

**2025 SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SB 2265**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee

Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2265

2/7/2025

A bill for an act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a veterans' national cemetery grant.

9:58 a.m. Chairman Luick opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Luick, Vice-Chair Myrdal, Senator Marcellais, Senator Weston, Senator Weber, Senator Lemm

### Discussion Topics:

- Veterans Memorial Center
- Fargo Memorial Honor Guard
- Expansion
- Veterans Affairs approval
- Gathering areas
- Matching grants
- Veteran support
- Donations
- Public-private partnerships
- Volunteer hours donated
- Service cancellation
- Weather conditions
- Parking and speed limits
- Current shelter
- Chamber of Commerce
- Retention pond and future
- Native American Drum Groups
- Cemetery manager
- Congressional delegation

9:59 a.m. Senator Scott Meyer, District 18, testified in favor and introduced the bill.

10:06 a.m. Senator Kathy Hogan, District 21, testified in favor.

10:08 a.m. Jason Hicks, Commander of the ND Fargo Memorial Honor Guard, and James Graalum, Fargo Memorial Honor Guard, testified in favor.

10:29 a.m. Marvin Nicklay, Sargeant of the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard, testified in favor.

10:37 a.m. Katherine Grinberg, Executive Vice President of the Fargo-Moorhead Chamber of Commerce, testified in favor and submitted testimony #36144.



10:39 a.m. Bill Wilber, member of the American Legion Honor Guard in New Town, testified in favor.

10:40 a.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

10:40 a.m. Senator Myrdal moved to adopt amendment LC# 25.0992.01001.

10:40 a.m. Senator Marcellais seconded the motion.

10:41 a.m. Voice vote on amendment passed.

10:41 a.m. Senator Myrdal moved a Do Pass As Amended.

10:41 a.m. Senator Marcellais seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y
Senator Mark F. Weber	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Marcellais will carry the bill.

**Additional written testimony:**

Thomas J. Linnertz, Fargo Memorial Honor Guard Bugler, submitted testimony #35487 in favor.

Timothy J. Mahoney, Mayor of the City of Fargo, submitted testimony #35611 in favor.

Russel W. Stabler, finance officer for the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard, submitted testimony #35997 in favor.

Brekka Kramer, President and CEO of Minot Area Chamber EDC, submitted testimony #36149 in favor.

10:43 a.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

*Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk*

2/7/25  
1 of 1

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### SENATE BILL NO. 2265

Introduced by

Senators Meyer, Burckhard, Hogan, Luick, Sorvaag

Representative Schauer

1 A BILL for an Act to provide ~~an~~ a contingent appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs  
2 for a veterans' national cemetery grant.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND**  
5 **IMPROVEMENTS FUND - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS - VETERANS'**  
6 **NATIONAL CEMETERY GRANT - ONE-TIME FUNDING. ~~There~~ Subject to the provisions of this**  
7 **section, there** is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic investment and improvements  
8 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$3,000,000, or so much of the  
9 sum as may be necessary, to the department of veterans' affairs, for the purpose of providing a  
10 grant to a nonprofit organization for construction costs associated with the construction of a  
11 chapel, parking lot, and related infrastructure at a veterans' national cemetery in the state, for  
12 the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this  
13 section is considered a one-time funding item. The funding provided in this section is available  
14 only upon certification by the department of veterans' affairs to the director of the office of  
15 management and budget that the United States department of veterans affairs national  
16 cemetery administration will provide planning and oversight for the project.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2265**

**Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0992.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2265 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

I am the Treasurer of Maple Sheyenne Lutheran Church. The church is immediately adjacent on the west side of the Fargo National Cemetery. I am also the "Live" Bugler for the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard. I was President of the Church when the Cemetery was constructed.

At the time the cemetery was built we were told, that in exchange for the use of our parking lot, it would be paved at no cost to the church. Covid came along, ideas changed and the paving never happened. We understand this. We were told however by management from Fort Snelling that the Fargo National Cemetery would not be using the church parking lot. The church parking lot is still being used by the cemetery. The Fargo National Cemetery says it is not the National Cemetery using the church parking lot, but rather the contractors and the members of the funeral party.

This does not necessarily make a problem for the church but it creates a problem for the those who find it necessary to park in the church parking lot and on the highway. Traffic speed is 55 mph. In the winter, due to limited parking, individuals oft times nee to walk on the highway to get to the pergola at the ceremony area. Oft times the contractors have their equipment parked on the shoulder of the highway with no markers, making an additional hazard, especially when there is snow. Then the attendees need to stop into the traffic lane to get around the equipment. This does not happen all the time but it can be observed especially during the winter. To make this cemetery safe adequate parking is needed. The plan presented by the Fargo National Cemetery provides this parking.

I am the only member on the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard that plays "Live Taps", A Real Bugle. I do it because when I joined the military, I was promised Military Honors and Taps at my funeral. A tape recording to me is a sorry substitute. Since 2009, I have played Taps for more than 1079 Funerals as a volunteer.

I don't know how many people play or have played a brass instrument. If you use a metal mouth piece when it is below 25 degrees above you can quickly become the "Christmas Story video Flagpole Kid". Your mouth can freeze to the mouthpiece. Using a plastic mouthpiece can help, but it can get so cold that the humidity from your breath freezes the mouth piece or the horn so it will not play, and I have played when it so cold the bugle refuses to sound. Try standing outside with the wind chill at -36 or more and lick a piece of steel.

I have played TAPS many times at the Military Cemetery in Mandan. I was honored to play for Dean Hildebrandts Funeral, a photo of this was published in the Bismarck Tribune. The Mandan Cemetery has parking and a building. The Funeral party and the Honor Guard can stay warm. With the building attendees can be inside when the weather is bad. The honor Guard can march outside and fire their Volley just outside the glass, Taps can be played inside or outside. In contrast, imagine trying to sit in comfort, on a folding chair, at below freezing temperature with 20+ mph winds, trying to concentrate on the loss of your loved one. Most of these people are elderly, and the situation becomes truly miserable.

Like the Military Cemetery at Manda, the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard Concept, for the Fargo National Cemetery presents a planned, well thought out concept for an honorable Military Service.

The restroom facilities at the cemetery were at best an after-thought with none in the original plan. Administration at the Cemetery initially said restrooms were not needed. Tell that to the people who drive down from Belcourt or Lakota or Grand Forks. Attempts have been made to provide restrooms after the fact, initially providing porta potties. Then a single prefab restroom. With the present design

there are times when the restroom freezes up or the door just won't open, or you stand in line. I make every effort to open the church for the use of church facilities. But it is not always possible.

I am asking that the North Dakota Legislature support bill 2256. Do Veterans buried in the Fargo National Cemetery deserve anything less honorable than those buried in the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery at Mandan. I think not.

Please do your part to support bill 2256.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Tom Linnertz  
Ph 701-793-7312  
Email: LinnertzTJ@gmail.com



February 5, 2025

Dear Chairman Luick and Committee Members,

As the mayors of Fargo, West Fargo and Harwood, we write in strong support for Senate Bill 2265, which provides \$3 million in funding for the Veterans Cemetery Center at the Fargo National Cemetery. This project is a critical investment to ensure that our veterans and their families receive the dignified services they have earned.

Since its dedication in 2019, the Fargo National Cemetery has expanded significantly, now encompassing 35 acres. This progress demonstrates the deep appreciation and commitment our communities have for those who have served our nation. However, the cemetery still lacks essential facilities that families, veterans and Honor Guard members need to properly honor their loved ones during inclement weather.

The Veterans Cemetery Center will ensure that the Fargo National Cemetery provides a setting worthy of those who have sacrificed so much. Key features will include:

- A gathering area for family and friends to meet before and after interment
- A gallery honoring veterans and showcasing their service
- Offices for Veterans Affairs staff to assist families and manage cemetery operations
- A breakroom for Honor Guard members, who dedicate their time to ensure dignified services
- Indoor restrooms to accommodate visitors year-round
- A garage for a hearse, ensuring proper funeral service operations
- A parking lot to improve accessibility and convenience

Our goal is to bring the Fargo National Cemetery to the same high standard as the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Mandan, a widely respected state-run cemetery. This project has strong support from the metro and rural residents alike, and we ask for your help in making it a reality.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our veterans.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Timothy Mahoney**  
Mayor, The City of Fargo

**Bernie Dardis**  
Mayor, City of West Fargo

**Blake Hankey**  
Mayor, City of Harwood

Testimony  
by Russel W. Stabler  
Fargo Memorial Honor Guard

As a veteran and a member of the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard, I am testifying before you to inform you of the necessity of funds to bring our building at the Fargo National Cemetery to completion.

We have been operating at the National Cemetery since its opening in September 2019, in this entire time not only have we endured all kinds of weather, but so have the families of the deceased veteran. We need this building to get these families and friends out of the various weather conditions. I will grant some of the younger family members might be able to handle the conditions, but the older folks that are frail cannot. Unfortunately, we have had 80- and 90-year-old wives and mothers out the in the below zero temperature with high winds to the degree we have had to scramble for blankets to keep these older females warm.

The VA cemetery affairs committee does have an open structure with a wall on the north and west sides of this pagoda type structure, it does not keep the wind and snow out entirely. Furthermore, if the wind and precipitation is coming in from the east and south it does not stop it all.

We need to get this building up and operating for these reasons and need it to secure the weapons of the honor in a permanent Armory build into the building.

Now there is a bathroom on the property, but there is no hot and cold running water, and, in the winter, it freezes up and cannot be used. In this case they

bring in a porta potty with no heat and no running water in it.

At the National Cemetery if there is a large number of family and friends and fellow veterans attending the internment and Memorial Service, the end up parking on County Road 20 creating a traffic hazard. The honor guard ends up parking on the lane for the cemetery so it's members can have their vehicles to get in out of the cold and extreme heat, which takes up spaces' family could use.

It is for these reasons and others I am supporting the effort in requesting the assistance of the North Dakota Legislation in securing funds to support getting this building complete and but in use as soon as possible.

I respectfully thank all of you for listening to me and my testimony today.

*Russel Stabler*



Dear Members of Senate,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2265 an Act to provide an appropriation to the Department of Veterans Affairs for a Veterans National Cemetery Grant. This critical funding will provide much-needed resources to enhance the dignity and respect that our fallen heroes and their families deserve.

For years, our state has taken meaningful steps to support our veterans by investing in projects that honor their service and sacrifice. This initiative to enhance a memorial site, would continue to demonstrate our State's unwavering commitment to those who have served. While other projects have been funded by our state, our Veterans National Cemetery still lacks an appropriate facility to accommodate grieving families and loved ones during services.

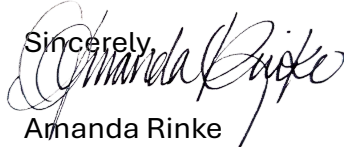
Currently, the cemetery operates without a dedicated building, forcing military funeral services to take place outdoors in often harsh and unpredictable weather conditions. Families are left standing in the bitter cold, the sweltering heat, or heavy rain as they lay their loved ones to rest. This lack of shelter and proper facilities not only places an unnecessary burden on grieving families but also fails to provide the honor and respect our fallen service members deserve.

Approving this grant will allow for the construction of a proper facility that will serve as a place of solace and dignity for families during burial services. It will also ensure that our veterans are honored with the respect and care befitting their sacrifices. This investment is not just about a building; it is about our collective responsibility to uphold the commitment we made to those who served our country.

I urge you to support SB 2265 and help provide the necessary funding for this crucial project. Our veterans and their families have given so much to our nation—it is our duty to ensure they receive the dignity, respect, and comfort they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Rinke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amanda" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Rinke".

Amanda Rinke

6059 Autumn Drive S.

Fargo, ND 58104

amanda.m.rinke@gmail.com



## Letter of Support – SB 2265

Friday, February 7, 2025

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee,

For the record, my name is Katherine Grindberg, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Executive Vice President for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2265.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. Founded in 2019, the Fargo National Cemetery has become a cherished part of the local community, serving as a space to honor service members and support their families and loved ones. The cemetery has continued to grow since it was established, now spanning 35 acres, offering more space for connection, remembrance, and community.

This meaningful addition to our state warrants the creation of a structure that can provide shelter for families, veterans, and Honor Guard members during bouts of unsuitable weather, as well as house amenities to ensure those visiting the cemetery receive a positive experience. We are grateful for Senator Hoeven, who was pivotal in securing funding for the rural initiative that made this cemetery possible. Due to the rural nature, amenities such as buildings were not provided. As such, Senator Hoeven, along with the local community, have come together to find a suitable solution that properly honors those who have given everything for our country.

This creative solution is a statewide effort to fund the building of the structure, with the ownership and long-term upkeep of the facility being covered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The local community has already been hard at work raising the necessary funds and support for this project. The cities of Fargo, West Fargo and Harwood have all started strong support for this project, as demonstrated in the attached letter. Donations from private citizens and the business community have amounted to about \$1.4 million. The estimated cost for the project is around \$5 million, so we need the state's help to make this possible.

The Veterans Cemetery Center will ensure that the Fargo National Cemetery provides a setting worthy of those who have sacrificed so much. Key features will include:

- A gathering area for family and friends to meet before and after interment
- A gallery honoring veterans and showcasing their service
- Offices for Veterans Affairs staff to assist families and manage cemetery operations
- A breakroom for Honor Guard members, who dedicate their time to ensure dignified services
- Indoor restrooms to accommodate visitors year-round
- A garage for a hearse, ensuring proper funeral service operations
- A parking lot to improve accessibility and convenience

The benefits this facility will bring to the community cannot be overstated. It will bring safety, security, and a space in which families can properly honor their loved ones and those who served. Our state is fortunate to have received a National Cemetery, and as such, want to provide due honor for the service members and a proper experience for their families. For these reasons, we urge the committee to give this bill a DO PASS recommendation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.



Sincerely,

Katherine Grindberg  
Executive Vice President  
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce



**Support for SB 2265  
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs  
Chairman Luick  
February 7, 2025**

Chairman Luick and Members of the Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Brekka Kramer, President | CEO of the Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC) and Executive Committee Member of the North Dakota Military Commission. On behalf of MACEDC and our over 600 member investors, I offer testimony in favor of Senate Bill 2265 for the Veterans National Cemetery.

The mission of MACEDC is to advocate for and invest in business activity by being a collaborative partner in the community, focused on improving quality of life for all. MACEDC has five key strategic pillars, with one focused on military support. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of our veterans.

As a state with a proud history of service in defense of our nation, it is important that we ensure that our veterans are honored and laid to rest with dignity. The Veterans Memorial Center at Fargo National Cemetery will provide a gathering area for family and friends, an area to honor veterans, and much more.

We work closely with communities across the state to do everything we can to support military and it's great to see the work Fargo has done here to bring the Fargo National Cemetery to the same high standard seen at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Mandan.

I am a proud member of the North Dakota Military Commission, which has a vision to make North Dakota the most military friendly state in the nation. As a long-term advocate for military, I ask for your support of Senate Bill 2265.

Thank you,

Brekka Kramer  
Minot Area Chamber EDC President | CEO  
North Dakota Military Commission Executive Committee Member

**2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2265**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2265  
02/17/25

A BILL for an Act to provide a contingent appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a veterans' national cemetery grant.

9:05 a.m. Chairman Dever opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Dever, Senators Cleary, Magrum and Mathern  
Members Absent: Senator Davison

### Discussion Topics:

- Fargo National Cemetery
- Cemetery Expansion
- Gathering Area Facility
- Indoor Restrooms

9:05 a.m. Senator Meyer introduced the bill, amendment LC 25.0992.02002 and submitted testimony #37892.

9:24 a.m. Jim Graalum, Fargo Memorial Honor Guard, testified in favor.

9:30 a.m. Jason Hicks, Commander, Fargo Memorial Honor Guard, testified in favor and submitted testimony #37895.

9:41 a.m. Cale Dunwoody, Vice President of Public Policy, Fargo and West Fargo Chamber of Commerce, testified in favor.

9:43 a.m. Jason Hicks, Commander, Fargo Memorial Honor Guard, testified in favor.

9:45 a.m. Chairman Dever closed the hearing.

Meyer  
2-17-25

25.0992.02002  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Senator Meyer  
February 13, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

### ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2265

Introduced by

Senators Meyer, Burckhard, Hogan, Luick, Sorvaag

Representative Schauer

1 A BILL for an Act to provide ~~a contingent~~ an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs  
2 for a veterans' national cemetery grant; and to authorize a line of credit.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

4 SECTION 1. ~~CONTINGENT~~ LINE OF CREDIT - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA -  
5 APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND -  
6 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS - DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION REQUEST -  
7 VETERANS' NATIONAL CEMETERY GRANT - ONE-TIME FUNDING. Subject to the  
8 provisions of this section, ~~there is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic investment~~  
9 ~~and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of the~~  
10 department of veterans' affairs may borrow up to \$3,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be  
11 necessary, through a line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota during the biennium beginning  
12 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, the proceeds of which are appropriated to the  
13 department of veterans' affairs, for the purpose of providing a grant to a nonprofit organization  
14 for construction costs associated with the construction of a chapel, parking lot, and related  
15 infrastructure at a veterans' national cemetery in the state, for the biennium beginning July 1,  
16 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time  
17 funding item. The interest rate on the line of credit may not exceed the prevailing interest rate  
18 charged to North Dakota governmental entities. If the department of veterans' affairs accesses  
19 the line of credit, the department of veterans' affairs or the Bank shall request a deficiency  
20 appropriation from the legislative assembly to repay the line of credit. The funding provided in

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

- 1 this section is available only upon certification by the department of veterans' affairs to the
- 2 director of the office of management and budget that the United States department of veterans
- 3 affairs national cemetery administration will provide planning and oversight for the project.





# Veterans Memorial Center

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Fargo Moorhead Honor Guard  
Fargo National Cemetery



# Agenda

- Non-Profit Status
- Donations
- Needs
- Expansion
- Strategic Plans





# No-Profit 501c(3)

- Approved as Non-Profit by IRS:
  - December 2020
- North Dakota Sec of State Certificate:
  - Status - Active
  - Standing - Good





# Donations

Cash: \$ 468,413.

CD's: \$ 984,184.

Pledged: \$ 96,000.

Total \$1,548,597.

As of February 15, 2025





# The Need

Burial schedule;

1. On the hour
2. Lack of facility

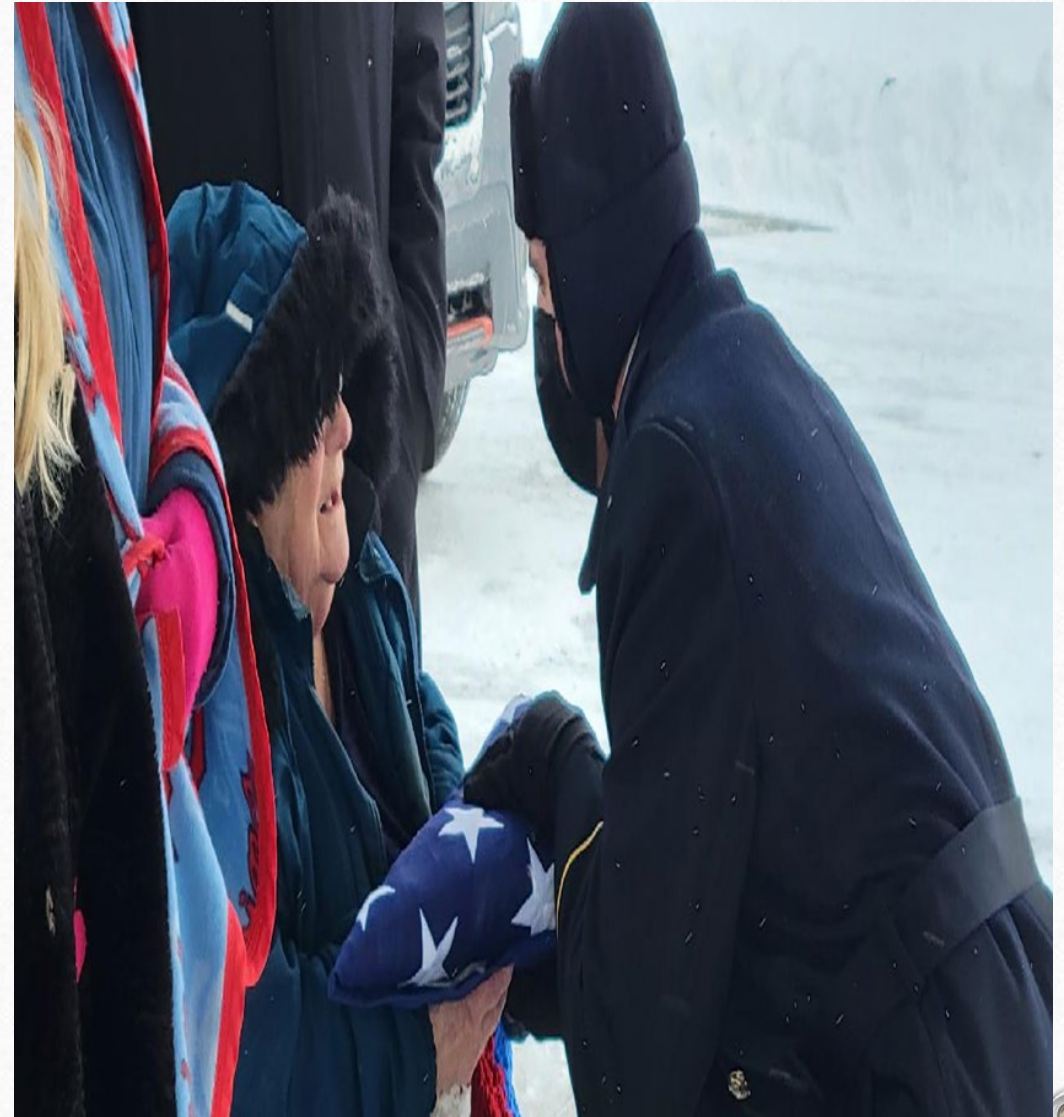




# The Need

- Inclement Weather;

1. Snow
2. Cold
3. Rain
4. High Wind
5. Extreme Heat





# The Need

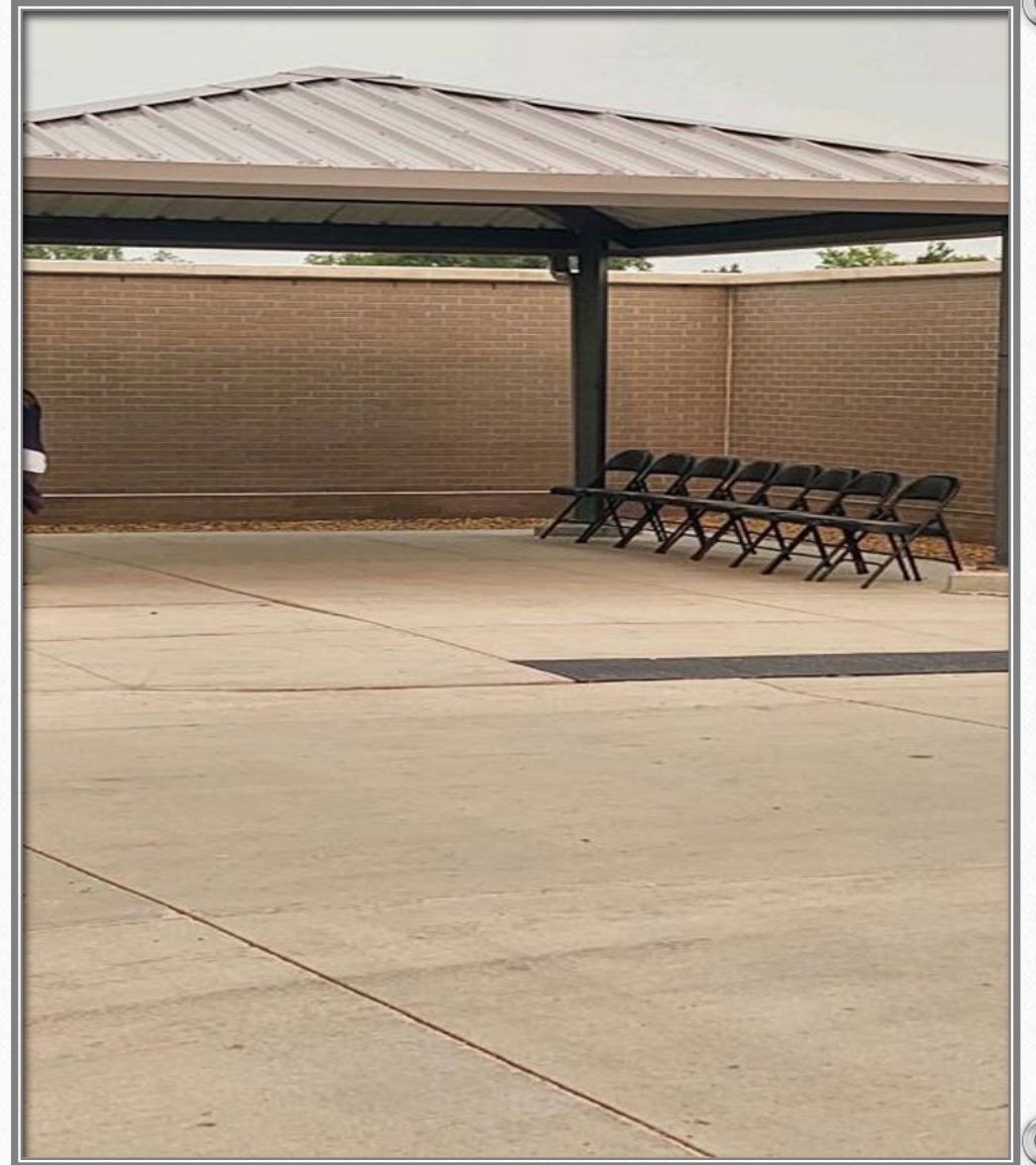
- Limited off-Highway Parking:
  1. Interment Shelter Road
  2. Church Parking Lot
  3. Cass County 20





# The Need

- Committal Shelter:
  1. Lack of Protection
  2. Lack of Seating (should accommodate approx. (60) attendees. NCA Design Guide, 2024



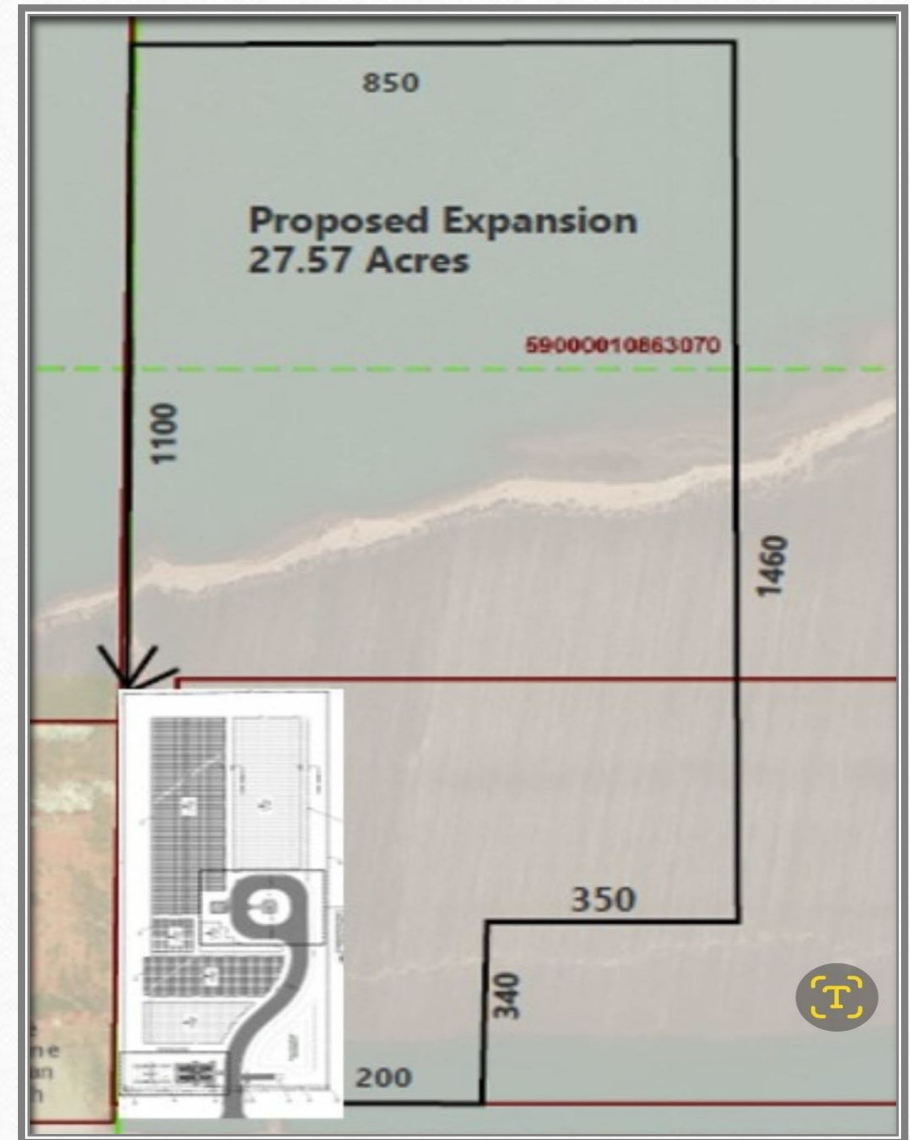






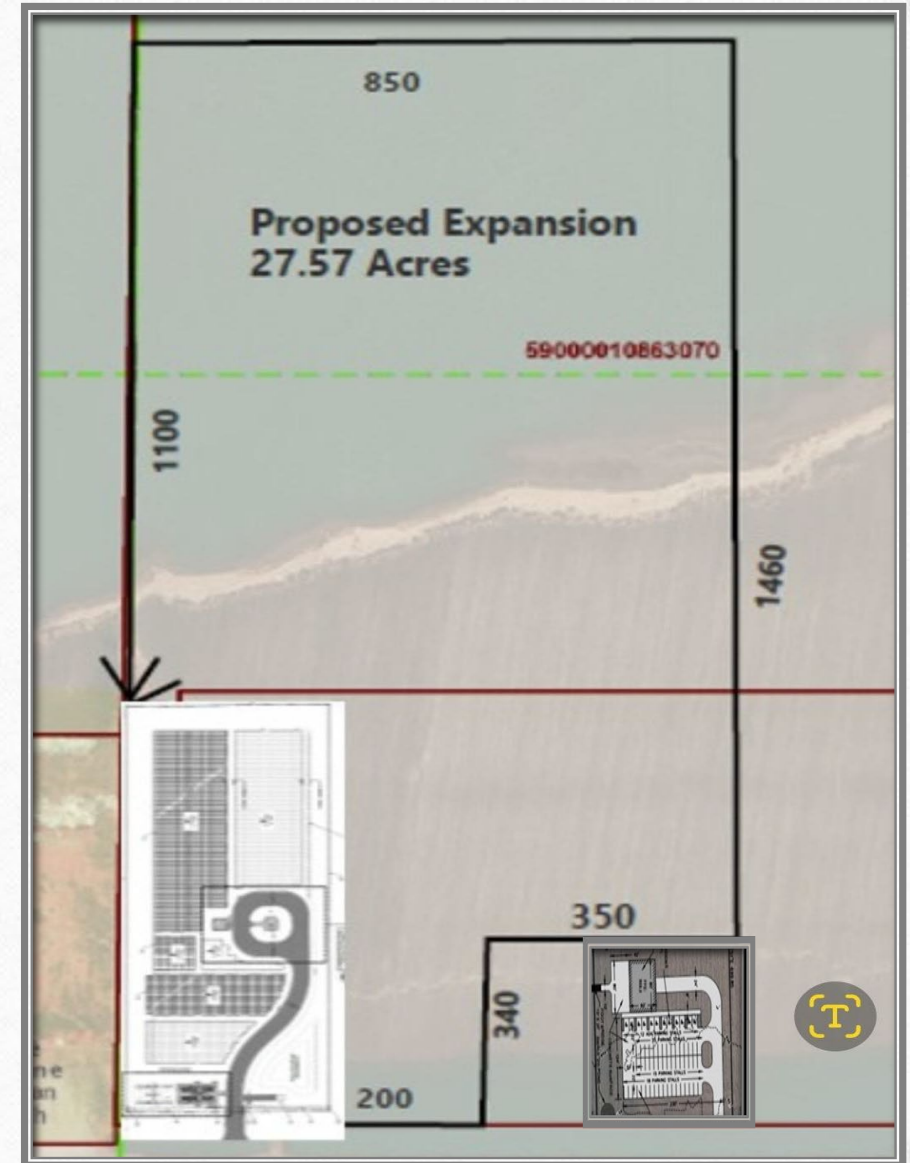
# NCA Expansion

- NCA has purchased additional 30 acres



# Strategic Plan

- Letter of Support from Mayors of Fargo, West Fargo, Harwood, the FMWF Chamber, and Senator John Hoeven to the National Cemetery Administration
- Submit Proffer to the NCA Administration, October 2024
- Approval of the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard as the 501c3 for Fundraising
- Approval of the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard as the 501c3 for the construction





# West Fargo

- Plan for future 14<sup>th</sup> St West Fargo
- Move access road off Cass County 20
- 50' Access Easement East of the proposed Property line







**FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY**

COUNTY ROAD 20  
HARWOOD, ND 58042

**ENTRY PERSPECTIVE**

**ICON**  
WWW.ICONARCHITECTS.COM  
JOB NO. 21-105 | 07/20/23  
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PAGE  
**SD903**





**FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY**

COUNTY ROAD 20  
HARWOOD, ND 58042

**ENTRY PERSPECTIVE**

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**Fargo National Cemetery**

County Road 3 20  
Hawbrook, ND 58042

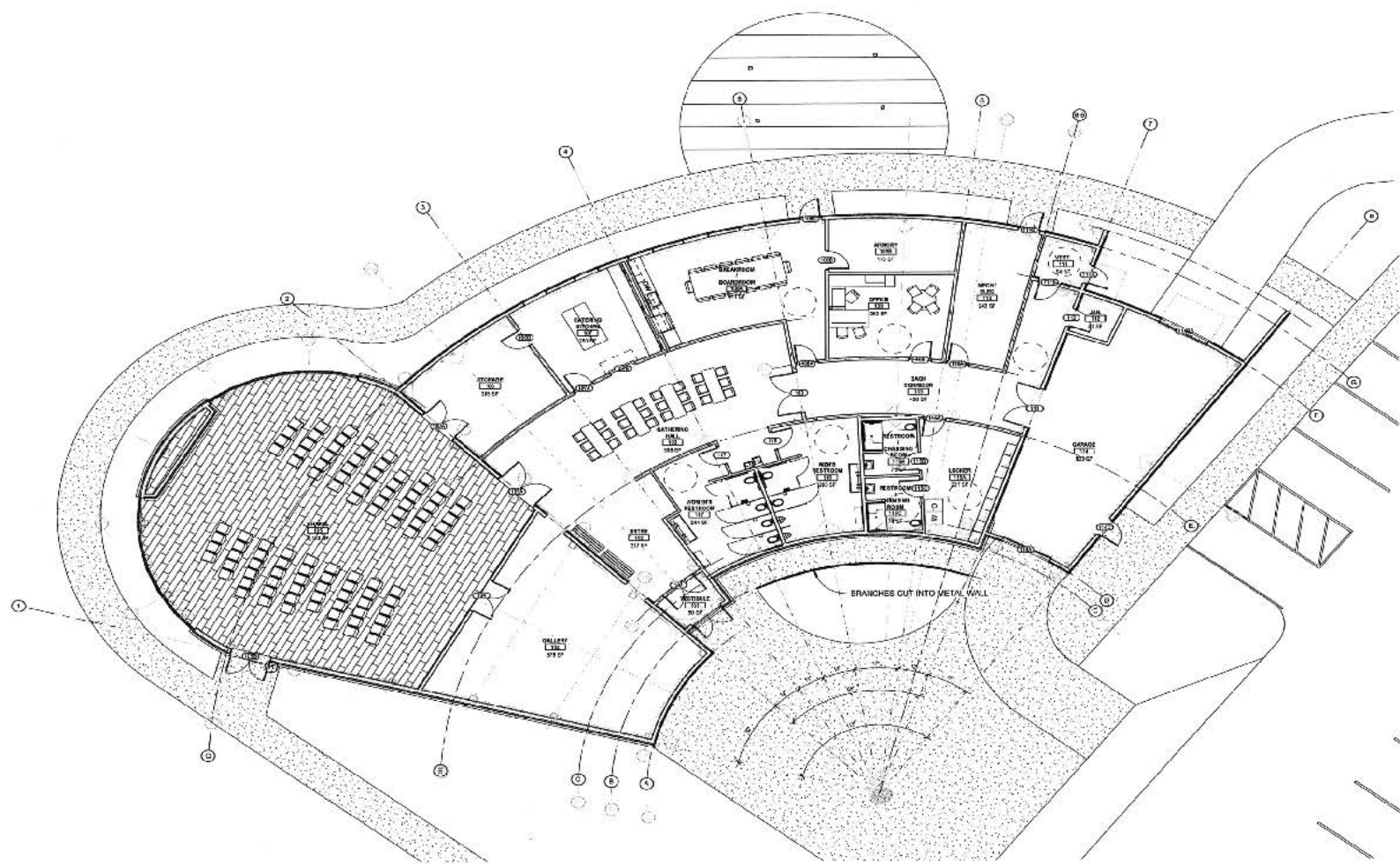
**Interior Perspective**



# Memorial Gallery







First Floor Plan  
A101



**ICON**

307 S. JEFFERSON AVE., STE. 100  
FARGO, ND 58103  
701.785.1000  
WWW.ICONARCHITECTURE.COM



**FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY**  
COUNTY ROAD 70  
HARWOOD, ND 58042

**STRUCTURAL**  
CONCRETE & STEEL DESIGN  
FOUNDATION DESIGN  
FOUNDATION ANALYSIS  
FOUNDATION DETAILING

**MECHANICAL**  
MECHANICAL DESIGN  
MECHANICAL ANALYSIS  
MECHANICAL DETAILING

**ELECTRICAL**  
ELECTRICAL DESIGN  
ELECTRICAL ANALYSIS  
ELECTRICAL DETAILING

**CIVIL**  
CIVIL DESIGN  
CIVIL ANALYSIS  
CIVIL DETAILING

**NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

DRAWING HISTORY	
NO.	DATE
1	10/1/2010
2	10/1/2010
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First Floor Plan

A101



# Donor Wall



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- <https://www.facebook.com/unitedpatrioticbodies>



TOGETHER, WE CAN HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED.

*Together, we can make this happen.*





Do you have  
any  
Questions?



**Jason Hicks,  
Commander  
Fargo Memorial Honor Guard  
701-412-8348  
[patrioticbodies6@gmail.com](mailto:patrioticbodies6@gmail.com)**



# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2265  
02/18/25

A Bill for an Act to provide a contingent appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a veterans' national cemetery grant.

8:33 a.m. Chairman Dever opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Dever, Senators Cleary, Davison, Magrum, and Mathern

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

8:35 a.m. Senator Cleary moved amendment LC 25.0992.02002 and previously submitted testimony #37892.

8:35 a.m. Senator Mathern seconded the amendment.

Voice Vote - Motion Passed.

8:35 a.m. Senator Magrum moved Do Pass as Amended.

8:35 a.m. Senator Mathern seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y

Motion Passed 5-0-0.

Senator Mathern will carry the bill.

8:35 a.m. Chairman Dever closed the hearing.

*Joan Bares, Committee Clerk*

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2265  
2/19/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide a contingent appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a veterans' national cemetery grant.

9:16 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

9:17 a.m. Senator Dever introduced the bill and submitted testimony #38035.

9:20 a.m. Senator Dever moved amendment LC 25.0992.02002.

9:20 a.m. Senator Meyer seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 16-0-0.

9:21 a.m. Senator Meyer moved a Do Pass as Amended.

9:21 a.m. Senator Dever seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 16-0-0.

Senator Marcellais will carry the bill.

9:22 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

*Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk*



Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2265**

Introduced by

Senators Meyer, Burckhard, Hogan, Luick, Sorvaag

Representative Schauer

2-19-25  
JB lab2

1 A BILL for an Act to provide ~~a contingent~~an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs  
2 for a veterans' national cemetery grant; and to authorize a line of credit.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. ~~CONTINGENT~~LINE OF CREDIT - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA -**  
5 **APPROPRIATION - ~~STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND~~**  
6 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS - DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION REQUEST -**  
7 **VETERANS' NATIONAL CEMETERY GRANT - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** Subject to the  
8 provisions of this section, ~~there is appropriated out of any moneys in the strategic investment~~  
9 ~~and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of the~~  
10 department of veterans' affairs may borrow up to \$3,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be  
11 necessary, through a line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota during the biennium beginning  
12 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, the proceeds of which are appropriated to the  
13 department of veterans' affairs, for the purpose of providing a grant to a nonprofit organization  
14 for construction costs associated with the construction of a chapel, parking lot, and related  
15 infrastructure at a veterans' national cemetery in the state, for the biennium beginning July 1,  
16 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time  
17 funding item. The interest rate on the line of credit may not exceed the prevailing interest rate  
18 charged to North Dakota governmental entities. If the department of veterans' affairs accesses  
19 the line of credit, the department of veterans' affairs or the Bank shall request a deficiency  
20 appropriation from the legislative assembly to repay the line of credit. The funding provided in

*Alb 2022*

- 1 this section is available only upon certification by the department of veterans' affairs to the
- 2 director of the office of management and budget that the United States department of veterans
- 3 affairs national cemetery administration will provide planning and oversight for the project.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2265**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0992.02002](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (16 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2265 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2-19-25

25.0992.02002  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Senator Meyer  
February 13, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

### ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2265

Introduced by

Senators Meyer, Burckhard, Hogan, Luick, Sorvaag

Representative Schauer

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2 for a veterans' national cemetery grant, and to authorize a line of credit.

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Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

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- 2 director of the office of management and budget that the United States department of veterans
- 3 affairs national cemetery administration will provide planning and oversight for the project.

**2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SB 2265**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2265  
3/14/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a veterans' national cemetery grant; and to authorize a line of credit.

10:07 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, C. Brown, TJ Brown, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

### Discussion Topics:

- Visitor's center
- Line of credit over an appropriation

10:07 a.m. Senator Meyer, District 18, introduced the bill and submitted testimony, #41529.

10:14 a.m. Jason Hicks, commander of the Fargo Moorhead Honor Guard, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #41530.

10:27 a.m. Jim Graulim, Primary Fundraiser for the Fargo Moorhead Honor Guard, testified in favor.

10:33 a.m. Senator Meyer, District 18, testified and answered questions.

10:37 a.m. Joe Wallevand, Fargo Moorhead Honor Guard, testified in favor.

10:44 a.m. Cale Dunwoody, Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #41471.

10:46 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*





### Letter of Support – SB 2265

Friday, March 14, 2025

Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2265.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. Founded in 2019, the Fargo National Cemetery has become a cherished part of the local community, serving as a space to honor service members and support their families and loved ones. The cemetery has continued to grow since its establishment, now spanning 35 acres and offering more space for connection, remembrance, and community.

This meaningful addition to our state warrants the creation of a structure that can provide shelter for families, veterans, and Honor Guard members during unsuitable weather, as well as house amenities to ensure a positive experience for those visiting the cemetery. We are grateful for Senator Hoeven, who was pivotal in securing funding for the rural initiative that made this cemetery possible. Due to its rural nature, amenities such as buildings were not initially provided. As such, Senator Hoeven, along with the local community, have come together to find a suitable solution that properly honors those who have given everything for our country.

This creative solution is a statewide effort to fund the building of the structure, with the ownership and long-term upkeep of the facility to be covered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The local community has already worked hard raising the necessary funds and support for this project. Donations from private citizens and the business community have amounted to approximately \$1.4 million. The estimated cost for the project is around \$5 million, so we need the state's help to make this vision a reality.

This facility will ensure that the Fargo National Cemetery provides an honorable and worthy setting of those who have sacrificed so much. It will provide safe and secure space where families can properly honor their loved ones and those who served. Our state is fortunate to have received a National Cemetery and through this investment, we can provide a meaningful experience for the service members and their families. For these reasons, we urge the committee to give this bill a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody  
Vice President of Public Policy  
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce



Mr. Chairman, members of House GVA

The Veterans Memorial Center at Fargo National Cemetery is a project that has been in the works for a few years. While I wasn't originally involved with the project, I was contacted by the local Honor Guard to learn about their project and vision for the future of the cemetery. They are in attendance and will be presenting after me.

As we kept in touch over the past couple of years and they would keep me updated on issues at the cemetery and the need for improvements. This past fall I was asked if I would ever consider sponsoring a bill to secure funding for a facility meant to honor our nation's heroes.

I was thrilled at the opportunity to help with this project.

In the following months I had meetings with Senator Hoeven, Fargo/Moorhead Chamber President, local mayors, and dozens of Veterans. I appreciate the effort of every single one of you, as this project wouldn't be here without your help.

A little over a year the sale of 30 acres had been finalized between the US Department of Veterans Affairs and local landowners to expand the cemetery's footprint from 5 acres to 35 acres.

A press release from Senator Hoeven stated, "We're working to provide the best federal veterans cemetery, matching the quality we've built at our state-run veterans cemetery, and this 30-acre expansion is a key part of these efforts."

A few months later our senior Senator held a roundtable with VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, Senator Cramer, numerous

city officials, veteran service organizations and other local stakeholders to advance plans for a facility at Fargo National Cemetery. Following that meeting, feedback was provided to the undersecretary, which secured an agreement to allow a local non-profit to build a facility, pending VA approval. The VA would then assume the ongoing costs of owning, operating, staffing and maintaining the facility.

Since the proffer was submitted in October, 2024 by the local working group, Senator Hoeven has continued working to ensure the VA follows through on their commitment to support this project moving forward and he made this a priority in Senate committee hearings.

In early February, the Senator released another statement on the confirmation of the next secretary to lead Veterans Affairs, Doug Collins former Congressman of Georgia

The Senator stated, "His experience as an Air Force Colonel and chaplain have prepared him to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs. We appreciate his commitment to ensure that our veterans receive the recognition, benefits and high-quality care they have earned. When we met, the Secretary also committed to help us advance upgrades for Fargo National Cemetery. He understands what it means to serve, and we look forward to working with him to ensure that our nation keeps its promises to our veterans."

Thank you again to Senator Hoeven for your dedication to Fargo National Cemetery.

The \$3 million Line of credit through BND requiring VA approval prior to the funds being drawn, will be used towards:

- Gathering area to be used by family and friends of the deceased veteran prior to or following the interment
- Gallery to showcase the lives and service of our Veterans
- Offices for VA staff
- Breakroom for the Honor Guard members
- Indoor restrooms
- Garage to accommodate a hearse
- And one of the biggest needs, a parking lot

As the proud son of a Vietnam Veteran, I am motivated to assist our military members, their families, and our Veterans any way I can.

We honor our fallen veterans with deep gratitude, recognizing their sacrifice, courage, and dedication to our nation's freedom. We remember them not just in solemn ceremonies but in our daily commitment to unity, service, and respect. Their bravery echoes through generations, reminding us that freedom is never free. With a heartfelt thanks, I hope we pledge to support their families, honor their memory, and ensure their sacrifices are never forgotten.

I ask for a do pass recommendation and I'll stand for any questions.

Scott Meyer

Grand Forks ND

State Senator District 18



# **Veterans Memorial Center**

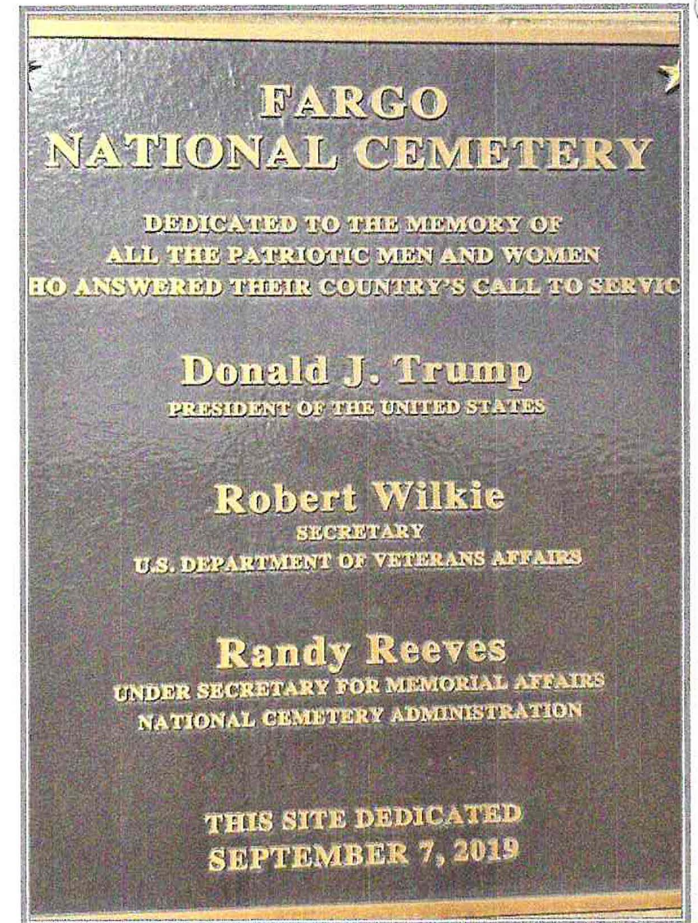
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Fargo Moorhead Honor Guard  
Fargo National Cemetery



# Agenda

- Non-Profit Status
- Donations
- Needs
- Expansion
- Strategic Plans



When the Fargo National Cemetery (FNC) opened in 2019; local Veterans groups recognized the need to form a specific honor guard to conduct Military Funeral Honors at the newly established FNC. These organizations banded together and created the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard (FMHG), a blend of all the service organizations within the Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo, and Dilworth.

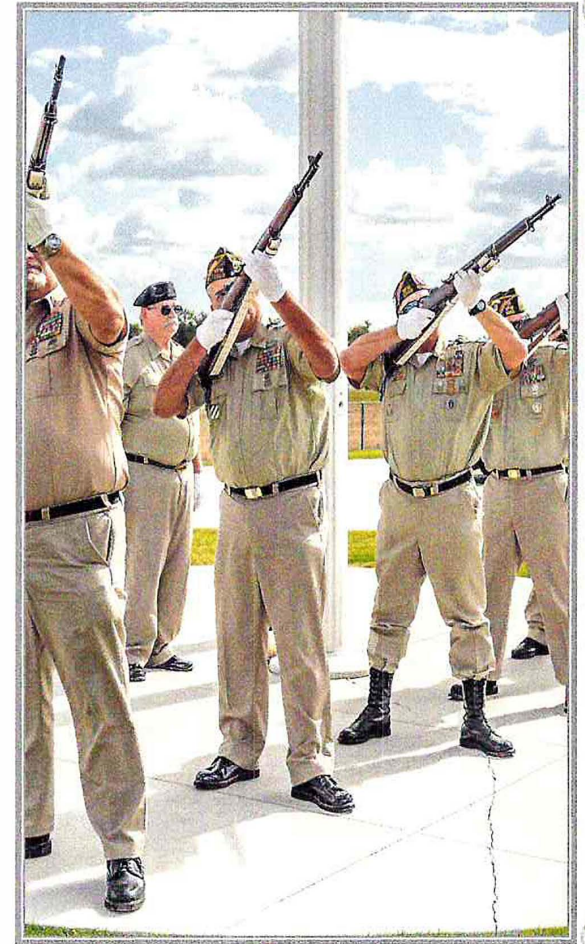




# Mission Statement

Provide ceremonial Military Honors, including rifle volleys and bugler-played “Taps,” for the family of an honorably discharged veteran.

**“Lay to rest with proper honor, dignity, and respect for the remains of our fallen comrade.”**



**"We are Humbled and Honored to perform this Sacred Military Tradition in recognition of their service to our Great Nation."**





# No-Profit 501c(3)

- Approved as Non-Profit by IRS:
  - December 2020
- North Dakota Sec of State Certificate:
  - Status - Active
  - Standing - Good



# Donations

Cash: \$ 346,176.

CD's: \$ 984,184.

Pledged: \$ 101,000.

Total \$1,431,350.

As of March 12, 2025





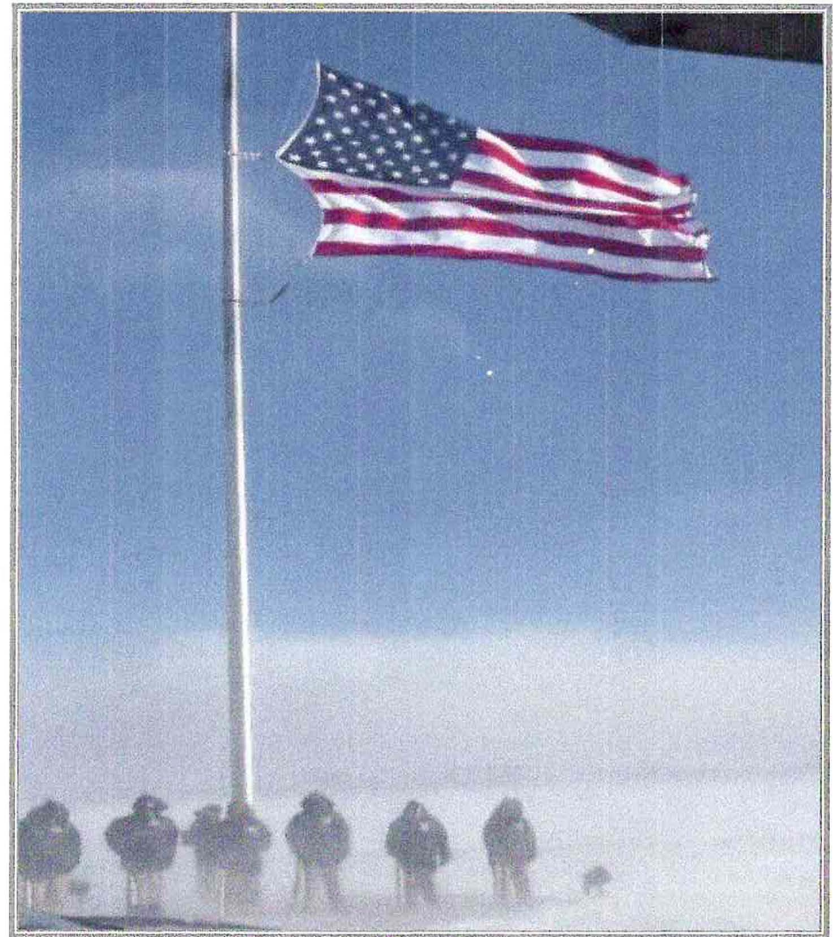




# The Need

Burial schedule;

1. On the hour
2. Lack of facility



# The Need

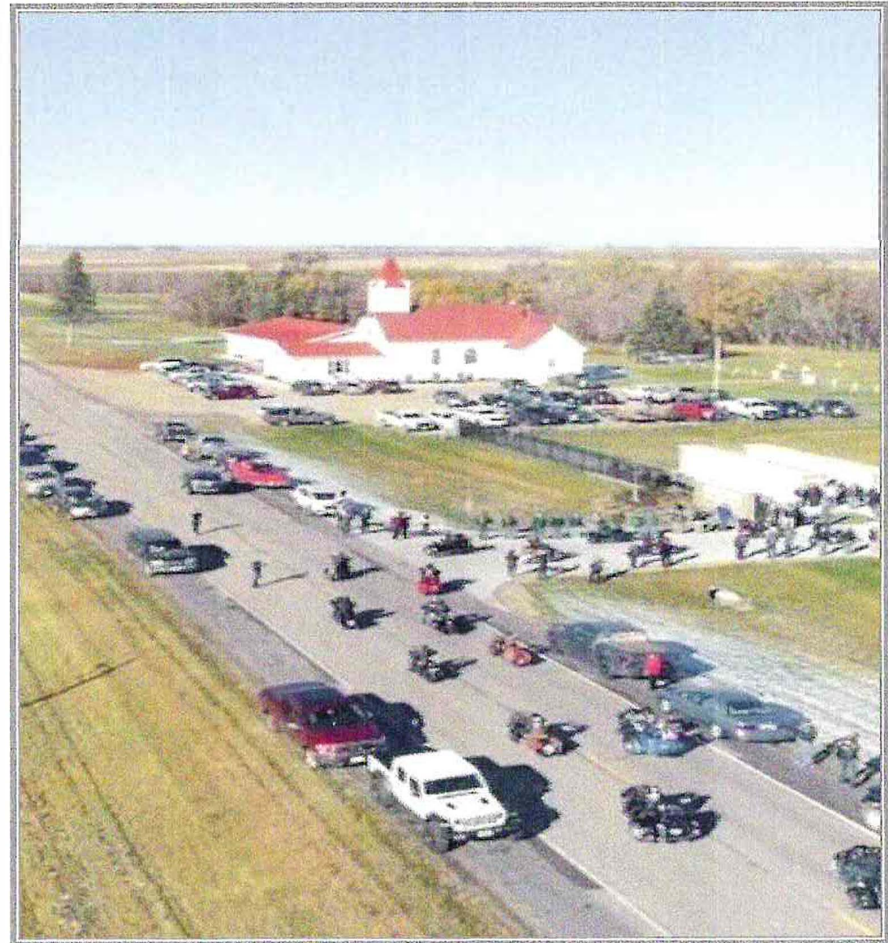
- Inclement Weather;
  1. Snow
  2. Cold
  3. Rain
  4. High Wind
  5. Extreme Heat





# The Need

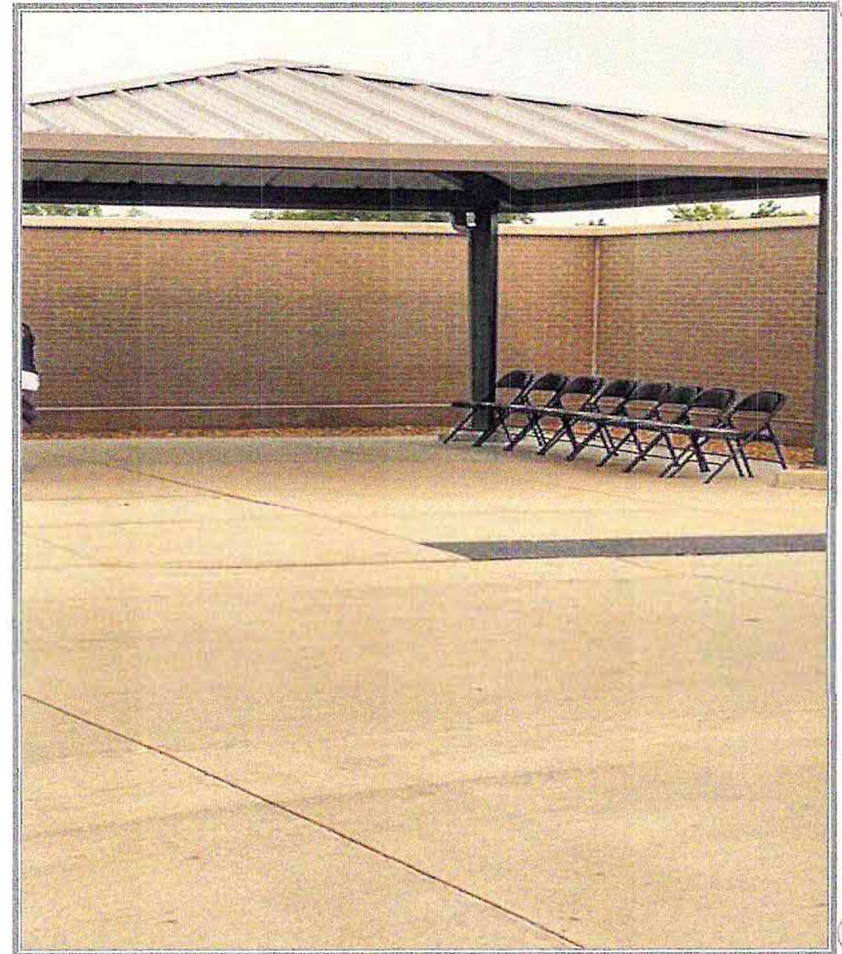
- Limited off-Highway Parking:
  1. Interment Shelter Road
  2. Church Parking Lot
  3. Cass County 20





# The Need

- Committal Shelter:
  1. Lack of Protection
  2. Lack of Seating (should accommodate approx. (60) attendees. NCA Design Guide, 2024



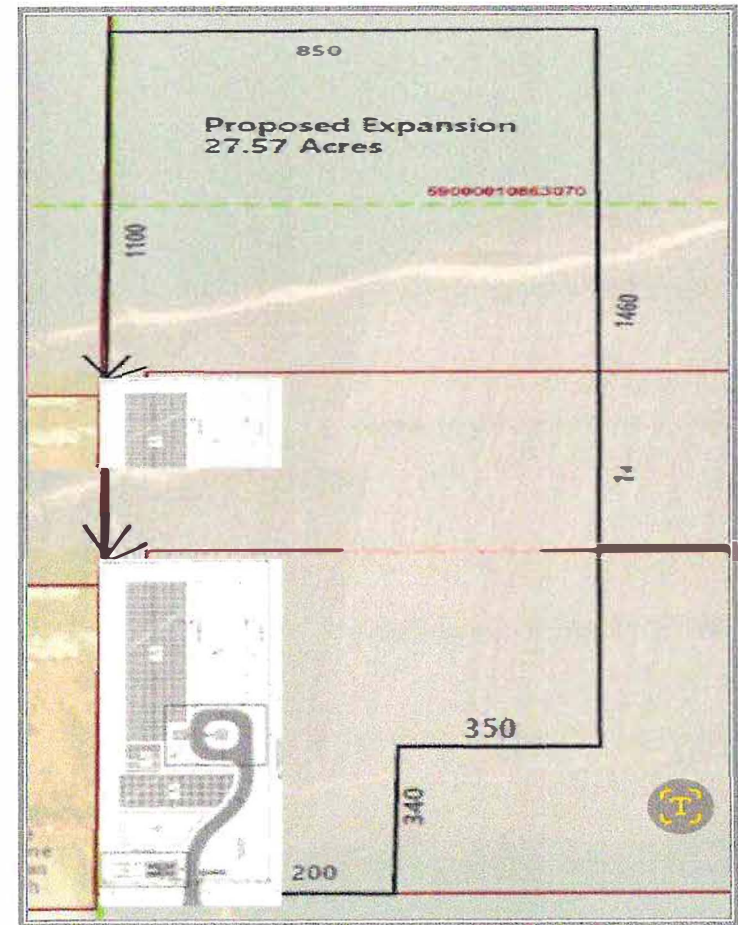






# NCA Expansion

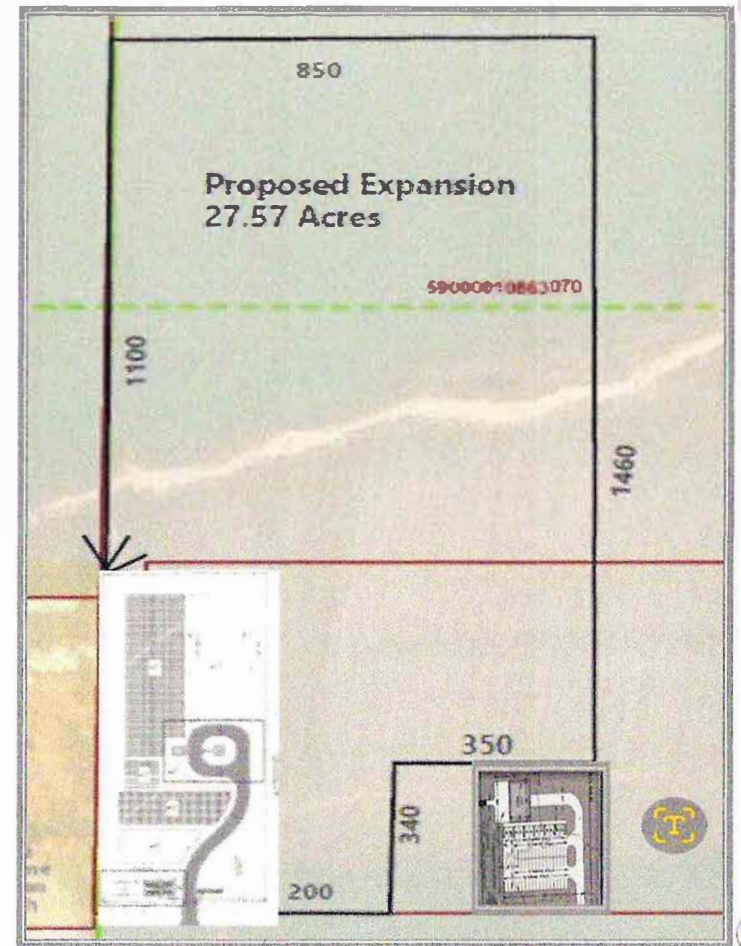
- NCA has purchased additional 30 acres





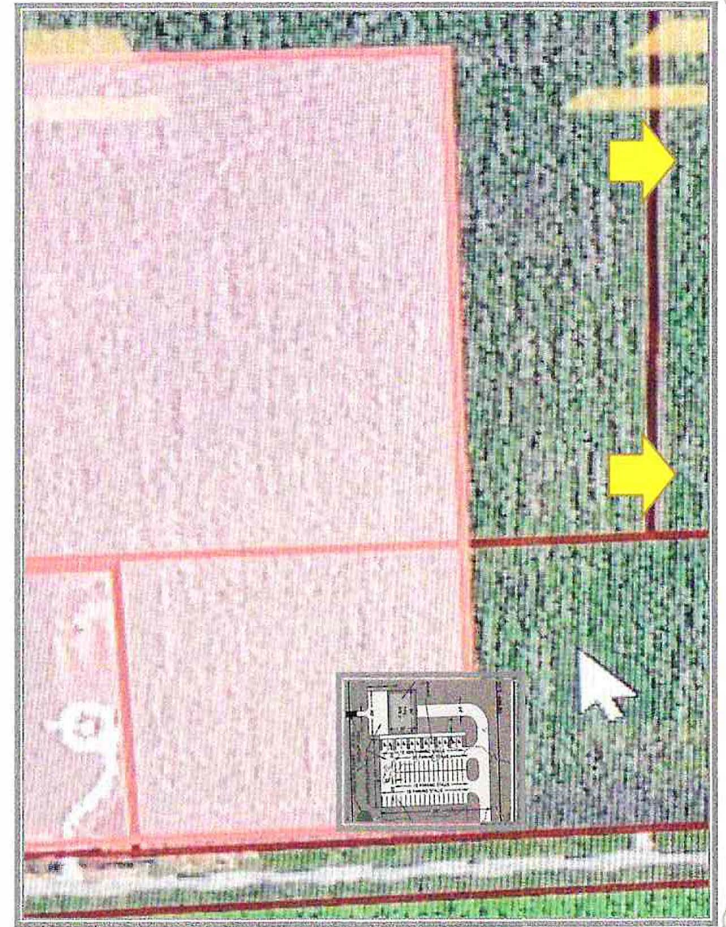
# Strategic Plan

- Letter of Support from Mayors of Fargo, West Fargo, Harwood, the FMWF Chamber, and Senator John Hoeven to the National Cemetery Administration
- Submit Proffer to the NCA Administration, October 2024
- Approval of the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard as the 501c3 for Fundraising
- Approval of the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard as the 501c3 for the construction



# West Fargo

- Plan for future 14<sup>th</sup> St West Fargo
- Move access road off Cass County 20
- 50' Access Easement East of the proposed Property line







**FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY**

COUNTY ROAD 29  
HAWKWOOD, ND 58042

**ENTRY PERSPECTIVE**

**ICON**  
WWW.ICONARCHITECTS.COM  
JOH N D. 21-105107/2022  
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PAGE  
**SD903**





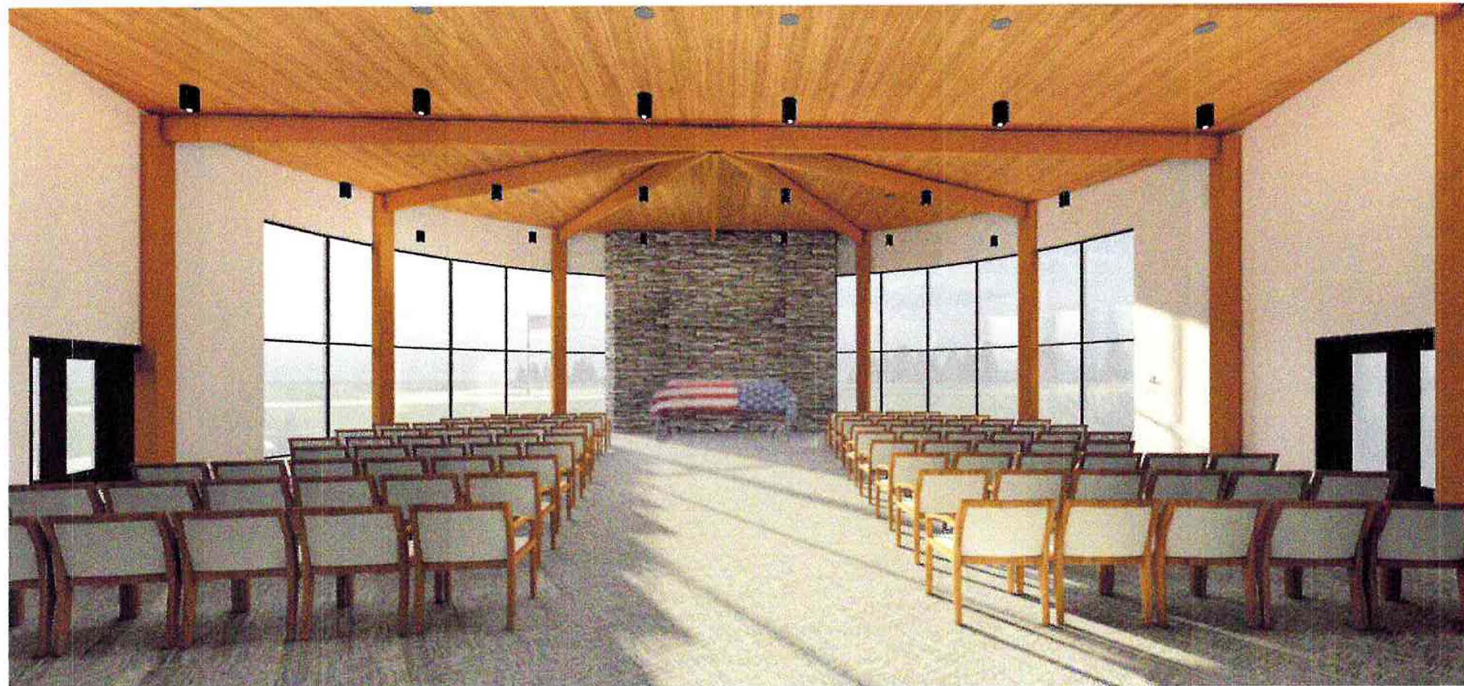
FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY

COUNTY ROAD 20  
FARGO, ND 58102

TYPE PERSPECTIVE

**ICON**  
WWW.ICON-TECH.COM PAGE  
JOB NO. 21-10517-02/22  
04/2023 SD90





Fargo National Cemetery

Interior Perspective

Client: Fadd 20  
Project: 21-105 (10/14/22)

**ICON**  
WWW.ICONARCHITECTS.COM  
JOB NO. 21-105 (10/14/22)  
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## Memorial Gallery







# Donor Wall





# Find Us Online

- <https://fargomemorialhonorguard.org>
- <https://www.facebook.com/unitedpatrioticbodies>

TOGETHER, WE CAN HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED.

*Together, we can make this happen.*





Do you have  
any  
Questions?



**Jason Hicks,  
Commander  
Fargo Memorial Honor Guard  
701-412-8348**

[patrioticbodies6@gmail.com](mailto:patrioticbodies6@gmail.com)



# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2265  
3/20/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a veterans' national cemetery grant; and to authorize a line of credit.
--

9:48 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Representatives Bahl, C. Brown, TJ Brown, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff  
Members absent: Vice Chairman Satrom

### Discussion Topics:

- Cemetery background

9:49 a.m. Jessica Lee, Office of Senator Hoeven, testified and answered questions.

9:58 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*



# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2265  
3/20/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a veterans' national cemetery grant; and to authorize a line of credit.

2:31 p.m. Chairman Schauer opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, C. Brown, TJ Brown, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

2:31 p.m. Allen Knudson, Legislative Council, testified and answered questions.

2:36 p.m. Representative Vetter moved a Do Pass and rerefer to appropriations.

2:36 p.m. Representative Schneider seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Collette Brown	N
Representative Timothy Brown	Y
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	N
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	N
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	N

2:38 p.m. Motion passed 10-4-0.

Representative Brown will carry the bill

2:38 p.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**REENGROSSED SB 2265 ([25.0992.03000](#))**

**Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (10 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2265 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.



**2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2265**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2265  
4/7/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a veterans' national cemetery grant; and to authorize a line of credit.

8:34 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Vigesaa, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Member absent: Vice Chairman Kempenich, J. Nelson, Mitskog

### **Discussion Topics:**

- National Veteran's Cemetery Facilities
- Military Funerals
- Chapel Construction

8:38 a.m. Representative Schauer introduced the bill #44709.

9:09 a.m. Senator Meyer answered questions.

### **Additional written testimony:**

Jim Graalum, Fargo Memorial Honor Guard submitted In Favor testimony #44710.

Wayne Wermager, US Navy Veteran submitted In Favor testimony #44711.

Scott Satermo, Fort Berthold VFW Post 9061 Member submitted In Favor testimony #44712.

Lucinda Halvorson submitted In Favor testimony #44713.

Jason Hicks, Fargo-Moorhead Honor Guard submitted In Favor testimony #44714.

Joe Wallevand Fargo Memorial Honor Guard submitted In Favor testimony #44722.

9:12 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

*Krystal Eberle, Committee Clerk*



Good morning, Chairman Vigesaa and members of the House Appropriations Committee.

My name is Austen Schauer, District 13, West Fargo.

Today, I bring you **Senate Bill 2265** designed to support our veterans' families when the end arrives.

**SB 2265** will provide the National Veterans Cemetery in Fargo with a line of credit of up to \$3 million. These funds will be used to improve and enhance the cemetery grounds.

Since its dedication in **2019**, the Fargo National Cemetery has expanded from five to 35 acres.

The Honor Guard has laid more than one thousand veterans to rest and now with expansion, the cemetery has room for another 32 hundred burials.

However, the Cemetery lacks important facilities.

- **It does not have a gathering area for family and friends to meet before and after interment.**
- **It does not have indoor bathrooms. Current facilities consist of a vault toilet that freezes in the winter and a port-a-potty.**
- **It does not have adequate parking, forcing families to park on Country Road 20 with traffic speeds of 60 mph or greater, which is a traffic hazard.**
- **It does not have a gallery honoring veterans and showcasing their service.**
- **It does not have a garage for a hearse, ensuring proper funeral service operations.**
- **It does not have an office for VA and Honor Guard staff to assist families and manage cemetery operations.**

The Fargo Honor Guard accepts all funeral requests which a noble commitment. However, given the lack of indoor facilities, Honor Guard members, volunteers, and family members must endure harsh weather conditions during services which often involves older people.

We can do better.

The Fargo Memorial Honor Guard presented a detailed plan for improving facilities to our GVA Committee with an estimated cost of \$5 million.

The Guard has raised \$1.4 million and now seeks a line of credit for \$3 million dollars.

The funds would be available from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027. Should these dollars be accessed, a deficiency appropriation will be requested.

The VA must approve the project before State dollars can be used. After the project is completed, the VA will take ownership of the cemetery with all necessary upkeep.

**SB 2265** has received strong support from Senator Hoeven who is working behind the scenes to move this project forward.

City and community leaders from Fargo, West Fargo, and nearby Harwood are in full support along with Cass County legislators.

The goal is to bring the Fargo National Cemetery to the same high standard as the North Dakota State Veterans Cemetery in Mandan.

That is a high bar, but attainable when we work together to achieve it.

Let us, "**Lay to rest with proper honor, dignity, and respect for the remains of our fallen comrade**" which is the Mission Statement of the Fargo Honor Guard.

Mr. Chairman, Committee members, we seek your support of **SB 2265**.

Thank you.



7 April 2025

## Testimony by Jim Graalum

### Fargo Memorial Honor Guard

As a veteran, former officer in both the National Guard and Reserves, and current Fargo Memorial Honor Guard member, I am presenting my testimony to the Appropriations Committee to provide detailed information regarding the Veterans Memorial Center at the Fargo National Cemetery. My title is Project Coordinator, which means “jack of all trades.” My primary responsibility is to raise funds for the Veterans Memorial Center.

My name will be inscribed at the cemetery on two occasions: once on my headstone and again on the donation I made to the building project.

But this building project is more than Jason Hicks or myself, we may be the face and voice of the project, but it is more for the widows and family members who must endure the harsh weather during the interment of their loved one. It's for the parent who visits their son's or daughter's grave site and reads a book as they sit alone or for families of deceased veterans, providing a place where they can reminisce with friends and pay their final respects in a comfortable setting.

Since the opening of the Fargo National Cemetery in the fall of 2019, the absence of a building has emerged as a primary concern that requires attention. Despite adverse weather conditions, the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard performs the Final Military Honors throughout the year. Whether it's rain, snow, heat, or cold, the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard consistently supports the family of the deceased veteran with their dedicated presence.

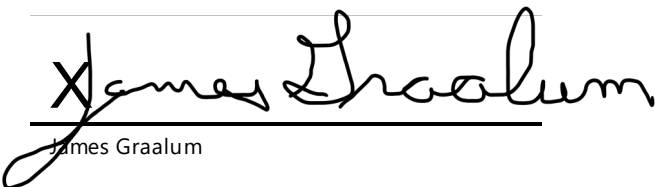
The Fargo National Cemetery provides services to North Dakota, Western Minnesota, and Northeast South Dakota. It is the sole Federal Cemetery between Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Black Hills National Cemetery in South Dakota, and Yellowstone National Cemetery in Montana.

We have received over 790 donations from donors, including Foundations, businesses, service organizations, social clubs, fraternal groups, and individuals throughout North Dakota and western Minnesota, encompassing areas from Kenmare to New Salem, Wahpeton, and Cavalier. Currently, we have 303 donors who have contributed at least \$500 each. These contributors recognize the significance of the Veterans Memorial Center initiative, which seeks to create a serene and welcoming environment for families and friends to honor and remember our fallen comrades.

I plan to submit two letters of support from Native American Veterans: Wayne Wermager, a member of the Chippewa Tribe from White Earth, Minnesota, and Scott Satermo, a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes from New Town, North Dakota. I have also spoken with Harriet Good Iron, Mandaree, North Dakota, and Gold Star Mother whose son, Nathaniel, a member of the North Dakota Guard 188<sup>th</sup> Air Defense, was killed in action on November 23, 2006. She has expressed her intention to donate one of his uniforms for display in the gallery. Additionally, I will include a handwritten note from Lucinda Halvorson, who has generously donated \$5,000 to the building fund.

This project aims to enhance the Fargo National Cemetery by constructing a facility that will provide shelter from the weather, a chapel, a gathering space, a gallery, restrooms, and a parking lot.

For these reasons, I am requesting assistance from the North Dakota Legislators in securing funding to support the construction of the Veterans Memorial Center at the Fargo National Cemetery. Thank you for considering funding this vital project for the Veterans and their families.



James Graalum



**Wayne E. G. Wermager**  
**1892 6th Street West**  
**West Fargo, North Dakota 58078**

March 21, 2025

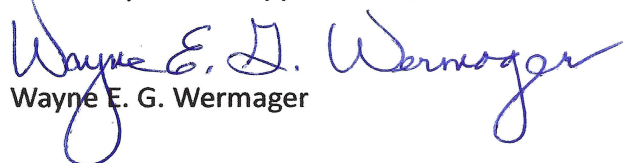
The Honorable T. J. Brown, Representative  
State of North Dakota – District 27  
Government & Veterans Affairs, Chair

Dear Chairman Brown,

My name is Wayne E. G. Wermager. I am a 50-year resident of North Dakota, an honorably discharged United States Navy Vietnam Veteran with in-country service from April 1971 to March 1972, and an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe – White Earth Reservation from birth (all documentation available to confirm).

By my signature, this letter serves to inform you and all your legislative colleagues that, at my and my wife's passings, it is our intention to be buried at the Fargo National Cemetery. The Fargo National Cemetery is hallowed ground honoring "all" who served and I am in favor of the plans for a future Visitor's Center project being proposed.

With Respect and Appreciation,

  
Wayne E. G. Wermager

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



NC CX

3-17-25

I would like to ensure  
my donation will be used  
for the National Cemetery  
Chapel in North Fargo.  
Attended a funeral at  
the Veterans Chapel in Mandan  
it is practical, respectful,  
and needed here.

Enclosed is my check  
for \$5000.

Lucinda Halvorson



# Veterans Memorial Center

---

Fargo Moorhead Honor Guard  
Fargo National Cemetery



# Agenda

- Non-Profit Status
- Donations
- Needs
- Design
- Costs





# Non-Profit 501(C)3

- Approved as Non-Profit by IRS:
  - December 2020
- North Dakota Sec of State Certificate:
  - Status - Active
  - Standing - Good





# Donations

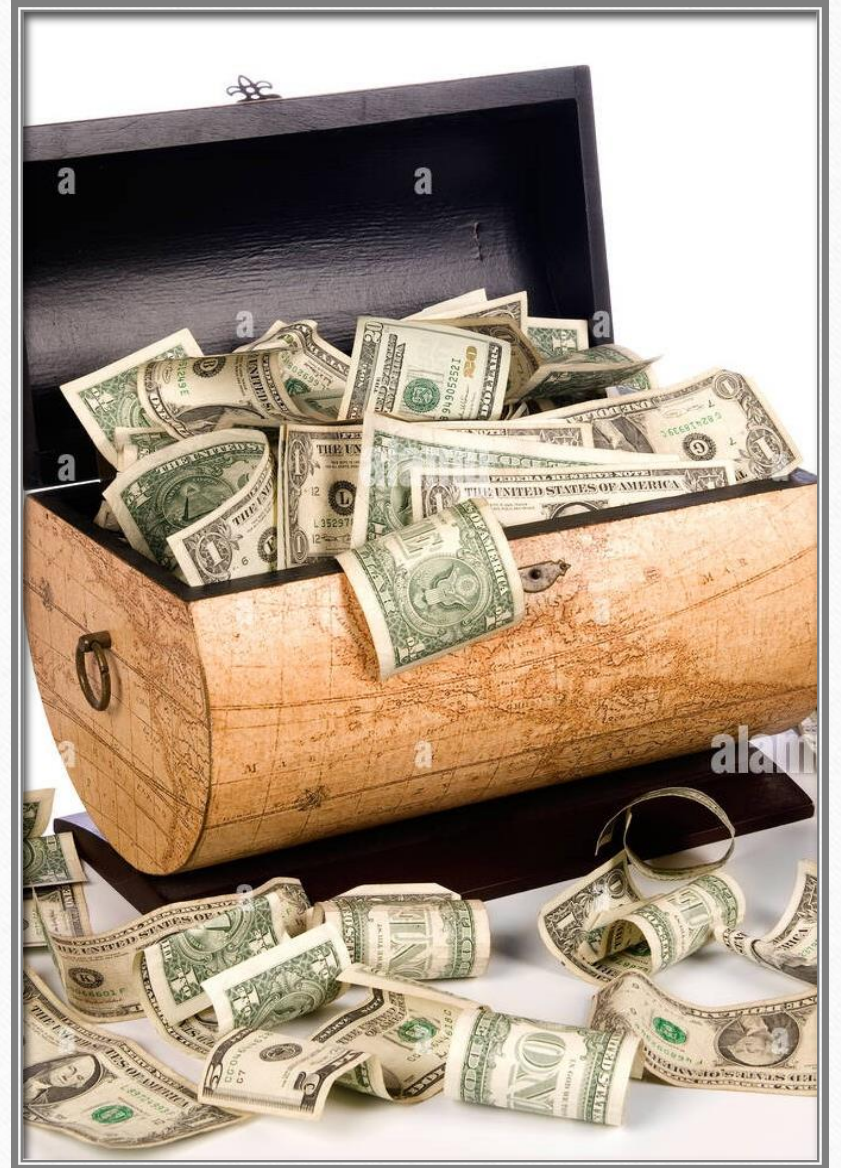
Cash: \$ 360,899.

CDs: \$ 996,764.

Pledged: \$ 96,000.

Total: \$1,453,663.

As of April 7, 2025









# The Need

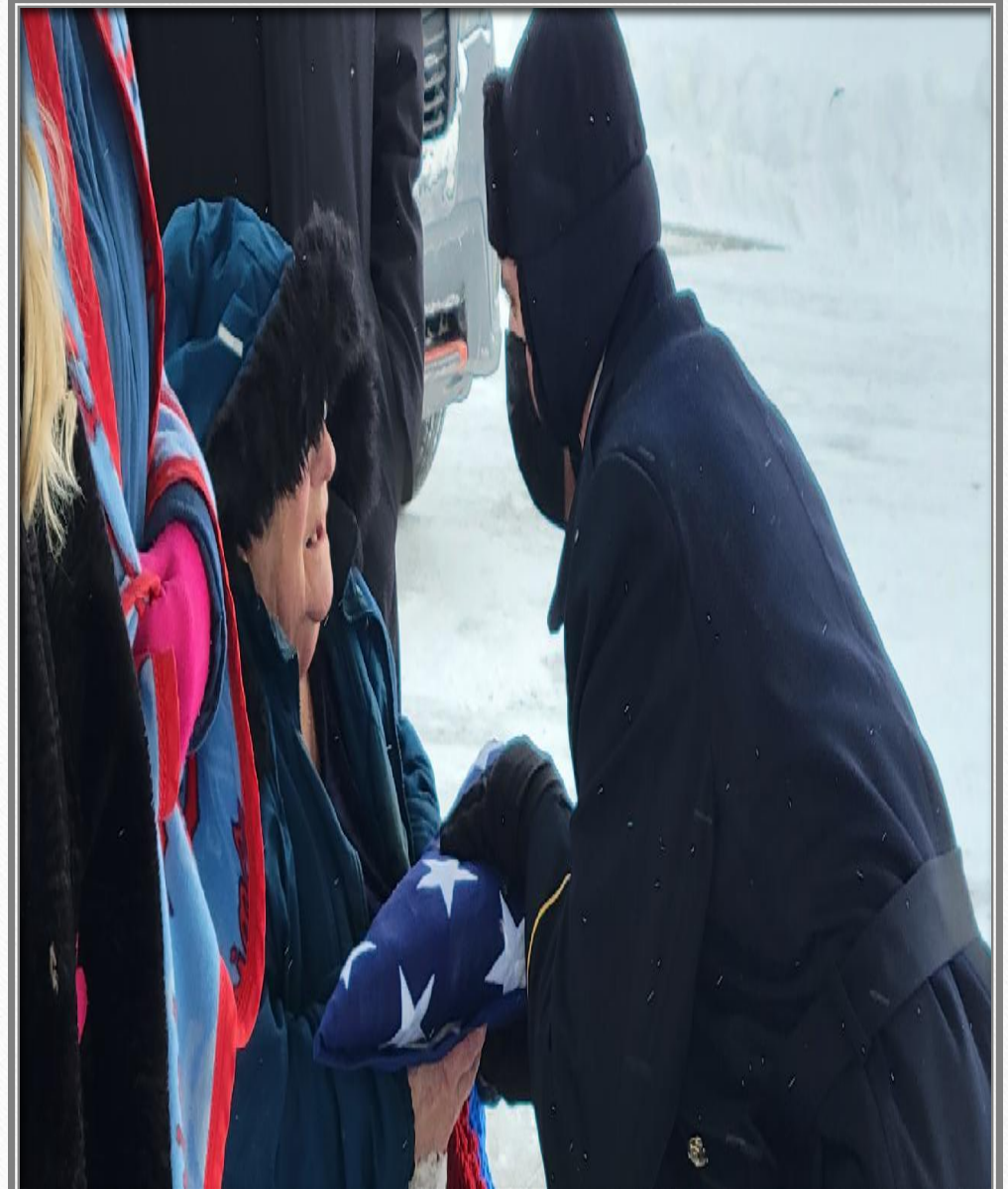
Burial schedule:

1. On the hour
2. Lack of facility



# The Need

- Inclement Weather:
  1. Snow
  2. Cold
  3. Rain
  4. High Wind
  5. Extreme Heat





# The Need

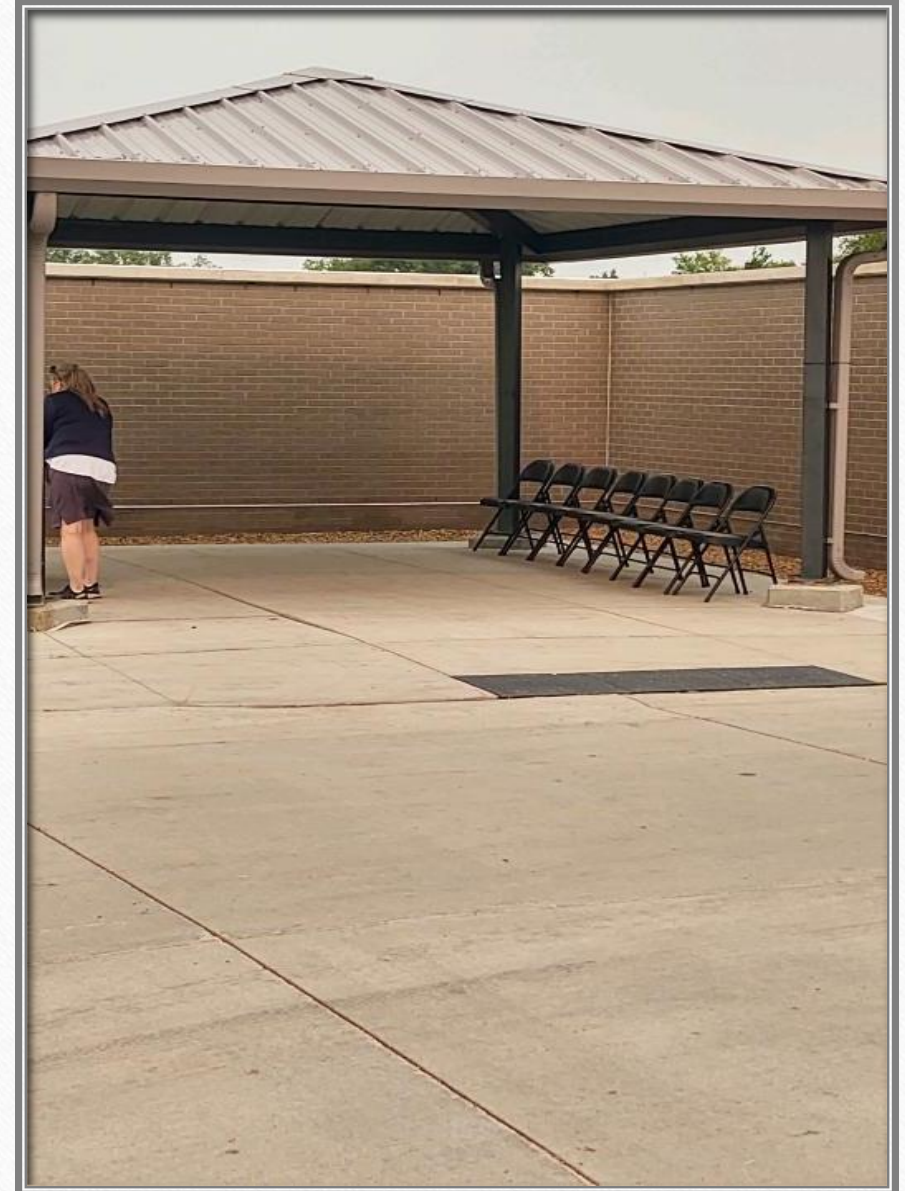
- Limited Parking:
  1. Interment Road
  2. Church Parking Lot
  3. Parking on Cass County 20





# The Need

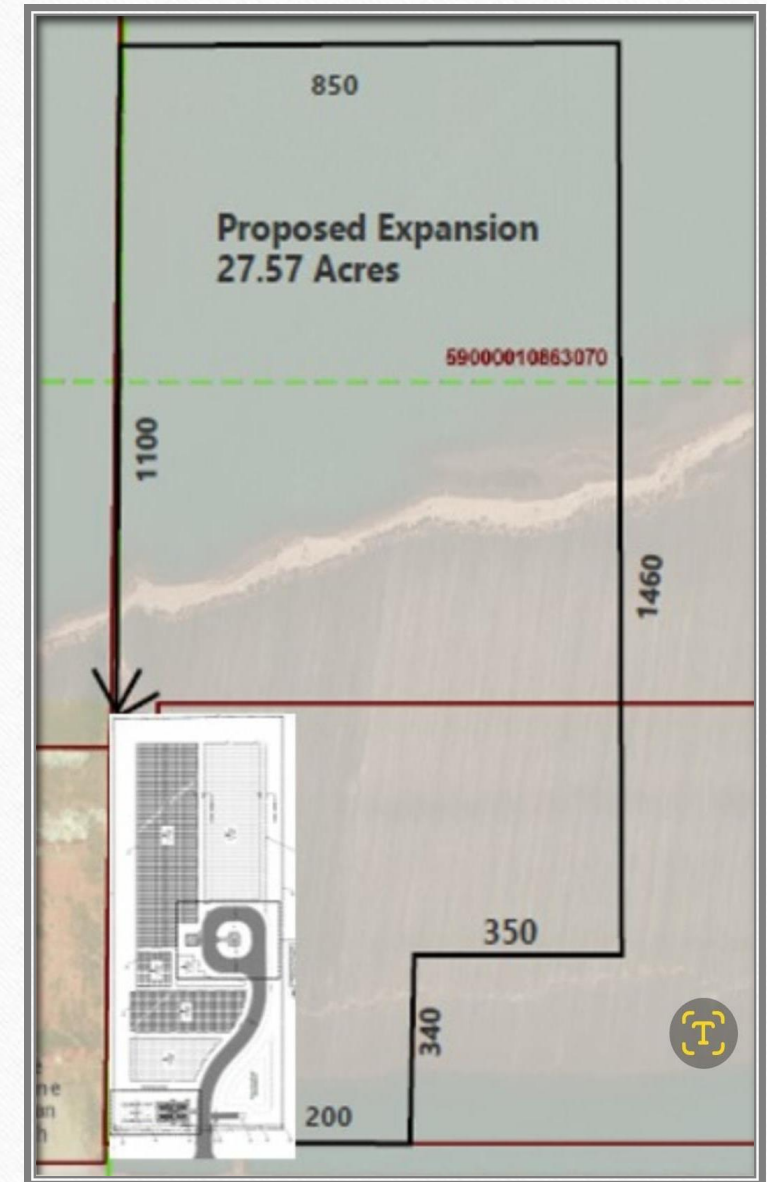
- Committal Shelter:
  1. Lack of Protection
  2. Lack of Seating(should accommodate approx. (60) attendees. NCA Design Guide, 2024





# NCA/VA Expansion

- National Cemetery Administration purchased 30 additional acres





# Cass County/West Fargo

- Move access road off Cass County 20
- Plan for future 14<sup>th</sup> St West Fargo
- 50' Access Easement East of the proposed property line





# Building Costs

Cost: 7,400sf @ 500sf: \$3,700,000

Site Prep/Parking Lot: \$1,000,000

Contingency Fund

(10 percent): \$ 480,000

**TOTAL COST: \$5,180,000**







# FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY

HARWOOD, ND







**FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY**

COUNTY ROAD 20  
HARWOOD, ND 58042

**ENTRY PERSPECTIVE**

**ICON**  
www.iconarchitects.com  
C5 NC 21-105 | 07/20/23  
© 2023

PAGE  
**SD903**





**FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY**

COUNTY ROAD 20  
HARWOOD, ND 58042

**ENTRY PERSPECTIVE**

**ICON**  
WWW.ICONARCHITECTS.COM  
JOB NO. 21-105 | 07/20/23  
© 2023

PAGE  
SD90





**Fargo National Cemetery**

County Road 70  
Harwood, ND 58042

**Interior Perspective**





FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY  
FARGO, ND



ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST OF \$3,700,000

**ICON**  
ARCHITECTURAL GROUP



## Gallery Mural Art Installation





# Memorial Gallery





# Donor Wall





TOGETHER, WE CAN HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED.

*Together, we can make this happen.*





# Find Us Online

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- <https://fargomemorialhonorguard.org>
- <https://www.facebook.com/unitedpatrioticbodies>

Do you have  
any  
Questions?



Jason Hicks,  
Commander  
Fargo Memorial Honor Guard  
701-412-8348

[patrioticbodies6@gmail.com](mailto:patrioticbodies6@gmail.com)





**A TESTIMONY regarding SB 2265 to the  
NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE**

*Joseph Wallevand, Christine, ND*

Good morning. I am Joe Wallevand, Christine, North Dakota. As an original member, I have been with the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard since its inception in the Spring of 2019. I want to thank the North Dakota House of Representatives for its consideration of our testimony and would like to offer a few words **IN FAVOR OF SENATE BILL 2265**. Thank you, too, North Dakota Senate and the Veterans Affairs committees of the Legislature for your pass, and to Senator Meyer and his group for sponsoring this bill.

I have been retired for ten years from a 25-year employment as an analytical chemist with the American Crystal Sugar Research Center, preceded by 19 years of full-service high school science teaching. I entered the United States Army from Minnesota in 1965, with nearly three years in the Green Berets including a year as a Special Forces A-team medic in the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam. Following active duty, I served

18 years in the North Dakota Army National Guard, attaining the rank of First Sergeant, retiring after 21 years of military service. My Veterans memberships include the VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Special Forces Association.

Fargo National Cemetery is our “Arlington.” We are extremely proud and honored to be able to volunteer time to serve the needs of our fellow Veterans. Like others in the Honor Guard, I drive a substantial distance to attend burials. Because of my age and the requirements as a caregiver for my wife of over 54 years—plus the unpredictable nature of our North Dakota weather and resulting road conditions—I usually participate only on Fridays. Like my fellow Guard members, I have stood in driving rain, endured near blizzard conditions, coped with bitter cold, maintained Attention and Present Arms while basking in the extreme heat of a summer day, and almost blown over by 60 mph wind gusts during those ceremonies—no joke.

Regardless, we come there knowing we have a sacred reason for doing it.



The need for an organization such as ours arose when it was announced the State of North Dakota was getting its own National Cemetery. To correctly administer the honors required for burial in a National Cemetery, an honor guard with rifles and bugle are promised and must be available during the multiple times interments are requested by families and the VA. Members from the various Patriotic Bodies within our two-county area volunteered to perform these duties. The time we needed to get up and running was short: only four months. We needed uniforms; initially, we even had to borrow weapons from established local honor guards. As former military, we rose to the challenge. Despite representing diverse veterans' organizations and previous military services, our common purpose binds us in ways familiar to all who have performed that service. We are a team.

Our numbers are small. Many of our group are out there as often as five days a week often attending more than one burial a day, burials which may be separated by more than two hours. Younger members and some older ones have day jobs which

do not allow them to be available for duty. Some have disabilities which (understandably) make this form of volunteering more difficult. The ones coming from the retired group, like me, have the aggravations of age to contend with. If this were Arlington National Cemetery, full-time active-duty military personnel perform these duties. Even Ft. Snelling in Minnesota can muster enough personnel to do seven committals a day—we can do, and have done, five ceremonies in one day. The acknowledgments we receive from the next of kin and others are deeply appreciated by the Honor Guard.

From our standpoint as volunteers, the building we propose will reduce many of the obstacles we experience doing this important work: storage of our ceremonial weapons, warm rest rooms, parking spots, and other areas which can facilitate our work out there. Additionally, it is our hope this project can be a recruitment tool to attract needed, additional members for the Fargo Memorial Honor Guard.

Though we have our own issues with the current status, we are MORE concerned for the families and friends of the deceased.



The truth is, having served as we did years earlier, WE got used to working under conditions such as these. We do so again willingly, but it is unacceptable THEY should have to endure them. The Fargo Memorial Honor Guard believes the interred veterans and their families deserve to have a memorial service conducted that shows our ultimate respect for them.

What we are proposing can eliminate many of the current difficulties. A single, on-again-off-again restroom which resembles those seen in national park campgrounds (currently having to be substituted for by a Porta-Potty) does not fulfill the needs of potentially large groups of people, commonly older ones, who have been standing out in the cold. The parking can be dreadful for any more than twenty cars in the funeral party. Often, in the cases of well-known decedents or of an unclaimed veteran, the number of attendees at a ceremony can reach close to 200—the parking extending out onto a busy county road and creating a terrible safety problem. Currently, there is no on-site gathering space for the next of kin, prior to nor after the ceremony. Likewise, the Veterans Administration

personnel supervising the affairs of the cemetery must drive to the site from their Fargo VA office.

On a personal note, thirty US Army Special Forces Soldiers have earned the Medal of Honor. It is the Honor Guard's desire to name this building for a Fargo-Moorhead native, 1LT Loren Douglas Hagen, a posthumous recipient from the Viet Nam War. Hagen himself was a Green Beret, which might explain some of my personal zeal, even emotion, in seeing this project through to completion.

With that, I would ask the **House Appropriation Committee to move in favor of SB 2265** to provide the additional funding required to complete this much needed project. I realize many of our past and current State Legislators have had the honor of serving our State and Country, and who can understand the importance of a project such as we are proposing. Our state and region, and especially our veterans and their families need this now. Thank you.



# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2265  
4/14/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a veterans' national cemetery grant; and to authorize a line of credit.

10:12 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Vigesaa, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Member absent: Vice Chairman Kempenich

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

10:13 a.m. Representative Bosch introduced Amendment LC #25.0992.03001, #44969.

10:18 a.m. Representative Bosch moved adopt amendment LC #25.0992.03001.

10:18 a.m. Representative O'Brien seconded the motion.

10:18 a.m. Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	AB
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	AB
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y

Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

10:18 a.m. Motion passed 21-0-2.

10:19 a.m. Representative Bosch moved Do Pass as Amended.

10:19 a.m. Representative Stemen seconded the motion.

10:19 a.m. Roll Call Vote

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	AB
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	AB
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

10:19 a.m. Motion passed 21-0-2.

10:19 a.m. Representative Pyle will carry the bill.

10:23 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa adjourned the meeting.

*Krystal Eberle, Committee Clerk*



Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
SECOND ENGROSSMENT**

VC 4/14/25  
1 of 2

**REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2265**

Introduced by

Senators Meyer, Burckhard, Hogan, Luick, Sorvaag

Representative Schauer

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a  
2 veterans' national cemetery grant; ~~and~~ to authorize a line of credit; and to provide for a report.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. LINE OF CREDIT - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - APPROPRIATION -**  
5 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS - DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION REQUEST -**  
6 **VETERANS' NATIONAL CEMETERY GRANT - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT.** Subject to  
7 the provisions of this section, the department of veterans' affairs may borrow up to \$3,000,000  
8 through a line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota during the biennium beginning July 1,  
9 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, the proceeds of which are appropriated to the department of  
10 veterans' affairs, for the purpose of providing a grant to a nonprofit organization for construction  
11 costs associated with the construction of a ~~chapel~~ welcome center, parking lot, and related  
12 infrastructure at a veterans' national cemetery in the state, for the biennium beginning July 1,  
13 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The ~~funding provided~~ appropriation in this section is  
14 considered a one-time funding item. The interest rate on the line of credit may not exceed the  
15 prevailing interest rate charged to North Dakota governmental entities. If the department of  
16 veterans' affairs accesses the line of credit, the department of veterans' affairs ~~or the Bank~~ shall  
17 request a deficiency appropriation from the legislative assembly to repay the line of credit. The  
18 ~~funding provided~~ appropriation in this section is available only upon certification by the  
19 department of veterans' affairs to the director of the office of management and budget that the  
20 United States department of veterans affairs national cemetery administration will provide

1 planning and oversight for the project. The department of veterans' affairs shall require an  
2 organization that receives a grant under this section to provide a report to the department of  
3 veterans' affairs on the use of the funds received, including copies of all invoices and checks.  
4 The department of veterans' affairs shall provide the information received from the organization  
5 to the legislative audit and fiscal review committee and report to the committee on the status of  
6 the project during the 2025-26 interim.



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
REENGROSSED SB 2265**

**Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0992.03001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (21 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). Reengrossed SB 2265 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

25.0992.03001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Representative Bosch  
April 11, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECOND ENGROSSMENT

### REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2265

Introduced by

Senators Meyer, Burckhard, Hogan, Luick, Sorvaag

Representative Schauer

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a  
2 veterans' national cemetery grant; ~~and~~ to authorize a line of credit; and to provide for a report.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. LINE OF CREDIT - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - APPROPRIATION -**

5 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS - DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION REQUEST -**

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18 ~~funding provided~~appropriation in this section is available only upon certification by the

19 department of veterans' affairs to the director of the office of management and budget that the

20 United States department of veterans affairs national cemetery administration will provide



- 1 planning and oversight for the project. The department of veterans' affairs shall require an
- 2 organization that receives a grant under this section to provide a report to the department of
- 3 veterans' affairs on the use of the funds received, including copies of all invoices and checks.
- 4 The department of veterans' affairs shall provide the information received from the organization
- 5 to the legislative audit and fiscal review committee and report to the committee on the status of
- 6 the project during the 2025-26 interim.

**2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**SB 2265**



# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2265  
4/23/2025  
Conference Committee

A Bill for an Act to provide a contingent appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a veterans' national cemetery grant.

11:30 a.m. Chairman Cleary opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Meyer, Senator Cleary, Senator Magrum, Representative Brown, Representative Grindberg, and Representative Rohr

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Committee Action

11:35 a.m. Senator Meyer introduced an amendment and submitted testimony #45155.

11:38 a.m. Senator Meyer moved in place of House amendment LC # 25.0992.03001 adopted by the House, the bill is amended by the conference committee amendment LC # 25.0992.03002.

11:38 a.m. Senator Magrum seconded the motion.

Roll call vote - motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Meyer will carry the bill.

Representative Brown will carry the bill.

11:39 a.m. Chairman Cleary closed the hearing.

*Joan Bares, Committee Clerk*

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
SECOND ENGROSSMENT**

CO  
4/23/25  
1042

**REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2265**

Introduced by

Senators Meyer, Burckhard, Hogan, Luick, Sorvaag

Representative Schauer

*In place of amendment (25.0992.03001) adopted by the House, Reengrossed Senate Bill No. 2265 is amended by amendment (25.0992.03002) as follows:*

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a  
2 veterans' national cemetery grant; ~~and~~ to authorize a line of credit; and to provide for a report.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

- 4 **SECTION 1. LINE OF CREDIT - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - APPROPRIATION -**  
5 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS - DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION REQUEST -**  
6 **VETERANS' NATIONAL CEMETERY GRANT - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT.** Subject to  
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12 infrastructure at a veterans' national cemetery in the state, for the biennium beginning July 1,  
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17 request a deficiency appropriation from the legislative assembly to repay the line of credit. The  
18 ~~funding provided~~ appropriation in this section is available only upon certification by the  
19 department of veterans' affairs to the director of the office of management and budget that the  
20 United States department of veterans affairs national cemetery administration will provide



1 ~~planning and oversight for~~ final approval of the project plan and authorization to begin  
2 construction on the project. The department of veterans' affairs shall require an organization  
3 that receives a grant under this section to provide a report to the department of veterans' affairs  
4 on the use of the funds received, including copies of all invoices and checks. The department of  
5 veterans' affairs shall provide the information received from the organization to the legislative  
6 audit and fiscal review committee and report to the committee on the status of the project during  
7 the 2025-26 interim.

## SB 2265 042325 1138 AM Roll Call Vote

### Final Recommendation

**SB 2265****Date Submitted:** April 23, 2025, 11:38 a.m.**Recommendation:** In Place Of**Amendment LC #:** 25.0992.03002**Engrossed LC #:** N/A**Description:****Motioned By:** Meyer, Scott**Seconded By:** Magrum, Jeffery J.**House Carrier:** Brown, Timothy**Senate Carrier:** Meyer, Scott**Emergency Clause:** None**Vote Results:** 6 - 0 - 0

Sen. Cleary, Sean	Yea
Sen. Meyer, Scott	Yea
Sen. Magrum, Jeffery J.	Yea
Rep. Brown, Timothy	Yea
Rep. Grindberg, Karen	Yea
Rep. Rohr, Karen M.	Yea



Insert LC: 25.0992.03002  
Senate Carrier: Meyer  
House Carrier: T. Brown

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
REENGROSSED SB 2265**

Your conference committee (Sens. Cleary, Meyer, Magrum and Reps. T. Brown, Grindberg, Rohr) recommends that in place of amendment [25.0992.03001](#) adopted by the House, Reengrossed SB 2265 is amended by amendment [25.0992.03002](#).

Reengrossed SB 2265 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

25.0992.03002  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Senator Meyer  
April 18, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECOND ENGROSSMENT

### REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2265

Introduced by

Senators Meyer, Burckhard, Hogan, Luick, Sorvaag

Representative Schauer

*In place of amendment (25.0992.03001) adopted by the House, Reengrossed Senate Bill No. 2265 is amended by amendment (25.0992.03002) as follows:*

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for a  
2 veterans' national cemetery grant; ~~and~~ to authorize a line of credit: and to provide for a report.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. LINE OF CREDIT - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - APPROPRIATION -**  
5 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS - DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION REQUEST -**  
6 **VETERANS' NATIONAL CEMETERY GRANT - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT.** Subject to  
7 the provisions of this section, the department of veterans' affairs may borrow up to \$3,000,000  
8 through a line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota during the biennium beginning July 1,  
9 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, the proceeds of which are appropriated to the department of  
10 veterans' affairs, for the purpose of providing a grant to a nonprofit organization for construction  
11 costs associated with the construction of a ~~chapel~~ welcome center, parking lot, and related  
12 infrastructure at a veterans' national cemetery in the state, for the biennium beginning July 1,  
13 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The ~~funding provided~~ appropriation in this section is  
14 considered a one-time funding item. The interest rate on the line of credit may not exceed the  
15 prevailing interest rate charged to North Dakota governmental entities. If the department of  
16 veterans' affairs accesses the line of credit, the department of veterans' affairs ~~or the Bank~~ shall  
17 request a deficiency appropriation from the legislative assembly to repay the line of credit. The  
18 ~~funding provided~~ appropriation in this section is available only upon certification by the  
19 department of veterans' affairs to the director of the office of management and budget that the  
20 United States department of veterans affairs national cemetery administration will provide



- 1 ~~planning and oversight for~~ final approval of the project plan and authorization to begin
- 2 construction on the project. The department of veterans' affairs shall require an organization
- 3 that receives a grant under this section to provide a report to the department of veterans' affairs
- 4 on the use of the funds received, including copies of all invoices and checks. The department of
- 5 veterans' affairs shall provide the information received from the organization to the legislative
- 6 audit and fiscal review committee and report to the committee on the status of the project during
- 7 the 2025-26 interim.