

## *Honoring Veterans in Their Final Resting Place*

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### **BACKGROUND**

Washington State's veteran's community has advocated for the establishment of a Veterans Cemetery in Eastern Washington for the past decade.

Initially, the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) explored the possibility of requesting a National Cemetery in Eastern Washington, similar to the Tahoma National Cemetery in Western Washington. Because the veteran population was not sufficient to meet the federal requirements, WDVA began working toward establishing a State Veterans Cemetery.

***A State Veterans Cemetery will fill a significant gap in services for nearly 140,000 veterans living in Eastern Washington, and their families.***

### **FUNDING**

The Federal VA Cemetery Construction Grant Program provides grants to states to build veterans cemeteries within 100 miles of major metropolitan areas. Federal grants will pay 100% of design, construction and equipment costs. Washington State will provide the land and is responsible for operation and maintenance.

#### **Approved Budget**

- \$472,000 in Operating Budget
- \$9.2 million in Capital Budget  
(Except for \$450,000 to purchase land, all Capital Funds will be reimbursed by the Federal VA Grant.)

### **SITE SELECTION**

Sites were selected based on a feasibility study which looked at a number of factors, including veteran population, to determine the best location for the first State Veterans Cemetery. WDVA purchased 80 acres of land North of West Medical Lake off West Espanola Road.

### **CEMETERY DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION PROCESS**

The design firm of JGM Landscape Architects Inc developed the cemetery design. JGM Landscape Architects Inc also designed the Tahoma National Cemetery in Western Washington and provided design assistance with the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery. The Bouten Construction Company of Spokane was selected as the General Contractor. Both firms believe strongly in working closely with the Eastern Washington Veterans Community.

### **KEY DATES**

A Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on Memorial Day, 2009 and the Dedication Ceremony will be held on Memorial Day 2010. Interments will Begin on June 7, 2010.

### **CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

An Advisory Committee, made up of community members, has been formed to work alongside the WDVA Cemetery Director, architects and construction firm. Find out more about the cemetery and the Committee at: [http://www.dva.wa.gov/eastern\\_wa\\_vet\\_cemetery.html](http://www.dva.wa.gov/eastern_wa_vet_cemetery.html)

### **YOU CAN HELP!**

Proceeds from the Armed Forces License Plates will help pay for ongoing maintenance of the Eastern Washington State Veterans Cemetery. Buy yours today at any local licensing agent!

### **STAY INFORMED:**

Sign up for the WDVA ListServ to receive information on the Eastern Washington State Veterans Cemetery and other important projects!

- Visit: [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov) and click on 'Join the ListServ'
- Or call toll-free (in WA State only): 1-800-562-0132 or (360) 725-2154.