-series rifle blasts that will be heard for miles. It will be difficult to know if what one is hearing is not work place, terrorist or other gun violence. There could not be a more incompatible land use than what is being proposed here.

The Department must also consider that this is not a situation where residents moved to an area where daily rifle salutes, funeral processions and untold other disruptions existed, and then later complained of nuisances that they were aware of when they purchased their property. Here, families came to a quite area, some as long as 30 years ago, to enjoy the seclusion, quiet and peaceful conditions that currently exist. Those attributes will disappear if this project is put in place. Further, I understand that the Village of South Barrington is concerned about the potential traffic congestion that the cemetery will cause, and has expressed those concerns to the Department.
The long-term effect upon the property values of the adjoining homes is another troublesome issue. My home was listed for sale when the public meeting related to this proposal was announced. Following the public meeting, I was advised to take the home off the market. In the short term, any hope to sell the homes adjacent to the proposed cemetery has been extinguished based upon the potential for this project. In the long-term view, realtors question if these homes are ever saleable, or at best, even attractive to purchasers wanting to obtain the homes at incredibly distressed prices. The potential diminution of value of homes, that in many cases represent the largest portion of the resident's financial portfolios, is unconscionable. Further, one of the individuals present at the public meeting mentioned issues that are relevant to her religious beliefs relative to residing near a cemetery. Setting aside potential religious issues, the simple colocation of a cemetery next to a residential area eliminates a substantial portion of the market for potential home sellers.

Based upon the issues contained in this short comment, and they are only a portion of the negatives that are part and parcel to this proposed columbarium cemetery, it is clear that this project will impact the adjacent homeowners in such a harmful and destructive manner that the Department of Veterans Affairs should consider some of the more appropriate locations that the Village of South Barrington has suggested. This is not an issue that requires a lot of discussion and high-level analysis. The flaw in this entire proposal is easily understood: Who, including the veterans who are to be honored in this cemetery, would want to live where they are subjected to rifle salutes numerous times a day, and a substantial, if not entire loss of the value of their home? To go forward with this project would taint the honor that the Department of Veterans Affairs is attempting to bestow upon veterans through burial in this columbarium cemetery.

Please send comments to:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Ms. Marianne Marinucci, CFM Realty Specialist
425 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 00001
Marianne.marinucci@va.gov
Responses to Comments from Jack Harrington

1. Comment noted.
2. Comment noted.
3. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation (see table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEMS</th>
<th>DECIBEL LEVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Busy road traffic</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum cleaner</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal conversation</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate rainfall</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

**Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’**

4. Impacts to wildlife are provided in Section 3 of the EA.
5. There is no data to suggest that property values would change as a result of a columbarium.
6. Please see response to Comment 3.
7. There is no data to suggest that property values would change as a result of a columbarium.
8. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be
potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
You need to control emotional responses

By explaining gunfire/rifle noise levels

decides (2) to explain to people who when they
hear about rifles (think about cannons!).

It is not cannons. You have to explain to the
unfamiliar citizens what the sound is.

I remember (about 1954/55) when the

Gen. was looking for sites for the Air Force Academy.

Lake Geneva was objected to by many people. There
is something in the emotional response of many people in
this area. You need to study this situation better.

People complain about gunfire - flag! Most people around.

You have to examine these points better.

1. Gunfire
2. Traffic

There obviously are no gunfire at 9 PM!
Responses to Comments from Colonel J. D. Helsing

1. Comment noted.

2. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.

3. Comment noted. NCA utilized a noise assessment study produced by the Department of Defense and NCA funded a third-party traffic analysis. These analyses have been included in this Revised Draft EA.
Proposed Site for the Chicago Department of Veterans Affairs
Columbarium National Cemetery

My husband and I reside in the Homestead Estates community of South Barrington, Illinois. Our community has (18) residences with ONLY one entrance/exit. In recent years, we have had several young couples with infants, young children, adolescents, and young adults move into our subdivision, which has greatly enriched the lives of all residents.

1. The USDVA is in the throw of purchasing for $1,599,000 a 15-acre parcel adjacent/bordering the Homestead Estates community. This location is NOT a respectful location to commemorate the service of our Veterans. This parcel of land is not a quiet, peaceful area for our Veterans nor is a suitable, healthy area for visiting family members.

- The Mayor (Paula McCombie) and government of the Village of South Barrington has worked with multiple individuals in the community to be able to recommend better, more feasible, and lower cost alternative parcels of land that do not embed nor encroach upon families with young infants and children. We face a shutdown of any dialogue that involves alternative sites for consideration. Further, we have been shut out from the BEGINNING of this conversation.

- At a time when the VA is beset with difficulties and challenges regarding funding for its top-tier priorities of healthcare, homelessness, employment and training, we believe it is our duty to request that we be heard on how and why $1,599,000 of taxpayer funds are being spent on this specific piece of land when other parcels are better suited and available at lower costs with assurances of a better, more positive outcome.
The way we, the area residents, have been treated calls the legitimacy of this purchase into question. There has been nothing transparent surrounding this purchase. Our Village of South Barrington officials were not involved nor notified, a 'town hall' meeting (November 8) was scheduled on the same day as the Village board meeting, Veterans from OUTSIDE and miles away from our area were planted in the town hall meeting, local media was contacted by the National Cemetery Administration, and all of this action by you and your colleagues was conducted as we as our country approached Veteran's Day.

There is something very suspect about the handling of this decision on behalf of our Veterans.

2. At a last minute, open meeting with area residents on November 8, 2018, Glenn Madderom, Chief of Cemetery Development for the National Cemetery Administration, presented a survey/proposal full of manipulated facts and blatant lies. Mr. Madderom is an extremely poor representative for the USDVA, an embarrassment to/for our Veterans.

- Time is needed to conduct a new, accurate survey. We strongly believe when accurate facts are provided it will be determined that this 15-acre parcel is not at all an appropriate choice. Time is needed for the Village of South Barrington to present alternative sites for this Columbarium National Cemetery to an authorized individual representing the USDVA.

- The new survey must contain documented research studies and medical literature citations regarding harm inflicted by 3-5 daily rifle volleys involving 5-7 rifles. All involved need to understand how infants, young children, and resident veterans will be impacted. How can we, as residents, expect our infants, children, adolescents, and young adults to obtain optimal physical and mental health while these daily volleys are being interspersed between gun drills at school and ever-increasing mass shootings? This parcel of land makes NO sense.

Numerous national/international medical organizations are ready to step forward with research, printed scholarship and published literature that can PROVE the level of harm that will be caused.

3. Religious beliefs and practices are not being recognized or considered based on constitutional rights. Constitution rights must prevail; Hindu families would be forced from their homes in the Homestead Estates community.

Other facts:
- Abuse placed upon the veterans including those with PTSD in our community from 3-5 volleys daily.
- Danger caused by exponential traffic increase on area streets (only two lanes) that are utilized for car, bicycle and foot (runners) traffic.
IN SUMMARY, these are not comments, but very, very serious concerns:

a. The 15-acre parcel is NOT the right choice; NCA needs to be transparent.
b. The health and wellbeing of infants, young children, adolescents, and young adults MUST be considered first.
c. Honoring our constitution; therefore, honor religious rights.

We have an abundance of support from surrounding areas, too, because each neighboring resident has listened to the Village's alternative solutions and agree that they make sense. If could get someone from the VA to listen, you will hear that there are viable, optimal solutions in the South Barrington area.

The Homestead Estates area is being heard.

Thank you.

Attachment: Area Map
Responses to Comments from Laurie Jaskot

1. Comment noted.
2. Comment noted.
3. Comment noted.
4. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
5. Comment noted.
6. The VA published a Notice of Availability in the Daily Herald which ran on October 26, 27, and 28, 2018. This Notice of Availability announced the date and time of the public meeting. The VA apologizes that this meeting occurred on the same night as the Village Board Meeting. The following communications/meetings have occurred with the Village of South Barrington:
   • 6/13/18: VA sent approval request to Mayor and Robert Palmer
   • 7/23/18: VA resent approval request to Mayor (no response from 6/13/18)
   • 7/26/18: Robert Palmer responded stating VA Project would be discussed during Village Board Meeting on August 9, 2018.
   • 8/17/18: Robert Palmer provided Mayor letter dated August 16, 2018 indicating the parcel was not zoned for our use, therefore, the Village would not rezone
   • 8/21/18: VA requested reconsideration from Robert Palmer. Robert Palmer responded they would not reconsider
   • 11/2/18: NCA/Richard Fox notified Mr. Palmer and the Village Mayor of the meeting
   • 11/3/18: Robert Palmer emailed resending the August 16 letter.
   • 11/8/18: Public Meeting
   • 11/19/18: VA provide response to Mayor inquiry on VA actively searching for additional sites
   • 12/19/18: Mayor provided Allstate information and a Realtor connection
   • 1/11/19: VA reached out to provide an update on the EA process
   • 1/15/19: VA provides another update
   • 1/16/19: VA declined/responded to Mayor request to help VA with property search
   • 2/8/19: VA provided an update to the Mayor on project status
   • 2/12/19: VA provide an update on current status and delay with traffic study
   • 2/13/19: Conference call with Mayor, NCA, VA, Legislative Affairs
Incoming Calls from the Mayor of South Barrington are not accounted for in the above list as they were unplanned calls.
7. Comment noted.
8. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.

9. NCA utilized a noise assessment that was produced by the Department of Defense. The analysis and its findings have been included in the EA.

10. We appreciate the commenter providing this information regarding Hindu beliefs. NCA takes very seriously our responsibilities to make a site selection that does not unreasonably burden communities and their residents. We balance any potential burden against our obligation, under the laws passed by Congress, to provide final resting places for our Nation’s Veterans that honor their service and sacrifice. In general, we believe that a national cemetery property is a beneficial addition to any community. We recognize that some members of the public have negative associations with cemeteries in general, and some for very specific reasons. However, because VA has a mandate to serve all eligible Veterans, NCA has proposed the South Barrington site as part of our effort to improve service to Veterans and their families by establishing columbarium-only urban cemeteries to address access concerns in densely populated areas where time and distance factors may deter families from choosing to inter a loved one at an existing national cemetery. While we expend significant resources locating property that is suitable to this noble purpose and does not create unreasonable burdens on the neighboring areas, we know that some individuals or groups may still object to the addition of a cemetery in their community.

11. Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic. Department of Defense noise study information (VA 2019) indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in audible sound levels of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which are not known to cause PTSD.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.
Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’

12. NCA funded a third-party traffic analysis in 2019. The results of this analysis will be included in this Revised Draft EA.
13. Comment noted
14. Comment noted
15. Comment noted
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery
Environmental Assessment

Comment Sheet

Name: Raymond J. Jeskot
Address: 12 Mohawk Drive
           South Barrington, IL 60010
Affiliation: Resident of South Barrington
Email/Phone: rjjeskot@outlook.com / 847-910-6189

Comment:
Let me start by saying that while I have a great respect for our Veterans and am extremely grateful for the sacrifices they have made for our nation, I am vehemently opposed to the development of a new VA Columbarium on the 15-acre parcel of land located at the corner of Mundhank and Freeman roads in South Barrington, IL. The published EA contains many erroneous assumptions and outright lies about the effect that this facility would have on the surrounding area and community. I am part of a small residential community subdivision located in the Village of South Barrington, IL. We are a culturally diverse subdivision with many new young families. We recently were made aware that the Veterans Administration is trying to (or have already) purchased a 15 acre residentially zoned plot of land with 2 existing homes on it in order to build a National Cemetery Columbarium. The plot of land in question is at the corner of Freeman and Mundhank Roads in South Barrington, IL. This plot of land is within 50 ft. of the closest homes in our subdivision and no more than 500 ft. from the most distant homes. The impact and damage that building this columbarium at this location would have on our small subdivision is incalculable. At least 3 families in our community have religious beliefs that will not allow them to continue to live in our community should the cemetery be built. They would be forced to move at a great financial burden. Other households have small children with noise related learning disorders. Another neighbor is a Veteran with PTSD and would be psychologically damaged by the military honor guard volleys that would occur 3 - 5 times a day. My neighbors and I, as well as the mayor of South Barrington, IL, have been provided with very little concrete information. Every effort we have put into getting ourselves heard has met with resistance. The residents and local officials were made aware on very short notice of a public townhall meeting to present the VA's

More on back
plans. The townhall meeting was organized by Glenn Madderom, a representative of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and stacked with veterans that were shipped in from outside our community and area. During the meeting the planted veterans verbally attacked any community member that dared to speak up as well as generally harassed and intimidated all members of the community.

In speaking with multiple realtors in the area, a premium is being paid for the property ($1,599,000) – much higher than it is valued. Additionally, lower priced and more practical properties are available in the area but the Veterans Administration refuses to take them into consideration. One of those parcels of land is the located at the corner of Higgins and Bartlett Roads, the former Allstate site (coordinates 42.071009, -88.179493). This is already zoned for business use. This is extreme fiscal mismanagement. Something about this deal does not seem right. For an organization that speaks often about honor, the tactics and approach that the Veterans Administration has taken here is extremely dishonorable.

I could go on and on about why this location is so wrong for a VA Columbarium but in respect for your valuable time I will stop here. There are many other more suitable parcels of land for the Columbarium which would preserve our community and the rights that we have as Americans to religious freedom and unlawful encroachment on our civil liberties.

Please send comments to:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Ms. Marianne Marinucci, CFM
Realty Specialist
425 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Marianne.marinucci@va.gov
Responses to Comments from Raymond J. Jaskot

1. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.

2. Comment noted. The VA has reviewed the comments on the Environmental Assessment and will revise and update accordingly.

3. Comment noted.

4. We appreciate the commenter providing this information regarding Hindu beliefs. NCA takes very seriously our responsibilities to make a site selection that does not unreasonably burden communities and their residents. We balance any potential burden against our obligation, under the laws passed by Congress, to provide final resting places for our Nation’s Veterans that honor their service and sacrifice. In general, we believe that a national cemetery property is a beneficial addition to any community. We recognize that some members of the public have negative associations with cemeteries in general, and some for very specific reasons. However, because VA has a mandate to serve all eligible Veterans, NCA has proposed the South Barrington site as part of our effort to improve service to Veterans and their families by establishing columbarium-only urban cemeteries to address access concerns in densely populated areas where time and distance factors may deter families from choosing to inter a loved one at an existing national cemetery. While we expend significant resources locating property that is suitable to this noble purpose and does not create unreasonable burdens on the neighboring areas, we know that some individuals or groups may still object to the addition of a cemetery in their community.

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National Cemetery Administration
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery
Environmental Assessment

Comment Sheet

Name: PROHED JEFFES
Address: 5225 ARNOLD WORTH LANE
MONTELEON ELY, IL 60538
Affiliation: 
Email/Phone: 708-501-0812

Comment:
I am opposed to the Columbarium being built in the Homestead subdivision.

Signature: ___________________________
Responses to Comments from Rasheed Jefferies

1. Comment noted.
Name: Victoria Vargas
Address: 1011 South Oak Street
Affiliation: 
Email/Phone: chleb42@yahoo.com 41302024016

Comment:
I'm in opposition to the proposed columbarium being erected just east of the Homestead Subdivision in South Berrien.

Victoria Vargas
Responses to Comments from Kathy Khario

1. Comment noted.
LOCATION TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

Please take a deep look at the proposed location of a new Columbarium National Cemetery in South Barrington, IL at 10 S. Freeman Road.

It is not a good location for this project!

Anyone who knows the area is really surprised how this place could be considered a final resting place for our Veterans.

This is a land located NOWHERE!.

It is a small parcel (only 15 acres) located at the very end corner of the Village of South Barrington, Illinois. It is not visible to the public; it is between two small roads with no good access for visiting families and friends. Not to mention, there is a residential community adjacent to its backyard.

It would not be very honorable to hear the sound of the neighborhood at the funeral ceremonies. We should honor our veterans!

They deserve a better, more prestigious and spacious location for a final resting place!

One that is more visible to the public and easily accessible for those who want to honor the veterans. Such place should be mutually respected by both the veterans and its surrounding.

A residential neighborhood right behind it does not seem like a good idea for peaceful and respectful land for our veterans.

Please be respectful and consider a different location for the Columbarium National Cemetery! Sincerely,

Anna Kielian, a daughter of World War II veteran
Responses to Comments from Anna Kielian

1. Comment noted.

2. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which would not affect children (see table below).

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Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences. The VA does not anticipate the noise from children playing would have an adverse impact on families coming to pay their respects.

Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’

3. Comment noted.
-----Original Message-----
From: Shazia Khan  
[mailto:shaziaahmed@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday,  
November 14, 2018 8:39 AM  
To: Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>; Marinucci, Marianne (CFM)  
<Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov> Cc:  pmccombie@southbarrington.org  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cemetery in South  
Barrington Dear Madam  
I am writing as a concerned resident if the small village of South Barrington, IL. I oppose the placement of a cemetery so close to residential areas in our small village. I believe the current proposed location so close to already built homes will deter from the culture, beauty and property values of our area. I think a more central area closer to larger roads and highway are better suited for your proposal.

Thank you for your time  
Shazia Khan, MD  
South Barrington, IL  

Sent from my iPhone
Responses to Comments from Shazia Khan, MD

1. Comment noted.
To whom it may concern:

My name is Jim Kingsley and I am a resident of Barrington Homestead Estates in South Barrington. I wish to address my concerns for the Columbarium that you have slated for South Barrington. Please register this document into the public record rebuttal to your proposal.

I am concerned first and foremost with the total lack of public information regarding this property purchase.

I do not understand the rush to purchase this piece of property which is valued well above other comparable properties in the northwest suburbs.

Secondly, While reviewing the documents that you have posted and furnished to the village I find so many misstatements that I am astonished that a company would provide such poor research and then post it to public records. I have found over 8 misstatements in the paperwork, including basic information as the address, that the property was not occupied, it is, and that this property would not be adjacent to individuals property. Clearly this parcel abuts directly to 5 properties in our subdivision. I do not know how this misinformation can allow individuals to make an educated decision based on this inept report. Quite honestly it looks like someone sat a computer and did their total research rather than actually visit and research the area.

In reviewing other ”urban columbarium’s “ there is not another new columbarium site that is adjacent to homes.

I also support my neighbors who have small children and are directly connected to the proposed property. With 3-5 volleys of rifle shots per day I cannot imagine the impact that that would have on young children. I would also submit that while I have attended quite a few memorial services for our veterans I appreciate the solemn ceremony and the gratitude of all in attendance to the fallen military member being memorialized. With the location that you have chosen you have five residences with children playing, pets barking, lawn maintenance, and just the simple act of being in their own back yards that can be construed as disrespectful to the ceremony. Again, these homes were there before the proposed columbarium and I am sure that they would not want to disrespect the ceremonies going on, in some cases less that 20 feet from their properties, but with this parcel purchase you are essentially forcing them out of their own backyards.

Let alone you have not addressed the bike path less than 100 feet in the forest preserve located directly across the street form the proposed site.

As our mayor has expressed to you, South Barrington has many more less expensive properties as well as BETTER LOCATED, and that is just South Barrington.

Please reconsider your choice for this project for ANY of the above reasons.

Respectfully,

Jim Kingsley
1 Mohawk Drive
South Barrington, IL
Responses to Comments from Jim Kingsley

1. The VA has been working on this project for more than 2 years. The site selection process began with a notice in the Federal Business Opportunities Website (FedBizOpps) from May 23 to June 16, 2017 and again from July 5 through July 27, 2017. The VA is taking great care to make sure they locate the proposed columbarium in the best location possible. A notice of availability was published in the Daily Herald from October 26-28, 2018. The notice of availability announced the public comment period for the Environmental Assessment, which was held between October 26, 2018 and November 26, 2018.

2. The VA has reviewed the comments on the Environmental Assessment and will revise and update accordingly.

3. Comment noted.

4. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation (see table below).

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Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences. The VA does not anticipate the noise from children playing would have an adverse impact on families coming to pay their respects.
Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’

5. The VA has reviewed the comments on the Environmental Assessment and will revise and update accordingly.

6. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
National Cemetery Administration
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery
Environmental Assessment

Comment Sheet

Name: 

Address: 1423 ALABAMA AV, SCHWAUBEN

Affiliation:

Email/Phone: ARSTAKEL@HOTMAIL.COM 847-623-1386

Comment:
I'm in opposition to the proposed columbarium being erected just east of the homestead subdivision in South Barrington.

A. Kranz

More on back
Responses to Comment from Aneta Kowalski

1. Comment noted.
Name: SIMON KOWALSKI
Address: 1432 ALBON AVENUE
SCHAMBURG ILL 60193
Affiliation:
Email/Phone: DYNAMICSPORTS@HOTMAIL.COM
(630) 205-6466
Comment:

I am in opposition to the proposed columbarium being built just east of the Homestead Subdivision in South Barrington.

S. J. Kendall
More on back
Responses to Comments from Simon Kawalski

1. Comment noted.
Schattel, Jill

From: Evelyn Kurfess <emkurfess@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2018 2:12 PM
To: Schattel, Jill
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Columbarium in So. Barrington, IL

Dear Ms. Schattel,

I have been a resident of little, quiet So. Barrington, IL for almost 50 years (I am 80 years old). I am very proud to be the sister of a Navy veteran and help to support many veteran organizations. I am not opposed to having a veterans' columbarium in our village, however, I feel that it could be located in a better area rather than the corners of Mundhank and Freeman Roads. These roads are each two lanes wide, which could lead to congestion during the funeral ceremonies making it difficult to travel on these roads and it backs up to a residential area that would be disturbed by any rifle volley or the funeral ceremony could be disturbed by the noise of children playing. Surely you could work with our Mayor Paula McCombie and the Village Board to find a more suitable area in So. Barrington for the final resting place for our very brave and patriotic veterans.

Thank you.

Most Sincerely,

Evelyn M. Kurfess

Sent from my iPad
Responses to Comments from Evelyn Kurfess

1. Comment noted.
2. NCA funded a third-party traffic analysis in 2019. The results of this analysis will be included in this Revised Draft EA.
3. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
National Cemetery Administration
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery
Environmental Assessment

Comment Sheet

Name: Beatriz Lopez
Address: 3736 W. Cornelia Ave.
Affiliation: 
Email/Phone: bmendoza709@gmail.com
Comment: I oppose the location of the Columbarium I the proposed South Barrington Homestead neighborhood as it is inappropriate for the Veterans, their families as well as the surrounding residents and wildlife.
Responses to Comments from Beatriz Lopez

1. Comment noted.
Comment:

I do not agree with the proposed project Veteran Columbarium cementary in Homestead substation in South Barmingon.
Responses to Comment from Ludmila Lumieszko

1. Comment noted.
Comment:
I oppose the location of the columbarium at the proposed South Barrington Homestead neighborhood as it is inappropriate for the Veterans, their families, as well as the surrounding residents and wildlife.
Responses to Comment from Maria Mandin

1. Comment noted.
From: marmorav@aol.com  [mailto:marmorav@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 25, 2018 9:23 PM  
To: Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>; Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov> 
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Columbarium in South Barrington

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed columbarium at Mundhank and Freeman Roads in South Barrington.  As a resident of South Barrington, I believe that this location is not suited to such use. This lot is a residential lot in a residential area. It borders an established residential development and the proposed plan to alter the residential use to one of a public cemetery is not a reasonable or fair change of use. Those residents whose properties would abut the cemetery are being asked to accept this change despite the negative impact on their current use of their own properties and any future sale of their property. Many people do not want to live next to a cemetery which means that there are fewer potential purchasers, which therefore, by definition, decreases the market value of these properties. In addition, having funeral processions, military gun salutes, and increased traffic at that location would be a nightmare to the community.

Please note that I am not opposed to having a columbarium for veterans in South Barrington but I do believe that putting it in the middle of an existing neighborhood is not appropriate. At the public meeting it was suggested that other potential properties might be considered. I hope that this is true. Perhaps the land that South Barrington Park District is hoping to sell near Higgins has been released by the recent voter’s referendum and could be considered for a new site. It is close to the highway, is self contained and could be planted and landscaped to honor the veterans and their families and provide a peaceful and serene location. Thank you for your consideration,

Veronica Marmora
13 Watergate Drive
South Barrington, IL 60010
Responses to Comments from Veronica Marmora

1. Comment noted.
2. There is no data to suggest that property values would change as a result of a columbarium.
3. NCA utilized a noise assessment study produced by the Department of Defense and NCA funded a third-party traffic analysis. These analyses and their findings have been included in this Revised Draft EA. Additional mitigation has been added to the EA to mitigate, as necessary.
4. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
From: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM)
To: Estes, Liz
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Columbarium Cemetery in South Barrington,IL
Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 10:07:45 AM

fyi

-----Original Message-----
From: Joseph Marsiglia [mailto:marsigliajoe@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, November 12, 2018 3:49 PM
To: Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>; Marinucci, Marianne(CFM)
<Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Columbarium Cemetery in South Barrington,IL

My name is Joseph Marsiglia and I live in South Barrington, Home Stade Estate.
So that there is no miss understanding about my objection to your proposal to build a Cemetery in a residential area and specifically a few feet from homes that been there for 20 or 30 years, I served this Country, our Country, honorably, for two (2) years. I was in the Army and I seen some of my bodies getting killed!
So.. comments made at the meeting that was held in the evening of November 8, 2018 by the Department of Veterans Affairs representative were uncalled, dishonest and very.. very offensive! All of us residents of Home Stade Estate Subdivision are not against the military and the veterans, we are against the traffic, against the noise, against the violation of dignity of each and every soldier that you will be burying next to homes that do have soldiers that are alive. We served to protect our Country and our homes! I been trying to forget the friends that I lost but, the Department of Veterans Affairs, by putting their bodied next to our homes is trying to torture us and keep on reminding us the hell that we went through!
The presentation that the VA representative made the evening of November 8 was a shame! The projected study and report of the area were a lie! I and every body in that meeting room ever believed that a physical study was ever made! The road on Freeman is narrow and not a two (20) lane street! We do not have over 800 business in South Barrington! Very little or no traffic? You must be kidding!!!! No disturbance? Even the animals in the forest preserve across the street will be disturbed with the sound of the rifles and bugle! About all the children that live next door to the sound of gun fire? What will it do to their minds?
About property values? Is the Department of Veterans Affairs ready and willing to buy our homes for the market price of today? If yes, all of the 18 home owners in the subdivision are ready to sell. If not... is the Department of Veterans Affairs ready to compensate all the home owners for the loss in value if the project is approved..?
Appraisers estimate loss in value will be from 15% to 35%.. and most likely the homes will be on the market for a long..long time!
I have not been able to find a cemetery, in all 50 State, that was built after the houses were built. All were there way before of any single home was built next to!
If a Cemetery is there when an buyer is looking to buy a house, he/she will know what and where is buying and will adjust the offer accordingly.
There is not license appraiser any where in the United States that can legally make a report indicating that a cemetery next door will not effect negatively a price of a property!..

Please, keep all of the above in mind and make the right decision for the dignity of the dead soldiers and for the one that are alive and every day trying to forget the horror of war.

Sincerely, Joseph Marsiglia
15 Mohawk Dr.
South Barrington, IL. 60010
Responses to Comments from Joseph Marsiglia

1. Comment noted.
2. The VA has reviewed the comments on the Environmental Assessment and will revise and update accordingly.
3. There is no data to suggest that property values would change as a result of a columbarium.
4. Comment noted.
5. Comment noted.
Comment Sheet

Name: JOSEPH MARSIQVIN
Address: 15 Mohawk Dr., South Barrington
Affiliation: Owner or House Next Door to Land
Email/Phone: Marsiqvin Joe © 512-525-5786

Comment:

*The Cemetery will effect property value in the area. The sound of Gun Fire will effect the neighborhood in particular small children.*
Responses to Comments from Joseph Marsiglia

1. There is no data to suggest that property values would change as a result of a columbarium.

2. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which would not affect children (see table below).

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Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

*Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’*
Dear Marianne,

It is my concern that 15 acres of land which is adjacent to the East side of South Barrington Homesteads located in South Barrington, IL is being acquired by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of building a Veteran Columbarium. I was also told that the proposed VA project would involve daily rifle volleys being performed 3-5 times a day on weekdays from 10 am to 3 pm, and also daily, and weekday funeral services with processions with up to forty five cars at the projected site. The rifle volleys would be less than 90 feet from some of the homes. The Cook County Forest Preserve is 24 feet away from this parcel. It is home to several hundreds of species as a nesting ground, and it is significant space for migrating species as well as two threatened species. The wildlife ecosystem of this area would be severely disrupted. This parcel is zoned for residential homes and has been for several decades. The Village requires 160 acres for a cemetery, but the VA wrongly states they are compliant with the zoning regulations. It appears that the VA is disregarding Village Codes and Zoning regulations.

This customs and activities attendant to the operation of this columbarium would be extremely upsetting and disruptive to the neighboring residents in the community and the environment. Also, it is my belief that our Veterans would be best honored on a parcel of land that is near or adjacent to a chapel or church. A place that is peaceful and sacred and conducive to prayer and rememberance.

Sincere Regards

Diane McDonald and Charlton McDonald
Responses to Comments from Diane & Charlton McDonald

1. NCA funded a third-party transportation impact study (TIS) in 2019. Based on the data collected for this analysis, the estimated number of visitors to the site (including staff) would be two to 14 vehicles per weekday (Monday through Friday) and two to 16 vehicles Saturday and Sunday. The estimated number of visitors as a result of a funeral cortege would be four to 150 vehicles (Monday through Friday). This estimate is based upon a funeral cortege having between four and 30 cars per service and up to five services between 10 am and 2:30 pm on weekdays.

NCA utilized a noise assessment study produced by the Department of Defense. The findings of the noise assessment and the transportation analysis have been included in this revised Draft EA.

2. Comment noted. Impacts to wildlife and migratory birds can be found in Chapter 3 of the EA.

3. The Federal government is not required to seek property rezoning

4. Comment noted.
Comment: I oppose the location of the Columbarium in the proposed South Barrington Homestead neighborhood as it is inappropriate for the veterans, their families as well as the surrounding residents and wildlife.
Response to Comment from Lizette Morales

1. Comment noted.
Comment Sheet

Name: Jacqueline Mendoza
Address: 2511 N. Kilpatrick
        Chicago, IL 60614
Affiliation: 
Email/Phone: adamm@regional.net / 713.918.5978

Comment: I oppose the location of the columbarium. The proposed South Barrington Homestead neighborhood as it is inappropriate for the veterans, their families as well as the surrounding residents and wildlife.

More on back
Response to Comment from Jacqueline Mendoza

1. Comment noted.
National Cemetery Administration
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery
Environmental Assessment

Comment Sheet

Name: Angie Morales
Address: 3457 N. Nottingham

Affiliation:
Email/Phone: 753-290-0609.

Comment:
I oppose the location of the columbarium at the proposed South Barrington Homestead Neighborhood as it is inappropriate for the veterans, their families as well as the surrounding residents and wildlife.
Response to Comment from Angie Morales

1. Comment noted.
November 8, 2018

RE: Proposed Columbarium Cemetery at Mundhank and Freeman Road

To Whom It May Concern:

My family lives in the Poplar South Subdivision, just north of the location for the proposed columbarium cemetery. While my family supports veterans and have family members currently serving in the armed forces, we oppose the proposed columbarium cemetery at Mundhank and Freeman Road. This is a location surrounded by beautiful scenery including the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve, wetlands and grasslands, which are homes to many various bird species including at least two golden eagles and blue herons, and also a heron rookery just south of this location.

The property, while an eye sore currently, is also a location in which future residential homes, like that located just west of the property, could be built. Any homes built on this property would be built under the current regulations of zoning set by the Village of South Barrington which would place homes on one-acre lots. Like the homes to the west of this location, these would be million dollar homes that would care for the scenery around them and respect the wildlife and vegetation and not effect migratory paths or habitats with an increase of noise, light, traffic, and people.

The Paul Douglas Forest Preserve, located just east of this property is also a very well-known bird watchers delight. People respect this area and use it to enjoy daily meditation, walking, jogging, biking and wandering to view the various wildlife inhabiting this preserve. Placing a veteran's cemetery, while thoughtful and seemingly ideal given the surroundings, would change this area drastically and affect all that which makes this area a beautiful space in which wildlife and vegetation thrive.

As a resident for the last 6 years, I have enjoyed the night sky to the south of me, I have enjoyed the silence during the day and night, and I have enjoyed witnessing the numerous wildlife that live among us. One such species, the Golden Eagle, has the same perch every year and sets up home in this area. I have seen two at a time in the area, circling for food, and making their perch on trees. I assume they have a habitat in this direct vicinity and I also assume that any rifle shots may send this bird from this vicinity immediately.

Additionally, my family has recently viewed a bobcat family in which bob kittens have been seen with mom training to hunt. We have also witnessed countless coyotes and their pups, red foxes, white tail deer, skunks, opossums, red tail and red shoulder hawks, broad-winged hawks, peregrines, osprey, Northern harriers, several species of woodpeckers, Kingfisher (on one occasion), Sandhill and Whooping cranes, plovers and sandpipers, herons and egrets, turkey vultures, Eastern screech owls, and many other small migrating birds such as Orioles have been seen in this exact vicinity.

We have many amazing bugs species as well including fireflies and dragonflies. This last year we noticed an increase in the Monarch butterfly migration through this area. Additionally, the bumble bee population has been thriving and we have noticed an increase in pollinators over the years in this area which I believe has helped increase some native wildflowers which can be seen blooming in the spring. The reptiles also thrive and can be seen all summer long on the sides of the streets. We have several tree frog species, many toads and frog species as well. The snakes also thrive in this area and...
several species can be witnessed roaming the streets, preserve, and open fields. Mundhank and Freeman roads also are very busy with turtles during the rains. Neighbors can be seen stopping and assisting these turtles across these streets as they go for areas in which there are ponds or wetlands for them to nest.

In short, while the idea of a veteran's memorial is respectful and appropriate to some extent in this area, it is not when it includes three-volley salutes, trumpets playing Taps, light pollution (which I assume will be displayed 24/7 on areas within this memorial), noise pollution with increase in traffic and people visiting the memorial, and increase of air pollution with the increase of traffic and construction. I will also not fail to mention that this area is home to a landfill which already has an effect on home prices. By placing this cemetery in this area you are guaranteeing that home prices will drop for the surrounding residents and that sellers will find difficulty in selling their property based on these two factors. Please also keep in mind that the hours in which you plan to hold rifle volleys, include hours in which school children are bussed home and there is a bus drop-off and pick-up at this corner and across from the entrance South Barrington Homestead. Increased traffic could result in children being hurt and/or killed at these stops. Also, small children hearing rifle shots from their backyard only creates more stress and fear in children already dealing with fear of school shootings and the such.

Please reconsider this area for the obvious reasons of being a residential neighborhood and an area in which wildlife and vegetation thrive. There are many areas in which this cemetery can go that would not cost as much to mitigate and would also be more visible as a memorial and more appropriate for the visiting traffic to and from the location. If plans do continue to go ahead with the building of the columbarium, against the wishes of this majority of residents, the village(s), and forest preserve, I believe that you will find resistance that will waste not only your time but more taxpayer money in making this come to fruition in this area.

Respectfully,
The Moeller Family
2039 W. Alder Drive
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

Cc: Marianne Marinucci, Department of Veterans Affairs
    Cathy Pollack, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chicago Ecological Service
    Office Keith M., Shank, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Responses to Comments from The Moeller Family

1. Comment noted.

2. Comment noted. The VA has reviewed the comments on the Environmental Assessment and will revise and update accordingly.

3. Comment noted.

4. Comment noted.

5. Comment noted.

6. There is no data to suggest that property values would change as a result of a columbarium.

7. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
Good Afternoon Jill; My name is Maureen More; I live at 45 Witt Rd, South Barrington. My home is off of Mundhank Rd. My father’s name was Jerome I Unick; he served for 4 years in the Philippines, after he graduated with a Masters Degree in engineering. He designed underwater submarines for the government, that could not be detected by our enemies. I have been married for over 50 years. I was abused both physically and mentally. My husband was a master at gas lighting me. I was subjected to so much abuse, that I actually disassociated and blacked out. After 40 years of severe trauma and abuse; I developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I panic, black out; can not breath, perspire profusely, chest pains etc. Sudden repetitious noises will easily trigger these responses. It has been 3 years this month: since my husband was removed from my house for beating me, by the South Barrington Police Dept. Four months later, he was allowed to return, within days; he beat me again and this time; I ended up in the hospital. He is on his 3rd order of protection; he keeps breaking them. I have been doing better, but I panic easily. It sets me back days in my recovery. I would become a prisoner in my home of 28 years, if the cemetery was within hearing distance of my home. I would not even be able to open my windows in the summer. I would become a prisoner. I do not think that these brave soldiers, that gave their life for our country, would be proud or happy, about taking the life of a United States Citizens; in exchange for a place to be buried. I am pleading with you, to try and understand, that I am finally starting to like myself and with the help of my life coach, maybe; I will finally have a life. Respectfully Yours, Maureen More 847-304- 0009 (home phone)
Responses to Comments from Maureen More

1. Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic. Department of Defense noise study information (VA 2019) indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in audible sound levels of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which are not known to cause PTSD. During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’

2. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
Name: Rose Mon
Address: 1965 Barrack Circle, Killeen, Texas 76542
Affiliation: Home owner
Email/Phone: reagan.she.99@gmail.com

Comment:
- Support Vets: not an issue; should do more in life for Vets; not just in death!
- Do not put in this area:
  - More traffic congestion; shooting noise (3-4 times a day)
  - Too close to businesses: (What about...)
  - Homes; residents; day care; schools; hospitals
  - Affect home owner values
  - Other areas north should be more accessible (what about great cases; Naval Base; other areas with more farm land; less population; residents + businesses)
- Not against Vet Cemetery; just not at this location. NOT HERE!
- These certainly must be other areas that would welcome a Vet Cemetery

More on back
Responses to Comments from Rose Moy

1. Comment noted.
2. NCA utilized a noise assessment study produced by the Department of Defense and NCA funded a third-party traffic analysis. These analyses and their findings have been included in this Revised Draft EA.
3. There is no data to suggest that property values would change as a result of a columbarium.
4. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
From: IQMatics Euro [mailto:iqmatic@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2018 5:53 PM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] VA cemetery in South Barrington

Marianne,
We are against building new VA cemetery at South Barrington location in residential zone. Please ensure our feedback is taken into consideration and other location is selected according to zoning standards.

Thank you,
Rae Muranski
32 Polo Dr.
South Barrington

Get Outlook for iOS

Get Outlook for OS
Responses to Comments from Rae Muranski

1. Comment noted.
f.y.i.

From: Syed Munzir [mailto:smunzir@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 9:48 PM
To: Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>; Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding Columbarium Cemetery

Respected Ms. Schattel and Ms. Marinucci:

I am a resident of South Barrington since 2007. I learned about the land VA planning to acquire land for a cemetery at the corner of Mundhank and Freeman Roads. I am opposed to such a plan to built a cemetery in a residential area. I request the VA administration to look for and acquire a land in a non-residential area.

Thanking you

Respectfully,
Syed Munzir
35 Willow Bay Drive
South Barrington, IL 60010

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Responses to Comments from Syed Munzir
Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
Hindu Considerations for South Barrington Columbarium Proposal

To The Administration of The Department of Veterans Affairs

The freedom to practice one’s religion is one of the fundamental rights that this country has bestowed upon its citizens since its inception. As a country that has worked tirelessly to defend the rights of its citizens, we all take pride and have immense honor for those that serve to protect those very rights. The purpose of this letter is a humble request for your administration to now stand up and help us to protect our rights to practice our faith within our own homes and within our community.

The South Barrington Homestead and The Preserves communities in South Barrington, IL have several residing families that belong to the Hindu faith. As practicing members of the Hindu faith it is extremely important to them that the tenets of the faith are respected not only in their daily lives but within their homes and on their property as well. There are basic philosophies, rituals, and requirements that each faith asks of its followers. One of those requirements for people of the Hindu faith is that they cannot reside near a cemetery or a crematorium as it affects the spiritual well being and spiritual energies of those within the household. Hindus cremate their dead and the remains (ashes) are discharged into a flowing body of water, or into the ocean directly. Hindus do not have cemeteries and consider presence of a cemetery near their residence as inauspicious. The ancient Vedic science of Vastushastra which is consulted by Hindus when selecting the premises for their homes, states that taking up a residence near a graveyard, cemetery or a crematorium is to be avoided.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has proposed a project on a parcel of land adjacent to the homes of these Hindu families for the purpose of a cemetery. This would cause great distress for these families as it would create an environment that is not conducive to them being able to practice their faith. It would force them to move and find another place to live as it is at odds with their belief system. Had this cemetery been in that parcel of land prior to them purchasing and moving into their homes, then they would never have considered that area for their families to reside in. But two of those families have lived there peacefully for more than two decades now and the other families have moved in during the last few years with the intention of raising their families there. With the cemetery put into place, these families will no longer have the freedom to practice their faith rightfully within their homes.

We respectfully ask you to consider the religious freedom of these families residing within this neighborhood. It is, by no means, a disrespect to the honorable Veterans that have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the freedom we so cherish. In fact, it is also out of respect for the deceased heroes and their families whereby we would disturb their peace with our daily activities taking away from the value of their memory.

Please take into consideration our rights as fellow citizens of this great country that has given us a home that we can defend with pride.

Yours Humbly,

[Signatures]
1. We appreciate the commenter providing this information regarding Hindu beliefs. NCA takes very seriously our responsibilities to make a site selection that does not unreasonably burden communities and their residents. We balance any potential burden against our obligation, under the laws passed by Congress, to provide final resting places for our Nation’s Veterans that honor their service and sacrifice. In general, we believe that a national cemetery property is a beneficial addition to any community. We recognize that some members of the public have negative associations with cemeteries in general, and some for very specific reasons. However, because VA has a mandate to serve all eligible Veterans, NCA has proposed the South Barrington site as part of our effort to improve service to Veterans and their families by establishing columbarium-only urban cemeteries to address access concerns in densely populated areas where time and distance factors may deter families from choosing to inter a loved one at an existing national cemetery. While we expend significant resources locating property that is suitable to this noble purpose and does not create unreasonable burdens on the neighboring areas, we know that some individuals or groups may still object to the addition of a cemetery in their community.
I have 2 brothers with reservations at Abe Lincoln cemetery. So Barrington would be more convenient. I'd fully support this location. But people are concerned about rifle shots. Nov 8, 2018

Merv Herby
(4 vets in my family)
Responses to Comments from Geri Nerby
1. Comment noted. NCA utilized a noise assessment study produced by the Department of Defense. The analysis has been included in the EA. Additional mitigation has been added to the EA to mitigate the sound of the rifle volleys.
From: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM)
To: Estes, Liz
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: South Barrington cemetery
Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 10:09:10 AM

fyi

From: jpaine43@cs.com [mailto:jpaine43@cs.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 10, 2018 12:40 AM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM)  <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: South Barrington cemetery

Jody

-----Original Message-----
From: jpaine43 <jpaine43@cs.com> To: Jill.Schattel <jill.Schattel@va.gov> Sent: Fri, Nov 9, 2018 11:38 PM
Subject: South Barrington cemetery

Hi, I'm a resident of South Barrington and live about .75 miles away from the proposed plot of land...certainly within earshot.

My Dad is a vet of Iwo Jima, my husband of Viet Nam. Both are buried at the National Cemetery the Pacific in Honolulu, know as The Punchbowl. I will join my husband upon my own death. My 93 yr old Dad received military honors; I did not request honors for my husband nor will I be entitled to them. I couldn't be more proud of their internments. It occurs to me that for 3 burials in my family there was/will be only one occasion for the rifle salute. While that may not be normal, I think it's possible. Also with hours between 10am and 3pm I do not believe this to be a concern.

While my property doesn't back up to the proposed plot, I'm close and would be proud to have the cemetary in South Barrington.

What does concern me is that South Barrington has engaged in costly land development disputes/zoning changes and often as not the property is annexed by a neighboring village and built as planned despite our village's opposition. I would very much like to avoid that situation and see your proposal approved.

Thank you for considering South Barrington.

Jody Paine
43 Overbrook Rd
South Barrington, IL 60010
Responses to Comments from Jody Paine

1. Comment noted.
2. Comment noted.
3. Comment noted.
4. Comment noted. The Federal government is not required to seek property rezoning
Comments:
Since the stated goal of this proposal is to provide veterans and their families burial options nearer the urban core of Chicago and on the north side of the Chicago metropolitan area, why choose a site 33 miles from the urban core (compared to 53 miles to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery) and in the northwest suburbs?

Since your only requirement for the property seems to be that it is for sale, I think you can greatly improve the service you offer to the veterans by considering other options.

Your proposal is to provide fifty thousand burial sites in a village with a total population of less than five thousand. The number of veterans in South Barrington is not known by me but I am sure you would agree that it is only a tiny fraction of the burial sites to be provided. This would mean that almost all who will use this proposed site will have to travel outside of the town they live in to do so.

Why not locate a site in each of the cities and towns where the veterans actually lived? I see no better way to meet your stated goals. The sites could be smaller since the need to provide hundreds, or thousands, of times more burial sites than the town’s veteran population would not be required.

These smaller sites are available in the urban core of Chicago and in all of the cities on the north side of Chicago, as you desire. Since you are willing to buy single family homes in South Barrington and tear them down, anywhere there is a home for sale would be a suitable site. I would even guess that there may be fewer zoning violations in some of the other towns. But why go into that, you don’t care what the zoning allows in South Barrington, so you won’t need to worry about that anywhere else.

With these smaller sites burials would be much less frequent, so should be much less of a concern for the surrounding area. Bathroom facilities would not be required, everyone is close to home. Many sites could be walking distance for veteran’s families wishing to visit, so onsite parking would not be needed. Urban core sites could be located close to mass transit.

The plan for the South Barrington fifteen acre site includes seven thousand five hundred feet of columbarium wall. If the sites where say one quarter of an acre, they would need one hundred and twenty five feet of columbarium wall on each one to provide for the same space.

I would like to see you propose to buy one home, tear it down, and build a columbarium in each of the towns you propose to serve north of Chicago. Then see what comments you would receive from this plan. Then explain to me why concentrating all of these sites in one location, by the homes in South Barrington, makes sense.
From: Jerry Rakowski [mailto:jerryrakowski@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 1:24 PM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>; Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>
Cc: Paula McCombie <pmccombie@southbarrington.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery Comment Sheet - Homes on Lincoln Cemetery

Name: Jerry Rakowski
Address: 8 Mohawk Drive, South Barrington, Illinois 60010
Affiliation: Homeowner
Email: JerryRakowski@sbcglobal.net  Phone: 847-898-

0191 Comment:

I wonder what the comments would be if this proposal was to build 25 homes on Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery?

If the homes were to be built about 200 feet from the committal shelter, would there be comments on the noise from these homes disturbing those using the committal shelters? Would building a sound barrier between the two be a real solution and allow the home construction to move forward?

I am sure there would be many more legitimate concerns to building these homes.

But won’t the end result of tearing down the homes on the South Barrington site and replacing them with the columbarium be the same?

I think it would be worse. At Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery the homes would be the island and the homeowners left feeling unwanted and out of place.

If the columbarium is built at the 10 S. Freeman Road site in South Barrington it would take just 20 seconds to drive by it, on the long side. It will become invisible. It will not be a place for veterans to be remembered, but a tiny box to put them in and be forgotten.
From: Jerry Rakowski [mailto:jerryrakowski@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 12:47 PM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>; Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>
Cc: pmccombie@southbarrington.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery Comment Sheet - Animal Farm

Name: Jerry Rakowski
Address: 8 Mohawk Drive, South Barrington, Illinois 60010
Affiliation: Homeowner
Email: JerryRakowski@sbcglobal.net Phone: 847-898-0191

Comment:

I have been a fan of George Orwell’s book Animal Farm for a long time. It’s the one that tells the story of the Russian revolution with pigs playing the part of the communists and different farm animals for everyone else. The pigs write the rules in the beginning and one we can all agree on is “All animals are equal.” So as the story goes on, in order for the pigs to get what they want they change this rule to “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.”

So what am I trying to say here?

The Village of South Barrington has clearly established zoning laws.

Those laws have worked very well. So well that I for one moved here because of them. We are all equal under those laws.

For someone to come in and change those laws to suit themselves at a cost to others reminds me of Animal Farm.

You do not want to behave like one of George Orwell’s pigs.

At the least, don’t hide what laws you will break. Spell them out. Not zoned for a cemetery, tell us you know but don’t care. Fences and walls not allowed, tell us you will build them anyhow. At least then I will think of you as one of Orwell’s dogs and not one of the pigs.

I think that if you would follow the village zoning laws you just might find that you can benefit from their years of work in building this community. A community you say you want to be a part of. They did not change the laws in the middle of the night to keep you out or benefit themselves like the pigs in the book.

Do the right thing by following the laws written by South Barrington and keep us all equal. Let George Orwell’s book remind us only of the Russian Communists.
From: Jerry Rakowski [mailto:jerryrakowski@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 12:29 PM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>; Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>
Cc: pmccombie@southbarrington.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery Comment Sheet - November 8 Meeting

Name: Jerry Rakowski
Address: 8 Mohawk Drive, South Barrington, Illinois 60010
Affiliation: Homeowner
Email: JerryRakowski@sbcglobal.net Phone: 847-898-0191

Comment:

I attended the public meeting held by the Department of Veterans Affairs on November 8, 2018.
I became aware of the proposal to knock down some homes in the neighborhood and replace them with a columbarium cemetery less than 24 hours before this meeting.
I did find the “Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Columbarium Cemetery for the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery” online and read through it.
My first thoughts were that this could not possibly meet the zoning laws.
It was late so I jotted down a few questions and made plans to attend the meeting, thinking it would be a sales pitch. I thought the Department of Veterans Affairs would put on a presentation on why we should support their plan so they could get the many zoning variances that would be required and we could ask any unanswered questions afterward.
The meeting started with a short film, very emotional, not many facts or specifics on the project. The film seemed aimed to make you feel guilty for asking questions, at least it made me think “I won’t be the first person to ask one”.
There was not much of a case made for why this spot was chosen, a couple of circles on the map and it is in the middle, close to the expressway. Just standard real estate agent filler. And no mention of any of the negatives. Surely they know some, I have a list and have known about this for less than 24 hours. Not even a mention of the zoning. They know the zoning says no to a cemetery on less than 160 acres, it is in their draft proposal, this is 15 acres. No cemetery. The Village of South Barrington told them “No” months ago.
Then it was question time. Comments I guess is more accurate, this is not questions and answers at all. This meeting is not what I thought it was going to be.
This is a fight. These people are scared.
Something completely different is happening here.
Then comes the question that makes it clear to me what is going on.
Question: The zoning law says no cemetery. Will that stop you?
Answer: We are the Federal Government, we do not need your village to say yes to zoning variances to do what we want.
Oh ****, this is not a proposal, this is a rape.
I went home not sure what to do about what I just witnessed. A lot of innocent people are going to get hurt.

And it could result in a cemetery that just does not feel right, not born in the right place.

If only something could be said to convince the Government that they have a lot going for them, everyone wants to do right by the veterans. They don’t need to force themselves on anyone.

Find a willing partner who will love you, and then everyone can be proud of you and the veterans can rest in peace.
Comment:

When thinking of this columbarium proposal I am reminded of my visit to Arlington National Cemetery. There is a beautiful mansion on the grounds, Arlington House, the former home of Robert E. Lee.

I remember a tour guide explaining that the first burials took place just a couple of hundred feet from this home. Now I have had to use Wikipedia to fill in the details of what the guide said that day, I did not know at the time, how much the next part of his tale would personally relate to me and my neighbors.

The Quartermaster General of the United States Army Montgomery C. Meigs believed that since Lee had committed treason, denying Lee use of the mansion after the war was a rough form of justice. Meigs decided that a large number of burials should occur close to Arlington House to render it unlivable.

My question to you is, what crimes have my neighbors and I committed to have fifty thousand burials this close to our homes?
From: Jerry Rakowski [mailto:jerryrakowski@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 11:53 AM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>; Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>
Cc: pmccombie@southbarrington.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery Comment Sheet - Deer Car Collisions

Name: Jerry Rakowski
Address: 8 Mohawk Drive, South Barrington, Illinois 60010
Affiliation: Homeowner
Email: JerryRakowski@sbcglobal.net Phone: 847-898-0191

Comment:

I live near the proposed site. There are deer browsing in my yard on most nights. When hungry they will eat most anything. The deer are free to move from the forest preserve and past the homes on the site and into the adjacent subdivision since there are no fences on any of the properties. The zoning laws do not allow fences here, one of the laws you are choosing to ignore. Your proposal says a structure is planned to be built between the columbarium and the houses. I think this will block the normal travel path for the deer and force them on to Mundhank Road. This is at a part of the road with a hill to hide them from oncoming traffic. The deer move mostly at night. I fear that this will become a very dangerous and life threatening situation. There are two hundred human deaths and thousands of injuries every year from car collisions with deer every year.

Since flowers will certainly figure in the ceremonies at the cemetery and you may not want them to disappear every night from being eaten by the deer, what is the plan to deal with the deer?

If the plan is to fence the area in, this may force the deer onto Mundhank Road for the whole width of the property, making the car collision with deer problem even worse. I have seen a dozen deer at a time along Freeman road. This will become a serious problem and I think your plan must include a real solution.

If the deer are allowed to browse on the flowers left for them every day, the number of deer crossing the road from the forest preserve may increase dramatically. The Paul Douglas Forest Preserve is more than 1800 acres and I do not know how many deer are in it, but your plan should include how to deal with them.

At the least, disposing of the fresh cut flowers at the end of the day, or banning them altogether should be considered to increase safety in the surrounding area.
From: Jerry Rakowski [mailto:jerryrakowski@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 11:31 AM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>; Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>
Cc: pmccombe@southbarrington.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery Comment Sheet

Name: Jerry Rakowski
Address: 8 Mohawk Drive, South Barrington, Illinois 60010
Affiliation: Homeowner
Email: JerryRakowski@sbcglobal.net Phone: 847-898-0191

Comment:

I see on the web site for the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery that bicycling, jogging and exercise walking are not permitted at any time. It also prohibits dogs.

The proposed site on Freeman Road in South Barrington is across from the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve and the bike/jogging/walking/dog walking trail runs just across the street. On the forest preserve web site it says “There are no restrooms here, so plan accordingly.”

I see your plan includes public bathrooms. I think that these will be an option for those in need just across the street. The existence of these bathrooms could increase the use of the walking trail.

Since there is no city water or sewer service at the site how will you accommodate the possibly very large usage at the site?

Many of us travel past the proposed site to get to the bike trail. Will you exclude us from the site on our way to and from the bike trail with rules like those at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery? If so, are you really trying to be a part of our community? How can you justify coming to the site and breaking numerous laws, that we have all followed for decades to make this truly an American dream place to live, and then impose your own rules outlawing the healthy lifestyle the area promotes. Just the fact that the cemetery rules, no bicycling, no jogging, no exercise walking, no dog walking, are in such contrast to the normal life that will surround you, should have you rethinking this location.
Responses to Comments from Jerry Rakowski

1. VA’s National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is bringing burial options closer to Veterans by developing columbarium-only sites in five urban areas across the country. The Urban Initiative Program, will improve burial options for Veterans and their families who choose cremation. The initiative seeks to establish columbarium-only national cemeteries in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Indianapolis and San Francisco/Oakland (Alameda). NCA chose these cities for a variety of reasons to include surveys that indicate Veterans choose not to use national cemeteries because of travel and distance barriers.

2. VA establishes requirements for its land acquisitions to include requirements such as a delineated area where the land needs to be located, the size (range) of the proposed acquisition and price range for the acquisition, etc. The government advertises this requirement in FBO.gov, identifies the properties that meet the basic requirements, tours the properties and then evaluates them to determine which property best meets the requirements of the government.

VA advertised for sites between 5 and 15 acres on the Federal Business Opportunities Website (FedBizOpps) from July 5 through July 26, 2017. In response to the FedBizOpps advertisement posted in July 2017, and to VA’s real estate broker’s pre-market survey efforts, VA received 23 expressions of interest (EOIs) and determined that 12 of those sites merited further evaluation which subsequently occurred in Fall 2017. Additionally, in response to the comments received on the Draft EA, VA has conducted an additional site selection tour from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.

3. Bathroom facilities are provided at all National Cemeteries.

4. As stated during the presentation during the public meeting, the columbarium would consist of above-grade wall structures designed for interment of cremated remains. This would consist of courtyards compromised of brick, block or stone niches that would be four to five levels high. In addition, they are typically two-sided for efficiency with numbered rows and columns identifying each niche. The niches themselves are 14 inches high by 10 incudes wide by 18 inches deep.

5. Comment noted.

6. The Federal government is not required to seek property rezoning

7. Comment noted.

8. Comment noted.

9. Comment noted, Please see the response #2.

10. The Federal government is not required to seek property rezoning
11. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.

12. Comment noted.

13. VA advertised for sites between 5 and 15 acres on the Federal Business Opportunities Website (FedBizOpps) from July 5 through July 26, 2017. In response to the FedBizOpps advertisement posted in July 2017, and to VA’s real estate broker’s pre-market survey efforts, VA received 23 expressions of interest (EOIs) and determined that 12 of those sites merited further evaluation which subsequently occurred in Fall 2017. This led to the determination that the 10 S. Freeman Road Site best met the requirements for land acquisition. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium. The VA will make their final decision once all due diligence is completed.

14. The perimeter boundary of the columbarium cemetery would be fenced, which would prevent deer from moving onto the site. However, since there is a large amount of open land in the surrounding area, the presence of a columbarium cemetery on this site would not prevent deer from continuing their existing moving habits.

15. Comment noted.

16. The columbarium cemetery will not prohibit or interfere with the biking, walking, and dog walking activities at the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve.

17. Restrooms would be for the use of the people visiting the columbarium.

18. The columbarium will not prohibit people from travel past the proposed site or prohibit biking, walking, and dog walking at the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve.
November 19, 2018

Subject: Comments regarding the VA’s National Cemetery site proposal in South Barrington

Submitted by:
Terry Rakowski
8 Mohawk Drive
South Barrington, Illinois 60010
847-898-0191

I live in the Barrington Homestead Estates subdivision- we hold a deep love and respect for our Veterans. However, this is such a small tract of land. It touches the back yards of the residents of Barrington Homestead Estates (fences are not allowed in South Barrington). Children under the age of 10 play on trampolines - in the summer loud music bounces off the waters of the 10 acre lake which fills both subdivisions. Families have graduation parties and have family parties. How sad is that? That someone is mourning a loved one while all this is going on. There is a Bike and walking Trail across the street. Bike marathons are held throughout the year (I believe the bathroom facilities – meant for the family will be used by a good amount of people using these trails) - another distraction for the mourning families. The Douglas preserve is across the road of this site. The deer feed on this property being considered the turtles migrate to other ponds through this property. The Traffic, Noise and displacement of wildlife impact both Hoffman Estates and South Barrington residents. There are bats that migrate to this property - when they return they will find their trees gone. My husband's father served in WW2, as did my dearest father figure - we want the best for all involved. A person has to be honest and ask oneself - is this going to make anyone happy? The Mayor of South Barrington wants to work hard with the VA to find a plot of land that will be the best fit - for all. We are all hoping that the VA will work with the South Barrington Mayor to get a site worthy of the Veteran's final resting-place.

Thank you for allowing me to make my opinions known.
Terry
Responses to Comments from Terry Rakowski

1. Comment noted.
2. Restrooms would be for the use of the people visiting the columbarium.
3. While a small amount of habitat would be lost from the construction of the proposed columbarium cemetery, there is suitable habitat adjacent to the proposed site for any displaced wildlife, including the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve.
4. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
Comment Sheet

Name: Alda Reyes
Address: 1504 Howard St
       Evanston IL 60202
Affiliation: 
Email/Phone: moreno_alda@yahoo.com

Comment:
I oppose the location of the columbarium in the proposed South Barrington Homestead neighborhood as it is inappropriate for the veterans, their families, as well as the surrounding residents and wildlife.

More on back
Response to Comments from Alda Reyes

1. Comment noted.
From: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM)
To: Estes, Liz; Schattel, Jill
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Support for Veterans Cemetery in South Barrington IL
Date: Thursday, November 15, 2018 8:33:44 AM

Fyi -

-----Original Message-----
From: deborahcryan@earthlink.net
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 11:22 AM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Veterans Cemetery in South Barrington IL

I am writing to voice my support for locating a veterans' cemetery at Mundhank and Freeman Roads in South Barrington IL. As a 35 year resident of this area, I consider it an honor that you are looking at this property.

Deborah Ryan
153 Dundee Rd.
Barrington, IL 60010
Responses to Comments from Deborah Ryan

1. Comment noted.
**From:** Anil Saigal [mailto:anil.saigal@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 25, 2018 10:45 PM  
**To:** Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>  
**Cc:** pmccombie@southbarrington.org  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Religious objection to proposed location for Columbarium in South Barrington, IL

Dear Ms Marinucci,

I am Anil Saigal and I am a resident at 20 Mohawk Dr, South Barrington, IL 60010 and my home is located immediately adjacent to the 15 acre parcel proposed as the site for the VA Columbarium Cemetery in South Barrington, IL. I have lived here for 27 years and raised my two daughters in this house. My daughters are now all grown up and have their own homes and families, however they continue to visit their childhood home often. My 21 month old grand daughter is very fond of spending time at our home and is building memories at her grandparents’ home.

First and foremost, I have utmost respect and appreciation for our veteran heroes who have and continue to make the supreme sacrifice in protecting us and the freedom we enjoy. While it is a true privilege and an honor for the Veteran’s Administration to consider our hometown for the Columbarium Cemetery, I have a deep seated concern that affects my family and several other members of our neighborhood.

My primary concern with the proposed site is the violation of my Constitutional right to freely practice and abide by the tenets of my religion. Along with over 1 billion people around the world, I am a devout practitioner of the Hindu religion. As a 5,000 year old religion, Hindu families have always cremated the remains of their dead, and the ashes are then discharged into a body of water, to allow the Soul to be liberated from its body for rebirth. Hindus never bring the Cremated remains of the departed into their homes. According to our Hindu beliefs, living near a crematorium, cemetery, or graveyard is considered to be extremely inauspicious, and is to be avoided for one’s spiritual well being and spiritual growth. If the VA Columbarium is built on the proposed site, then as a practicing Hindu, I will be forced to move from our home of nearly 3 decades. Had there been a pre-existing cemetery on this proposed site 27 years ago, I would never have moved into our current home, as this would be a significant hindrance to my personal and family’s spiritual progress.

I am very respectful of the religious practices of other faiths, and having visited cemeteries for our veterans across the nation, I wish for the honorable way of remembering those who have served our nation. I also hope that the Veteran’s Affairs Administration will make every effort to respect my religious beliefs. I hope that Veteran’s Administration would work with the Mayor and citizens of the Village of South Barrington, IL in finding a suitable lot which is located away from residences and that VA would work to protect my right as an American citizen to follow my religious principles. Same objection is also reflected in the attached petition representing and signed by all Hindu families in the subdivisions of SB Homestead and The Preserves near the proposed parcel.
It is with utmost humility and respect for our honorable departed heroes that I make this plea to the Veteran Affairs Administration to identify another parcel of land that is more suitable and away from residences for the Columbarium Cemetery in South Barrington.

Respectfully Yours,

Anil Saigal

20 Mohawk Dr
South Barrington, IL 60010
Responses to Comments from Anil Saigal

1. Comment noted.

2. We appreciate the commenter providing this information regarding Hindu beliefs. NCA takes very seriously our responsibilities to make a site selection that does not unreasonably burden communities and their residents. We balance any potential burden against our obligation, under the laws passed by Congress, to provide final resting places for our Nation’s Veterans that honor their service and sacrifice. In general, we believe that a national cemetery property is a beneficial addition to any community. We recognize that some members of the public have negative associations with cemeteries in general, and some for very specific reasons. However, because VA has a mandate to serve all eligible Veterans, NCA has proposed the South Barrington site as part of our effort to improve service to Veterans and their families by establishing columbarium-only urban cemeteries to address access concerns in densely populated areas where time and distance factors may deter families from choosing to inter a loved one at an existing national cemetery. While we expend significant resources locating property that is suitable to this noble purpose and does not create unreasonable burdens on the neighboring areas, we know that some individuals or groups may still object to the addition of a cemetery in their community.

3. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale, they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
Dear Ms Schattel and Ms. Marinucci,

My name is Anil Saigal. I and my wife Shashi Saigal live in South Barrington Homestead (SBH) subdivision at 20 Mohawk Dr in South Barrington, IL. We live at the Mohawk Dr cul-de-sac and our lot has a common boundary with the 15 acre parcel which US Dept of Veteran Affairs (USDVA) is considering for construction of a Columbarium cemetery. Each time when we enter or exit our garage or the main entrance to the house, we have a view of that property.

I am an electrical engineer and my wife is a family medicine physician by our professions. I am also President of a not-for-profit organization which teaches yoga and meditation to Palatine, IL and surrounding community members. Both of us have immense respect and consideration for our valiant veterans who make supreme personal sacrifices to protect our freedom and the life in our great country. Two years ago I instituted a policy at the yoga and meditation center to offer deep discounts to past and present members of armed forces and their spouses for attending yoga classes, and to also offer free meditation classes to them for 27 years and their spouses. It would indeed be an honor to have the columbarium cemetery be located in South Barrington. We don’t however, believe that the proposed location is acceptable or even desirable for such an auspicious structure. From our perspective, if USDVA proceeded with the project, it would create detrimental consequences for the homeowners in SBH, and especially immediate neighbors like us. In the interest of being brief, let me enumerate our concerns:

1) It is certain that the saleability and property values for the residences that share a boundary with the site, in the SBH subdivision, and even adjoining subdivisions will plummet.

2) Daily noise of volleys, causing disturbance to people even in distant neighborhoods. I work on many days from home during daytime where I have phone conversations and teleconferences with global colleagues, and the sound of volleys would be intrusive.

3) Constant sound of volleys will affect children in this subdivision as well as the surrounding community. We are fearful of children developing emotional complexes tied to sound of gunfire.

4) We have grand children who come to stay with us, and we are concerned about them developing fear and mental trauma associated with the spiritual unknowns associated with a cemetery.

5) Both Mundhank Rd and Freeman Rd are two lane roads, and the traffic will be adversely affected both immediately and will be continually worsening with time.

6) Veteran families and site visitors will face increasing level of access inconvenience from both of the above two lane roads.

7) Daily noise of volleys will be startling and detrimental to the wild life in the area, especially in the forest preserve across the Freeman Rd.
8) We need to honor our departed heroes, but we must do so while not disrespecting, hurting, and traumatizing those who are still alive.

We moved into this subdivision 27 years ago because of a quiet and secluded environment. At this juncture we feel that USDVA should work with South Barrington Mayor McCombie to find a suitable parcel of land in a non-residential area which would be more open and honoring of the cemetery residents and which would not affect residents with rifle sounds.

Respectfully yours,

Anil Saigal
Shashi Saigal, MD 20
Mohawk Dr
South Barrington, IL 60010
Responses to Comments from Anil Saigal and Sashi Saigal, MD

1. Comment noted.
2. Comment noted.
3. There is no data to suggest that property values would change as a result of a columbarium.
4. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which would not affect children (see table below).

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Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’

5. NCA funded a third-party traffic analysis in 2019. The results of this analysis will be included the in this Revised Draft EA.
6. As mentioned in response 4, a Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance
of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the rifle volleys would affect wildlife further away.

7. Comment noted.

8. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
From: Pooja Saigal [mailto:poojasaigalmd@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 25, 2018 8:41 PM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM)  <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] S Barrington VA Cemetery Location

Dear Ms. Marinucci,

I have learned that the Veterans Administration is considering the area near the intersection of Freeman and Mundhank roads in South Barrington as a site for the new VA cemetery. I have utmost respect for our veterans and am extremely grateful for the service they have provided. I care for many veterans who have fought for our country in my primary care practice and in my integrative medicine practice; these individuals are amongst the finest people that I have met, from their moral sense to their hardworking nature to their desire to help others. I am honored that my home town of South Barrington could be a place for burial and for paying tribute to the departed veterans who have served our country.

I have strong concerns about the location that is currently under consideration for the new VA cemetery. The site under consideration is immediately adjacent to my childhood home at 20 Mohawk Drive in South Barrington. I do not believe it is appropriate to build a cemetery with remains of deceased individuals and regular ceremonies with gunfire bordering a neighborhood with homes and children. This is disruptive to a safe, enriching, and peaceful neighborhood environment where families take walks on a daily basis and where children and pets freely play and wander outdoors. My parents still live in the abovementioned home and I visit them frequently with my own family; our Hindu faith believes it is not auspicious to retain or reside near the remains of deceased individuals; thus, my parents would be forced to move out of their home of 20 years where we have grown up and celebrated our holidays and weddings. My father volunteers hundreds of hours alongside his fulltime job to help individuals of all faiths with their spiritual growth both for their own enrichment and for their resilience through troubled times. My mother has been working as an overtime family physician for nearly 40 years to go above and beyond to heal thousands of patients. It is heartbreaking that these two individuals who go out of their way to serve their community would get displaced from the home where they were planning to spend the next several decades.

I sincerely hope the mayor of South Barrington will find a more appropriate site for the VA cemetery that would not be immediately adjacent to any neighborhood and will provide a peaceful location for the ceremonies and sacred burials of our veterans. Just as I would not wish for a cemetery to unexpectedly disrupt the lives of my parents and the many families who would be affected by this project, I also would not wish for our honored veterans to be buried in a location where individuals living nearby are resentful of their burial, as this is not spiritually auspicious for our deceased veterans. An amicably chosen location that serves the best interests of both parties better is ideal. I thank you very much for taking the time to read this, and I strongly hope you will reconsider the location for the new VA cemetery.

Sincerely,

Pooja Saigal
poojasaigalmd@gmail.com
(847)323-2753
Reponses to Comments from Pooja Saigal

1. Comment noted.

2. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.

3. NCA utilized a noise assessment study produced by the Department of Defense. The analysis has been included in the EA. Additional mitigation has been added to the EA to mitigate the sound of the rifle volleys.

4. We appreciate the commenter providing this information regarding Hindu beliefs. NCA takes very seriously our responsibilities to make a site selection that does not unreasonably burden communities and their residents. We balance any potential burden against our obligation, under the laws passed by Congress, to provide final resting places for our Nation’s Veterans that honor their service and sacrifice. In general, we believe that a national cemetery property is a beneficial addition to any community. We recognize that some members of the public have negative associations with cemeteries in general, and some for very specific reasons. However, because VA has a mandate to serve all eligible Veterans, NCA has proposed the South Barrington site as part of our effort to improve service to Veterans and their families by establishing columbarium-only urban cemeteries to address access concerns in densely populated areas where time and distance factors may deter families from choosing to inter a loved one at an existing national cemetery. While we expend significant resources locating property that is suitable to this noble purpose and does not create unreasonable burdens on the neighboring areas, we know that some individuals or groups may still object to the addition of a cemetery in their community.

5. Comment noted.

6. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
From: Shashi Saigal [mailto:shashi.saigal@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 25, 2018 10:48 PM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] proposed VA columbarium plot in South Barrington

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to plead my concerns against the proposed VA columbarium plot in South Barrington. Please allow me to start my thoughts by first expressing my utmost gratitude towards the veterans, past and present, who serve our nation and provide the freedom that allows me to be safe and a productive member of society. I wish for our veterans to be remembered in the most honorable way. My only plea is that the veterans Administration find a parcel of land for the VA columbarium that is not directly adjacent to homes of families that are raising their children.

I have lived immediately adjacent to this proposed plot of land for 27 years. I have raised 2 daughters, whom are both physicians, including one daughter who served the John Cochran VAMC for several years. As a physician myself, I have always instilled in my children and my patients the importance of civic duty, selfless giving, and personal growth. My daughters’ childhood experiences have shaped the respectful, conscientious adults they have become, and I hope the children in our neighborhood have the opportunity to do the same.

As a family physician who takes care of patients from cradle to grave, I have a deep understanding of mental illness and the effects of early childhood experiences on one’s personal growth and development. I am deeply concerned about the effects of having a site dedicated for the deceased in immediate vicinity of our children playing and growing up in our neighborhood. The sounds of gunshots during ceremonies are not only a physical threat to their hearing development but also to their psychological well being. Most residents in the neighborhood do not have the choice to uproot their lives and should not be forced to do so in order to provide their families with a safe space to raise families.

As a mother, grandmother, physician, and member of the neighborhood, I urge you to consider the psychological and emotional impact of creating a columbarium immediately adjacent to so many families raising children, who will be the our future of our nation, including our armed forces.

Respectfully,

Shashi Saigal, MD
Responses to Comments from Shashi Saigal

1. Comment noted.
2. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which would not affect children (see table below).

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Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

**Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’**

3. Comment noted.
National Cemetery Administration
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery
Environmental Assessment

Comment Sheet

Name: ALFRED SALER
Address: 24 CHICO COURT
          SOUTH BARRINGTON, IL 60010
Affiliation: RETIRED ARMY - CW5
Email/Phone: CHIEFARMY@ATT.NET

Comment:
1. PLEASE CHECK OTHER LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THIS AREA:
   + PLUM FARM ACRES LOCATED BETWEEN
     72 HIGGENS, 59 HWY (HOFFMAN ESTATES)
   + NEXT TO AMC THEATER IN (SOUTH BARRINGTON)
   + FORMER SEARS LANDS:
     a) 72 HIGGENS & BARTLET ROAD, 90 HWY (SOUTH BARRINGTON)
     b) CURRENT LOCATION OF SEARS OFFICE
        SEARS IS GOING OUT OF BUSINESS &
        LAND WILL BE AVAILABLE (HOFFMAN ESTATES)
   + ELGIN, IL

THANK YOU
  ALFRED SALER

More on back
Responses to Comments from Alfred Saller
1. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
-----Original Message-----
From: Priya Saigal Shetty
[mailto:psaigal@gmail.com] Sent: Sunday, November 25, 2018 8:18 PM
To: Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>; Parker, Artis L. <Artis.Parker@va.gov>; Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urgent: concerns regarding proposed site for VA columbarium in South Barrington

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding a matter which is very dear to my heart and soul. The current proposed grounds in South Barrington for the VA columbarium is located immediately adjacent to my parents’ current home and my childhood home of 27 years. This is the home where I grew up, playing outside in the open fields with neighbors’ children, developing fond memories, and learning the life skills and knowledge to become a successful contributing member of society.

Today, I am a practicing physician, who served for the John Cochran VA Medical Center in St. Louis for 5 years. I found my time serving the veterans to be incredibly rewarding and I have the utmost respect and regard for the veterans who have and continue to protect my freedom every day. I am now raising my own family, and I value the importance of a bright and safe future for my children even more now that I have a daughter and a second baby on the way due in February. My daughter loves visiting her grandparents in their home adjacent to this proposed site, and I cannot imagine her not being able to share this home in the same way I enjoyed it.

With utmost respect to our veterans for everything they have done to protect our freedoms, I plead with you to not use the property adjacent to my childhood home for a columbarium site. My family is devoutly Hindu, and our belief system will not allow us to live adjacent to a site for storing deceased ashes of any human. This proposal, if it passes, will force my parents to have to uproot their lives and move, which is not a trivial matter at their age and busy phase of life. They are amazing parents/grandparents, and both very actively contributing members of society as a physician and engineer. I wish for them to continue to live their lives with minimal disruption to their mental, physical, and spiritual well being.

I wish and pray for the best for our veterans, past and present, who have made immense sacrifices to serve our nation. I wish for their remains to be honored in the most respectful manner possible. I plead with you that the choice of site for the columbarium grounds not to be the parcel of land adjacent to my childhood home of 27 years.

Thank you very much for your time and genuine consideration in this very important matter.

Respectfully,

Priya Saigal Shetty
Responses to Comments from Priya Saigal Shetty

1. Comment noted.
2. Comment noted.
3. We appreciate the commenter providing this information regarding Hindu beliefs. NCA takes very seriously our responsibilities to make a site selection that does not unreasonably burden communities and their residents. We balance any potential burden against our obligation, under the laws passed by Congress, to provide final resting places for our Nation’s Veterans that honor their service and sacrifice. In general, we believe that a national cemetery property is a beneficial addition to any community. We recognize that some members of the public have negative associations with cemeteries in general, and some for very specific reasons. However, because VA has a mandate to serve all eligible Veterans, NCA has proposed the South Barrington site as part of our effort to improve service to Veterans and their families by establishing columbarium-only urban cemeteries to address access concerns in densely populated areas where time and distance factors may deter families from choosing to inter a loved one at an existing national cemetery. While we expend significant resources locating property that is suitable to this noble purpose and does not create unreasonable burdens on the neighboring areas, we know that some individuals or groups may still object to the addition of a cemetery in their community.
4. Comment noted.
-----Original Message-----
From: Casey Shupe
[mailto:caseygshupe@gmail.com] Sent: Sunday, November 25, 2018 7:43 PM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM)
<Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov> Subject: [EXTERNAL] South Barrington memorial proposal

To whom it may concern,

I would like to elaborate on my position for the proposed memorial for veterans in south Barrington. Both of my grandfathers are buried in memorials out west. I understand and directly appreciate what this means for families of veterans. They need a memorial that is convenient and respectable. However, I feel that the proposed site is an unacceptable place for the memorial. There is little access to the site as well as being unproportionally small for its intended purpose. The noise pollution from the memorial volleys not only adversely affect citizens but wildlife alike. Many small children will hear gunfire multiple times a day, and the impact to a community with many small children will be devastating. I encourage you to work with the mayor and citizens of South Barrington to search for a more peaceful and hospitable place for us to honor our most bravest American citizens.

Sincerely

Dr Casey Shupe

Sent from my iPad
Responses to Comments from Dr. Casey Shupe

1. Comment noted.

2. Comment noted. During the site selection process, the VA determined that the size of the site is adequate for all phases of the proposed columbarium. In addition, the VA advertised for sites between 5 and 15 acres on the Federal Business Opportunities Website (FedBizOpps) from May 23 to June 16, 2017 and again from July 5 through July 27, 2017.

3. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which is not expected affect children or wildlife (see table below).

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Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’
4. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
Name: Donald S. Klenny - American Legion
Address: 820 W. Liberty St.
Affiliation: American Legion
Email/Phone: 

Comment:
I have been on funeral details for 67 years.
I would like to say there should be no problems on Sunday.

More on back
Responses to Comments from Donald Sleeman – Elgin Post 57 American Legion

1. Comment noted.
RE: Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery Environmental Assessment - South Barrington

I am a resident of Homestead Estates directly to the west of the proposed Veterans Columbarium cemetery. By choosing the 15 acre property at 10 South Freeman Road in South Barrington, the National Cemetery Administration is has effectively put myself and my neighbors in a difficult position: to stand against veterans. At least, this is the common perception given by the media and others when we say we do not want a Veterans Columbarium built in our backyard. However, many of us have veterans in our families or are friends with those who have served and do what we can to support our troops. I have a great respect for those who choose to go into military to serve our country and ensure my freedoms. These emotions and feelings still do not change my opinion on the matter.

I recently read a quote in a Daily Herald article from Jacob Zimmerman, superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Kane County, in support of the South Barrington site said that it's "a no-brainer to ensure that there is a lasting tribute to our veterans who have given so much." I think that the idea of a burial site in the Northern Chicago area is a "no-brainer", however there should be great thought in selecting the site. It should be a site that is both beneficial to the families of the fallen veteran and have a low impact on the surrounding community. I believe that the negative impact on the surrounding community is too great to move forward with the project. The Draft Environmental Assessment falls short in highlighting some of the negative impacts.

A great concern I have is for the noise from the Honor Guard Volley. The EA acknowledges "Long-term increase in noise levels from operational activities at the facility including ceremonial rifle volleys." (p. 6) And again "Therefore, the Columbarium cemetery facility would adversely contribute to sound levels in the immediate area." (p. 25) The Mitigation measures are to fire the volleys away from residences or to potentially build a structure to deflect the noise. Neither one of these give the comfort or guarantee that I will not be able to hear the rifle fire. That the children of the neighborhood will not be able to hear the rifle fire. To me, this is unacceptable.

Furthermore, the two mitigation measures cited could actually negatively impact other components of the EA study. If a structure was built to decrease noise, this has the potential to compromise the aesthetics that currently exist. How big would it have to be? Would it be a wall? How tall? And if the volleys were fired away from homes, this means they would likely be fired toward the forest preserve to the east of the property. Now you have the potential to negatively impact the wildlife in that forest preserve.

Another area that I see as problematic, is the increased traffic that the Columbarium would bring to the area. The EA makes note that both Freeman and Mundhank are 2 lane roads, and it states the traffic on each. What it does not make mention of is the nationally recognized mega church Willow Creek Community Church at 67 Algonquin Road. The church has a massive property of several acres and 3 entrances: Barrington Road, Mundhank Road, and Algonquin Road. Police assistance is required to direct traffic in and out of the parking lots on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. This one site already offers the surrounding community a large headache as far as traffic is concerned.

Should the Columbarium be built, we will be adding to our traffic strain since it is unlawful to break a funeral procession. In order to leave my subdivision, I would potentially have to wait for a funeral procession of untold numbers of cars to pass. Homestead Estates only has one entry point, so there is no alternative route that can be taken to avoid the inconvenience.
It was not noted in the EA in the Community Services section, but I believe the influx of cars to the area and the fact that the roads are only 2 lanes, could potentially lead to local police directing traffic to help the flow. And another impact on the community that the funeral procession could have is on school children returning home. Should bus routes and a funeral procession coincide, this could lead to delays in children getting home from school.

Furthermore, on the topic of the road, I am also concerned about cars potentially parking on Freeman or even Mundhank. Again, both roads are 2 lane and neither has a shoulder. This could lead to a potentially dangerous situation on those roads should there be overflow parking onto the roadway. The EA states there will be a funeral cortege parking area and that parking "should not be required" on the roadway, however this statement is not a guarantee. This tells me that parking on the roadway is still a possibility.

Next, I would like to point out two blatant factual inaccuracies in the EA. The first is regarding the Land Use Section. The EA State: "The project area is zoned as A-3 Single Family Residential (1 acre). According the to the Municipal Code of South Barrington, cemeteries are permitted in an A-3 district, "providing that the tract of land has a minimum area of one hundred sixty (160) acres (South Barrington Village Code 10 §11-5)." The Proposed Action is consistent with the existing zoning." What is permitted according to the zoning is a 160 acre cemetery within A-3 residential. This columbarium is 15 acres. The proposed columbarium does not fall within current zoning allowances.

The second factual inaccuracy can be found in the section of Potential for Generating Substantial Controversy. It reads: "As discussed in Section 4.0, VA has solicited input from various Federal, State, and local government agencies regarding the proposed action. Several of these agencies have provided input and none of the input has identified opposition or controversy related to the proposed columbarium." The fact is that South Barrington Mayor Paula McCombie did reach out to the VA to state concerns of the location of the columbarium was not appropriate. However, the VA apparently chose to ignore the opposition and moved ahead without further contact to the Village of South Barrington.

Finally, I am concerned that having a cemetery next door will negatively impact my property value. I already know of one home owner who was advised by their realtor to pull their house off the market after listing it a short time ago. The reasoning was the uncertainty of the proposed columbarium. If given the choice, I would not choose to live next to a cemetery, and I am sure I'm not the only one who has these feelings. By having the columbarium next door, the pool of potential buyers will already be reduced. On top of the idea of living next to a cemetery, add the list of concerns that I have already mentioned, and I believe that pool will dwindle down further.

Overall, I understand and agree with the need for a burial option for Veterans on the North Side of Chicago. However, that area is large and vast. I implore the National Cemetery Administration to seek out another location that would suit its needs better, as well as not impact the surrounding community so greatly.

6 Mohawk Drive
South Barrington, IL 60010

Regards,

Kathy Sokalski
Responses to Comments from Kathy Sokalski

1. Comment noted.
2. Comment noted. The VA has reviewed the comments on the Environmental Assessment and will revise and update accordingly.
3. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which would not affect children (see table below).

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Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’

4. The impact to the aesthetics is discussed in Chapter 3 of the EA. Rifle volleys are fired upwards and not towards anything.
5. NCA funded a third-party traffic analysis in 2019. The results of this analysis will be included in this Revised Draft EA.
6. There is no evidence to suggest that a columbarium cemetery of this size would place an undue demand on the local police force.
7. The typical size of a funeral is between 4 to 30 vehicles, averaging two people per car. The VA will be providing adequate parking for the Columbarium cemetery.
8. The Federal government is not required to seek property rezoning
9. The VA has reviewed the comments on the Environmental Assessment and will revise and update accordingly.
10. There is no data to suggest that property values would change as a result of a columbarium.
From: Adam Stec [mailto:adamstec@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 23, 2018 11:16 AM
To: Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>; Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>
Cc: pmccombie@southbarrington.org

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Columbarium Cemetery at 10 South Freeman Road in South Barrington

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed columbarium cemetery at 10 South Freeman Road in South Barrington, IL. Our house is part of Barrington Homestead Estates subdivision and is located approximately 80 yards from the border of the proposed cemetery lot. We have lived here for 8 years and have two children, ages 6 & 8. A cemetery this close to an existing residential area is inappropriate for both the residents (some have been here for 30 years) and for the veterans and their families. The Village of South Barrington has expressed its desire to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to find a more suitable location for the cemetery. We urge the Department to cooperate with the Village to find a better, more visible and respectful site to honor our veterans. In our area of far northwest suburbs of Chicago, there are still many large areas of undeveloped land which would be much more appropriate for the proposed columbarium.

Honor guard rifle shots would be harmful to children and the draft Environmental Assessment does not mention this at all despite having a section titled “Protection of Children”. In this era of frequent mass shootings and active shooter drills in our children’s school, the last thing we want for them is to hear gunshots close to the house. There are multiple studies by government organizations such as the US EPA, the CDC, as well as others groups which describe extensive negative effects of loud noise on children and their development. While most days our children would be in school during the cemetery ceremonies, there would be many days were they would be home such as summer break, spring break, holiday breaks and other miscellaneous days off. There are also multiple homes with very young children who do not attend school yet and would be exposed to the shots every weekday. A few of the children in the neighborhood are diagnosed with auditory processing disorder and speech delay putting them at an even greater risk of psychological distress from the rifle volleys.

There is another side to the noise issue. Normal neighborhood noise such as sounds of children playing in their yards, backyard barbecues and landscaping work will not provide a solemn, respectful atmosphere for a cemetery to honor veterans. Anybody who has kids or has spent significant time around them knows just how loud a group of playing kids can be.

This lot is essentially part of our neighborhood; it is zoned for residential construction and should remain as such. While we realize that the federal government does not have to comply with local zoning laws, we urge the Department to consider the input from the Village government and nearby residents.

The two houses on the lot in question are not vacant as stated in the draft Environmental Assessment. They are both tenant occupied; one house has a family with a teenager living there and the other is a home for a disabled person.
The roads leading to the proposed lot are two lane and already experience large backups due to Willow Creek Church which attracts thousands of people from all over the Chicago area each weekend. A developer just received approval for a plan to convert the former AT&T campus just south of our neighborhood into a “metroburb” that will include 375 apartments, 175 townhouses, stores, restaurants, hotel rooms and offices. This project will lead to even more congestion in the area. Our small subdivision has a single way in and out from Mundhank Road. If this project proceeds and traffic increases with visitors and funeral processions, we won’t be able to access our subdivision.

There are three families in our neighborhood who are Hindu and whose religion forbids them from living next to a cemetery. One of them is a young family who just moved here in the last 2 years. They have a 3 year old child and are expecting their 2nd.

The proposed lot is located across Freeman Road from the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve. It is part of the Forest Preserves of Cook County whose mission is “to engage in protecting and restoring the treasured natural habitats of the Forest Preserves of Cook County and to enhance the outdoor experiences of all communities.” Paul Douglas Forest Preserve is so committed to protecting natural habitats that there are no trails through the middle of it; the multi-use path runs along the border. The daily rifle volleys would disturb and scare off wildlife; and would go against the mission of the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

It is unfair that the Department is putting us in a position that makes us look as if we are against veterans. After the residents of Barrington Homestead Estates have expressed their concerns with the proposed cemetery at the public meeting on November 8, there have been multiple media reports and editorials which portray us as unpatriotic, greedy people who only care about their property values and are “at war with veterans.” We are parents, first and foremost, and the well-being of our children is our number one priority. This does not make us unpatriotic or ungrateful for the veteran’s service and sacrifice. We have a long history of supporting veterans and veteran organizations, from a three-month volunteer work assignment at the Jamaica Plain Veteran Medical Center in Boston to yearly monetary contributions and school veteran day collections that our children proudly participate in. My mother, who currently resides with us, donated my late father’s car last year to a charity for veterans. We are not against the veterans. We are simply asking the VA to consider more suitable locations for the proposed columbarium cemetery.

We have a gentlemen in our neighborhood who served 2 years in the Vietnam War. All these decades later, he is still unable to deal with sounds of gunshots as they bring back painful memories. His opposition to this cemetery location should be considered by the Department just as much as the veterans who are looking for closer location to be put to rest. We respectfully request that the Department work with the Village of South Barrington to find a location that will satisfy the requirements of the veterans and their families, as well as the local residents.

If this proposal goes through, our family will be forced to sell our house and move. We will be forced to pull our kids out of their current school and disrupt their learning.

In addition to the concerns listed above, the final Environmental Assessment should also address the following questions:

- Why does it have to be this specific lot which directly borders multiple residences and not another piece of property proposed by the Village of South Barrington?

- Is the Department of Veterans Affairs prepared to compensate residents of Barrington Homestead Estates subdivision for the loss of value of their properties? In our situation, this will have significant long term financial consequences in our lives.

As diligent citizens, we urge you to please review our concerns and consider more suitable locations for the columbarium cemetery in South Barrington.

Sincerely,

Magdalena & Adam Stec
3 Mohawk Ct, South Barrington, IL
Responses to Comments from Magdalena & Adam Stec

1. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.

2. The VA has reviewed the comments on the Environmental Assessment and will revise and update accordingly. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which would not affect children (see table below).

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Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

**Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’**

3. Comment noted.

4. The Federal government is not required to seek property rezoning. In addition, at this time the two houses located on the property are vacant.

5. NCA funded a third-party traffic analysis in 2019. The results of this analysis will be included in this Revised Draft EA.

6. We appreciate the commenter providing this information regarding Hindu beliefs. NCA takes very seriously our responsibilities to make a site selection that does not unreasonably burden communities and their residents. We balance any potential burden against our obligation, under the laws passed by Congress, to provide final resting places for our Nation’s Veterans that honor their service and sacrifice. In general, we believe that a national cemetery property is a beneficial addition to any
community. We recognize that some members of the public have negative associations with cemeteries in general, and some for very specific reasons. However, because VA has a mandate to serve all eligible Veterans, NCA has proposed the South Barrington site as part of our effort to improve service to Veterans and their families by establishing columbarium-only urban cemeteries to address access concerns in densely populated areas where time and distance factors may deter families from choosing to inter a loved one at an existing national cemetery. While we expend significant resources locating property that is suitable to this noble purpose and does not create unreasonable burdens on the neighboring areas, we know that some individuals or groups may still object to the addition of a cemetery in their community.

7. Impacts to wildlife are provided in Section 3 of the EA.
8. VA understands that this potential land acquisition and project has raised some concerns within the neighborhood and community. VA understands and respects the concerns of the community and is responding to those concerns with this Revised Draft EA.
9. Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic. Department of Defense noise study information (VA 2019) indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in audible sound levels of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which are not known to cause PTSD.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.
Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’.

10. Comment noted.
This cemetery is way too close to residential areas. You don’t put dead among the living. What’s next, you’re going to bulldoze playgrounds for kids and put cemeteries in their place?
Responses to Comments from Andy Stec

1. Comment noted.
November 20, 2018

Marianne Marinucci (Marianne.marinucci@va.gov) Senior Real Estate Specialist Office of Deal Property Veterans Affairs

RE: Alternative Sites for NCA Chicago Columbarium

Marianne,

Enclosed are 2 possible alternative sites marked on a Google Earth Photo.

Site ‘A’, 15 Acre in West Dundee, Illinois; contiguous to an existing cemetery...The asking price is $7/SF.

Site ‘B’ 18 Acre in Elgin, Illinois; this site is only $1/SF however; there are some sub soil environmental issues. It is contiguous to a Forest Preserve and is visible from the Interstate.

As you can see both sites have immediate access to the I90 Interstate via the 4-way interchange at Route 31. Also, there are several hotels (Marriott, etc.) and restaurants at the interchange.

My business is Real Estate Development and in that capacity my professional opinion is that both of these sites are for superior to the site you are looking at in South Barrington, especially in terms of access.

Please call with any questions. Best regards

Paul Swanson
Responses to Comments from Paul Swanson

1. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
Dear Marianne / Jill ~

This is in regards to the proposed South Barrington Columbarium Cemetery project and the request to provide comments during the public meeting. It was also advised to provide alternate locations that would be more feasible to be provided to VA.

Please see the attached 16 properties for your reference and follow up along with other proposals from the Mayor of South Barrington.

**Highlights of the alternate properties:**

1. The alternate properties are cheaper.
2. The properties have **easier access** to Highways / Major Roads and centrally located to suit the needs of the department of Veteran affairs.
3. The properties are in **wooded areas or clear lots**.

It is requested to enter this attached entire document into the Public Record.

Thank you -
Suni Vetticad
1 847 214 8814
Below is the analysis of available locations, more compatible for a Columbarium Cemetery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Locations to Consider</th>
<th>Lots Pictures</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 1 93 Bateman Rd, Barrington Hills, IL 60010  
Acres: 33 Acres  
$1,499,000/-  
**Note:** Priced cheaper than current proposed property and double Acreage. | ![Lots Picture](image1.jpg) |
| 2 340 Old Sutton Rd, Barrington, IL 60010  
MLS#09895004  
13.5 Acres  
$799,000/-  
**Note:** Lower priced than proposed property and not affecting Residential neighborhood. | ![Lots Picture](image2.jpg) |
| 3 133 Deepwood Dr, Barrington Hills, IL 60010  
MLS# 08558162  
Acres 20  
$1,900,000  
**Note:** More Acres | ![Lots Picture](image3.jpg) |
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<th>Location</th>
<th>MLS Number</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td>111 Deepwood Dr, Barrington, IL 60010</td>
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<td>08553283</td>
<td>10 Acres</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>148 Algonquin Road, Barrington Hills, IL 60010</td>
<td>Barrington Hills, IL 60010</td>
<td>095764453</td>
<td>26.73 Acres</td>
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<td><strong>Note:</strong> Priced Cheaper than Current proposed property and More Acreage.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>27409 W Northwest Hwy, Barrington, IL 60010</td>
<td>Barrington, IL 60010</td>
<td>09928082</td>
<td>25.76 Acres</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
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<td>27640 W Cuba Rd, Barrington, IL 60010</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>31W093 Route 58, Elgin, IL 60120</td>
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<td>12.29</td>
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**Note:** Priced at a quarter price than proposed property.

| 11 | 37W858 Highland Ave, Elgin, IL 60124 | 0964146 | 46.72 | 620,720/- |

**Note:** Priced cheaper than proposed property and more than double Acreage.

| 12 | 39W830 Highland Ave, Elgin, IL 60124 | 09779622 | 46.72 | 998,000/- |

**Note:** Priced cheaper than proposed property and more Acreage and not affecting Residential neighborhood.
| 13 | 31 W093 Route 58, Elgin, IL 60120  
MLS#09816137  
12.29 Acres  
950,000/-  
**Note:** Lower priced than proposed property and not affecting Residential neighborhood. |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|
| 14 | 43 W 185 Burlington Rd, Elgin, IL 60124  
MLS#09963309  
250,000/-  
**Note:** Lower priced than proposed property and not affecting Residential neighborhood. Zoned: Currently Farming. |
| 15 | 1 Dittman Road, Elgin, IL 60123  
MLS#10106736  
275,000/-  
**Note:** Lower priced than proposed property and not affecting Residential neighborhood. Zoned: Currently Farming. |
| 16 | 30 Irving Park Rd, Elgin, IL 60120  
    | MLS#10126680  
    | 12.38 Acres  
    | 996,000/-  
    | **Note:** Lower Priced than proposed property and not affecting Residential neighborhood.  
    | Zone: Currently R4 |
Responses to Comments from Suni Vetticad

1. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
From: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM)
To: Estes, Liz
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Comments for Proposed Columbarium Cemetery in South Barrington 2018
Date: Monday, November 26, 2018 11:06:59 AM
Attachments: SouthBarringtonColumbarimCemeteryProject.docx

From: Tom Vetticad [mailto:thomas.vetticad@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 23, 2018 12:22 AM
To: Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>; Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>
Cc: Paula McCombie <pmccombie@southbarrington.org>; Suni Vetticad <suni.vetticad@gmail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments for Proposed Columbarium Cemetery in South Barrington 2018

Dear Jill / Marianne ~

Attached document is the comments requested as part of the environmental assessment review provided by Veterans Affairs for the proposed Columbarium Cemetery in South Barrington.

We have detailed the incompatibility and the adverse aspects in the attachment, in creating the Cemetery in this proposed location which is close to a residential neighborhood.

We request you to seriously look into the matter, take appropriate action along with the Mayor and Trustees of South Barrington who is also very concerned about the well being of Village and its Citizens and eager to help VA to find a better suited location to honor our Veterans.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Respectfully,
Tom and Suni Vetticad
9 Mohawk Dr, South Barrington, IL 60010
847 845 7889 M
Dear Ms Schattel and Ms. Marianne Marinucci ~

My name is Tom Vetticad. My family of 3 kids and my wife live in South Barrington Homestead (SBH) subdivision at 9 Mohawk Dr, South Barrington, IL 60010. We attended the Environmental Assessment meeting for Columbarium Cemetery hosted by Department of Veteran Affairs.

My father did serve in the Army for 30 years and am a proud son of a veteran. Lot of my relatives proudly served the service defending their country. Two of my boys are preparing to join US Air Force and US Navy and are committed to it. As a family we have high respect for our soldiers and veterans who serve for our country.

However, as a resident of the subdivision and related to the proposed Columbarium Cemetery project, we find the proposed location for the Cemetery totally incompatible to a cemetery for respecting our heroes of the country respecting the environment and the neighbors in the community.

Following are our concerns for the incompatibility of the location.

1. We need to respect the veterans in a quieter and serene place surrounded all around by forest, so that we can keep the dignity and peacefulness of the place.

2. The proposed location directly sidelines with residential neighborhood with small kids and families which will be negatively impacted by the following.
   a. The Honor Guard gun salutes that are expected to occur five times a day is to adversely impact the retired people and young kids in the neighborhood. This is unacceptable as it harms the families with small kids living nearby. As our sons join the forces, each gun salutes that happen will cause immense panic in our hearts and will affect us mentally and will affect us emotionally as well as physically.

   b. The traffic in Freeman and Mundhank is going to increase and there is no option to expand the roads due to nearby Cook County preserve area in Freeman Road in the east and Methane gas pots in Mundhank Road.

   c. The traffic in the area will increase drastically on Sundays and Wednesdays due to the service in the nearby Willow Creek Church which is one of the biggest Non-Denominational Church in the Midwest.

   d. The traffic is further going to increase with the approved construction of Burb City in the Central Road in the old ATT building.

   e. Given the current impact of Gun violence that is happening in our Country, the sound of Honor Guard rifle salutes would definitely invoke fear and panic in the nearby residential families. They will be forced to go thru this everyday creating fear and anxiety in their minds. The impact of these caused in the people would definitely defeat the purpose of the sacrifice of what our soldiers died.
We don’t believe our soldiers would love to cause panic among fellow living citizens in the action of respecting them.

We need to give more respect our soldiers by finding a better suited place where we can honor them with a long term vision considering the adverse impact that would cause to the nearby residential area and the increasing traffic involved.

We request you and Veteran Affairs to consider the impacts to the families nearby and find a better suitable location for the Columbarium Cemetery and not close to a residential neighborhood with families and Veterans living for 30 some years. Attached are few locations we found that can better suit the cemetery and some are cheaper than the current lot available for sale which is also currently zoned residential. There are other several locations suggested by the Mayor and Trustees of South Barrington to better honor our Veterans.

Respectfully yours,

Tom and Suni Vetticad
9 Mohawk Dr
South Barrington, IL
60010
Dated 22 Nov 2018
### Potential Locations to Consider

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Responses to Comments from Tom & Suni Vetticad

1. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.

2. Comment noted.

3. Comment noted.

4. Comment noted.

5. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which would not affect children (see table below).

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Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.
6. NCA funded a third-party traffic analysis in 2019. The results of this analysis will be included in this Revised Draft EA.
7. Comment noted.
8. Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic. Department of Defense noise study information (VA 2019) indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in audible sound levels of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which are not known to cause PTSD.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

9. Comment noted. The VA has received information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour of the potential alternative locations from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.
From: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM)
To: Estes, Liz
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Cemetery in South Barrington
Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 6:37:36 AM

fyi

-----Original Message-----
From: Shubhrajan Wadyal, M.D. [mailto:doctorwadyal@gmail.com] Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 11:26 PM
To: Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>; Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cemetery in South Barrington

Hello,

I am concerned that 50000 bodies that are decomposing and filled with toxic chemical fixatives from funeral homes will be placed in the ground in a community where we do not have municipal water, but rather draw our water from ground wells in that same ground. This is a public health concern. #1

As a physician who proudly served our veterans as a VA physician in the past, I understand your desire to find a proper resting place for those who served. That being said, when the families of these veterans are inconvenience with roads that aren’t made to handle this kind of traffic; coupled with children whose childhood memories will have the constant echoes of gunfire...I am concerned that we have not met the needs of South Barrington or of our Veterans. Both our community and our veterans deserve better. #2 #3

Respectfully,
S. Wadyal, M.D.
Responses to Comments from S. Wadyal, MD

1. A columbarium cemetery includes freestanding walls with niches for cremation urns to be permanently stored by inurnment. No bodies will be buried at this site.
2. NCA utilized a noise assessment study produced by the Department of Defense. The analysis has been included in the EA.
3. NCA funded a third-party traffic analysis in 2019. The results of this analysis will be included in this Revised Draft EA.
From: Jack Wu [mailto:jack.wu.md@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 25, 2018 11:56 PM
To: Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] VA Columbarium S. Barrington, IL - Public Comment

Dear Ms. Marinucci -

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) has made a unilateral decision in its proposal to acquire a 15-acre parcel of land in South Barrington, Illinois for the purpose of constructing a columbarium. The public hearing held by the VA on November 8, 2018 came as a surprise to both the residents immediately adjacent to the land as well as public officials of the Village of South Barrington. The ensuing discussion and concerns expressed by residents (and the mayor) following review of the preliminary environmental assessment were substantive. The deceptive approach the VA has employed to acquire this parcel of land has nothing to do with honoring our veterans and their services to this nation. The VA National Cemetery Administration (NAC) has stoked false patriotism in justifying its abuse of federal power by undermining the authority of the local officials, violating local ordinances, and oppressing the constitutional rights of private citizens; the very rights the veterans have fought to preserve. The VA has stood idly by as the residents of South Barrington are vilified and defamed (by both veterans and the media) for standing up for their rights as private citizens; that somehow patriotism is synonymous with being acquiescent to the federal government.

The assertions made by the VA, in its environmental assessment, that the proposed project will have absolutely no impact(s) on the surrounding community is preposterous, inaccurate and flawed at best. For a federal agency entrusted to represent our veterans and thus our democracy, it is alarming that the VA did not perform due diligence to avoid harm to the residents of the South Barrington Homestead Community. If the VA had simply canvassed around the Homestead neighborhood, the VA would know that its action would violate the First Amendment rights of our neighbors of the Hindu faith who, by religious tenet cannot reside by a burial ground; exacerbate the mental illness, by the constant rifle volley, suffered by our neighbor who is a Vietnam War combat veteran afflicted with PTSD; traumatize the emotional growth and psychological wellbeing of our children from the unceasing rifle volleys; rob our retirees of their nest egg and endanger their financial stability; and violate the Fifth Amendment rights of private citizens by infringing on our property rights. Given that the VA did not perform due diligence, it comes as no surprise that the environmental assessment consists of gross oversights. Forceful implementation of the project and building of the columbarium despite the extreme concerns expressed by the Homestead community would be authoritative. Any damage suffered by the community would be negligent

Furthermore, the hell-bent insistence of the VA on the acquisition of this particular parcel of land when there are much more appropriate (and fiscally sound) properties in the region for a columbarium raises a significant red-flag for misappropriation of tax dollars. This calls into question concerns of potential financial kickbacks. Who stands to benefit from this deal? It is highly doubtful that the veterans stand to benefit. The public officials of South Barrington have worked tirelessly to communicate to the VA that there are more viable and appropriate properties within South Barrington (or within its vicinity) to construct a columbarium. Why has the VA not taken any heed? A quick search on the real estate websites demonstrates
that the VA’s purchasing price of the land is significantly above the listing price. Does the brokerage firm hired by the VA stand to gain significant commission by purchasing the most expensive plot of land? Does the funeral director who speaks so feverishly in the media for the project stand to gain a VA contract? As citizens, we demand transparency in this process.

The proposed purchase of this parcel of land in South Barrington and the construction of the columbarium cannot proceed without a detailed analysis of the detrimental impact the project has on the citizens of the surrounding Homestead community. Our veterans fought to preserve our constitutional rights, the very rights which we entrust this federal agency to uphold.

Regards,
Jack
S. Wu
Responses to Comments from S. Wu

1. VA understands that this potential land acquisition and project has raised some concerns within the neighborhood and community. VA understands and respects the concerns of the community and is responding to those concerns with this Revised Draft EA.

2. We appreciate the commenter providing this information regarding Hindu beliefs. NCA takes very seriously our responsibilities to make a site selection that does not unreasonably burden communities and their residents. We balance any potential burden against our obligation, under the laws passed by Congress, to provide final resting places for our Nation’s Veterans that honor their service and sacrifice. In general, we believe that a national cemetery property is a beneficial addition to any community. We recognize that some members of the public have negative associations with cemeteries in general, and some for very specific reasons. However, because VA has a mandate to serve all eligible Veterans, NCA has proposed the South Barrington site as part of our effort to improve service to Veterans and their families by establishing columbarium-only urban cemeteries to address access concerns in densely populated areas where time and distance factors may deter families from choosing to inter a loved one at an existing national cemetery. While we expend significant resources locating property that is suitable to this noble purpose and does not create unreasonable burdens on the neighboring areas, we know that some individuals or groups may still object to the addition of a cemetery in their community.

3. Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic. Department of Defense noise study information (VA 2019) indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in audible sound levels of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which are not known to cause PTSD.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.
4. VA advertised for sites between 5 and 15 acres on the Federal Business Opportunities Website (FedBizOpps) from July 5 through July 26, 2017. In response to the FedBizOpps advertisement posted in July 2017, and to VA’s real estate broker’s pre-market survey efforts, VA received 23 expressions of interest (EOIs) and determined that 12 of those sites merited further evaluation which subsequently occurred in Fall 2017. This led to the determination that the 10 S. Freeman Road Site best met the requirements for land acquisition. The VA has received additional information on a number of potential alternative locations and included responses on those sites within this Revised Draft EA. The VA conducted an additional site selection tour from January 23 – 24, 2019. Of the 26 sites that were evaluated, two were determined to be potentially viable. The Allstate property, 51 W. Higgins Road and the property next door located at 55 W. Higgins Road, are not currently for sale. Because they are not for sale they cannot be considered viable alternatives for the possible location of the columbarium.

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6. Comment noted.
National Cemetery Administration
Chicago Columbarium National Cemetery
Environmental Assessment

Comment Sheet

Name: Beata Yormark
Address: 16 Vandenberg Dr
Affiliation: Resident
Email/Phone: beata.marc @ gmail.com

Comment:

I would like to oppose the construction of a VA cemetery at Milhbank & Freeman in South Barrington. Our kids don't need to hear funeral rifles saluted. Furthermore, we believe there are many more sites that are more suitable.

This property is zoned residential!

Thanks
Beata Yormark
Responses to Comments from Beata Yormark

1. Comment noted.
2. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation, which would not affect children (see table below).

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During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences. The VA does not anticipate the noise from children playing would have an adverse impact on families coming to pay their respects.

**Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses, north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’**

3. The Federal government is not required to seek property rezoning
From: Ni Zeng [mailto:ni_zeng@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 10:23 AM
To: Schattel, Jill <Jill.Schattel@va.gov>; Marinucci, Marianne (CFM) <Marianna.Marinucci@va.gov>
Cc: Paula <pmccombie@southbarrington.org>; No z <ni_zeng@yahoo.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The proposed Columbarium Cemetery by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Dear Ms Marinucci and Ms. Schattel,

This is Ni Zeng, resident of 83 East Mundhank Road, South Barrington, IL. Both my husband and I were not able attending the public meeting on Nov. 8th due to travel, and I’d like to take this opportunity and raise our concerns and objection to the proposal.

We moved in to this prestigious village because of its peaceful and quiet neighborhood, as well as reduced level of traffic. The Columbarium Cemetery will destroy our serenity. With my heart condition, firing 3-5 times per day would elevate my blood pressure. Based on my cultural upbringing, living next to a cemetery brings bad omens. We feel as if the Department of VA is forcing us to move out, and we would thus ask the Department of VA to purchase our property, based on bank’s and tax bureau’s evaluation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to your response.

I am copying Paula, the mayor of South Barrington, for keeping her in the loop. Regards,

Ni Zeng
83 East Mundhank Road, South Barrington, IL 60010
Responses to Comments from Ni Zeng

1. NCA utilized a noise assessment study produced by the Department of Defense. The analysis has been included in the EA.

A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. This audible sound level compares with similar common noise levels of the following items.

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3. Purchasing additional property is not part of the proposed action.
Dear Neighbors, Friends, and Fellow Citizens

On November 8, 2018 our neighborhood of South Barrington Homesteads located in South Barrington, it was abruptly notified at a meeting being held by the Department of Veterans Affairs in regards to a parcel of land, 15 acres with two floodplains, adjacent to the East side of our subdivision and street being acquired for the purpose of a Veteran Columbarium—a storage facility for the cremated remains of up to 50,000 Veterans. The proposed VA project would also involve daily rifle volleys being performed 3-5 times a day on weekdays from 10 am to 3 pm and daily, weekday funeral services with processions with up to forty five cars at the projected site. The rifle volleys would consist of 3-7 rifles being shot at 175 decibels each, less than 90 feet from some of our homes. The distance required for the average bystander for one rifle being discharged without permanent damage to their ears is only 50 feet. The Cook County Forest Preserve is 24 feet away from the parcel and is home to several hundreds of species as a nesting ground and is a significant space for migrating species as well as two threatened species. The parcel of land sits on two, two lane roads which are constrained by the methane ports from the landfill across the street and the Cook County Forest preserve on the other (East side) so that they are not able to be expanded. The parcel is zoned for residential homes and has been for several decades. The Village requires 160 acres for a cemetery but the VA wrongly states they are compliant with the zoning. The VA has disregarded Village Codes and Zone regulations using Federal authority and has given us until November 26, 2018 to voice our grievances. The Columbarium itself will consist of up to 50,000 storage lockers in which two sets of remains will be inside each locker with a small memorial for the Veterans located somewhere on the property. Therefore, it will not be a special place to commemorate the service of the Veterans but simply a storage facility for their remains that the families will be aware of. The survey conducted by the VA and presented on November 8, 2018 was full of inaccuracies and untruths that were not explained when we raised our concerns. Please help us facilitate an open and honest discussion with the Department of Veterans Affairs by signing this petition. We, as a community, would like to request that the Department of Veterans Affairs acknowledge their misconstrued facts within the survey and acknowledge that had it been done accurately, they would have been made aware of how inappropriate this parcel is for the Veterans, their families as well as the surrounding residents and wildlife. Our hope is that the Department of Veterans Affairs will be willing to work with the South Barrington Mayor and Trustees in identifying a suitable location for the proposed project.

Thank you for your concern and support.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jaclyn Krenkowi</td>
<td>10481 Sterling Ave</td>
<td>708-738-2924</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jkrenkowi4@gmail.com">jkrenkowi4@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Rivera</td>
<td>2338 N Laclede Blvd</td>
<td>773-714-7491</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jerriec123@gmail.com">jerriec123@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Small</td>
<td>247 N Winnetoy</td>
<td>815-343-3642</td>
<td>hannah <a href="mailto:smallest@gmail.com">smallest@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Beck</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Katie8889@gmail.com">Katie8889@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann-Marie</td>
<td>300 Wicker</td>
<td>817-751-6652</td>
<td><a href="mailto:weronika66@gmail.com">weronika66@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briley Kellison</td>
<td>357 W Buckingham Blvd</td>
<td>618-334-3565</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brileyK@gmail.com">brileyK@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Reid</td>
<td>532 W Racine Ave</td>
<td>650-873-7848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rachr195@gmail.com">rachr195@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Loyd</td>
<td>1311 N State Ave</td>
<td>740-799-5089</td>
<td><a href="mailto:natetty@gmail.com">natetty@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Racquel Herbold</td>
<td>2241 N Racine Ave</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:racquelh@gmail.com">racquelh@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Major</td>
<td>3018 W VanNort</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jhnmajr66@gmail.com">jhnmajr66@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Treseder</td>
<td>1000 S Clarke</td>
<td>630-261-2270</td>
<td><a href="mailto:erictreseder@gmail.com">erictreseder@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Meyo</td>
<td>169 Forest Ave</td>
<td>630-530-2987</td>
<td><a href="mailto:demeyo7@gmail.com">demeyo7@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Lonk</td>
<td>2230 N Orchard Ave</td>
<td>630-875-3586</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kloenk93@gmail.com">kloenk93@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Price</td>
<td>8441 N Cleveland Ave</td>
<td>773-514-5473</td>
<td><a href="mailto:samprice68@bogobird.com">samprice68@bogobird.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael McDermott</td>
<td>6148 N Laketown</td>
<td>773-577-6924</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michaelmcdermott55@gmail.com">michaelmcdermott55@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Rodarte</td>
<td>1497 Remora Rd</td>
<td>312-758-0248</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nancyrodarte23@gmail.com">nancyrodarte23@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benita Powell</td>
<td>3906 Tower Dr</td>
<td>312-642-8073</td>
<td><a href="mailto:benitapowell219@gmail.com">benitapowell219@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Decolone</td>
<td>343 N Burtongr</td>
<td>847-380-0483</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emilydec4@gmail.com">emilydec4@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura M. Kurtz</td>
<td>360 S Norfolk</td>
<td>630-631-2352</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lozerr984@gmail.com">lozerr984@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Florek</td>
<td>2455 W Georgina</td>
<td>708-426-7061</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maxfroeb@gmail.com">maxfroeb@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Schnab</td>
<td>2312 N Orchard Ave</td>
<td>859-609-5602</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jschnab1@gmail.com">jschnab1@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cormac Hershkow</td>
<td>4856 N Hazel</td>
<td>708-265-2791</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cormac_hershkow@gmail.com">cormac_hershkow@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branden Schmidt</td>
<td>470 Sterling Ave</td>
<td>650-770-5055</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brandenschmidt9@gmail.com">brandenschmidt9@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gavin Town</td>
<td>234 N Lincoln</td>
<td>843-243-6179</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gavintown56@gmail.com">gavintown56@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Bobby Cyle</td>
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<td>630-200-2773</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracey Hall</td>
<td>924 W. Ardale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaitlin Schuch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Knipke</td>
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<td>217-417-9959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gna Malonis</td>
<td>1521 N Orchard</td>
<td>815-314-9765</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gnamalonas@gmail.com">gnamalonas@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Golden</td>
<td>707 S Mer. 2</td>
<td>847-986-3709</td>
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<td>Kevin Knipke</td>
<td>1712 Magnolia Dr.</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:kknipke@gmail.com">kknipke@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Chris Knipke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Peth</td>
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<td>Nick Olson</td>
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<td>312-443-7890</td>
<td>nick <a href="mailto:Olson@olson.com">Olson@olson.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Pennington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Johnson</td>
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<td>Sarah Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Corman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nick Olson</td>
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<td>Holloway</td>
<td>123 456-7890</td>
<td>718-123-4567</td>
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<td>Sebastian Suhonen</td>
<td>260 Pleasant St, Hoffman PTF</td>
<td>773 755-9906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edna Chanan</td>
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<td>Maria Dymon</td>
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<td>David Longo</td>
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<td>Letaeta Foua</td>
<td>283 N. Lombard St, Hoffman PTF</td>
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<td>Kinalene Cornheiser</td>
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<td>Emily Marin</td>
<td>380 Arlinc Lane, Lombard</td>
<td>773 750-3341</td>
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<td>Evar Kellum</td>
<td>1409 N. Division, Arlington</td>
<td>847 632-1318</td>
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<td>Tricia Steele</td>
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<td>1A Makrak Dr</td>
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<td>Keni Stoeckler</td>
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<td>Jennifer Ziebarth</td>
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<td>Tina Breidenbach</td>
<td>3835 Whispering Pine</td>
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<td>John MacNeil</td>
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<td>Robert Adams</td>
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<td>Kyle Block</td>
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<td>Sean Melchior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Nyquist</td>
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<td>Krystal Ede</td>
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<td>630-732-3875</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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### Columbarium Cemetery Project Petition

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<tr>
<td>Pat Suddik</td>
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<td>Rosa Martinez</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Alvarez</td>
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<td>Jairmin Ramirez</td>
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<td>Daisy Granam</td>
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<td>Zina Gauvin</td>
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<td>1426 E. Calais St, Shreveport, LA</td>
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<td>Chey Abol</td>
<td>2201 S. Scott, Shreveport, LA</td>
<td>719-886-3962</td>
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<td>Eddie Dinkels</td>
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<td>Darlene Alpera</td>
<td>1450 W. O'Kane Dr, Shreveport, LA</td>
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<td>Becky Klaman</td>
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<td>Rahul Parikh</td>
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<td>Dana Premdy</td>
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<td>773-666-5194</td>
<td>773-666-5194</td>
<td><a href="mailto:terry.rakov@bellsouth.net">terry.rakov@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEODORA RAKOV</td>
<td>773-666-5194</td>
<td>773-666-5194</td>
<td><a href="mailto:theodora.rakov@bellsouth.net">theodora.rakov@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUDITH SARDOFF</td>
<td>26 W. MUNDBANK RD</td>
<td>847-366-2688</td>
<td><a href="mailto:judy.sadoff@gmail.com">judy.sadoff@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cemetary Cemetery Project Petition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Johnson</td>
<td>23 Sunset Ln</td>
<td>555-555-5555</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnson@email.com">johnson@email.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikander &amp; Gulzar</td>
<td>3 Red Hill Ln</td>
<td>917-765-1405</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sikander@comcast.net">Sikander@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumit &amp; Lakshmi</td>
<td>7 Red Hill Ln</td>
<td>224-463-2428</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sumit_lakshmi@yahoo.com">sumit_lakshmi@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil &amp; Steve</td>
<td>123 Park Ave</td>
<td>312-555-1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:phil_steve@email.com">phil_steve@email.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dick &amp; Mary</td>
<td>456 Oak St</td>
<td>773-456-7890</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dick_mary@email.com">dick_mary@email.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gino &amp; Carol</td>
<td>567 Hill Rd</td>
<td>204-555-6789</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gino_carol@email.com">gino_carol@email.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe &amp; Louise</td>
<td>123 Lake Dr</td>
<td>305-456-7890</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joe_louise@email.com">joe_louise@email.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Zemmel</td>
<td>3701N Forthord</td>
<td>773-318-5053</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Zemmel</td>
<td>4551 N Argyle</td>
<td>110-886-9112</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan Basergy</td>
<td>8841 W Argyle</td>
<td>1708-203-8158</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annette Zemmel</td>
<td>2601 East Lane</td>
<td>746-715-7136</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Conner</td>
<td>2601 East Lane</td>
<td>312-677-2333</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Columbarium Cemetery Project Petition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAGDALENA</td>
<td>3, Mountain St</td>
<td>847-414-3157</td>
<td><a href="mailto:magd@magd.com">magd@magd.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Parkview</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ALMA</td>
<td>7, Haven St</td>
<td>847-256-1577</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alma@alma.com">alma@alma.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>West Alton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Vivian</td>
<td>3, Mountain St</td>
<td>847-812-1484</td>
<td><a href="mailto:annavivian@att.net">annavivian@att.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Court Bannock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pamela</td>
<td>4977 B North Ave,</td>
<td>773-771-7030</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pamelabannock@gmail.com">pamelabannock@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>773-737-2430</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Umieli</td>
<td>478 N. Oak Lane,</td>
<td>773-736-3133</td>
<td><a href="mailto:umieli@gmail.com">umieli@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>547-416-2387</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>2820 Glenview Ave,</td>
<td>(708)226-6684</td>
<td><a href="mailto:unesco@unesco.com">unesco@unesco.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Niles, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELIZABETH</td>
<td>2205 N. Farnam St,</td>
<td>773-383-0073</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elizab@gmail.com">elizab@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>847-812-0073</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANDREJ</td>
<td>132 S. Bannock</td>
<td>708-369-4007</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andrej@andrej.com">andrej@andrej.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mt. Prospect</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Inful</td>
<td>132 S. Boult St</td>
<td>708-369-4841</td>
<td><a href="mailto:annainful@boult.com">annainful@boult.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Diane</td>
<td>3700 W. Isabell St</td>
<td>773-724-5246</td>
<td><a href="mailto:diane@diane.com">diane@diane.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>PARDA, BARBARA</td>
<td>217 AVE. Ln.</td>
<td>630/702-6212</td>
<td><a href="mailto:akem@pl.net">akem@pl.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Responses to Comments from Columbarium Cemetery Project Petition

1. The VA published a Notice of Availability in the Daily Herald which ran on October 26, 27, and 28, 2018. This Notice of Availability announced the date and time of the public meeting.

2. A Department of Defense noise study indicates that the Honor Guard rifle volleys result in an audible sound level of 54-61 decibels at a distance of 450 feet. For comparison and reference, 54-61 decibels compare with similar common noise levels of moderate rainfall and normal conversation (see table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEMS</th>
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<td>Busy road traffic</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacuum cleaner</td>
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<td>Normal conversation</td>
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<td>Moderate rainfall</td>
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</table>

Distances from the potential committal shelter location where the Honor Guard rifle volleys would occur to nearest residential houses, north to south respectively is 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’ as depicted in attached graphic.

During the cemetery design process, VA would further reduce the Honor Guard rifle volley sound levels with sound fencing or walls located on the western side of the committal shelter area, to direct the Honor Guard rifle volleys eastward and away from residences.

**Distances from potential committal shelter location to residential houses,**  
**north to south respectively 722’, 547’, 458’, 454’ and 636’**

3. Impacts to wildlife are located in Chapter 3 of the EA. As stated in the EA, the project area does not contain suitable habitat for endangered species.

4. Comment noted.

5. The Federal government is not required to seek property rezoning.
6. **Comment noted.** The function of a Columbarium cemetery is to provide above-grade walls designed for the inurnment of the cremated remains of a veteran and eligible dependents.

7. The VA has reviewed the comments on the Environmental Assessment and will revise and update accordingly. VA understands that this potential land acquisition and project has raised some concerns within the neighborhood and community. VA understands and respects the concerns of the community and is responding to those concerns with this Revised Draft EA.