



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Frank A. Barnitz
16th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 425
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release:
May 5, 2005

Contact: David Woodruff
(573) 751-2108

Frank Barnitz Fights for Fort Cemetery Funding

JEFFERSON CITY – State Senator Frank Barnitz (D-16) today offered an amendment allocating \$550,000 in matching funds required to earn almost 20 times that amount in federal funds for the proposed federal veterans' cemetery near Fort Leonard Wood.

In spirited floor debate, Barnitz was challenged by Senators from St. Louis, who defeated the amendment and halted funding for the cemetery for at least another two years.

“My job is to speak on the floor and fight for the values of the people of my district. Jefferson City is full of too many back-room conversations,” commented Barnitz following an hour-long debate focused on the budget and veterans issues. “The people of rural Missouri and the veterans of this state deserve to have their ideas and needs brought to the floor and discussed openly.”

“Veterans deserve a decent burial and to be buried in the proper place. It’s a shame these dollars got weighted down with bureaucracy. Veterans are aging. The Fort Leonard Wood Cemetery project is 10 years in the making. It is important to the area. It makes sense geographically, and it makes sense to move forward and complete the project before those dollars are used to start other projects,” said Barnitz. “I look forward to finding the funding and completing the project in the future.”

The 227 acres allotted for the cemetery is on the edge of Fort Leonard Wood "proper" on H Highway adjacent to the Fort's new West Gate, about a half-mile from I-44.

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Frank Barnitz is the newly elected State Senator from the 16th district, which includes Pulaski County, home to Fort Leonard Wood.

Barnitz can be reached in State Capitol room 425, phone (573) 751-2108, and e-mail Frank.Barnitz@senate.mo.gov.

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