



CLARK VETERANS CEMETERY RESTORATION ASSOCIATION

"LET NO VETERAN BE FORGOTTEN"

Senator Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
SH-306, Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510-1401

August 31, 2011

Dear Senator Lugar:

The Clark Veterans Cemetery Restoration Association is a non-profit organization of concerned veterans, businesses, and consortium of nationally prominent military and veterans organizations representing more than half million service members, veterans, their families and survivors. I am writing to ask for your personal support for action to return the Clark Veterans Cemetery, located at the former Clark Air Force Base, Republic of the Philippines, to U.S. Government management through any legislative means necessary. The perpetual care of the cemetery was overlooked in 1991 when the base was transferred back to the Philippine Government.

The Clark Veterans Cemetery traces its origin to 1900. In 1948, over 7,000 remains, headstones and markers from at least four other U.S. military cemeteries in the Philippines (Fort Stotsenberg 1 & 2, Fort McKinley, and Sangley Point naval cemetery) were moved and consolidated to a new cemetery located at what today is known as the Clark Veterans Cemetery. Due to an oversight in the base closure negotiations, it was abandoned by the U.S. Government in 1991 shortly after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. For almost one century, from 1900 – 1991, the U.S. Government solely administered and cared for this cemetery.

The cemetery contains the remains of veterans from the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Philippine Scouts (PS) and their dependents. There are veterans from all wars since 1900, including the Spanish American and Philippine American Wars, WWI, WWII (died after the war), Korean, Vietnam, and Iraq. The civilians buried at Clark were authorized and approved by the US Government either as a dependent or civilian member of the force such as hundreds of U.S. Army Quartermasters in the early 1900's. The Clark Veterans Cemetery contains 8,600 dead, including 2,100 unknown dead military.

After abandonment in 1991, volunteers from the local VFW Post 2485 stepped forward to restore some degree of honor and dignity to the cemetery which had become heavily overgrown with vegetation, vandalized and covered with as much as a foot of ash. The Clark Veterans Cemetery receives no federal funding and is not maintained to the standards befitting those veterans who sacrificed and served their country.

On behalf of the Clark Veterans Cemetery Restoration Association and the 8,600 interred, I ask for your personal support to designate an agency of the U.S. Government to be responsible for the cemetery's perpetual care and to ensure that this cemetery is maintained commensurate with the sacrifices of those who served with honor and to ensure that no veteran is ever abandoned and forgotten in the future.

Sincerely;

Dennis L. Wright
Chairman

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