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

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

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

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

VA plans to solicit a construction contract in fall 2017 with an award expected in winter 2018. Construction is expected to begin between the spring and summer of 2018.

While working with an architecture and engineering firm to design the cemetery master plan, it was affirmed there was a need for additional land, adjacent to the previously purchased 132-acre parcel. The additional land will accommodate funeral processions and traffic to the cemetery in a safe and efficient manner. NCA will expedite acquisition of the additional land and move forward with cemetery development as soon as possible.

Once cemetery construction gets underway, VA will hold a public dedication and groundbreaking ceremony. The first burials are expected to begin approximately 12 to 18 months after the start of construction.