

# 5K RACE

## VETERANS MEMORIAL

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation (RNCIC) is organizing a Veteran's Memorial 5K race on Saturday, November 7th 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 and increased its size by over 120% in the ensuing 25 years, 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.

The recent controversy over the possible rezoning and development of the adjoining property has regularly been on the front page of local newspapers this summer. The massive turnout of veterans and non-veterans alike to public hearings demonstrates the deep emotional currents that surround the National Cemetery. We are grateful for past commitments to support veterans made by this community. We plan to make the race an annual event and, in this inaugural year, 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,

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Race Organizer

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