

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

July 29, 2026

The Honorable Samuel B. Brown
Under Secretary
National Cemetery Administration
810 Vermont Ave
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Under Secretary Brown,

I am pleased to write in strong support of the New York State Veterans Cemetery – Finger Lakes’s applications for funding through the National Cemetery Administration’s (NCA) Veterans Cemetery Grant Program. Such funding will enable the Cemetery to install critical infrastructure improvements to significantly expand the Cemetery’s long-term capacity to serve more veterans and their families, upgrade the cemetery’s infrastructure and landscaping to protect our veterans’ final resting place from damaging erosion and environmental impediments, and to clean, maintain, and care for existing headstone markers.

Located in Seneca County, New York – the birthplace of Memorial Day – the New York State Veterans Cemetery – Finger Lakes sits on the historic grounds of the former Sampson Naval Training Station and Sampson Airforce Base, where hundreds of thousands of young men trained before deploying during World War II and the Korean War to defend our nation. In 2023, I was proud to help deliver \$3.9 million in federal funding to establish New York’s first state veterans cemetery at this historic site, ensuring veterans and their families would have a dignified final resting place worthy of their service and sacrifice.

With funding, New York State Veterans Cemetery – Finger Lakes will make substantial improvements to the area. The expansion grant will support the construction of 300 additional crypts, expanding the Cemetery’s long-term capacity and allowing more veterans and eligible family members to be laid to rest in a place dedicated to honoring their service. This expanded capacity will also provide more Gold Star Families and loved ones with a permanent place to gather, reflect, and pay tribute. Additionally, the project will include ornamental fencing and updated signage to improve navigation, strengthen the Cemetery’s infrastructure, and enhance the experience of families visiting to honor loved ones. The Operations and Maintenance Grant will provide the ongoing care necessary to preserve the Cemetery’s appearance and integrity by raising, realigning, cleaning, and rehabilitating headstones as needed. Maintaining these sacred grounds is essential to ensuring every veteran is remembered in a setting that reflects the dignity of their service. Together, these grants will expand the Cemetery’s capacity while ensuring it remains a fitting and lasting tribute to those who served our nation.

I applaud the New York State Veterans Cemetery – Finger Lakes for their efforts in honoring our veterans and providing support to their families. For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Grants Director, Kaia Moore, in my Washington office at grants@schumer.senate.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator