



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-8143

May 2, 2012

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ayotte:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, writes to thank you for your leadership in introducing “The Remembering America’s Forgotten Veterans Cemetery Act of 2012,” S. 2320, that would assign responsibility to operate and maintain the former Clark Air Force base veterans cemetery in the Philippines to the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC).

The Clark Veterans Cemetery (CVC) is the final resting place of 8,600 American service members, veterans and their families who served in our Armed Forces from the Philippine American War (1898) through World War II until today. The cemetery remains open and continues to accept burials. Last year, a Vietnam War Silver Star recipient and a soldier killed in Iraq were interred in the cemetery.

From 1898-1950, the cemetery was maintained by the US Army, US Navy and the USMC. From 1950-1991 it was maintained by the US Air Force. The cemetery was abandoned in 1991 with the hasty departure of U.S. forces from the Philippines.

As the “guardian of America’s overseas commemorative cemeteries and memorials,” the ABMC is the proper agency to ensure those buried at CVC are honored for their service, achievements and sacrifice in our U.S. Armed Forces. ABMC’s commemorative mission includes “designing, constructing, operating and maintaining permanent American cemeteries in foreign countries.”

TMC believes strongly that the ABMC should be authorized to take responsibility to restore, operate and maintain Clark Veterans Cemetery to honor in perpetuity all those service members and veterans who lie buried there.

Soon the nation will pause again on Memorial Day to reflect on the service and sacrifice of Americans who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. The Military Coalition wishes to express its strong support for your bill, “The Remembering America’s Forgotten Veterans Cemetery Act of 2012,” and pledges to do all we can to see it enacted this year.

The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)

cf: Senator Begich (D-AK)

Michael M. Dunne
Air Force Association

Doll Donahue-Candi
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)

Patricia K. Murphy
Air Force Women Officers
Associated

Stewart M. Hickey
AMVETS

Daniel A. Roberts
Army Aviation Assn. of America

George K. Anderson
Assn. of Military Surgeons
of the United States

Hilman B. Lopez
Assn. of the US Army

Timothy D. Moon
Association of the United States Navy

SMFinn
Commissioned Officers Assn. of
the US Public Health Service, Inc

Garret D. Appleton
CWOA, US Coast Guard

John Bann
Fleet Reserve Assn.

Martha M. Sidman
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

David D.
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans
of America

Pat W. Swerison
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Michael B.
Marine Corps League

Kevin D. Gaudin
Marine Corps Reserve Association

Robert Ryan
Military Officers Assn. of America

William R. Hester
Military Order of the Purple Heart

[Signature]
National Association for
Uniformed Services

Ann E. Hester
National Guard Assn. of the US

Mary K. Bell
National Military Family Assn.

Richard R. Duff
Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

Gene Overton
Non Commissioned Officers Assn.
of the United States of America

James R. Burnett
Reserve Enlisted Assn. of the US

Walker M. Williams
Reserve Officers Assn

[Signature]
Society of Medical Consultants
to the Armed Forces

Gary R. Pollett
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

Dorinda Park Holloman
The Retired Enlisted Assn.

J. R. Scaramastro
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

[Signature]
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

Robert D. [Signature]
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US

Richard F. Weisman
Vietnam Veterans of America