In May 2014, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration purchased 132-acres in Pembroke, New York, for $625,000. The property has access off of Exit 48A from the I-90 thruway and is located in Genesee County.

In February 2018, VA announced the acquisition of two additional parcels of land adjacent to the originally purchased 132-acres for the Western New York National Cemetery in Pembroke, New York.

The additional parcels, 60-acres and 77-acres, are to ensure the safety and efficiency of funeral processions and traffic.

The new national cemetery will serve the burial needs of more than 96,000 Veterans for the next 70 years and will be the seventh VA national cemetery in the state of New York.

There are five open VA national cemeteries in New York: Bath (Bath); Woodlawn (Elmira); Gerald B. Solomon Saratoga (Schuylerville); Calverton (Calverton); and Long Island (Farmingdale). Cypress Hills National Cemetery (Brooklyn) is closed to new interments. There are no state Veterans cemeteries.

The initial construction is split into two phases, and will develop approximately 70 acres and provide for approximately 10 years of interment capacity, accommodating burial of both casketed and cremated remains. The cemetery will include a front entrance, an administration building, a maintenance building, a flagpole assembly area, a memorial walkway, committal shelters, columbarium, and a public information center with an electronic gravesite locator, and restrooms.

VA awarded a construction contract for the first phase of initial construction in August 2019 to Global Urban Enterprise located in Ontario, New York. Construction began in September 2019. The first phase of initial construction should be completed in 2021 and phase 2 should be completed in 2024.

First burials are expected to occur in late 2020.

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