

Through these many years that we've worked for the completion of this veterans' cemetery, the State of Missouri provided initial funding of \$550,000. This commitment helped spur \$8 million in federal funding. Combined, the investment starts the building of this much-awaited, and well-warranted place of final commission for our veterans.

It is by the hands of these brave and selfless men and women that our nation continues to flourish as a free people. The beginning that we mark today is the beginning of a deserved and overdue payment on a debt of gratitude we can never fully repay.

Thank you for helping mark this special day. May God Bless our nation, its protectors and its protected.

*Frank A. Barnitz*

**Senator Frank Barnitz**  
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## A Final Home

### *The Missouri Veterans' Cemetery at Fort Leonard Wood*

Pulaski County, Missouri

November 7, 2008



**Senator Frank Barnitz**

## ***A Note From Senator Frank Barnitz:***

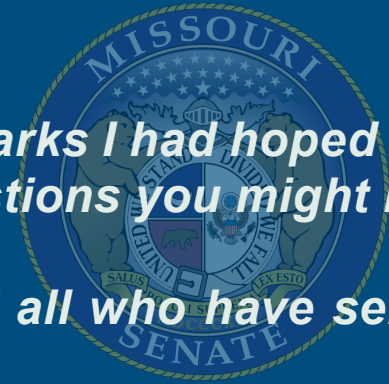
***Good afternoon. The following text approximates the remarks I had hoped to be able to give in person. My staff is on hand to answer any questions you might have. My deepest apologies for not being able to be present today.***

***Though not there in body, my thoughts are with you and all who have served, are serving and will serve to protect this nation.***

***Sincerely,***



*Frank A. Barnitz*



Here we are today on a momentous occasion we have all been looking forward to for a long time. Congressman Ike Skeleton, Representative David Day, former Representative Bill Ransdall and I have all worked vigorously to see that this finally comes to light. And it's a wonderful day to be able to say that we will have a veterans' cemetery right here in Pulaski County at Fort Leonard Wood.

Eighteen acres will be developed in this first phase of the cemetery construction, which is just a fraction of what we can expect in the future. About 5,000 full casket grave sites, 1,412 in-ground cremation burial sites and 1,024 column burial places will be available. Just this first phase right here in Pulaski County will serve almost 7,000 veterans.

There are several cemeteries throughout the state, and some serve our veterans. But this one here, right outside the gates of the state's largest military base, is going to be a unique cemetery. I have heard many stories from retired military officials who said, they came through Ft. Leonard Wood, enjoyed the community, liked the surroundings, and wanted to move back after their military career.

Now, we'll have a proper place of final rest for these soldiers as well. Now, their family members will be able to come by and visit the cemetery, visit the grave sites, understand the history that has gone on — all with Fort Leonard Wood, where their loved ones trained and served, close in view.

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