



SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters 1054 & 959
Military Order of the Purple Heart



To the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs:

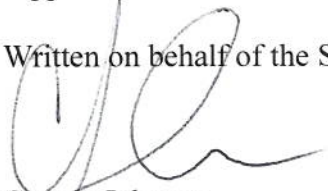
We, the South Dakota Veterans Council, are writing this letter to request the creation of an advisory board to support guidance of operations of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery that is under your responsibility.

As a representing council for the veterans in the state of South Dakota and advocating regarding all matters for the betterment of veterans needs, our council continues to support and requests the decision to create an advisory board for the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery. This board will provide opportunity for the current employees of the cemetery to have other mentoring individuals who also want the best for our Veteran community and their families and allow an unbiased platform to critically think and problem solve, support leadership needs in advocacy into the community, support and encourage decisions to reduce risk management and help maintain key regulatory requirements.

We request an advisory board that will be dedicated to the cemetery's continued success with individuals that are involved members of the Veteran community that have a passion for Veterans end of life planning and overall resting place. We recommend having at least three but no more than seven board members that would come together quarterly to meet with employees and other interested parties regarding the cemetery. We request the board to be open and transparent with all South Dakota Veterans regarding the cemetery and have open minutes and dialog during the quarterly meetings.

As the South Dakota Veterans Council, we understand the cemetery is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs and all decisions regarding the cemetery are final through your department, however we advocate for an advisory board to support and encourage the advisory of the cemetery because we feel a board will provide a broader view of the objectives that will continue to support the overall mission of the cemetery. We advocate for the board as we understand many individuals in our community have skills and expertise that would love to support the beautiful and siren home for our deceased Veterans and their families.

Written on behalf of the South Dakota Veterans Council. Thank you for your consideration.


Connie Johnson
President
South Dakota Veteran Council