



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Frank Barnitz Pleased to Announce Land Transfer Complete for New Veterans Cemetery

JEFFERSON CITY – State Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, is pleased to announce that a land transfer is complete for the new Missouri State Veterans Cemetery, to be located outside of the main gate to Fort Leonard Wood. Sen. Barnitz has worked to procure \$500,000 in the fiscal year 2007 budget for development of the property, which would be the only Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in central Missouri.

“Many veterans have commented to me that they enjoyed serving at Fort Leonard Wood, and that they loved the central Missouri region,” Sen. Barnitz said. “These veterans have also said that they would like their eternal resting place to be near Fort Leonard Wood. That is exactly what we are trying to do.”

The 218-acre cemetery is an \$8.1 million project. Sen. Barnitz attended the April 10 land transfer ceremony, during which the U.S. Department of Defense officially signed over the land to the Missouri Veterans Commission. Several dignitaries were on hand, including officials with the Missouri Veterans Commission; Major General Randal R. Castro, Commanding General, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center; and Congressman Ike Skelton, who started the movement for a state veterans cemetery on the federal level. The Vice Chairman of the Missouri Veterans Commission, Joseph J. Franks, represented the state during the land transfer ceremony.

The state veterans cemetery has been a project in the works for 10 years. Former State Rep. Bill Ransdall, also a former mayor of Waynesville, has been instrumental in making the cemetery a reality. When Sen. Barnitz served in the Missouri House of Representatives, he and former Rep. Ransdall were able to secure monies for land ordinances and surveying during the early stages of the project.

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Audio information: Senator Frank Barnitz has audio commentary on the new state veterans cemetery on his website, <http://www.senate.mo.gov/barnitz>.