

5K RACE

VETERANS MEMORIAL

Regional National Cemetery Improvement
Corporation
P.O. Box 4221
Fayetteville, AR 72702
<http://RNCIC.com>

To Whom It May Concern:

The Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation (RNCIC) is organizing the fourth annual Veteran's Memorial 5K race on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at the National Cemetery in Fayetteville. The purpose of this 5K race is to raise funds for purchase and clearing of land to expand the Cemetery and, even more importantly, to raise the awareness of the Cemetery and the ongoing threat of closure. We write to ask that you consider sponsoring the event.

The sole mission of the non-profit RNCIC is to secure and clear land adjacent to the Fayetteville National Cemetery to ensure the cemetery can continue to receive veterans for burial. Established immediately after the Civil War, the Fayetteville National Cemetery is an important part of the history of this region and the country. Veterans living in Northwest Arkansas, as well as many veterans from here but now living outside our region, have planned their final resting place here. But that may not be possible in the near future. The Veteran's Administration maintains the Cemetery, but the purchase of new land to expand existing National Cemeteries has not occurred in decades.

When the RNCIC was organized only seven unfilled grave sites remained at Fayetteville National Cemetery and the Cemetery was soon to be permanently closed to new interments. We have kept the Cemetery open, over tripling its size from the original 5 acres, but with the passing of the World War II generation of veterans, the Cemetery will be full in a few years and closed to new burials. Unless, of course, we act now to prevent that. Last year's race was a great success. We raised thousands of dollars, had nearly two hundred runners, and got lots of publicity. We recently bought and cleared a small lot to add to the cemetery, but we had to borrow money to buy this property. Last year's race helped us retire that debt. Now another property adjacent to the cemetery is for sale but we don't yet have the funds to purchase it.

We are grateful for past commitments made by this community to support the National Cemetery expansion. In the fifth year of this annual event, we are happy to give you the opportunity to associate yourself with keeping an important part of this region's and nation's heritage alive and to honor those who guarded us. We hope that you will see your way clear to sponsor this event. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Wesley Stites
Race Organizer

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