August 31, 2015

Pembroke Highway Department
Attn: Director
1145 Main Road
Corfu, New York, 14036

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently informed your organization that the VA is in the process of preparing a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the proposed construction and operation of the new Western New York National Cemetery at 1232 Indian Falls Road, Genesee County, New York. The VA selected this location as the most suitable in the western New York region as part of the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA), which was completed on May 9, 2014. The proposed new Western New York National Cemetery will increase burial opportunities available to Veterans as an earned benefit in honor of their service to our country.

In the letter previously sent to your organization, the VA indicated that your organization would be contacted again with details confirming the date and time of the VA’s upcoming public scoping meeting for this project. Accordingly, you are receiving this letter to inform you of the public scoping meeting date and time—and as an invitation to attend the meeting. This upcoming public scoping meeting allows the general public and stakeholders to learn more about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and SEA process and the methods employed to assess potential environmental impacts associated with this proposed project.

The public scoping meeting will be held from 6-8 PM on September 8, 2015, at the American Legion Post 900, 9 Eckerson Ave., Akron, NY. In addition to this letter your organization has received, the VA has prepared and published a meeting announcement in the Buffalo News on August 15 and 16, 2015. A copy of this announcement is enclosed below for your information.

The VA will consider comments received during the public scoping meeting in the development of the VA’s Draft SEA for this project. Additionally, the VA will also consider comments that your organization may have provided in response to our previous letter.

The VA welcomes your attendance at this public scoping meeting. If your organization is unable to attend, you are still welcome to provide comments on the project. Additionally, the VA will send a letter to your organization when the Draft SEA is published and available for review during a 30-day public comment period. Comments or a request for additional information can be addressed to Mr. Glenn Elliott, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Construction & Facilities Management, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email to glenn.elliott@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5879.

Sincerely,

Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

Enclosure:

1. Notice of Availability for Public Scoping Meeting
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
FOR THE
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK NATIONAL CEMETERY
INDIAN FALLS ROAD, PEMBROKE, GENESEE COUNTY, NEW YORK
DRAFT SITE-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hereby gives a Notice of Availability for a Public Scoping Meeting for the proposed construction and operation of the new Western New York National Cemetery, Indian Falls Road, Pembroke, Genesee County, New York. The Public Scoping Meeting will be held from 6-8 PM on September 8, 2015, at the American Legion Post 900, 9 Eckerson Ave., Akron, NY. Public comments received during the scoping meeting will be considered in the VA’s Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with this Proposed Action. The VA is preparing the Draft SEA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and VA’s Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

During the public scoping meeting, the VA will describe the NEPA process and the methodology used to assess potential environmental impacts associated with the preliminary plans for constructing and operating the proposed new Western New York National Cemetery. Following the public scoping meeting and consideration of comments, the VA intends to publish the Draft SEA along with a Notice of Availability informing the public of the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft SEA during a 30-day public comment period. Any substantive comments received will be addressed in the Final SEA. After the conclusion of a thirty days public comment period, the VA intends to issue a FONSI.

If you are unable to attend the public scoping meeting but would like to learn more about the Proposed Action, please send inquiries to Mr. Glenn Elliott, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Construction & Facilities Management, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a, Washington, D.C., 20001, or send via email to glenn.elliott@va.gov, or by telephone at (202) 632-5879.
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<th>Attention</th>
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<th>City/State/Zip</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pembroke Highway Department</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>1145 Main Road</td>
<td>Corfu, NY 14036</td>
<td>(585) 599-4892 Ext. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pembroke Parks Department</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>1145 Main Road</td>
<td>Corfu, NY 14036</td>
<td>(585) 599-4892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pembroke Zoning and Codes Department</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>1145 Main Road</td>
<td>Corfu, NY 14036</td>
<td>(585) 599-4892 Ext. 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genesee County Highway Department</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>153 Cedar Street</td>
<td>Batavia, NY 14020</td>
<td>(585) 344-8508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesee County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>153 Cedar Street</td>
<td>Batavia, NY 14020</td>
<td>(585) 344-8508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>26 Liberty Street, Suite 3</td>
<td>Batavia, NY 14020</td>
<td>(585) 343-2362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - New York Field Office</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>3817 Luker Road</td>
<td>Cortland, NY 13045</td>
<td>(607) 753-9334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesee County Public Health Department</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>3837 West Main St.</td>
<td>Batavia, NY 14020</td>
<td>(585) 344-2580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 8</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>6274 East Avon-Lima Road</td>
<td>Avon, NY 14414-9519</td>
<td>(585) 226-2466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca-Cayuga Nation</td>
<td>Attn: Chief LeRoy Howard</td>
<td>23701 South 655 Road</td>
<td>Grove, OK 74344</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seneca Nation of Indians</td>
<td>Attn: Chief Lana Watt, THPO</td>
<td>90 Ohi: Yo' Way</td>
<td>Salamancan, NY 14779</td>
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<tr>
<td>Onondaga Nation of New York</td>
<td>Attn: Mr. Anthony Gonyea</td>
<td>RR 1, Box 319-B</td>
<td>Nedrow, NY 13120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca Nation of New York</td>
<td>Attn: Mr. Barry E. Snyder Sr.</td>
<td>1490 Rte. 438</td>
<td>Irving, NY 14081</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin</td>
<td>Attn: Mr. Ed Delgado</td>
<td>PO Box 365</td>
<td>Oneida, WI 54155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuscarora Nation of New York</td>
<td>Attn: Mr. Leo R. Henry</td>
<td>2006 Mt. Hope Road</td>
<td>Lewiston, NY 14092</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians of New York</td>
<td>Attn: Mr. Lorain Thompson</td>
<td>412 State Route 37</td>
<td>Akwesasne, NY 13655</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shinnecock Indian Nation</td>
<td>Attn: Mr. Randy King</td>
<td>P.O. Box 5506</td>
<td>Southampton, NY 11969-0751</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians of New York</td>
<td>Attn: Mr. Roger Hill</td>
<td>7027 Meadowville Road</td>
<td>Basom, NY 14013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oneida Nation of New York</td>
<td>Attn: Mr. Tony Wonderley</td>
<td>223 Genesee Street</td>
<td>Oneida, NY 13421</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genesee County Department of Planning</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>County Building 2, 3837 West Main Street</td>
<td>Batavia, NY 14020</td>
<td>(585) 344-2580 Ext. 5467</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York State Department of Transportation, Genesee Valley Region</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>1530 Jefferson Road</td>
<td>Rochester, NY 14623</td>
<td>(585) 273-3310</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York State Historic Preservation Office</td>
<td>Attn: Director</td>
<td>Peebles Island State Park, P.O. Box 189</td>
<td>Waterford, NY 12188-0189</td>
<td>(585) 237-8643</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Army Corps of Engineers - Buffalo District</td>
<td>Attn: Public Affairs Office</td>
<td>1776 Niagara Street</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14207</td>
<td>(716) 879-4410</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2</td>
<td>Attn: Western New York Public Information Office</td>
<td>186 Exchange Street</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14204</td>
<td>(716) 251-4575</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cayuga Nation of New York</td>
<td>Attn: Mr. Clint Haftown</td>
<td>2540 State Route B9, P.O. Box 803</td>
<td>Seneca Falls, NY 13148</td>
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September 2, 2015

Current Resident
1322 Indian Falls Road
Corfu, New York 14036

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is in the process of preparing a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the proposed construction and operation of the new Western New York National Cemetery at 1232 Indian Falls Road, Genesee County, New York. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the VA completed a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) on May 9, 2014, and concluded that this location is the most suitable in the western New York region. The proposed new Western New York National Cemetery will increase burial opportunities available to Veterans as an earned benefit in honor of their service to our country.

As part of the NEPA process, the VA will be holding an informational public scoping meeting for the general public and stakeholders about NEPA, the SEA process, and the methods used to assess potential environmental impacts associated with this proposed construction and operation of the new Western New York National Cemetery. The informational public scoping meeting will be held from 6-8 PM on September 8, 2015, at the American Legion Post 900, 9 Eckerson Ave., Akron, NY. In addition to this letter, sent to abutters of the project property, the VA published a meeting announcement in the Buffalo News on August 15 and 16, 2015.

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Sincerely,

Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
<table>
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Date: 08/25/15
Account #: 563803
Company Name: Mabbett & Associates, Inc.
Contact: Andrew Glucksman
Address: 10 Dorrance Street Suite 700
Providence, RI 02903
Telephone: (401) 519-3825
Fax:

Ad ID: 1158328
Run Dates: 08/15/15 to 08/16/15
OC_Flag3: N
# of Inserts: 3.09
Columns wide: 1
Total # of Lines: 102
Total Cost: $1,830.86
Ad Class: 758
Account Rep: Marcy Lombardo
Phone #: (716) 849-5535
Email: mlombardo@buffnews.com

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Gross: $1,830.86
Paid Amount: - $2,681.16
Amount Due: ($850.30)

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Site-Specific Environmental Assessment for the Construction and Operation of the Western New York National Cemetery
September 8, 2015
6:00-8:00 PM
American Legion Post 900
9 Eckerson Avenue, Akron, NY

Minutes of public questions and comments held before Lindsay N. Robel, Notary Public, at 9 Eckerson Avenue, Akron, New York, on September 8th, 2015 starting at 6:05 a.m. and ending at 6:44 p.m., pursuant to notice.
APPEARANCES:

Andrew Glucksman
Glenn Elliott
Mark Tillotson
Bill Trembath
Kelley Peterman
Joe Sporko
David Henry
Leo Hedrg
Andrew Lucyszyn
Adam Kubiak
Jerry Sinta
Andrea Cohen
Dr. Patrick Welch
Harris H. Bartz
Felipe Oltramari
Duane Schmigel
William R. Joyce
John Worth
James Wehner
Debbie Conti
Chris Zeltrmann
David A. Miller
Annie Lavern

(Spellings based off sign-in sheet)
MR. ELLIOTT: Questions and comments, now is the time.

Yes, sir? If you can state your name when you ask a question. After a few questions, that's okay. We have a court stenographer, that way if we record anything, that way I don't miss anything in my notes. Just state your name. My apologies.

DR. WELCH: Patrick Welch, Vietnam Veterans of America. The one slide you indicated 10 years of burials, I believe you used the word. Is that just for 132 acres or would that include the additional 60 and 77?

MR. ELLIOTT: The phase may be 10 years. It's based on burial rate. That -- that area is contained within the 132. There's only approximately eight, eight and a half acres of development on that 60 acres right now in one of the designs, and that's associated with just the driveway. Everything else is contained on 132.

DR. WELCH: Okay. And then just to make certain, spouses can be buried with us,
correct?

MR. ELLIOTT: Yes.

DR. WELCH: Okay.

MR. ELLIOTT: When it comes into the actual burial benefits aspect of it, of VA, I always defer to a VA benefits person, but the spouse of an honorably discharged person is eligible.

MR. TILLOTSON: Glenn mentioned, there will be a meeting probably in October or November for veterans talking about the cemetery itself and to answer specific burial question. We usually have a cemetery director here, member of NCA will be here, and a lot of times it's me. So we like to do it after this phase. So sometimes it's the NEPA and the veterans program are back-to-back. Sometimes it's different facilities. We like to get it after so we're far enough into the site so we can really talk about it with some purpose, and we'll be scheduling that.

MR. ELLIOTT: Thank you.

Sir?
MR. PACKY (phonetic): Yes. My name is Philip Packy (phonetic). I'm a resident of Indian Falls. Has there been a traffic study done?

MR. ELLIOTT: There is a traffic study underway. We've actually met with DOT as well.

MR. PACKY: And how many visitors do you expect to visit the cemetery during a year's course?

MR. ELLIOTT: Joe, do you know what the average are? I know that's early.

MR. SPORKO: Well, there's several different types of visitors. There are the -- I'm Joe Sporko by the way. I'm the designer. We have the actual services. Some people, they'll come with the committal services, and I would think that would be in the range of maybe five a day, something like that.

MR. ELLIOTT: 5 to 15 ceremonies per day.

MR. SPORKO: And then as veterans become interred there, we start getting visitors
coming on a regular basis. That builds, you
know, as the cemetery progresses, you have
more and more visitors coming, so...

MR. TACKY: But do you have an estimate
number --

MR. SPORKO: We don't have any number.

MR. TACKY: -- of how many people usually
visit these cemeteries?

MR. SPORKO: It's hard to say. We don't
really have a number. I think, in our traffic
study, I think we do put in some sort of
estimate, but it's really going to be based on
as the cemetery proceeds and gets built.

MR. TACKY: See, my main concern is I
live in the area, and traffic from the Thruway
going down Alleghany Road towards Medina,
that's a very heavy traffic highway. And
where you have Indian Falls coming into
Alleghany Road, then there's Gabbey Road,
there's been a great number of accidents in
that area recently.

So I'm just curious to see if they plan on
putting the traffic signals in that corner or
who's going to be responsible for mostly
patrolling the flow of traffic.

MR. SPORKO: Yeah, those kind of issues,
as Glenn mentioned, are going to be under
review as the traffic study gets completed and
the discussions occur with the DOT and the
county officials.

MR. PACKY: Okay. And the main entrance
for the cemetery would be off Indian Falls
Road?

MR. SPORKO: Correct.

MR. PACKY: Nothing off Alleghany Road
then, right?

MR. TILLOTSON: That's the preferred
alternative.

MR. PACKY: Yeah, yeah, because like I
said, Alleghany, that speed limit through
there is 55, you know, people come through
there 60 and that. That's my concern is the
traffic and the safety.

MR. TILLOTSON: That is both in DOT and
NCA preferences to put it on Alleghany Road,
and that's where we are in the design right
now, so...

MR. PACKY: And there will be a report on their findings and what they plan to do for the traffic, per say traffic lights, and the controlling the traffic then, right?

MR. ELLIOTT: Yes.

MR. PACKY: Okay.

MR. ELLIOTT: What will happen as the traffic study gets done, some of that information will be rolled into that EA document, that SEA that I said. So that information will be in there. And again, if your name is on there, if you want to make a comment on there and like to be kept up to date on that, and as that gets developed I can get you the exact numbers.

And again, this is the scoping phase. We'll putting all this information together. All these reports are being done. So as that comes in, if you're interested in it, I can get it to you.

MR. PACKY: Okay. Thanks.

MR. ELLIOTT: Yup.
Sir?

MR. KUBIAK: Adam Kubiak, VBA 77. I'm looking at that map, and it's approximately 50 percent water.

MR. ELLIOTT: Yes, sir.

MR. KUBIAK: Out of 132 acres?

MR. ELLIOTT: Yes, sir.

MR. KUBIAK: What's going to happen over there?

MR. ELLIOTT: All right. Let's get there.

MR. KUBIAK: I don't want to be down with the straw going up.

MR. ELLIOTT: Were you in the Navy, sir?

MR. KUBIAK: No, sir.

MR. ELLIOTT: Okay. Let's get to that. Okay. I apologize if it's a little difficult to see. What we're looking at is burial spaces in these areas -- actually, we'll go to the master plan.

See these areas; these are the burial spaces that we're looking at. Okay? These areas, there is some activity in. What we've
kept is these areas as just roadway. That's why we're meeting actually with the Corps tomorrow is, is to discuss replacing a roadway and doing some minor interactions within the wetlands. Any burial space, though, has been kept out of the wetlands. That's a no-no. That's not something we want to get involved in. It's just not the right place.

Roadways, utilities, those types of things, those are impacts that we can work with. And as you can see, most of the burial capacity will be happening up here (indicating).

MR. KUBIAK: And second question, when will the first burial or, you know, when will be the first burial, you know, what year?

MR. ELLIOTT: Yeah.

MR. KUBIAK: When does the first one of us get the dirt?

MR. ELLIOTT: Because of Navy guys example, I want to be (inaudible) plank owner. With that, it's based on a couple things. Congressional budgets, when it's been skipped
in. We're in the design phase, once it gets to construction. Mark might be able to elaborate a little better on that.

MR. TILLOTSON: We need two things. We need a full design. We're in the design process now, and that should take about another year, and then the Congressional funding. Cemeteries have been authorized, but they have to be appropriated. And right now this is scheduled for FY17 budget. If it's appropriated in '17, we'll start correction in FY17.

It takes about a year for -- to do the imprints and the infrastructure required for what we call a dirt and early turnover redaction, the cohesiveness of the cemetery for burials while we're still building the rest of it. It's about a two and a half to three-year full construction period. We want to open that within about 14 months before first burial.

So it'll be -- so once we get funding in FY17, the design will be done, and then we'll
go out with a solicitation to bring in a
general contractor to build it. And once we
start construction, it'll be 14 months.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So we're looking
at 2018?

MR. TILLOTSON: Probably.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: '18, '19.

MR. TILLOTSON: '18, '19.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Man, it's cutting
it close. That's cutting it close.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You gotta hold
on.

MR. ELLIOTT: Sir?

Hi. I'm with Senator Chuck Schumer's
office. Chris Zeltmann. I apologize for
getting here a little bit late. I had some
car issues. I was not doing 55 down Alleghany
Road, I can tell you that, but pleased to be
here. Thanks so much.

MR. ELLIOTT: Thank you for coming, sir.

Anybody else?

Well, I appreciate every one of you for
your service and I appreciate you for coming
tonight. Thank you.

MR. TILLOTSON: We'll be around for a while. If you have questions up there, we'll have people posted up there to give answers to specific questions as well.

MR. HENRY: Sir, I have got one question.

MR. ELLIOTT: Sure.

MR. HENRY: It was asked a little bit earlier. Dave Henry, the Eighth District Commander. I'm for all of Western New York. It said up there it was Pembroke. It's actually, I understand it, Corfu, but it's the Town of Pembroke. So --

MR. ELLIOTT: Yes. It's interesting, when they did the acquisition, they said Pembroke, called by work it's Corfu. So I've been going back and forth. I stuck with the original acquisition being Pembroke, stuck with that. But it's actually -- is it a borough or is it a town?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A town.

MR. ELLIOTT: Okay.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because my mailing address is Corfu. Right, the 14036 Zip code.

MR. HENRY: And the other question really, the military personnel had, was the name, if you will. I know we've gone around. When Mr. Schumer was here, we talked to him about it. They would like to keep the name within the town of the vicinity, shouldn't be a personal name. This is from the people I saw, so...

MR. TILLOTSON: When we come out with the veterans group, the gentleman that I'm bringing is Glenn Bateran (phonetic), and he is responsible for the name. And what he will do is he'll contact veterans and he'll take -- he'll lay out the criteria. It can't be named after an individual. It needs to be something that is regional so that when people hear the name.

Glenn mentioned the new Cape Canaveral Cemetery that we're building in Florida. Actually, Scottsmoor. It's between Daytona
and Cocoa Beach. The actual tail end is Scottsmoor, but we named it Cape Canaveral because it's right out of Cape Canaveral. If you think of a space center, so you immediately get a place.

So he will -- he'll come out with the name and guidance and he'll start the process and we collect names from everybody. The actual individual that -- that names the cemetery is the secretary, but he takes input from everybody and they boil it down. He gets a recommendation and he'll actually pick the name. But we do come out to the local veteran groups, we do want to know.

MR. KUBIAK: Yeah, that was a big discussion before, so...

MR. TILLOTSON: Yeah.

MR. ELLIOTT: Sir?

MR. JOYCE: I just have a quick -- I'm William Joyce, a Genesee County Veterans Service Office. You had Buffalo and Rochester veterans. Are they -- say, down in Catt County or Chautauqua County, if they have a
veteran that would like to be buried up here, no limitations for that?

    MR. ELLIOTT: That's correct.

    MR. TILLOTSON: If you're a veteran, you can be buried. I'm living in Washington, D.C., I'm going to be buried in Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

    MR. HENRY: Right. Okay.

    MR. TILLOTSON: You can pick any of them that you want to. What they do is when they -- the way they pick them, though, as Glenn mentioned, the 80,000 veterans, and when they had the nucleus of that, then they draw a point on the map; they go out 70 miles, and they're looking at where within that 70 miles is a good place to locate it.

    We're interested in serving the most veterans we can and minimizing the amount of driving that everybody has to do. That's always our goal, but anybody can.

    THE WITNESS: Okay.

    MR. TILLOTSON: That's the general population that we were looking at.
MR. ELLIOTT: Anybody else?

Again, we'll be around if you have any questions, kick on the lights, see the maps. Thank you very much. Thank you, gentlemen.

(Meeting concluded at 6:44 p.m.)

* * * * *

Upon conclusion of the meeting, the following written statement was submitted to be attached to the record:

We welcome the National Cemetery to the Town of Pembroke. I am hopeful that a traffic study will be completed so - so the intersection of Rt 77 and Indian Falls Road will be improved, due to the numerous accidents that have occurred at that intersection.

With the opening of the National Cemetery that area of road will have drivers that are unfamiliar with the highway and older drivers.

Thank you for your attention -

Annie M. Lawrence,

Pembroke Town Supervisor
CERTIFICATION

I, Lindsay N. Robel, Notary Public, in and for the State of New York, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription of the proceedings reported stenographically by me in the matter herein at the time and place as set forth in the caption hereof.

_____________________________
Lindsay N. Robel
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**Comment:**

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