

This letter is in support of SB2265 to fund a Veterans memorial center at the Fargo Veterans National Cemetery. The group of veterans working on this have been so kind to our tribal veterans and I know of nothing but support for them and this bill to create a center, from our community. A couple years ago our VFW group in New Town invited the group to come to our Fort Berthold Veterans office and tell us of their plans. What a wonderful event we had with them as we hosted them, and they told us of their plans to build a building at the National Cemetery in Fargo. They are our comrades, and they became good friends and found veterans who had served in the same units as some of the group as is what always happens when veterans get together. It's a very positive thing this building and I very much agree with the plans. It will allow our native veterans to have a place to gather when we send someone home instead of no building and no bathroom. Our tradition in the Hidatsa culture is to have a wake and feed people and the group listened to our concerns and said they would build in something to accommodate native culture. Native people are the largest by percentage of people to serve in the military and we are immensely proud of that distinction. The group also came back in 2024 and joined our VFW honor guard to march and honor our unknown veterans at one of our tribal cemeteries in Shell Creek and at our annual powwow. This honor guard from the National Cemetery even raised money for gravestones for 7 of our Native American veterans. We honored this group at the powwow. Their involvement with our tribal community has been appreciated and we will support them any way we can to make this bill a reality for ALL veterans. I will be also donating an Eagle Feather warbonnet to the cemetery upon completion of the center to be displayed in honor of all our Native American veterans. Some of our own may be buried at this cemetery soon and we are proud to say with the addition of this center, our tribal veterans will be well taken care of.

Sincerely,



Scott Satermo

Fort Berthold VFW Post 9061 member

Three Affiliated Tribes enrolled member