



In March, I wrote to the community regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) efforts to establish a national cemetery to serve the Indianapolis area. I promised to explore alternatives to our current site at Crown Hill Cemetery (CHC). I am pleased to update you that the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and Crown Hill Cemetery have agreed to pursue an exchange of the property we bought from them in 2015 for a comparable, adjacent property owned by CHC.

We entered this memorandum of agreement after reviewing other alternative sites proposed by the Laura Hare Trust in their effort to assist us. We thank the Trust for their assistance.

The new site we are examining is located within the existing Crown Hill Cemetery. It has convenient access from 42nd St. and Clarendon Rd. and is closer to downtown Indianapolis than other proposed locations. The potential site is already zoned and ready for cemetery development.

We are also grateful to the Crown Hill Cemetery Board of Directors for offering this previously unavailable property to NCA, thereby continuing a partnership that began in 1863 with the opening of VA's Crown Hill National Cemetery on a small parcel of land in the existing private cemetery. Being able to work directly with CHC allows us to immediately begin legally-required due diligence work to determine whether a land exchange is feasible. If we are able to proceed, we will engage the Butler Tarkington community and other neighbors in a discussion of design and access plans.

We deeply appreciate the feedback, cooperation, and support that have enabled us to uphold our commitment to provide burial access to Veterans and their families, while being responsive to the concerns of local citizens as good neighbors. We have been able to strike this balance in communities nationwide and I believe it will be achieved here in Indianapolis.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission and the Nation's Veterans.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Walters

Interim Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs
National Cemetery Administration