

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
INSURANCE



SENATOR
PAMELA A. HELMING
54TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL BUSINESS
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS
AND RECREATION
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

May 3, 2021

Mr. Joel Evans
Executive Deputy Director
New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs
2 Empire State Plaza, 17th Floor
Albany, New York 12223-1551

Dear Director Evans,

Thank you for your efforts to establish New York's first state owned veterans cemetery. This is an important step forward that has been supported by New York's veterans and their families for many years. As your agency evaluates various proposals for New York's first state veterans cemetery, I am hopeful that you will consider the benefits of designating the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery as an official NYS veterans cemetery.

Located in Romulus, the existing Sampson Cemetery and site has a long and storied history of serving the United States and its veterans. During World War II, the Sampson Air and Naval Air Force Base trained more than 400,000 naval recruits. Subsequently, Sampson continued to serve veterans by serving as a Separation Center and then as a college for 15,000 veterans pursuing education under the G.I. Bill. Later, during the Korean War, the site returned to active duty, training 300,000 airmen.

Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery was built through an incredible partnership between local veterans, Seneca County and the State of New York. New York State has been involved in its development every step of the way and it was constructed to fully meet all Veterans Administration cemetery standards. Since its conception, Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery was envisioned to one day be assumed by either the federal or state government.

Since July 2011, Sampson has operated as a veterans' cemetery and is the final resting place for hundreds of veterans from across NYS. State funding and designation will allow the site to continue its operations and grow into a final resting place commensurate to the honor, dignity, and sacrifices of our veterans.

It is my hope that you will see the significant merits of a state-designated status for Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery. As the State Senator for Seneca County, I am proud to offer my full support for the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or if I can provide additional information regarding the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Helming', written over a circular blue stamp.

Pam Helming
Senator, 54th District

Geneva: 425 Exchange Street, Geneva NY 14456 • (315) 568-9816 • FAX (315) 789-1946
Albany Room 517 Legislative Office Building, Albany NY 12247 • (518) 455-2366 • FAX (518) 426-6953
www.helming.nysenate.gov • helming@nysenate.gov

