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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0105

August 1, 2025

The Honorable Ronald E. Walters
Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: Endorsement of Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Application for Second State Veterans Cemetery in Decatur, AL (VA-GRANTS-NCA-FY2025, AL-25-06)

Principal Deputy Under Secretary Walters,

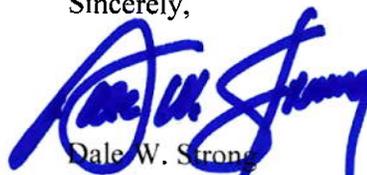
I write to express my strong support for the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs' (ADVA) application for a grant through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP) to establish a Second State Veterans Cemetery in Decatur, Alabama.

North Alabama urgently needs a second state veteran cemetery, with over 42,700 veterans in the region currently living far distances from an existing VA cemetery according to National Cemetery Administration data. Given the significant defense and aerospace presence within and surrounding Redstone Arsenal, this population is only expected to grow. A new cemetery would provide honorable burial benefits for our nation's heroes and their families, accommodating an estimated 10,395 interments over the next decade.

The ADVA has a proven track record of successful collaboration with the National Cemetery Administration, and I trust this partnership will continue to be fruitful in the future. Establishing a second state cemetery in Alabama is not merely about expanding infrastructure, it is about providing the veterans who reside in the northern part of our great state a dignified resting place close to their loved ones.

I urge you to give the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs' application your full and fair consideration. If there is any assistance I can provide to help with this investment, please do not hesitate to contact my Military Legislative Assistant, Ashley Satterfield, at ashley.satterfield@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Dale W. Strong
Member of Congress