



Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA)

**Wednesday, July 14, 2021
Regular Meeting**

Item G1

Hall County Hero Flight Association Request

Staff Contact:

Honoring Our Veterans

Hall County Hero Flight
131 S. Locust
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-385-5065

June 21-2021

Chad Nabity
Regional Planning Director
P.O. Box 1968
Grand Island, NE 68802-1968

Dear Chad,

Hall County Hero Flight Association was created as a not for Profit 501(c) 3 to honor veterans. For the first 10 years the organization raised money to fund trips to Washington, D.C. to tour war monuments and other points of interest. Each veteran was accompanied by an escort of their choice. Successful fundraising efforts raised over \$1,300,000 to pay for 10 flights carrying 1,400 veterans, escorts and support staff for the 3-day experience in our Nation's Capital. The 10th Hero Flight accommodated the last of the Hall County veterans who wished to make the trip. The Hall County Hero Flight Association then expanded its mission to honor veterans in other ways.

Our goal is to transform the current Nebraska Veterans Home Cemetery on Capital Avenue into a Nebraska State Veterans Cemetery. The original cemetery was established solely for burial of members of the Soldiers and Sailor Home, which later became the Grand Island Veterans Home. After 131 years the home moved to Kearney, Nebraska leaving behind the hallowed ground that is the final resting place of generations of veterans whose service dates back as far as the Civil War. The Hall County Hero Flight Association working with the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs Director testified before the Nebraska State Legislature Veterans committee, LB911 was advanced through the Legislature with unanimous approval for its creation and subsequently signed into law by Governor Ricketts. The next step was to seek funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration to cover the cost of planning and construction of the expanded cemetery. Estimated cost is \$7.5 million with local community responsible for 10% or \$750,000. The Hall County Hero Flight Association has successfully raised \$300,000 thus far. Unfortunately, the Global Pandemic has hampered all fundraising efforts. The plan is have the money raised by August 1, 2021.

A comprehensive publicity and fund raising campaign will be rolled out as soon as initial site plan and conceptual images are released by our project partners, local, state and national foundations will be approached. Local fundraising efforts are in the planning stages with CDC guidelines with some restrictions being lifted. Local grant applications are being considered with the Community Redevelopment Authority and other county and city sources. The committee has developed a tiered donation appeal for fundraising (see appended document).

Additionally, our popular Hamburger Nights will resume June 2021 at the United Veterans Club. The Veterans Ball has been rescheduled for fall 2021. Local fundraising efforts have been successful with our original mission of sending our Hero's to Washington D.C. Our change in focus to the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery will profoundly impact many veterans and their family members residing within a 100-mile radius of Grand Island. In fact, any veteran can choose to be buried in the newly designated State Veterans Cemetery in Grand Island. Grand Island is perfectly situated to fill in the gap between the other two Veterans Cemeteries which will now enable veterans to

be interred closer to home and their loved ones so that their everlasting memorial can be more greatly appreciated.
"LEST WE FORGET"

Enclosed are the master plans with total cost of completion and dollars needed on the local level. **The Hall County Hero Flight Association is requesting \$50,000.00 from the Grand Island Community Redevelopment Authority prior to July 1st, 2021. This is also a request for an additional \$50,000.00 from their 2021-2022 budget year.** Thank you for your time and consideration, we appreciate your generous support of the Nebraska State Veterans Cemetery. Checks can be made to the Hall County Veterans Hero Flight, 100% of the donations will be used for the creation of the Nebraska State Veterans Cemetery in Central Nebraska. With your generous monetary donation we will create a beautiful and lasting memorial.

Respectfully,



Donald L. Shuda
Hall County Hero Flight Association
Board Chair

**Nebraska State Veteran's Cemetery Fundraising Goal:
\$750,000**

Target Date: August 1, 2021

The Hall County Hero Flight Association needs your help to fulfill the plan to expand and improve the existing Grand Island Veterans Cemetery to honor veterans throughout the greater Central Nebraska region. The funds will meet our matching 10% obligation, with the State and Federal Veterans Administrations covering the remaining cost of the \$7.5 million cemetery development. Please see conceptual design packet for more details of the project. Please give generously.



HERO

\$100,000

Hero level includes prominent donor wall placement, commemorative medallion, recognition in press releases and during public dedication ceremony.



VALOR

\$50,000

Valor level includes prominent placement on donor wall, commemorative medallion, recognition in press releases and during public dedication ceremony.



FREEDOM

\$25,000

Freedom level includes prominent placement on donor wall, commemorative medallion, recognition in press releases and during public dedication ceremony.



LIBERTY

\$10,000

Liberty level includes prominent placement on donor wall, commemorative medallion, recognition in press releases and during public dedication ceremony.



OLD GLORY

\$5,000

Old Glory level includes prominent placement on donor wall, commemorative medallion, recognition in press releases and during public dedication ceremony.



COURAGE

\$1,000

Courage level includes listing on donor wall, commemorative medallion, recognition during public dedication ceremony.

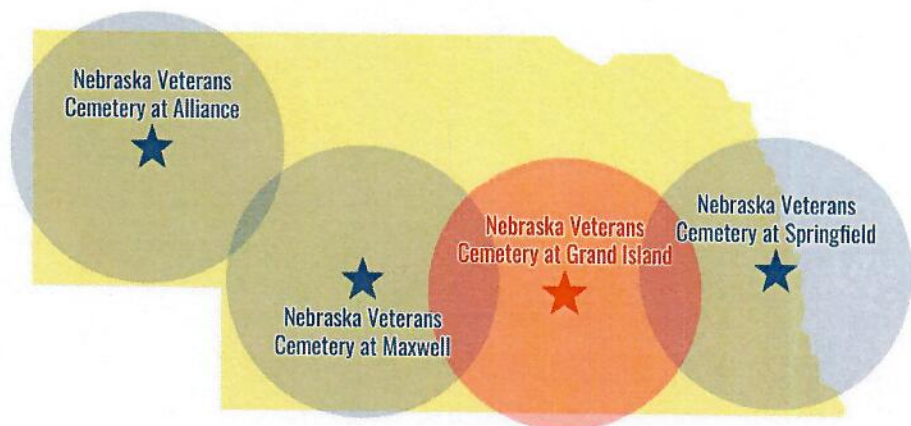


Conceptual Designs

as of March 31, 2021

The Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island is the second state-administered veterans cemetery and fourth veterans cemetery in Nebraska.

- The cemetery, previously known as the Grand Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery, was added to the state cemetery system as a result of local veterans groups working with Senator Dan Quick to introduce Legislative Bill (LB) 911.
- LB 911 was passed unanimously by the Nebraska Legislature on July 31, 2020.
- The cemetery's anticipated geographic service area spans a 75-mile radius from Grand Island, but the cemetery will accept veterans from across Nebraska and the nation.



The Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA) is working to develop a master plan and program statement, as well as prepare a federal grant application, for cemetery establishment and improvements.

A nine-member Community Advisory Committee was assembled to help ensure the planned improvements reflect the community's values while honoring the interred and their families.

MASTER PLAN: *Comprehensive long-term vision for cemetery, broken into phases for planning purposes*

PROGRAM STATEMENT: *Near-term implementation tool, focusing on Phase 1 (cemetery establishment and improvements)*

GRANT APPLICATION: *NDVA's formal request for grant funding for Phase 1*



Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island

Project Funding

Grant Funding

As a state-sponsored cemetery, the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island is eligible to receive grants from the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) Veterans Cemetery Grants Program.

- The NCA Veterans Cemetery Grants Program provides up to 100% of the development cost for approved improvements.

Costs Eligible for NCA Grant Funding

- Buildings (administration, maintenance)
- Committal service shelter (open air)
- Flag assembly area
- Roadway
- Crypts (pre-buried and oversized)
- Cremains sites
- Columbariums
- Landscaping, irrigation
- Memorial walk
- Initial equipment allowance

Costs NOT Eligible for NCA Grant Funding

but can be funded with local dollars

- Operations, maintenance or repair costs
- Acquisition of land
- Additional buildings
- Additional maintenance equipment
- Carillon tower
- Photovoltaic panels
- Statuary/memorials
- Utility improvements off site

- NDVA plans to develop Phase 1 (cemetery establishment and improvements) to be 100% funded by the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program.
- The scope of the cemetery's master plan is not limited to grant-approved costs. It will include a comprehensive view of potential improvements, some of which will require other funding sources, like private donations, other grant programs, or local dollars.

Local Funding

While the NCA grant program covers 100% of approved improvements, it also requires a state match of 10% at the time of application.

- The 10% match relates to Phase 1 improvements, not the long-term Master Plan vision.
- The Grand Island and Hall County veterans community has committed to provide the 10% match.
- This 10% match needs to be State-certified funds at the time of application (pre-application: July 1, 2021; full application: August 1, 2021).
 - For NDVA to certify the funds, the funds must be deposited in a State-controlled fund.
 - Future pledges not in hand cannot be counted as certified funds.
 - Upon completion of Phase 1 improvements, the 10% match raised for the application may be used for other non-grant-funded improvements within the cemetery.



Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island

Preliminary Building Design

The type and size of spaces within the committal shelter and administration/maintenance building(s) are limited to comply with the NCA's space planning guide for a medium-sized cemetery. In addition, the interior spaces are required to maintain specific adjacency and circulation layouts.

The architectural details and aesthetics are based on the previous Grand Island Central Nebraska Veterans Home (CNVH) buildings. The modern, classical, and maintenance characteristics of the former home's buildings have defined how the building will appear—without being a focus of the cemetery. Several details including the red brick, stone detailing and horizontal banding will be reflected in the buildings along with references to the six branches of the military.

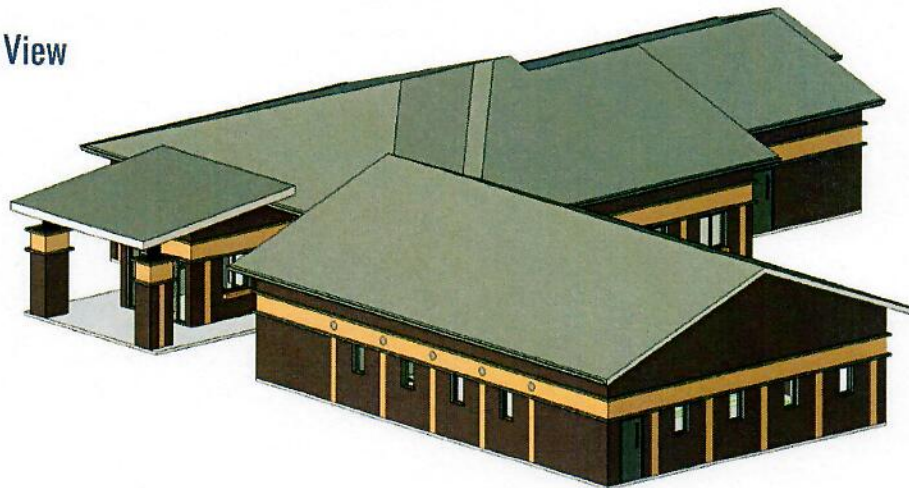
3-29-2021

NEBRASKA STATE VETERANS CEMETERY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

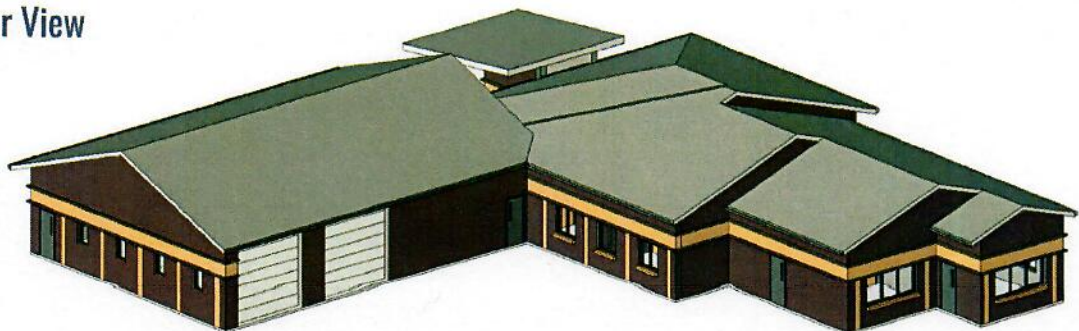
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SCHMMEER
Design with Purpose. Build with Confidence.

Front View



Rear View



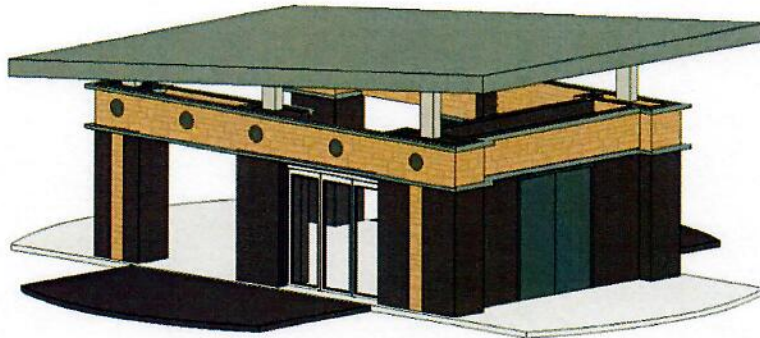


Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island

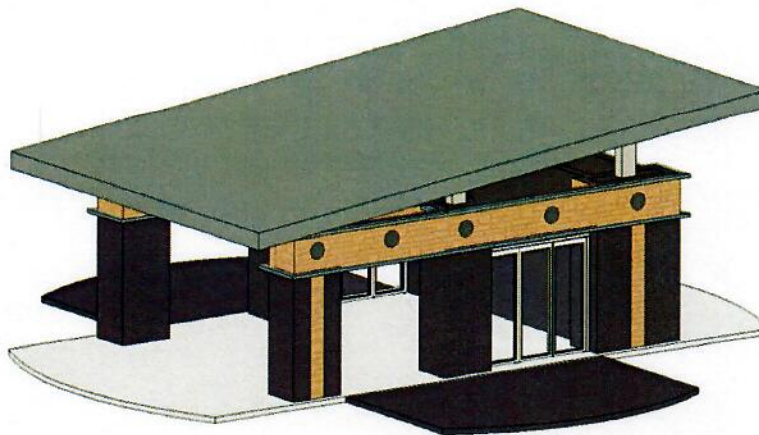
3-29-2021
 NEBRASKA STATE VETERANS CEMETERY
 COMMITTAL SHELTER
 08125.001

SCHMMEER
 Design with Purpose. Build with Confidence.

Side 1



Side 2





Cost Estimates

Securing the 10% match is critical to the future of this project.

- NDVA anticipates Phase 1 to be 100% approved (or fundable) by the NCA grants program.
- The 10% local match must be state-certified funds (i.e., cash in the bank) at the time of application submittal (pre-application: July 1, 2021, full application: August 1, 2021).

Conversations with NCA staff indicate a \$7M to \$7.5M project would be a reasonable and competitive project for the grant program. The required 10% local match would then be \$700k to \$750k.

Preliminary cost estimates were prepared for the two conceptual designs. While these estimates are subject to change, they are not anticipated to increase.

ENGINEER'S CONCEPTUAL OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

CONCEPT A

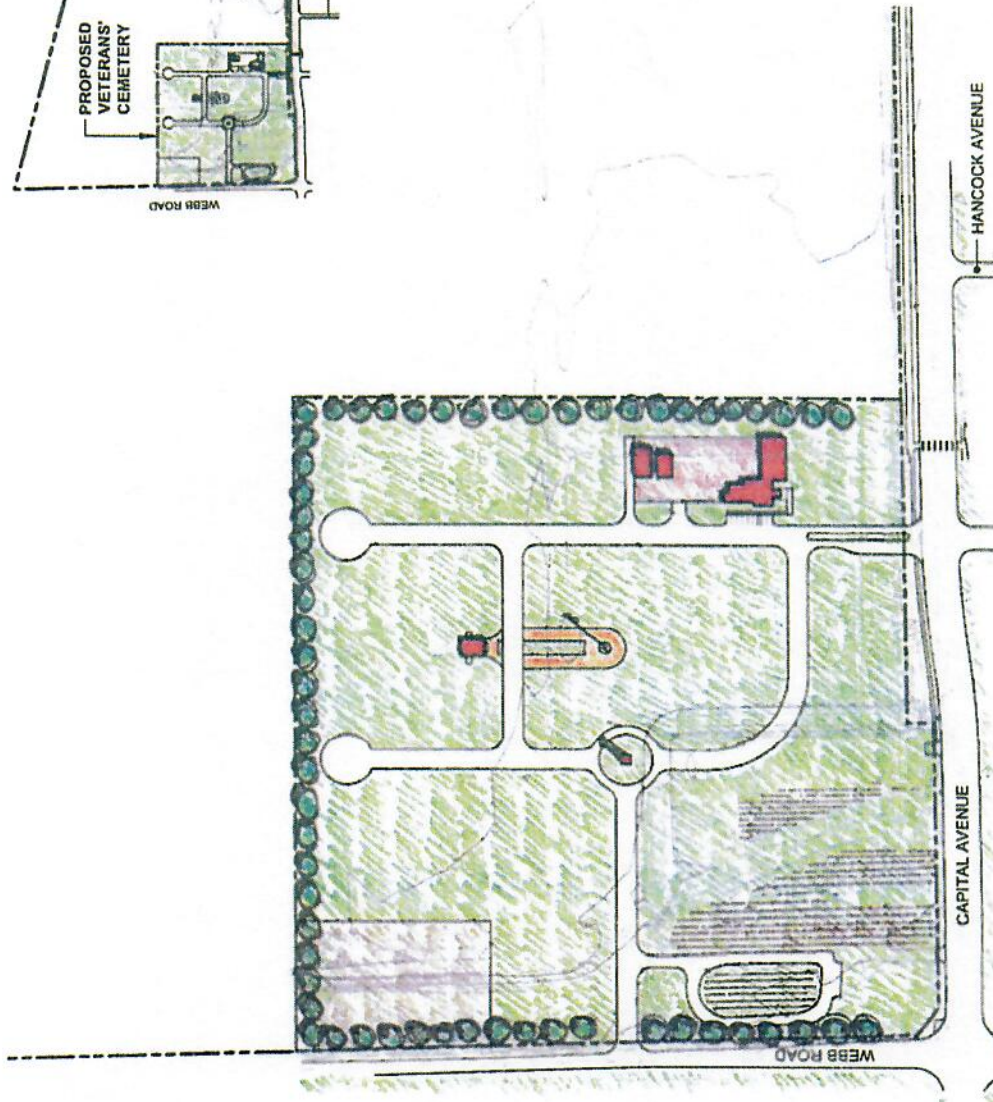
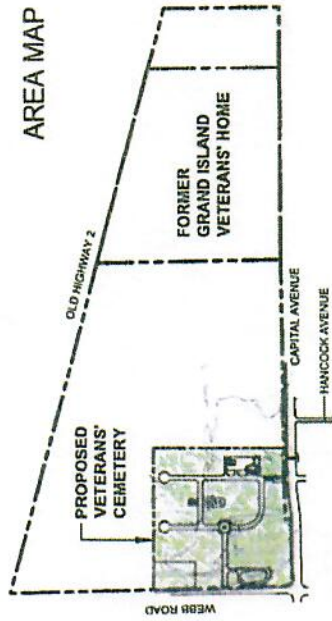
Opinion of Construction Cost	\$6,275,500
Design Services (Engineering, Survey, Architecture)	\$570,500
Construction Services (Engineering, Survey, Architecture)	\$342,300
Legal and Administrative Services	\$85,580
Total Opinion of Project Cost (Phase 1)	\$7,273,880

ENGINEER'S CONCEPTUAL OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

CONCEPT B

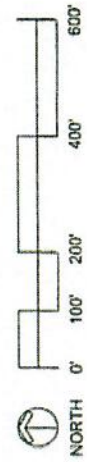
Opinion of Construction Cost	\$6,443,330
Design Services (Engineering, Survey, Architecture)	\$585,760
Construction Services (Engineering, Survey, Architecture)	\$351,450
Legal and Administrative Services	\$87,860
Total Opinion of Project Cost (Phase 1)	\$7,468,400

Based on these preliminary cost estimates, it is anticipated that the local community will need to raise \$730k to \$750k by August 1, 2021.



SITE CONCEPT - 27 ACRE CEMETERY NEBRASKA VETERANS CEMETERY AT GRAND ISLAND

DATE: May 10, 2021



BIG MUDDY Workshop
INCORPORATED
ARCHITECTURE • INTERIORS • LANDSCAPE

P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

Date: OCT 06 2015

HALL COUNTRY HERO FLIGHT A
ASSOCIATION
131 SOUTH LOCUST
GRAND ISLAND, NE 68801

Employer Identification Number:
47-3865315
DLN:
17053160360025
Contact Person:
CASEY A SUTFIELD ID# 31474
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
March 1, 2015
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

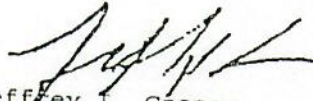
If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

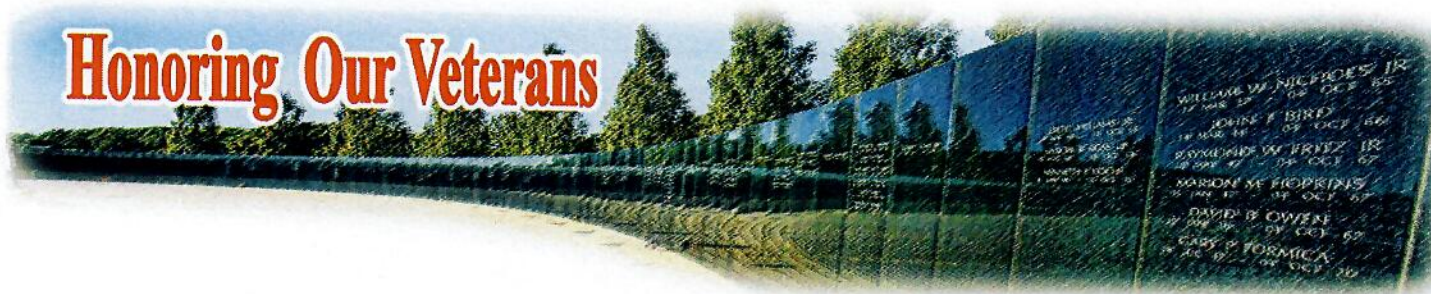
Letter 947

Sincerely,



Jeffrey I. Cooper
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Letter 947



Hall County Hero Flight Association:

Chairman:

Don Shuda

Vice Chairman:

Don Smith

Secretary:

Judy Shuda

Treasurer:

Kim Wells

Board:

Mike Ponte

Dan Naranjo

Pam Lancaster

Joan Leisinger

Karen Schrader

Virjeanne Baker

Stan Bilslend

Justin Bstandig

Jay Vavricek



The Hall County Hero Flight Association was organized eleven years ago with a very specific purpose to honor veterans by using public funds to support trips to Washington, D.C. to visit war memorials, participate in the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and partake in banquets and luncheons held in their honor and featuring military speakers of import.

With the flight program being completed for the time being, the association is now focused on raising funds to expand the existing Veterans Cemetery and elevate the status to Nebraska State Veterans Cemetery.

HOW TO DONATE:

Donor name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Gift Amount: \$ _____

Please see donor designation levels page for more information

Payment Method:

Please write your check or money order to; **"Hall County Hero Flight Association"** 131 South Locust Street; Grand Island Ne 68801

Enter in the following information if you are using a credit card to make your donation.

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____