

THE NATIONAL CEMETERY  
of  
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

THE REGIONAL  
NATIONAL CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT  
CORPORATION



## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We, the members of the Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation, are seeking contributions from individuals, companies and corporations with which to improve and expand the National Cemetery located in Fayetteville.

This brochure provides the background information concerning the National Cemetery, the Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation (RNCIC), the economic impact of veterans upon the North Arkansas economy, and the goals set by the RNCIC for itself and its members toward securing the needed land for the cemetery expansion.

Your contribution is sorely needed for this worthwhile project. Your voice is needed also to spread information to all your friends and relatives so that they, too, may participate. Remember, the contribution you make is tax deductible.

Thank you.

THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

of

FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

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A PRESENTATION BY THE REGIONAL  
NATIONAL CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT  
CORPORATION

July, 1989

THE REGIONAL NATIONAL CEMETERY

IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

THE REGIONAL NATIONAL CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

The Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation (RNCIC) located in the NW Region of Arkansas, was formed in 1985 by a group of veterans interested in perpetuation of the National Cemetery. The Articles of Incorporation of the organization states in part:

ARTICLE II

The object and purposes proposed to be promoted by it are as follows:

- A. To plan, arrange, organize and operate a program to provide for the enlargement and improvements of the Fayetteville National Cemetery located in Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas.
- B. To build, buy, sell, own, hold, mortgage or otherwise encumber, lease or otherwise hold, and to dispose of by sale or gift, real and personal property necessary or deemed useful to this corporation and/or to the humanitarian object for which it is organized.
- C. To accept all gifts, pledges, or monies from any and all persons who wish to contribute anything of value to the principal purpose of improving said Fayetteville National Cemetery.

- D. To accept and receive gifts, bequests and devises, and to become the beneficiary of any trusts, and through its Board of Directors, serve as trustee for any funds or property and to manage, control and dispose of the same in the promotion and performance of the objects and purposes herein set forth.
  
- E. To do everything and anything reasonably and lawfully necessary, proper, suitable, or convenient for the achievement of the purposes above stated, or for any of them, or for the furtherance of said purposes.
  
- F. To cooperate with any and all government bodies and agents by giving property owned by the corporation or held by the corporation in any manner to the government bodies for the extending of the Cemetery.

The RNCIC is a not-for-profit organization. It has a Board of Directors and Officers who direct the activities of the corporation and who serve without pay. Membership in the organization is not limited to veterans, though many veterans are active. Membership comes principally from a six county area in NW Arkansas: Washington, Benton, Carroll, Madison, Boone and Newton Counties. The corporation is not a part of any veterans organization, though membership in the corporation consists of some members from veterans organizations, and these persons contribute significantly to the efforts of the corporation.

# HISTORICAL INFORMATION

THE NATIONAL CEMETERY  
AT  
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1984, it became apparent to interested veterans that the National Cemetery in Fayetteville, Arkansas, would soon exhaust all available burial plots. This was and is of significance to all veterans in North Arkansas, Eastern Oklahoma, Southeast Kansas and Southern Missouri, because people cling to their roots--they want to be buried in or near their homeland, close to their families. In addition, the National Cemetery is of historic significance, having been established in 1867. It contains the graves of veterans of six wars, including those of 810 unknown soldiers. The Cemetery is so dear to many veterans that they choose to have themselves shipped back from as far away as California for burial.

The Veteran's Administration has chosen not to purchase more land for the expansion of any existing cemetery, but has agreed to accept raw land donated for the purpose and has agreed to provide all improvements which will be needed. Donated land must be contiguous to the present cemetery.

The Fayetteville National Cemetery was made up of two lots originally, purchased for the sum of \$350. The first burials were brought in from the battlefields of Pea Ridge (Arkansas) and Prairie Grove (Arkansas), Elkhorn Tavern (Arkansas) and many other battlefields and skirmish areas of the

region. The Cemetery was arranged in the likeness of a wagon wheel, with the flag pole as the hub. The graves of the unknown soldiers are contained in the three rows that make up the outer part of the wheel. A wall, built of hand-molded brick and surrounding the Cemetery, was constructed around 1873. This wall is now on the National Historic Preservation List. A bronze plaque bearing the immortal words of the Gettysburg Address guards the entrance to the Cemetery. The present Cemetery contains 6.11 acres (266,151 sq. ft.) and more than 4200 veterans (some with spouses) are interred there. There are approximately 123 grave sites remaining in the Cemetery (April 1, 1989) and it is estimated that these will be spoken for within the year to follow.

The Cemetery enjoys a beautiful setting, graced with majestic pines and oaks, carpeted with thick, green, abundant Bermuda grass, it provides a peaceful and tranquil final resting place for veterans and spouses, according to them the dignity and recognition which they so richly deserve.

THE CEMETERY EXPANSION AREA

THE EXPANSION AREA

The area chosen for the expansion of the present cemetery is shown as the shaded area on the plat contained in the Appendix. At this stage (August 1, 1989) lots 1, 1-A, 2 and 10 have been purchased. Lots 2-A, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 11 are under option for purchase in order to "square up" the total acreage sought.

Lots purchased as of August 1, 1989, and their purchase prices are:

Lot 2	\$ 38,000
Lot 1	40,000
Lot 1-A	5,000
Lot 10	30,000
TOTAL	<u>\$113,000</u>

Remaining lots:

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Option Taken?</u>	<u>Approx. Cost</u>
3	Yes	\$ 24,304
4	Yes	12,400
5	Yes	18,352
6	Yes	20,000
7	Yes	32,000
11	Yes	30,000
2-A	Yes	2,000
Total Approximate Cost		<u>\$139,056</u>

Approximately \$58,000 is still owed for purchases shown above.

The City of Fayetteville will be petitioned to close the portion of University Avenue which is adjacent to Lots 2 through 7. A portion of the width of University Avenue can then be utilized for a roadway into and through the expansion area, with a main entrance gate being located where Lot 10 adjoins Government Avenue, and an exit gate at the juncture of 11th Street and University Avenue.

Soils in the expansion area will present no problem in serving the cemetery and drainage from the site is excellent.

The Veterans' Administration has stated that land donated for additional cemetery space will have to be raw land, devoid of utilities, houses, sheds and septic tanks. The Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation will have to arrange for such removals and pay for same.

The total area of the expansion is 199,500 square feet, or 4.58 acres. Grave size is approximately 5'x10', or 50 sq. ft. Allowing 32,000 sq. ft. for a roadway (800 feet long, by 40 feet wide), 167,500 square feet remain for grave sites. By stacking some graves in the cases for husband and wife, or parent and child, approximately 4500 possible graves may be accommodated. At the present rate of use (approx. 125 sites per year), the acquisition and improvement of the expansion area may provide for an additional 36 years.

# THE GOALS

of

THE REGIONAL NATIONAL CEMETERY  
IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

## THE GOALS

Immediate goals established by the Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation are concise and simply stated:

1. To secure \$200,000 in cash and pledges from individuals, businesses, banks and S&L's, industry and all others who recognize the service our veterans have rendered to our country and are willing to manifest their appreciation and support.
2. To achieve the monetary goal or pledges by October 31, 1989.
3. To purchase all land shown on Exhibit A of the Appendix, arrange for and complete all demolition of houses, sheds and utilities and deed the raw land to the Veterans' Administration by July 1, 1990.

The target area for soliciting funds is confined to the six county area in North and Northwest Arkansas: Washington, Benton, Carroll, Madison, Boone and Newton Counties. Many veterans outside the six county area are active in veterans affairs and interested in the National Cemetery in Fayetteville. However, the preponderance of veterans and others concerned about the Cemetery reside in the six county area.

# THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

of

VETERANS ON THE NW ARKANSAS REGION

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF VETERANS  
ON THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGION

The economic impact of veterans upon a community or upon a region can be considerable. Not only do veterans bring monies into a community or region through service pay, retirement pay or disability compensation, they also may opt to take advantage of one or more of the many programs available to veterans, thus enhancing the economy by attracting monies through those programs.

Probably the most notable and the most visible avenue through which funds are channeled into the NW Arkansas Region is the Veterans Administration Hospital in Fayetteville. Veterans from all the adjoining states seek medical services from this facility. Funds are generated in salaries paid to resident staff members, supplies and services purchased in the local area, maintenance of the hospital facilities and construction of new facilities. Monies spent for the operation of the VA Hospital total in excess of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) annually. The vast majority of these funds go into and contribute to the local economy.

Other programs available to veterans which bring monies into NW Arkansas and which are chosen by veterans on an individual basis include the following:

Educational Assistance

Post-Vietnam Veteran's Educational Assistance

The Montgomery G.I. Bill

Job Training

Vocational Rehabilitation for Service-Disabled Veterans

Vocational Rehabilitation Program for Veterans with Individual Unemployability Ratings

Vocational Training for Pension Recipients

Loan Guaranty Benefits

Compensation for Disability

Non Service-connected Pension

Annual Clothing Allowance for Disabled Veterans

VA Life Insurance

Automobiles or other Conveyances

Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI)

Burial Benefits

Death Benefits

The approximate number of veterans living in the six county area of NW Arkansas are shown in a table in the Appendix. Also shown are the approximate benefits paid to veterans in the six county area on an annual basis. Both tables show figures for each county. The aggregate annual monetary amount paid out to veterans and spent in the six county area totals over fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000), a tremendous contribution to the Region's economy.

In addition to funds which are funneled into the North Arkansas Region from Federal programs, most veterans are gainfully employed and their wages and salaries provide further impact on the Regional economy.

## APPENDICES

1. Map of Expansion Area
2. Letter from Veteran's Administration to Mr. Elvie Heiney,  
President of RNCIC
3. Tables: Veteran Population of Six County Area  
Monetary Impact on Six County Area
4. Letter of authorization to solicit gifts, signed by  
Elvie Heiney, President of RNCIC





APR 05 1989

In Reply Refer To: 41B

Elvie P. Heiney, President  
Regional National Cemetery  
Improvement Corporation  
P.O. Box 4221  
28 South College  
Fayetteville, AR 72702

Dear Mr. Heiney:

I am writing in reference to your recent telephone conversation with Mr. Michael Elliott regarding the efforts by the RNCIC to raise funds to purchase property for expansion of the Fayetteville National Cemetery. Mr. Elliott advised me that he also met with Messrs. Bill Murphy and Jimmy Jones on February 28, 1989, concerning the matter.

The endeavors of the RNCIC are most appreciated. Since the cemetery is projected to close in November 1990, we would welcome an opportunity to be able to expand the cemetery in order that we could continue to provide burial space for eligible veterans and their dependents. However, since this land involves several existing residential structures, we would like to point out potential obstacles to gravesite development. If residences remain on any of the lots, the cost for the VA to develop the land for burial purposes might be prohibitive. It would be necessary to remove the houses, the foundations, plus all utilities. In addition, the potential of the presence of asbestos may present problems.

The corporation may wish to consider concentrating their acquisitions to the parcels in close proximity to the ones already acquired rather than trying to acquire all of the land. This could constitute more than one-third of the total area. Our analysis indicates that, based on current interment rates, this approach could keep the cemetery open for an additional ten years. The acquisition of any additional land could then be considered during that ten-year period.

The land transfer process is a lengthy one involving boundary and topographic surveys, metes and bounds description, deed work, legal documentation, title verification by the Department of Justice, and compliance with environmental and historic preservation regulations.

APR 05 1989

2.

Elvie P. Heiney, President

VA real estate staff advises us that a more efficient donation action would be effected if the property could be replatted into one parcel prior to its transfer to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Please be assured that your efforts in this matter are appreciated. We will continue to work with you in any way we can.

Sincerely yours,



Handwritten signature of Roger R. Rapp in cursive script.

ROGER R. RAPP

Director, Field Operations

VETERAN POPULATION AS OF 3-31-88

<u>County</u>		<u>Rounded to Nearest 500</u>	<u>At \$5 Per veteran</u>
Benton.....	11,340.....	11,500.....	\$ 57,500
Boone.....	3,440.....	3,500.....	17,500
Carroll.....	2,270.....	2,500.....	12,500
Madison.....	1,400.....	1,500.....	7,500
Newton.....	920.....	1,000.....	5,000
Washington...	<u>12,930.....</u>	<u>13,000.....</u>	<u>65,000</u>
TOTALS	32,300	33,000	\$165,000

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Estimated VA Expenditures By County For FY 1987

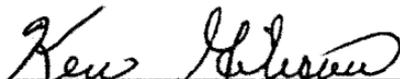
<u>County</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Compensation &amp; Pension</u>	<u>Readjustmet &amp; Vocational Rehabilitation</u>	<u>Insurance &amp; Indemnities</u>	<u>Medical Services and Administrative Costs</u>
Benton	\$ 8,786,815	\$ 7,714,065	\$ 404,453	\$ 668,297	
Boone	3,717,169	3,339,169	174,548	203,499	
Carroll	2,238,347	2,062,593	42,325	133,429	
Madison	1,615,346	1,492,276	40,161	82,909	
Newton	1,144,407	1,083,054	6,506	54,847	
Washington	<u>32,871,785</u>	<u>9,359,169</u>	<u>1,010,211</u>	<u>763,240</u>	<u>20,823,794</u>
TOTALS	\$50,373,869	\$25,050,326	\$1,678,204	\$1,906,221	\$20,823,794

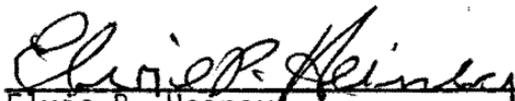
REGIONAL NATIONAL CEMETERY  
IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The bearer of this letter has been officially designated to solicit funds for the purpose of buying lands for the expansion of the National Cemetery in Fayetteville, Arkansas, as described in the brochure pertaining to same and as authorized in the Articles of Incorporation of the Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation dated October 19, 1984.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Gibson  
Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elvie P. Heiney  
President