

3666 RECOMMENDATIONS OF VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS, 1968

the ball for a project of this nature, I am frank to admit that it is too late in my administration to be helpful. Kentucky's new governor will be inaugurated the middle of December of this year, and our General Assembly will convene three weeks later. I am going to suggest that you forward a similar letter to the newly-elected governor immediately upon his taking office so that the matter can receive necessary attention prior to the convening of the Legislature.

I join with you in hoping that Kentucky will make a contribution to this great cause.

Sincerely,

EDWARD T. BREATHITT.

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Baton Rouge, March 28, 1967.

Mr. AL LEO ANDERSON,
National Commander, AMVETS,
National Headquarters,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ANDERSON: This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of recent date.

I have forwarded your letter to Mr. Dick Staggs, Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs for his attention and consideration. I am certain that you will be hearing from Mr. Staggs in the near future.

Again, thank you for writing and with every good wish, I remain

Yours sincerely,

JOHN J. McKEITHEN,
Governor of Louisiana.

STATE OF MAINE,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Augusta, Maine, April 11, 1967.

Mr. A. LEO ANDERSON,
National Commander,
AMVETS National Headquarters,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR COMMANDER ANDERSON: I wish to thank you for your recent letter expressing interest in effectuating a positive program with respect to the National Cemetery System.

There are no national cemeteries in New England. In Maine there have been no burials in the VA Center at Togus since 1960. There were a number of attempts by the Maine veterans through our Congressional Delegation to have a National Cemetery established here in Maine but these efforts were to no avail. As a result, the veterans' organizations in Maine sponsored a movement to have the Legislature establish the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

I have therefore recommended to our current session of the Legislature an appropriation of \$147,000 for this purpose. We believe that with the provision of this amount it will be possible to make the proposed cemetery operational. As you know, there are no Federal funds presently available for such projects. I would not like to see anything at this time that would jeopardize the status of our proposed veterans cemetery here in Maine. Therefore, I do not feel that the time is appropriate to request the Legislature to authorize the purchase of land to be donated to the Secretary of the Army for the purpose of establishing a National Cemetery. However, if we are successful in establishing this veterans cemetery strictly as a State of Maine project, it is possible that at some future date, if and when the National Cemetery situation is favorably resolved, that we might consider some form of affiliation with the federal system.

Sincerely,

KENNETH M. CURTIS, Governor.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Annapolis, Md., March 29, 1967.

Mr. A. LEO ANDERSON,
National Commander of AMVETS,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ANDERSON: Governor Agnew has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of March 21.