



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

August 16, 2012

The Honorable Mary Landrieu  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu:

I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is awarding a grant in the amount of \$8,383,591 for 100 percent of allowable costs associated with the establishment of the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Slidell, Louisiana (FAI: LA-07-04). The State of Louisiana submitted a formal Application for Federal Assistance for the project on July 20, 2011.

This grant will fund the construction of a main entrance, an administration building, a maintenance facility, roads, an assembly area, a committal shelter, preplaced crypts, cremains burial areas, memorial and scatter burial areas, columbaria, landscaping, a memorial walkway, and supporting infrastructure. The project will develop approximately 21 acres. The construction will include 2,579 pre-placed crypts, 273 cremains gravesites, and 480 columbarium niches.

The grant will help the State provide improved service to Veterans and their families in the State of Louisiana. The closest national cemetery is VA's Baton Rouge National Cemetery in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which is approximately 78 miles away. The closest State cemetery is Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Newton, Mississippi, which is approximately 186 miles away.

The Memorandum of Agreement is being sent to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Lane Carson, the official representative of the State for this federally-assisted project. A similar letter is also being sent to the House and Senate leadership of the Veterans' Affairs Committees and the Appropriations Subcommittees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Eric K. Shinseki".

Eric K. Shinseki