

California State Commanders Veterans Council

(CSCVC)

To: CSCVC Representatives and Alternates
From: Bob Wyllie – Scottish American Military Society (SAMS)
Subject: Mare Island Naval/Military Cemetery

Oldest Navy Military Cemetery In Pacific In Dire

Need Of Repair and Restoration

Background:

Mare Island was a Naval Base and a Navy shipyard for 150 years. In 1996 it was closed during the BRAC program when many military bases in the US were also closed. The Mare Island physical land and facilities were deeded to the City of Vallejo in 1996. The ownership transfer included the on-base Cemetery which is the oldest Naval Military Cemetery in the Pacific. No funds were provided to perpetually maintain and care for the Cemetery. Shortly after the ownership transfer the City of Vallejo had to declare bankruptcy.

While the City attempted to care for the cemetery, the lack of funds resulted in its deterioration of the over the last 22 years.

Along with other Veterans, there are three Metal of Honor recipients interned at the facility. It is a shame that their interment does not enjoy the respect and recognition provided by a National Cemetery burial site. The facility should have the status of a shrine. First internment was in 1855.

There is now an organized movement to have the U.S. Government resume the ownership, restoration and continuous maintenance of the Cemetery. It will require the Federal Legislation to accomplish the required reversal of the ownership. The City of Vallejo is agreeable and formally requesting such a transfer, without compensation.

There already have been several meetings with Federal Legislative Representatives to encourage them to introduce the needed legislation. In order to get this accomplished, a great deal of public and media attention and support will be required, especially from Veterans.

That's where CSCVC's advocacy efforts, and your cooperation, could be critical.

CSCVC Chairman, Greg Lee,, has formed an AD Hoc Committee to oversee the efforts to help to accomplish the restoration the Cemetery. This project will be termed “Operation Respect”. I have been appointed its Chair. Other CSCVC members will be joining with me to accomplish our goals, if you, or any of your organization’s members are interested in assisting as a committee member, contact me.

There Is A Significant Urgency For Your

Attention And Action Regarding This Matter

Immediate Goal:

_In order to document the opinions of California Veterans regarding this matter it is requested that as many Veterans, their family members and friends sign a petition which has already been established on-line. Hopefully the petition will influence the media coverage, public opinion and political Leaders. Currently there are over 51,000 signatures recorded at the petition site.

Therefore, we request that you forward this memo to your VSO membership and encourage them to sign the petition ASAP. Instructions on how to do so are at the conclusion of this document. Secondly, if you represent a “Post” or a geographic sub-set of your National VSO, please forward this memo to your counterparts in California encouraging them to also get involved in obtaining as many signatures as possible. We would also like you to forward this memo to your National Headquarters for additional signatures. Eventually your National organization will be asked to assist in a lobbying effort after the desired legislation is introduced in Congress.

Our Goal is 1,000,000 signatures within the next 45 days. Please help getting it done.

Next Goal:

You will soon receive a second memo requesting your local VSO organization to indicate support of this effort It will also request the number of Veterans in your membership. These forms will be utilized to indicate to the Legislators the magnitude of the interest to generate the needed legislative bills to assure transfer the Cemetery ownership.

Next:

We will be developing an action plan for CSCVC’s ongoing support for the project to correct the errors of the past and restore the respect the Veterans interned at Mare Island deserve.

Thank You

Bob Wyllie - SAMS

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INSTRUCTIONS TO SIGN THE PETITION
TO REQUIRE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO REVERT OWNERSHIP AND
RESTORE AND CONTINUOUSLY MAINTAIN THE
MARE ISLAND NAVAL MILITARY CEMETERY

(This should take about two minutes, the petition is to the right of the article)

Step #1: From your internet browser key in a search for <http://chn.ge/2BUHBjl> or “click” on this link to access the site.

Caution- the BUHB and the I (i) are capital letters, the j is not

Step #2: Type in your first Name in the first box

Type your Last Name in the second box

Type your e-mail address in the third box

Step #3: Click on “Sign this Petition

You have now signed the petition! **THANKS**