



Department of Veterans Affairs

**Office of Construction and Facilities
Management**

**425 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20001**

Media Advisory

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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July 25, 2016

Puerto Rico National Cemetery Public Meeting

What: A public meeting to solicit comments and inform Veterans and other interested citizens about plans for a replacement VA national cemetery to be constructed in Morovis, Puerto Rico.

Who: Introduction by Juan Nieves, Puerto Rico National Cemetery Director, Presentation by Glenn Madderom, Department of Veterans Affairs Cemetery Development and Improvement Service, and Bryan Bodner, Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Construction and Facilities Management.

When: July 28, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Where: VA Caribbean Healthcare System
New Administration Building Room 1M 102 (A&B)
10 Casia Street
San Juan, PR 00921

Contact: Glenn Madderom, Cemetery Development and Improvement Service at
(317) 409-1634

Background: VA will hold a public informational meeting on July 28 at the VA Caribbean Healthcare System at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update on the new cemetery project being planned for Morovis and solicit feedback from the public for consideration during the master plan and design process. The proposed 247 acre parcel will serve the burial needs of more than 109,376 Veterans and eligible dependents in the cemetery's service area for the next 100 years. The initial phase of construction will develop approximately 50 acres and provide for approximately ten years' worth of interments, accommodating both casketed and cremated remains. VA purchased the property along highway PR 137 near Morovis for \$7.6 million in March, 2013. Puerto Rico National Cemetery is currently the only national cemetery in the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, however it is projected to close for casketed first interments in 2021. VA's intent is to have the new cemetery open before that occurs. The other Veterans cemetery is Atlantic Gardens Veterans Cemetery in Aguadilla, approximately 73 miles away.

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