

MAINE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

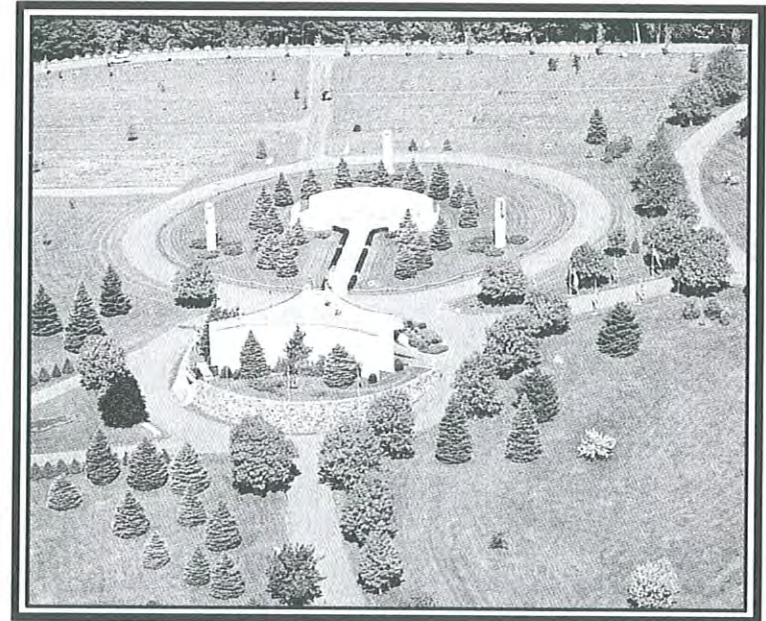


MAINE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY HISTORY

HISTORY

By Nathaniel T. Cobb
Surviving Founder





THE NET PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THIS HISTORY
WILL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR
THE MAINE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY.

ALL FUNDS ARE TO BE
ACCOUNTED FOR AND DISBURSED TO
THE MAINE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 942, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04332-0942

By
The American Legion Department of Maine

Nathaniel T. Cobb
Author and Surviving Founder

MAINE VETERANS
MEMORIAL CEMETERY
HISTORY

1st Edition

Proudly Designed & Printed by

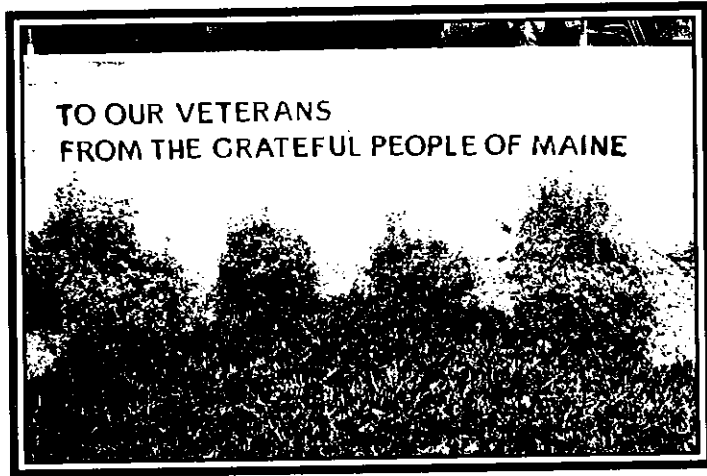
 **R.N. HASKINS**
PRINTING COMPANY, INC.
Fine Quality Printers

John Kezal
P.O. Box 254
Rumford, ME 04276-0254

John Kezal
M. Haskins

HISTORY
MAINE VETERANS
MEMORIAL CEMETERY

By
Nathaniel T. Cobb
Surviving Founder



*Inscription in Front of the Chapel
of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery.*

Twenty Third Psalm

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT.
IN VERDANT PASTURES HE GIVES ME REPOSE;
BESIDES RESTFUL WATERS HE LEADS ME;
HE REFRESHES MY SOUL.

HE GUIDES ME IN THE RIGHT PATHS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.
EVEN THOUGH I WALK IN THE DARK VALLEY
I FEAR NO EVIL; FOR YOU ARE AT MY SIDE.
WITH YOUR ROD, AND YOUR STAFF THAT GIVE ME COURAGE.

YOU SPREAD THE TABLE BEFORE ME
IN THE SIGHT OF MY FOES;
YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL;
MY CUP OVERFLOWS.

ONLY GOODNESS AND KINDNESS
FOLLOW ME
ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE;
AND I SHALL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD
FOR YEARS TO COME.



*Nathaniel T. Cobb,
Author and Surviving Founder
Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery.*

Dedication

Lest We Forget

This History is dedicated to the veterans of the State of Maine.

They gave up the joys of youth for the sake of their country.
They traded the comforts of home for the horrors of the battlefield.
They left a peaceful civilian life for a dangerous uncertain future.
They left their jobs, home and family and placed themselves in harm's way to
preserve freedom for all generations.

They have earned and deserve the admiration and respect of all Maine's citizens.

To them and to their families goes the gratitude of all of us.

**Nathaniel T. Cobb
Waterville, Maine
Author and Surviving Founder
Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery**

**Veteran of World War II
Life Member of the American Legion,
Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans
Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.**



*Teamwork was the order of the day, launching the
Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery project
Nathaniel T. Cobb, Margaret Chase Smith,
William J. Rogers and Edmund S. Muskie*

Location

The Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery is located approximately 3 miles north west of the State Capitol in Augusta, Maine.

The main entrance is located on Route No. 27 just north of the I-95 Belgrade interchange.

The panoramic view of the distant hills and valleys of the Belgrade Region and surrounding fields and woodlands provides an appropriate setting for this beautiful cemetery.

Origination

Origin

American Legion Officials learned of a subcommittee hearing on National Cemeteries in Washington, D.C., chaired by Congressman Rutherford, which suggested a plan for joint State-Federal cemeteries. The suggested plan was that the states could lease land to the Federal Government, who would provide maintenance. There is no indication that this legislation was brought before the Congress of the United States.

The memorial branch of the Quartermaster Corps proposes to develop presently available land for burial sites, but except for Arlington National Cemetery, they do not propose to acquire any additional land for the expansion of existing cemeteries or the creation of new cemeteries.

The Department of the Army stated, "the Committee chairman of the Senate and House Committees on Interior Affairs are being informed by letters from the Bureau of the Budget that any expansion of the national cemetery system with the exception of Arlington Cemetery, will be treated as a special case and would be in accord with the program of the President."

Joseph E. Murray, Acting Administrator Director of the Quartermaster Corps said, "experience indicates that the majority of burials in national cemeteries are those persons who live within 50 miles of the installations." A site chosen for a veterans cemetery should be near large concentrations of population, comparatively level, free of subsurface water obstructions and accessible by good roads and public transportation. The density of population in an area would determine the size of the cemetery required. In figuring national cemetery needs, the Army has estimated that 40% of the veterans living within 50 miles of the site might use the cemetery and that 80% of this number might have wives and widows to be buried. An acre of ground in a national cemetery provides an average of 600 grave sites, each 5 x 10 feet in size.

In 1960 the Veterans Administration announced the cemeteries located at Togus would be closed for further burials. This was one of the underlying reasons to establish a cemetery for Maine veterans.

The American Legion Department of Maine Convention held June 22-23, 1962, at Old Orchard Beach.

Resolution to promote the Establishment of a Maine Veterans Cemetery, introduced by Harold T. Andrews Post No. 17, Portland, Maine.

Resolution

WHEREAS, it has been the custom since early beginnings of this country for the government to furnish a last resting place for its war time veterans as a measure of respect and honor for those who had served it well and this custom is about to be terminated as soon as the rapidly diminishing number of sites is exhausted; and

WHEREAS, a veteran dying in Maine at the present time and desiring burial in a veterans cemetery or at government expense must be transported to Long Island, New York or a more distant spot and there are also many veterans of all wars presently buried in neglected and almost forgotten graves; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the legislature of the State of Maine at its next regular session consider the establishment of a State Veterans Cemetery for the interment or reinterment of its honored veterans of all wars and that this cemetery be established on a suitable site near the center of population of the State of Maine and be of sufficient size to care for all veterans who may reasonably be expected to desire burial in such cemetery; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a suitable central monument and flag pole be established and that graves assigned from the center outward in a wheel like design so that the appearance may be symmetrical and orderly at all times and that the Division of Veterans Affairs be charged with the care and supervision of this cemetery and that funds be made available to them for this purpose and that this cemetery be operated on the same general principles that control National Cemeteries, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to each State Senator and State Representative, to State Officials whose departments are involved and to other veterans organizations, and that a committee of American Legion members be appointed by the incoming Commander to work with interested Legislators and State Departments concerned to draw up suitable legislation to present to the Legislature. (end of quote)

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Nathaniel T. Cobb
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT, THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 4, 1964

Committee Appointments

In July 1964, American Legion Department Commander, John Levinsky, appointed the following Legionnaires to serve on a steering committee for the purpose to establish a cemetery for Maine veterans.

Past Department Commander Robert C. MacFarland of Thomaston, Chairman.
Past Dept. Commander William J. Rogers of Auburn, Maine, Legislative Chairman.
Dept. Adjutant Nathaniel T. Cobb of Waterville, Secretary and Public Relations.
First District- Royden Leighton of Westbrook.
Second District- John W. Milton of Auburn.
Third District- Robert C. MacFarland of Thomaston.
Fourth District- Norwood Mansur of Augusta.
Fifth District- Seth Libby of Bar Harbor.
Sixth District- Maurice Morse of Cherryfield.
Seventh District- Gordon Dixon of Stockholm.
Commissioner of Veterans Affairs- Robert Washburn of Augusta.

September 23, 1964.

Dear Committee member,

There will be an initial meeting of the State Veterans Cemetery this Sunday, September 27, at 10:00 a.m. preceding the Department Executive Committee Meeting at the Legion Hall in Waterville.

This is a very important meeting where the ground work will be laid for the whole program. We need representation from each District so that everyone's ideas and suggestions may be considered in making up the program to be followed. I hope that you will be able to attend.

Possibly, if transportation is a problem, you might contact the District or County Commanders who will be coming to the Executive Committee.

I hope to see you in Waterville Sunday.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. MacFarland, Department Service Officer

cc: Nathaniel T. Cobb, Department Adjutant
John Levinsky, Department Commander

Notice to Committee Members

August 24, 1964

Dear Committee Member,

You will remember at the Portland Convention that the subject of the 1962 Resolution for a State Veterans Cemetery was brought up and talked over.

I have been appointed as chairman of a Committee to go into this matter and try to draw up a suitable bill for presentation to the State Legislature in January. I would like to have one Legionnaire from each district to assist me on this committee in the beginning stages. After we develop the basic principles which we desire to include in the bill the committee will be expanded to include people in the Legislature who will assist us and possibly other Legionnaires who are interested.

The work of this committee would involve one or two meetings in the Central part of the state, probably Waterville, on dates which would be most agreeable to the majority.

If you are interested in this program and would like to assist us in it to this extent, please let me know and also whether you prefer to have the meetings some evening or possibly on a weekend. You would be the representative of your district on this basic committee.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. MacFarland, Department Service Officer

RCM/hd

cc: Nathaniel T. Cobb, Department Adjutant

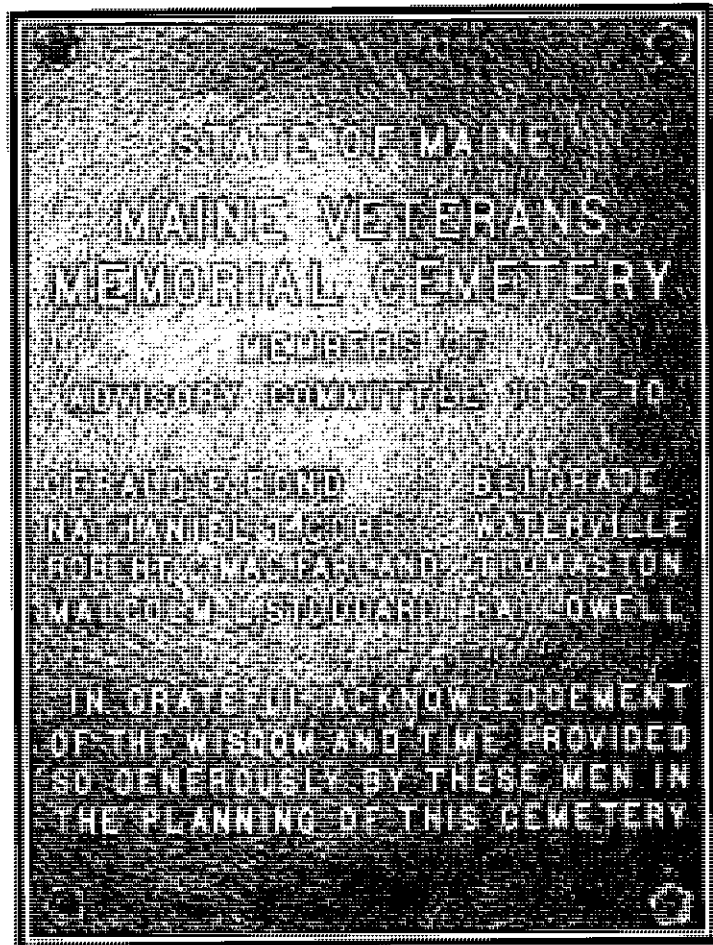


Photo of Bronze Plaque in the office of the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Report of Meeting

September 28, 1964

To: Nathaniel T. Cobb, Department Adjutant
 From: Robert C. MacFarland, Department Service Officer
 Please mimeograph 100 copies of the enclosed report for distribution.
 This report can be used "as is" in the Maine Legionnaire or rewritten as you desire.

State Veterans Cemetery Committee Report

Meeting September 27, 1964, Waterville, Maine.

A meeting was called for 10:00 a.m. prior to the Department Executive Committee meeting on the above date. The following was the plan of action decided upon.

- (1) A target date early in January for submission of a bill to provide for a State Cemetery to the State Legislature was decided upon. It was decided that a tract of 50 to 100 acres, preferably in the Augusta-Winthrop area, adjacent to a main road with good drainage, no ledge and fairly level, would be the ideal site.
- (2) The cemetery monument and flag pole (familiar in design to War Memorial idea #1 of the Barre Granite Association, Inc.) surrounded by a clear area suitable for Memorial Day exercises as the hub. Radial main avenues and circumferential drives at suitable intervals would provide access to the burial lots.
- (3) It was felt that in view of present trends and to expedite care of the cemetery, markers should be restricted to flat types as shown in the Government application for grave marker. This would also assure uniformity.
- (4) Cement liners should be required where permanent boxes are not used. (Cost approximately \$20.)
- (5) Regulations regarding eligibility for burial should follow the regulations governing burial in National Cemeteries.

Report of September 27, 1964 continued:

- (6) Investigation should be made and recommendations included for re-interment of veterans now buried in abandoned or uncared for cemeteries. It was felt that this matter should be discussed with the Funeral Directors Association, Town Officials and others concerned as to the legal and physical problems as well as monetary problems.
- (7) The possibility of using Maine Granite in the memorial is to be investigated and reported on at the next meeting.
- (8) The Chairman of the Committee, the Department Adjutant and Robert Washburn are to ask for an audience with the Governor to discuss the idea and to find if any presently state owned lands are available and suitable.
- (9) An expanded committee consisting of the original District members and two others from each district, picked by the district members, preferably members of the State Legislature, or influential Legionnaires, will meet November 15th at the Legion Home in Waterville at 10:30 a.m. to develop the matter further.
- (10) The matter of a \$35 fee for opening and closing of the graves was discussed but not decided.
- (11) Rough estimates of the cost, exclusive of land acquisition, would be \$75,000 with a yearly maintenance cost which would probably eventually reach \$25,000.

Maine Legionnaire

December 1964

The following article was published in The Maine Legionnaire, the Department of Maine The American Legion's official newspaper.

By: Nathaniel T. Cobb, Department Adjutant, The American Legion

In November 1964, we published the Resolution that was unanimously passed at the Department Convention 1962 held at Old Orchard Beach. (A Cemetery for Maine Veterans.)

Since the beginning of American History it has been the established policy of Government at various levels to supply a dignified and well kept last resting place for its veterans of all wars. This is exemplified by our National Cemeteries and the veteran's plots in most city and town cemeteries as well as cemeteries in connection with the Soldiers and Sailors Homes where such homes exist.

The Cemetery Committee, at its meetings last September and November, gave the following reason for a cemetery for Maine Veterans:

At the present time any veteran dying in Maine whose family desires burial in a National cemetery, his remains must be transported to Long Island, New York. This is too far away to permit relatives and friends to participate in the burial or visit to the grave site.

It appears there will not be any further development of the National Cemetery system.

The so called "veterans lots" in local cemeteries are small in most cases and not properly cared for, although it is the responsibility of the towns and cities to provide proper maintenance and care.

For several years prior to the discontinuance of burial veterans who died in the Veterans Hospital in Togus, it should be emphasized that only veterans dying in Togus could be buried there. It also should be noted that cemetery burials averaged 80 per year.

The towns and cities of Maine will become responsible for the graves of more and more veterans under present law as time goes on.

*Maine Legionnaire Article,
Department Adjutant's column continued:*

A State Veterans Cemetery would eliminate this problem and 1,000 veteran's graves in one well planned cemetery would be much more economically cared for than 1,000 in 500 different cemeteries.

The re-interment features of the proposed bill would eliminate the responsibility of the municipalities to care for isolated veteran's graves in abandoned or private cemeteries and over a period of time would be economical from the taxpayer's point of view.

Such a cemetery, near the center of population, would provide a suitable spot for Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other named memorial services. A large monument with a national and state flag on display would provide a fitting memorial to the veterans of all wars.

This cemetery would be for honorably discharged war time Maine Veterans only.

It is also suggested that the Department of Veterans Services would be the Department to administer the cemetery.

The approximate number of veterans living in Maine in 1964 are 120,000. Broken down as follows: World War I - 15,000, World War II - 74,000, Korean - 30,000 and others 1,000.

If it comes into being, such a cemetery would be a lasting memorial to all veterans. Therefore all concerned should pledge their continuous and untiring efforts to the support of such a cemetery so that it will always be a credit to the State of Maine and a memorial of which all Maine citizens can be forever proud.

Legislation.



*Governor John H. Reed signing L.D. No. 397-
An Act for the Establishment of a Veterans Memorial Cemetery.*

*Left to Right-
William J. Rogers Legislative Chairman,
Robert Washburn, Commissioner Maine Veterans Services,
Governor John H. Reed,
Robert C. MacFarland Chairman of the Committee and
Nathaniel T. Cobb Department Adjutant and Secretary to the Committee.*

Department of Maine the American Legion

119 Main Street, Waterville, Maine

February 9, 1965

To: All Posts, Department Officers & County Commanders

L.D. No. 397 AN ACT to Provide for Establishment of a Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Urgent!

A hearing on the American Legion's "Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery" will be held at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, February 18, 1965, at the state house.

This bill originated with a resolution adopted at the 1962 Department Convention and support of all Legionnaires is now needed to insure its passage by the legislature.

Please see that your Representatives and Senators know of the interest of your Post in this cemetery and try to have your post represented at the hearing by as many members as possible.

Your Department Veterans Cemetery and Legislative Committee have arranged for speakers on the merits of this bill but we need all Legionnaires interested present at the hearing to stand up and be counted in favor of the bill.

Fraternally,

John Levinsky, Commander
William J. Rogers, Chairman Legislative Committee
Robert C. MacFarland, Chairman Veterans Cemetery Committee

Transmitted:
Nathaniel T. Cobb, Department Adjutant

Sponsor

On November 15, 1964, a meeting was held in Waterville by the Cemetery Committee to review previous action and finalize plans for the introduction of legislation for a Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Department Adjutant Nathaniel T. Cobb informed those present that he would ask the Honorable Senator Burton G. Shiro of Waterville to sponsor the legislation.

Cobb informed the committee that Senator Shiro is a highly respected citizen of the Waterville community, a prominent attorney and is a highly decorated veteran who served in the South Pacific in World War II.

The Committee unanimously agreed that the Department Adjutant contact Senator Shiro to sponsor the legislation.



*1964 Photo
Honorable Burton G. Shiro,
of Waterville, Maine
Senator 102nd Legislature*

Honorable Burton G. Shiro

Senator, 102nd Legislature

Statement of Honorable Burton G. Shiro, before the Committee on Veterans & Military Affairs. A highly decorated War Veteran who sponsored Legislative Document No. 397

An Act to Provide for Establishment of a Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Thursday, February 18, 1965.

Mr. Chairman and Members of this Committee on Veterans Affairs:

It is with a deep sense of honor that I sponsor, before you and this 102nd Legislature, L.D. 397, an act to provide for the establishment of a Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

One of the reasons given to this requested legislation is that now it does not appear that there shall be any further development of the National Cemetery System. At the present time, the nearest National Cemetery is Long Island, New York, a distance which, for practical purposes of visitation, is prohibitive to relatives and friends residing in Maine.

A Veterans Memorial Cemetery would be a fitting tribute to the approximately 120,000 veterans now living in Maine. However, far more than that, I can envision such a cemetery as being the number one focal point of historic and patriotic interest in the State of Maine.

Here, relatives, friends, comrades in arms and visitors, will sense the accomplishment and sacrifice of those whose invisible presence shall make these grounds sacred. Here, we shall sense the role that our State of Maine and its citizens have played in the greatest struggle of this proud nation. Here, we shall walk in an atmosphere of greatness—an atmosphere of purpose, courage, and spirit. Here, we shall converse with Maine history!

A memorial of the past is often a benefit to the present. And I am confident it shall be with this remembrance, in the form of a Veterans Memorial Cemetery. It shall provide a distinguished final resting place for those who served so honorably during the wars. And it shall at the same time, provide all of living, who visit there, with a lasting sense of dedication to those principles of liberty and justice which guided so well our state and our nation. Therefore, I respectfully ask this committee to recommend the passage of this most worthy bill, L.D. 397, an Act to Establish a Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Burton G. Shiro
Senator

MacFarland Testimony

Testimony of Robert C. MacFarland-Committee on Veterans & Military Affairs
102nd Legislature.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: The interest of the American Legion in this proposed cemetery began about two and a half years ago when a resolution, very similar to the bill now under consideration, was adopted unanimously by our Department Convention. Over this period of time, a careful study has been made of the need for such a cemetery, the possible use, the cost, and other pertinent facts regarding it.

Other speakers will show the need in more detail. I will only state that no further expansion of the National Cemetery System is being considered, although efforts have been made by all Veterans Organizations to obtain such expansion. The Department of the Army stated, "The Committee chairman of the Senate and House Committees of Interior Affairs are being informed by letters from the Bureau of the Budget that any expansion of the National Cemetery System, with the exception of Arlington National Cemetery, which will be treated as a special case, would not be in accord with the program of the President."

Some, but not all, municipalities have lots in local cemeteries purchased by the Veterans Organizations where their members may be buried, others have so-called "Veterans Lots" where indigent veterans are buried. Unfortunately, not all of these are cared for as presented by law, many of them are in varied stages of neglect. The cemetery at Togus where nearly five thousand Maine Veterans are buried are only veterans who died at Togus. Others were not eligible for burial there.

The present wartime veteran population of Maine is approximately 110,000. Joseph E. Murray, Acting Administration Director of the Quartermasters Corps has informed us "Experience indicates that 40% of the veterans living within fifty miles of a National Cemetery might use the cemetery and that 80% of these have wives or widows to be buried."

In our estimates, we have figured only 10% of the presently living veterans in Maine, plus one dependent for each veteran, plus a small percentage of the veterans now buried in private or neglected graves arrived at a figure of about 25,000 graves. An acre of ground divided into five feet by ten feet plots would allow 600 graves to the acre. The minimum of fifty acres specified in the bill with allowances for a central area monument and roadways would just about accommodate the estimated 25,000 graves.

MacFarland Testimony, Continued:

The monument as shown in the sketch would be about thirty feet long and eight feet wide and several feet thick. An estimate by a Maine producer of granite places the cost at around \$10,000. The flag pole shown would display the United States Flag and the State of Maine Flag.

It is estimated that the total cost including land, buildings, monuments, grading, etc., would be in the vicinity of \$100,000. Maintenance would run from around \$15,000 at first to possibly \$25,000, at such time as the cemetery might be near capacity. Realizing the budgetary limitations of the 102nd Legislature, we are asking for only one half the amount needed to complete the project this biennium. This will allow for acquisition of land, planning and a start on the grading, access roads, etc.

In the interest of economy as well as uniformity, it is provided that all grave markers shall be flat type similar to the three types issued by the Government free of charge to veterans and also that all boxes shall have concrete liners or permanent vaults. Those two provisions will result in a savings of 50% in maintenance costs.

This cemetery should not be considered as just a place to bury veterans, but rather as a suitable, fitting, beautiful and lasting memorial to those who risked their lives in the service of their country and to the State of Maine that we might enjoy the peace and prosperity which we now have.

We hope that this bill will have your favorable consideration.

Washburn Testimony

Testimony of Robert R. Washburn, Commissioner of Veterans Services.
Before Committee on Veterans & Military Affairs - 102nd Legislature

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee: Just imagine for a few moments, if you will, that the following actually took place in the year 1865, in Washington, D.C.

The local citizens have just finished reading their newspapers and have read that the Army has decided to use the Arlington estate belonging to the family of Robert E. Lee for a military cemetery.

A roving reporter asks for comments from citizens on the way to their daily tasks. Following are some of the remarks that might have been heard:

"Hasn't the government anything better to do with its money?"

"Burying should be the responsibility of each family, not the government."

"Why build it way over there, all the way across the river?"

"It's far from Washington."

"It's too near the Capitol, a cemetery should be kept out of sight."

"What, take a good plantation land for a cemetery?"

"That land is no good for farming, let alone a cemetery."

"Looks like they want to make a good job for somebody to run the place."

"What the dickens is the Army trying to do, ruin my business?
I sell tombstones."

"The paper says soldiers and veterans can be buried here from
all over the United States."

"Huh! I'll bet nobody more than 5 miles from Washington would
want to be buried there."

"It's going to cost too much money if the government runs that place."

"I say pave the muddy streets first."

"Let's spend the money on looking after the disabled soldiers."

"I should think that winning the war was reward enough without giving
away all those benefits, homestead land and free burials and stuff."

Yes, I expect you might have heard all those comments and more had you been on the Washington scene a hundred years ago, but to be fair, you might also have heard some extremely favorable views concerning the establishment of the cemetery in Arlington.

Washburn Testimony, Continued:

Had the voices of the detractors prevailed, Arlington would now probably consist of a forgotten few acres containing dead from the Civil War and the remainder of the vast estate would probably be housing developments.

But in spite of what pessimists of that time might have said, we all know what did happen during the past hundred years. Arlington has become a national shrine, visited each year by millions of school children and citizens from all over the United States. As many of you can attest personally, it is a moving experience to make a quiet, leisurely visit to Arlington.

Presidents and Generals are buried there, dignitaries and officers of all rank lie there. And thousands upon thousands of ordinary citizen soldiers lie there in military precision during their eternal rest.

In fact, the demands from all over the nation for burial space there became so great that for the first time in its history, stringent limitations have recently been imposed on what former military personnel may be buried there.

Less than a month ago, on February 13, 1967, the Army released the following statement:

"The Department of the Army advises burials in Arlington National cemetery after Friday, February 17, 1967, will be limited by Army Regulations 290-5 to the following veterans and their wives, or husbands and minor children:

- (1) Those awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- (2) Active duty and career retired military personnel.
- (3) Honorably discharged veterans who have held high government posts. This includes Presidents, Vice Presidents, Cabinet Members, Supreme Court Justices, Congressman and assignments of Executive Grade level 2, and above.

Testimony of William J. Rogers

Testimony of William J. Rogers, Legislative Chairman of the American Legion Department of Maine, before the Committee on Veterans & Military Affairs of the 102nd Legislature.

Mr. Chairman and Members of this Committee, One can reasonably ask the question, "Why a cemetery?" and "Is there a need for such a cemetery?" It is possible that if these questions are answered strictly, on an utilitarian basis, it could be said the State of Maine will somehow survive and that some place, somewhere, will be provided for the burial of all Maine veterans if this proposed cemetery is not built. However, even on the basis of utilitarian need, a case may be drawn. Since 1960 there has been no provision for burial at Togus, although Maine law says that a veteran who dies without sufficient means for burial shall not be buried in a pauper's grave.

But beyond this, there are even more compelling reasons. I am sure it goes without saying that the United States would not be a nation it is today without the services and sacrifices of those in the past who served in the Armed Forces.

Since the outset of the war in far off Vietnam, we have seen demonstrations and shocking exhibitions by groups and individuals on a greater scale than probably took place ever in the history of the United States. Many such demonstrations show outright contempt for government, law and order, the Flag of The United States and even our boys in uniform.

I believe that the greatest reason for the establishment of the Maine Veterans Cemetery is for all to see now and in the future that military service to the state and nation is an obligation that should be held on the highest level. Anyone who has honorably completed this obligation becomes a special person, and all citizens in our state would have a constant reminder in the form of this memorial that those who lie there in honor, were special persons.

Testimony of Nathaniel T. Cobb

Testimony of Nathaniel T. Cobb, Department Adjutant of The American Legion before the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee of the 102nd Legislature.

Mr. Chairman and members of this committee:

Since the beginning of American History it has been the established policy of Government at various levels to supply a dignified and well kept last resting place for its veterans of all wars. This is exemplified by our National Cemeteries and the veteran grave sites in most city and town cemeteries as well as cemeteries in connection with the Soldiers and Sailors Homes where such homes exist.

The Cemetery Committee at its meeting last November gave the following reasons for a cemetery for Maine veterans:

The nearest National Cemetery located in Long Island, New York is too far away to permit relatives and friends to participate in the burial or visit the grave of a loved one.

It now appears there will not be any further development of the National Cemetery system.

The so called "veterans lots" in local cemeteries are small and in most cases are not properly cared for, although it is the responsibility of the towns and cities to provide proper maintenance and care.

For several years prior to the discontinuance of burial of veterans who died in the VA Hospital in Togus, only veterans dying at Togus could be buried there.

The towns and cities of Maine will become responsible for the graves of more and more veterans under present law as time goes on.

This proposed Veterans Memorial Cemetery would serve as a lasting memorial to those who served their country faithfully and honorably during war time.

Legislative Document No. 397

An Act to Provide for Establishment of a Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows: Sec. 1. R.S.T. 37, c. additional. Title 37 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to read as follows:

Chapter 2 - Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Sec. 21. Land Purchase. The Commissioner of Veterans Services shall acquire by purchase, gift or otherwise from the owners thereof, at such price as shall be mutually agreed upon between the Commissioner and such owners, such real estate as in his judgment is suitable and necessary for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions for a Veterans Memorial Cemetery, and obtain from such owners the title in fee simple for the same. Such real estate shall not be less than 50 acres, and shall be near the center of population of the State of Maine.

Sec. 22. Monument, buildings and etc. The Commissioner of Veterans Services shall purchase and cause to be erected in the Center of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery to be suitable to the topography of the land, a suitable monument with suitable flag poles on which shall be displayed in accordance with the Flag Code, the National Emblem and the State of Maine flag. The immediate area surrounding this monument shall be prepared and reserved as a suitable place for Memorial Day or other patriotic memorial observances. The remainder shall be laid out in a wheel like pattern surrounding the monument, being expanded from the center as required. Suitable buildings shall be provided for the use of the superintendent, and the care of equipment and for the storage of bodies, during which time as burial is impossible because of frozen ground.

Sec. 23 Superintendent. A competent and trustworthy superintendent shall be appointed and whatever additional help, equipment and material is necessary for adequate maintenance of the cemetery shall be arranged by the Commissioner of Veterans Services.

Sec. 24 Grave markers. All markers shall be the flat type marble, granite or bronze as furnished by the Memorial Division, Department of the Army, or similar thereto.

Legislative Document No. 397, continued

No other markers or stones shall be permitted in the cemetery. All boxes used for burial shall be protected with the liners or permanent vaults. Stones, liners or vaults shall not be at state expense.

Sec. 25. **Burials:** Any veteran without regard to race, creed or color, who served in United States Armed Forces during any recognized period of war and received an honorable discharge may be buried in this cemetery without charge, if he/she entered the service from Maine or has lived in Maine for 5 years immediately prior to his death. The wife, surviving spouse, minor child or adult child who became incapable of self support reaching the age of 18 because of mental or physical defects may be buried in graves adjacent to the veteran without charge, provided that if the veteran dies first the survivors specify in writing their intent to be buried, or if the dependent dies first the veteran specifies in writing his/her intent to be buried in the Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The plots shall be reserved as indicated and a permanent record of all burials shall be kept.

The bodies of eligible veterans previously buried in other locations may be reinterred in this cemetery upon request of anyone legally entitled to make such a request, provided that no cost shall be borne by the State of Maine other than that which would be incurred in an original burial.

Sec. 26. **Regulations:** The Commissioner of Veterans Services shall be authorized to make such regulations regarding burials, maintenance and operation of the cemetery as he deems necessary which are not in conflict with this chapter.

Sec. 27. **Interpretation:** This chapter shall not be construed as obligating the state beyond the furnishing of the grave site, and opening and closing of the grave and maintenance thereafter, in perpetual care of the grave and the cemetery as a whole.

Sec. 28. **Name:** The cemetery provided by this chapter shall be known as the **Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery.**

Sec. 29. **Appropriation:** There is appropriated from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of planning and starting development of the cemetery provided by this Act.

State of Maine
Senate
102nd Legislature

Committee Amendment

A to S. P. 157, L.D. 397, Bill, "An Act to Provide for establishment of a Veterans Memorial Cemetery."

Amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. 23" of section 1 by inserting at the end a new sentence to read as follows:

"The superintendent of the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery shall be an honorably discharged veteran or a current member of the armed forces in a non-active status."

Further amend said Bill in designated "Sec. 25" of section 1 by striking out in the 3rd line the underlined word "war" and inserting in place thereof the underlined words "conflict or was eligible for Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal."

Reported by Committee on VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Reproduced by Committee on VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS.

Reproduced and distributed pursuant to Senate Rule No. 11A

(Filing No. S-24)

2/23/65

Letter to the 102nd Legislature

In response to a letter dated March 8, 1965 to all members of the Legislature by the Memorial Craftsmen of Maine, in opposition to LD 397 - Establishment of a Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The Department of Maine The American Legion sent to all members of the 102nd Legislature the following letter:

The American Legion Maine Department

Waterville Maine
March 17, 1965.

After many months of careful study and research by The American Legion, Department of Maine, and its committee representing the sixteen counties of the state, the following presentation on L.D. 397 was given a hearing on February 18, 1965 before the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee by Robert C. MacFarland, Department Service Officer and Chairman of its Veterans Memorial Cemetery Committee:

The interest of the American Legion in this proposed cemetery began about two and a half years ago when a resolution very similar to the bill now under consideration was adopted unanimously by our Department Convention. Over this period of time, a careful study has been made of the need for such a cemetery, the possible use, the cost, and other pertinent facts regarding it.

Other speakers will show the need in more detail. I will only state that no further expansion of the National Cemetery System is being considered, although efforts have been made by all Veterans Organizations to obtain such expansion. The Department of the Army stated, "The Committee chairman of the Senate and House Committees for Interior and Insular Affairs are being informed by letters from the Bureau of the Budget that any expansion of the National Cemetery System, with the exception of Arlington National Cemetery, which will be treated as a special case, would not be in accord with the Program of the President."

Some, but not all, municipalities have lots in local cemeteries purchased by the Veterans Organizations so that their members may be buried, others have so-called "Veterans Lots" where indigent veterans are buried. Unfortunately, not all of these are cared for as prescribed by law, many of them are in varied stages of neglect. The cemetery at Togus where nearly five thousand Maine veterans are buried is no longer available. It should be emphasized that those buried at Togus are only veterans who died at Togus. Other were not eligible for burial there.

The present wartime veteran population of Maine is approximately 110,000. Joseph E. Murray, Acting Administration Director of the Quartermasters Corps has informed us "Experience indicates that forty percent of the veterans living within fifty miles of a National Cemetery might use the cemetery and that eighty per cent of these might have wives or widows to be buried."

In our estimates, we have figured that only ten per cent of the presently living veterans in Maine, plus one dependent for each veteran, plus a small percentage of the veterans now buried in private or neglected graves we arrived at a figure of about 25,000 graves. An acre of ground divided into five feet by ten feet plots would allow 600 graves to the acre. The minimum of fifty acres specified in the bill with allowance for a central area for monument and roadways would just about accommodate the estimated 25,000 graves.

The monument as shown in the sketch would be about thirty feet long, eight feet wide and several feet thick. An estimate by a Maine producer of granite places the cost at around \$10,000. The flag pole shown would display the United States Flag and the State of Maine Flag.

It is estimated that the total cost, including land, building, monuments, grading, etc., would be in the vicinity of \$100,000. Maintenance would run from around \$15,000 at first to possibly \$25,000, at such time as the cemetery might be near capacity. Realizing the budgetary limitation of the 102nd Legislature, we are asking for only one half of the amount needed to complete the project this biennium. This will allow for acquisition of land, planning and a start on the grading, access roads, etc.

In the interest of economy, as well as uniformity, it is provided that all grave markers would be flat type similar to the three types issued by the Government free of charge to veterans and also that all boxes shall have concrete liners or permanent vaults. These two provisions will result in a savings of fifty percent in maintenance costs.

This cemetery should not be considered just a place to bury veterans, but rather as a suitable, fitting, beautiful and lasting memorial to those who risked their lives in the service of their country and the State of Maine so that we might enjoy the peace and prosperity which we now have.

We hope that this bill will have your favorable consideration.

Press Release

Department of Maine the American Legion

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Nathaniel T. Cobb
Department Adjutant
119 Main Street, Waterville, Maine

Establishment of a Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery for burial of any war veteran in Maine, with his wife and minor children, is contained in a bill introduced in the 102nd Legislature by Senator Burton G. Shiro of Waterville.

"The Memorial cemetery is a definite need in Maine at this time", according to William J. Rogers of Auburn, Legislative Chairman of The American Legion. Since there is no provision by the Federal government to expand the present Veterans Cemetery at Togus which has reached near capacity, burials were then restricted to only veterans who had died at Togus. The Veterans Administration discontinued burials several years ago at Togus.

"The nearest National Cemetery for Maine veterans is on Long Island, New York", Rogers said, "and this certainly creates a tremendous problem for families of Maine veterans."

Sponsored by the Department of Maine, American Legion, the bill calls for burial of any veteran, regardless of race, color or creed, who served in the United States Armed Forces at any time during a recognized period of war and received an honorable discharge. The veteran would have to have entered the military service from Maine or have been a resident of the State for five years prior to his death.

There would be no charge for the burial plot, opening and closing of the grave and for perpetual care, the Bill reads.

In the case of veterans, funeral services charges would be borne by the family, assisted by grants from the Federal Veterans Administration and Social Security.

The State of Maine is not obligated in the burial of dependents beyond the furnishing of the plot, opening and closing of the grave or care thereafter.

The wife of an eligible veteran may be buried with him and if she dies before his death she may be interred in the memorial cemetery after written statement by the veteran that he will also be interred there.

Minor children under age 18 may also be buried in the plot and also adult children who because of mental or physical defects become incapable of self support before age 18.

The cemetery would be located near the center of population of the State of Maine according to Rogers and would be under the jurisdiction of the Maine Commissioner of the State Department of Veterans Services, Robert Washburn.

Rogers said, "the land could be obtained by purchase, gift or otherwise and would consist of at least 50 acres."

"The Bill calls for an appropriation of \$50,000 for purchase of the land and preparation of the cemetery, Rogers said, but if the land can be donated, it would cut the cost to the state by a considerable amount."

"With the possibility of being buried in a National Cemetery in Maine now nonexistent," Rogers added, "it would be a fitting gesture of appreciation of the people of Maine to its war veterans if this cemetery were established."

"It would serve as a lasting memorial to those who served their country faithfully and honorably during war time."

Letter to 102nd Legislature

Amendment

Section 25, First Sentence....

Strike out ___ word "war"

Substitute ___ "conflict or was eligible for Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal."

This would cover:

Berlin Airlift
 Lebanon Expedition
 Quemay-Matsu Islands
 Taiwan Straits
 Congo
 Laos
 Viet Nam
 Thailand
 Cuba Blockade

The American Legion would not object to this amendment.

William J. Rogers, Chairman, Legislative Committee
 The American Legion Department of Maine

Col. M.L. Stoddard, Vice-Chairman, Legislative Committee
 The American Legion Department of Maine

John Levinsky, Commander
 The American Legion Department of Maine

Transmitted by:

Nathaniel T. Cobb, Department Adjutant
 The American Legion Department of Maine

M.L. Stoddard

Following is a statement released March 10, 1965 to Associated Press and United Press International by Col. M.L. Stoddard, 21 Mayflower Road, Hallowell, Maine, Vice Chairman of the Legislative Committee of The American Legion, Department of Maine.

Colonel Stoddard's statement was also printed and sent to every member of the 102nd Legislature by Department Adjutant, Nathaniel T. Cobb

Waterville, Maine
 March 17, 1965

L.D. 397

AN ACT- To Provide for Establishment of a Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

"It appears proper to attempt to dispel the confusion relative to certain features of the proposed state memorial cemetery discussed in the Legislature on Tuesday, March 9.

Here in the State of Maine burials of veterans at Togus terminated approximately four years ago. The practice in effect for many years resulted in over 5,000 veterans being buried at Togus, either by their own choice or the wish of their next of kin. The system was, in effect, very similar to that of national cemeteries. No one with actual knowledge of the Togus or national cemeteries would ever characterize the memorial other than very fine indeed and fitting tributes to some wonderful people.

To characterize these graves as in the pauper category is a great disservice to the veterans who occupy the graves at Togus and those of our National Cemeteries.

The preposterous quoted figure of Two Million Dollars cost to the State of Maine is far from the real fact. Experts in cemetery construction advise that the complete cost of a fifty-acre site, including land, central monument, roadways landscaping, etc., should not exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars over a period of years as needs demand.

Actual maintenance cost should not exceed One Dollar per grave, per year in the event the maximum capacity of 25,000 graves is attained for the fifty acre site.

Summarizing the situation, the living veterans in this State are attempting to create a lasting and adequate memorial for their comrades and to fill a definite existing need."

Associated Press Story

Morning Sentinel ~ March 10, 1965

The Maine House gave a preliminary approval today to a bill creating a State Veteran's Cemetery, overriding opposition speakers who called it "ridiculous" and said the cost would be excessive.

The House voted 108-2 against a motion to postpone the bill indefinitely and accepted the favorable report of a 9-1 majority of the Veterans & Military Affairs Committee.

Rep. Keith Anderson, (D) Orono, assistant majority leader said such a memorial cemetery would fill a definite need, since the Togus Veterans Administration Center cemetery is nearly filled and the federal government has no plans to enlarge it.

Rep. David J. Kennedy, (R) Milbridge, the minority leader, said the law forbids burial of a veteran in a pauper's field but many poor veterans are buried in "Obscure places that are hard to find to place a flag on them in recognition of the veteran's service."

Rep. Bartholomew J. Sullivan, (D) Portland, who said that Sullivans have died in every war since the American Revolution said, the bill would place a \$2 million burden on taxpayers, and that this is "ridiculous."

Rep. James T. Dudley, (D) Enfield, said he thinks a grave in a memorial cemetery would be "like a pauper's grave," and that indigent veterans "deserve a better burial among their friends and relatives in their home towns."

The bill calls for a \$50,000 appropriation, but Rep. Arnold E. Jordan, (D) Lincoln said this is only the beginning, and that the annual cost of maintenance would be \$200,000 to \$400,000.

Col. Malcolm Stoddard in a News Release to the AP and UPI said "To characterize these graves as in a pauper category is a great disservice to the veterans who occupy the graves at Togus and those of our national cemeteries. The preposterous quoted figure of \$2 million cost to the state if Maine is far from the real fact. Experts in cemetery construction advise that the complete cost of the fifty acre site, including the land, central monument, roadways, landscaping, etc. should not exceed one hundred thousand dollars over a period of years as needs demand. Actual maintenance cost should not exceed the maximum capacity of \$25,000 is attained for the fifty acre site."



*Grave Site: Veterans Memorial Cemetery.
Taken near the area where a good friend Past Department
American Legion Commander James V. Day is laid to rest.*

*1st Lt. US Army
World War 11- November 27, 1913 - August 8, 1986.*

Governor John H. Reed Signed Legislation - L.D.397

June 1965 - Maine Legionnaire

Governor John H. Reed, who endorsed and supported the Legislation to establish a Veterans Memorial Cemetery signed the measure into law.

Passage of legislation designating a veterans cemetery in Maine was one of the several key actions effecting Maine Veterans, taken by members of the recently completed 102nd Maine Legislature.

The cemetery measure was based on a resolution endorsed by the American Legion Department Convention and was submitted to the Legislature by Senator Burton G. Shiro of Waterville, a member of Bourque Lanigan Post No. 5 The American Legion located in that city.

The Legislation called for the establishment of a state veterans cemetery for the interment or re-interment of its honored veterans of all wars, and this cemetery be established near the center of population of Maine and be of sufficient size to care for all veterans who may reasonably be expected to desire burial in such cemetery.

The Legislation also stipulated that a suitable central monument and flag pole be established and that graves be assigned from the center in a wheel-like design so that the appearance may be symmetrical and orderly at all times, and that the Division of Veterans Affairs be charged with the care and supervision of this cemetery and that funds be made available to them for this purpose and that this cemetery be operated on the same general principles that now controls national cemeteries. The amount of \$7,500 was appropriated to the Department of Veterans Services for the initial planning.

Site Selection and Planning

Site Selection and Advisory Committee

The following Maine citizens were appointed to serve on a committee to find a suitable location for the cemetery and also serve as an advisory to the Department of Veterans Services in the construction of all phases of the cemetery:

Robert C. MacFarland, of Thomaston, Colonel Malcolm Stoddard of Hallowell, Gerald Bond of Belgrade and Nathaniel T. Cobb of Waterville.

Each of these members volunteered numerous hours to the project and assisted in the many decisions that led to the completion of the cemetery, which is ideally located in a scenic setting and is easily accessible to all Maine citizens.

The bronze plaque located in the superintendent's office reads as follows:

STATE OF MAINE
MAINE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

MEMBERS OF
ADVISORY COMMITTEE 1967-70

GERALD E. BOND, BELGRADE
NATHANIEL T. COBB, WATERVILLE
ROBERT C. MACFARLAND, THOMASTON
MALCOLM L. STODDARD, HALLOWELL

IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE WISDOM AND THE TIME PROVIDED
SO GENEROUSLY BY THESE MEN IN
THE PLANNING OF THIS CEMETERY

Activities ~ 1965-1967

By the time the 103rd Legislature convened in 1967, The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Advisory and Site Committee had obtained an option on a 55 acre site in N.W. Augusta. Which is now where the Veterans Memorial Cemetery is located.

The initial development cost to make the cemetery operational was estimated at \$147,000. This sum was recommended by Governor Kenneth Curtis in his message to the 103rd Legislature.

A preliminary plan had been prepared by the noted firm of landscape architects, Shurcliff, Merrill and Footit of Boston, whose services was engaged by Washburn on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

The development cost would include the land purchase, a central monument and plaza for ceremonial purposes, an office maintenance building and a storage building for equipment. In addition, the initial roads, pathways, grave area, landscaping, grading and necessary equipment and supplies to start the cemetery.

Appropriation

March 7, 1967

To the Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs:
From: Department of Veterans Affairs
Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery

The Commissioner of Veterans Services is to acquire a site of at least 50 acres suitable for the said cemetery, near the center of the state population. A minimum of 50 acres is predicated on a maximum of 25,000 graves. Necessary buildings and equipment would be provided for care of the cemetery as well as access ways.

The Committee set the following criteria for locating the site:

- (1) There must be at least 50 usable acres. This means land of proper soil type and drainage.
- (2) The site should be a scenic location that would have esthetic value, both as a place to visit and to be seen by the traveling public.
- (3) The site should be easily accessible and near the State Capitol of Augusta.

After extensive search in the central Maine area surrounding Augusta, we have located a highly suitable site which meets all of the standards we have set and which is now secured with an option agreement effective November 14, 1966. This site is about 2 1/2 miles from downtown Augusta and is about a mile north of the Belgrade exit of the Maine Turnpike. The land borders the Turnpike at one point and also the Old Belgrade Road which crosses the Turnpike at that point. The land rises to a considerable height and can be seen for a fair distance in most directions. It also affords a fine view from the top. It consists of about 55 acres of land, most of which is usable as it is basically deep, well drained, sandy type soil.

The law calls for a memorial monument to be located near the center of the site. This area would be surrounded by a plaza suitable for appropriate memorial services. Access roadways and walkways would be provided. There would be a building for a combination office and machinery storage. The other structure would be a winter vault. About 5 to 10 acres would be initially developed around the central monument area for grave sites and this area would be suitably landscaped.

Cost of the Project

It is estimated the total cost would be in the vicinity of \$150,000. This would include all of the development, plus the initial machinery and supplies for cemetery maintenance. The estimated cost breakdown is as follows:

Clearing and grubbing	\$ 1,000
General earth excavation including stripping of loam and reshaping of sub-grade, scarification, replacement of stripped loam	\$ 7,000
General earth excavation and slope treatment	\$ 2,500
Main Entrance	
Fieldstone walls	\$ 5,000
Roadway construction including earth work and oil penetrated gravel pavement	\$14,000
Gravel pathways, treatment of assembly area	\$ 1,400
Base for monument	\$ 3,300
Allowance for monument	\$10,000
Flag poles and bases	\$ 2,000
Ripup enclosure banking around outer monument ring	\$ 2,600
Maintenance and Administration Area	
Building	\$33,000
Utilities including sewage disposal and water supply	\$ 3,500
Paving and site development in vicinity of building	\$ 2,500
Landscape Planting	\$ 5,000
Finish grading and seeding	\$ 9,000
Design and Engineering Fees 7%	\$ 7,125
Purchase of Land	\$12,700
Equipment and Supplies	\$15,200
Contingencies	\$10,300
Total Estimated Cost	\$147,125

Total area developed including grass sites, roadways, walks, monument area, maintenance and administration area 5.7 Acres.
Total grave lot area developed 2.5 acres.
Total grave lots 2,575 Lots.
Note: No allowance included for cost escalation.

Robert R. Washburn Testimony

Statement of Robert Washburn, Director of Veterans Services before the Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs - 103rd Legislature

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Since the law became effective in the summer of 1965 providing for a Maine Veterans Cemetery, we in this Department of Veterans Affairs and the Advisory Committee have conducted an extensive search for a site that would be suitable for the proposed veterans memorial cemetery. Gradually we became aware that there are a few sites that were both available and suitable in the vicinity of the state capitol. The northwest corner of the city of Augusta seems to offer the type of soil that is best suited for cemetery purposes. We have worked closely with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in this respect, and we have learned that many of the soils on the east side on the Kennebec River in this part of the State are heavy clay types that are poorly drained or are shallow and ledge types of soil. Generally the soils in the northwest sector of Augusta are deep, sandy-loamy type of soil that is well drained.

In November 1966 we were fortunate to secure a one year option to purchase a site of 55 acres in northwest Augusta that is in part adjacent to interstate Route 95, and that we regard as highly suitable. This site consists mostly of soils that tend to be the sandy type and are deep and well drained. This particular site is the best of the many that we have checked, in the opinion of the Soil Conservation Service. The land is dominated by a high crown, overlooking the surrounding area for some distance and the crown is the logical location for the central monument area.

Robert C. MacFarland Testimony

Testimony of Robert C. MacFarland before the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee of the 103rd Legislature.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

This site was surveyed by a licensed civil engineer who prepared a topographical map. The Department of Veterans Affairs in turn engaged the service of Schurcliff and Merrill, internationally recognized landscape architects of Boston. A consultant to this firm is here today and will explain the detailed plan formulated jointly by Messrs. Schurcliff & Merrill Associates.

The Committee is pleased with the original concept shown in the plan developed and adapted to this particular site by these consultants and we feel this plan is highly in keeping with details specified in the statute. You will note during the consultant's presentation that the long range plan calls for development of the cemetery in four phases. However, I should like to point out that it is our intent that the cemetery should be gradually developed from year to year as the warm season allows by having land leveled, seeded and landscaped as part of the regular duties of a small grounds crew under the direction of a competent superintendent. This such a method of development should be relatively inexpensive in contrast to a full scale development by major stages. It should also be noted that a proposed chapel is not called for by statute nor is it contemplated that appropriations would be requested for one. The idea was expressed at least two years ago that a chapel would be a most desirable addition to such a cemetery and that it would be an appropriate project for presentation to the state by veterans organizations and other public-spirit groups and individuals.

Burials in other national cemeteries are not effected by this order. In consequence the ordinary citizen soldier veteran may no longer be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This points up some of the very reasons why the American Legion first proposed the establishment of a veterans memorial cemetery in Maine.

It would be easy to express reasons too, why we should not build a memorial cemetery in Maine. But let us have the courage and vision today to look into the future, to visualize what the cemetery will become and how our future citizens may then regard this memorial.

Other Testimony

Others who testified in favor of the \$147,000 appropriation to build a cemetery which included the construction of the memorial circle, roadways, initial burial area, the office maintenance building and to purchase equipment and supplies to operate the cemetery before the Appropriations & Financial Affairs were: William J. Rogers American Legion Legislative Chairman, Nathaniel T. Cobb American Legion Department Adjutant, Reverend Leonard LeClair, Chaplain of the Veterans Administration Center at Togus, Stan Johnson Service Officer of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The Women's Federation of Garden Clubs and other organizations.

Spring and Summer 1968

The state let contracts in the spring of 1968 for the development of a Veterans Memorial Cemetery, located on a grassy knoll approximately two miles from the State Capitol in Augusta.

The 55 acre site located at the corner of the Old Belgrade Road and Interstate 95, will cost the state \$12,700 according to Robert Washburn, Maine's Commissioner of Veterans Services.

The balance of the \$147,000 appropriated for the project will be spent on landscaping, building and access road and the construction of the cemetery, office and a central monument.

"At first only a few acres near the monument location will be developed as grave sites", Washburn said.

Plans for future work call for the construction of a bell tower and chapel, park-like meditation area, a parking lot and the extension of the roadway to serve the new burial areas. Washburn said the work is scheduled to begin this summer and it is hoped the initial phase of the project can be finished by fall.

A dispute interrupted construction. Superior Court Justice James L. Reid ruled that both sides of the dispute have until September 9 to file briefs and said he would issue a decision shortly afterward. Grading and road work by contractors was halted. A spokesman for the state attorney general's office said the state was not planning to insist work to be resumed until the dispute is settled.

Because of the litigation that developed, construction was suspended until the summer of 1969.

Veterans Memorial Cemetery Opened for Burials

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery opened its gates in April 1970. The remains of over 30 veterans who died during the winter will be buried initially. The cemetery will be opened to the public on each working day, but will be closed each winter until provisions are made for a year round operation.

On Patriots Day, 1970, William G. Stover of Camden, World War I veteran, was the first veteran to be buried. The Veterans Memorial Cemetery was officially opened.

The formal dedication of the cemetery is planned for 3:00 p.m., Memorial Day, May 25, 1970. The general public was invited to attend the ceremonies.

In the Memorial Circle, the Flag of the United States, the State of Maine Flag and a flag of a veteran's organization will be flown.

All of the major veterans organizations in Maine have indicated they will contribute a flag of their respective organizations to be flown in daily rotation or at the time of the funeral of a member of their organization.

Dedication Ceremonies

Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Memorial Day ~ May 25, 1970

Program

PROGRAM 2:45 TO 3:15 P.M.
MUSICAL PRELUDE

Band of Fitzgerald Cummings Post #2,
American Legion, Augusta, under the
direction of *Samuel Freeman.*

DEDICATION CEREMONIES

Presiding: *Robert R. Washburn,*
Commissioner, Maine State Department
of Veterans Services.

INVOCATION

*Chaplain David Berent, Chaplain
Leonard A. LeClair, Chaplain George
E. Whittier*
Veterans Administration Center, Togus,
Maine.

POSTING OF COLORS

Color Guards from 286th Supply and
Service Battalion, Maine National Guard
and Headquarters, Maine Air National
Guard

"NATIONAL ANTHEM"

American Legion Post #2 Band

PLACING OF WREATH

By Department Commanders *James A.
McMahon,* American Legion; *Sidney
Bragdon,* Amvets; *William G. Lessard,*
Veterans of Foreign Wars; *William C.
Fowler,* Veterans of World War I.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS OF
EXECUTIVE COUNCILS

Honorable Kenneth Robinson,
Chairman Executive Council

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS OF
MAINE LEGISLATURE

Honorable Kenneth P. MacLeod,
President of the Senate

INTRODUCTION OF OTHER
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Honorable Robert R. Washburn,
Commissioner of Maine State Depart-
ment of Veterans Services

REMARKS

Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, United
States Senator

INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNOR
KENNETH M. CURTIS

Major General Edwin W. Heywood,
Adjutant General

ADDRESS

Honorable Kenneth M. Curtis, Governor
of Maine

"AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

*Fitzgerald-Cummings American Legion
Band*

BENEDICTION

Chaplain Leonard A. LeClair, Veterans
Administration Center, Togus, Maine

Dedication Ceremony

Highlights

The impressive and dignified ceremony was presided over by Robert R. Washburn, Commissioner of the State Department of Veterans Services which has jurisdiction over the cemetery. Washburn introduced Senator Muskie, while Governor Curtis was introduced by Major General E.W. Heywood, Adjutant General, State of Maine.

Washburn introduced Gerald E. Bond, Nathaniel T. Cobb, Robert C. MacFarland and Malcolm L. Stoddard and thanked them for their assistance in the site location and planning of the cemetery.

Adding to the overall dispatch and dignity of the program was the playing of the award winning band of the Fitzgerald-Cummings Post, The American Legion of Augusta under the direction of Samuel Freeman.

The placing of a wreath of red, white and blue natural flowers by Department Commanders, James McMahon, The American Legion; William G. Lessard, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Sidney Bragdon, Amvets; and William C. Fowler, Veterans of World War I was an impressive part of the ceremony.

The band played the "Navy Hymn" followed by "Taps" while the commanders saluted in memory of their departed comrades.

Chaplains David Berent, George E. Whittier and Leonard A. LeClair each offered a prayer with Chaplain Berent providing the Invocation and LeClair the Benediction.

At the conclusion of his prayer, Chaplain Leonard LeClair electrified the crowd by announcing a pledge of \$1,000 by members of the Waterville Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars toward the fund drive for the non-denominational chapel for the Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Dedication Address

Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery

By

Governor Kenneth M. Curtis

Highlights

"I am proud as Governor to have been associated with the many veterans organizations in their efforts to create a veterans cemetery in Maine."

"As a veteran myself, I am well aware of the sacrifices that have been made and that are still being made by those who serve our country. The honors that our nation can bestow are justly due to our nation's veterans and these honors must be more than just a ceremony."

"Better pensions and benefits, the advantages of education as provided through the improved GI Bill, and the dignity of a veterans cemetery are all such programs."

"In the nation today, the need for reasoned calm and the need for preserving our internal freedoms, including the right of everyone to express his point of view, no matter how unpopular."

"It goes without saying that restraint should be exercised in any attempt to correct social ills."

Governor Curtis was one of the last persons to leave the Veterans Memorial Cemetery after it was dedicated on Memorial Day.

Dedication Address

Veterans Memorial Cemetery

By

Edmund S. Muskie - United States Senator

Highlights

"The American citizen soldier has never fought for empires, treasure or glory; he fought for freedom." "Our heroes on Memorial Day are not warriors, they are GI's."

Muskie noted that when Lincoln dedicated Gettysburg, the nation was bitterly divided as it is today.

"We can honor our brave men best by protecting the freedom they cherished."

"Americans must speak out for their convictions to preserve the union which many men have fought to establish," Muskie said.

He predicted: "The danger to America will not diminish until the fighting stops 10,000 miles away in Southeast Asia."

"The people of this country must establish a new spirit-a spirit without recriminations if it is to unite and preserve freedom."

Memorial Sculpture

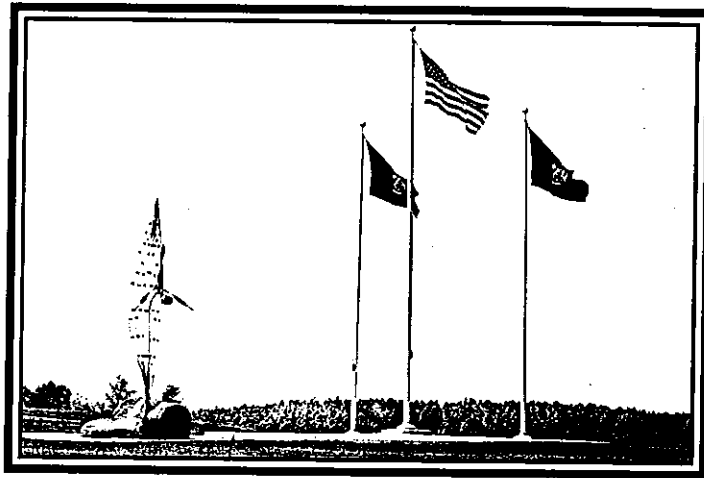
The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Cemetery Advisory Committee engaged the services by the internationally famous Maine artist Clark B. Fitzgerald of Castine, to come up with a design that would be a suitable monument for the cemetery.

Mr. Fitzgerald came up with a sculpture depicting a lady's slipper, a rare Maine flower, and three flags. The United States Flag, the State of Maine Flag and a flag from each branch of service. The court was to be cobblestone, and the circle will be ringed by large ocean-polished granite boulders.

The Creator had this to say about the sculpture:

Relentlessness of ancient granite boulders combined with the delicate form that suggests strength of annual renewal of one of Maine's most special wild flowers; a reminder of the nourishment of Maine soil; the feeling of an irreplaceable, special and individual thing; a gesture toward the mother wife who suffers longest; a pristine form taken from nature but hand-wrought with 20th century techniques of contemporary materials; a feeling of upward reach, of transcendence, a beacon that combines the steadfastness and intricate delicacy of the human spirit.

These are the attributes that may be seen in this piece of sculpture. Each viewer will bring to his own interpretation. There is none that is absolute, none that is right or wrong.



Memorial Sculpture of the Ladyslipper and flags.



*Avenue of Flags.
Taken from the Memorial Circle toward the Chapel.*

Memorial Circle

The Memorial Circle consists of three flag poles spaced to form a triangle with the tallest pole, which is in the exact center for flying our Nation's Flag. Adjacent to the circular plaza where the poles are located is a memorial in the form of a metal sculpture of a rare Maine wild flower, the ladyslipper.

Granite Boulders

The granite boulders located throughout the cemetery came from Acadia National Park, located at Mount Desert Island. Permission was given by the United States Department of Interior. The committee was grateful to United States Senator, the Honorable Margaret Chase Smith for her help. The Department of Transportation, on their way back to Augusta, transported the boulders to the cemetery site. The ancient granite boulders are located throughout the cemetery.

Granite Benches

The granite benches located throughout the cemetery were donated by individual Maine Citizens and several organizations. The names of the donors are engraved on each bench.

Avenue of Flags

The Avenue of Flags consists of 52 poles lining the roadway from the chapel to the memorial circle. Flags are flown on several national holidays. The flags are donated to the cemetery by the families of deceased veterans. Donations are made through the Veterans Coordinating committee who provide proper identification on the flags. In addition to the Avenue of Flags is a cluster of six flags representative of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and POW/MIA's.

Bell Court

The Bell Court was dedicated on Veterans Day 1974. The 3 towers house amplifiers for the carillon system. The semicircular granite walls serves as a directory. The names of all who are buried in the cemetery, listed by the year of the burial are permanently inscribed on the walls. Each succeeding year the names will be added. This enables visitors to locate the section where any person is buried.

Operation

In the winter of 1972, a year-round operation began. Additional funding was provided to keep a permanent work force of two men. A small number of seasonal laborers were hired in the warm months so that the cemetery may be kept open evenings and weekends for the benefit of the general public. However, burials are only made on regular working days.

Overall operations of the cemetery was under the direction of Harold "Pete" Irish, Cemetery Superintendent of Augusta. Irish is well versed in grounds work, landscaping, burial operations and maintenance procedures. Many compliments have been received from visitors on the well-groomed appearance of the veterans cemetery.

The Legislature provided several additional appropriations so that more land surrounding the cemetery could be acquired for future purposes. The acquisition of land was completed in September 1973 when a final thirty seven and one half acres were acquired, which borders Route #27, the major road between Augusta and Belgrade Lakes. It was planned that the new entrance and roadway should be constructed on part of this land with the entrance as close as feasible to the Belgrade Interchange of Interstate 95.

With the additional land, it was now possible to have a master plan drawn and to provide for orderly expansion of the cemetery into the far distant future. It is contemplated that as the cemetery expands it will be divided into distant segments each separated by its own landscaping or topographical feature. It is also planned to have buffer zones on all of the borders abutting adjacent property and in every sense to promote and extend the concept of a Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

As of September 1, 1973, there was a total of 670 buried in the cemetery, 581 of whom were war veterans. There was also 73 wives and widows and 16 children. The largest number of veterans buried were from World War II.

In 1973 it became necessary to provide for additional grave space. A project to expand the burial area was planned in two stages and the first half was completed in the fall of that year. It was planned that the other half would be completed and hot-topped in the spring of 1974, with the new roads scheduled to be completed in the summer.

The original plan for the cemetery provided a circle for the location of a future chapel. It was planned that eventually the chapel would be used for the committal services in lieu of a grave-side service.

Master Expansion Plan

Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Excerpts

Prepared For: Bureau of Veterans Services, State of Maine
Prepared by: Keith French & Associates, Landscape Architects-Portland, Maine
Soils Engineering Data by: Morrison Geotechnical Engineering, Waterville, Maine

February 1986

In the fall of 1984, a master plan study was undertaken in response to the need for additional burial areas. Special attention has been given throughout the design study to complement the character of the existing cemetery and to preserve the rural atmosphere of the adjoining Maine countryside.

The following master plan examines the historical and environmental aspects of the site as they pertain to the development of the cemetery, and arrives at an aesthetic integration of burial sites with the natural land forms. The master plan's intent is to transform the site's rural landscape into a lasting tribute to Maine's veterans.

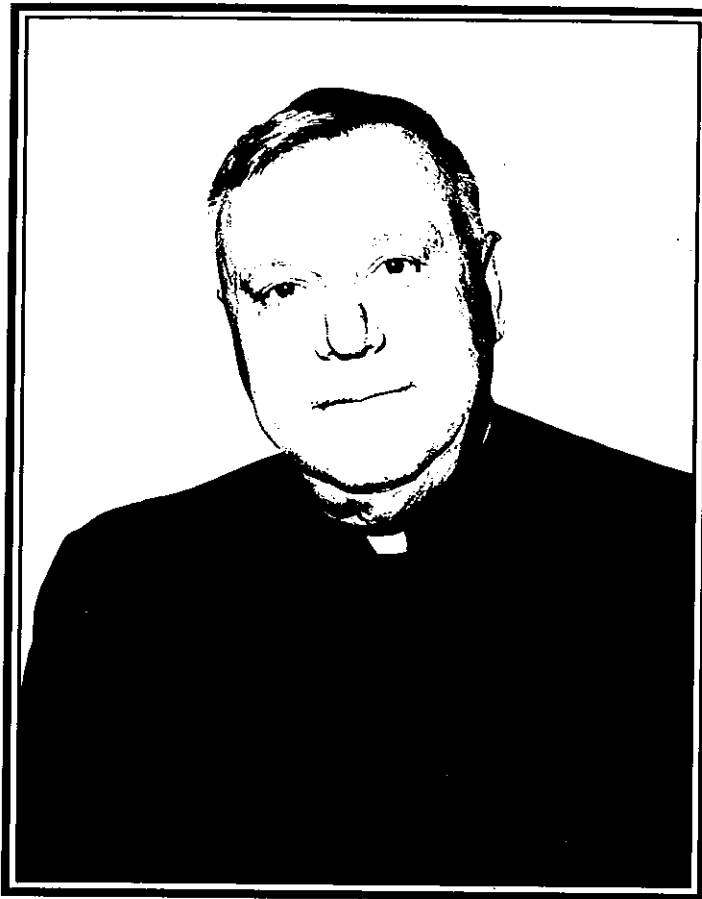
In 1968 a 55 acre hilltop parcel of land was purchased and the transformation of rural farmland into a cemetery was soon underway. The original radiating road concept was designed by the landscape architectural firm of Schurcliff and Merrill of Boston.

The cemetery officially opened with the burial of World War I veteran William G. Stover of Camden, Maine on Patriots Day, April 20, 1970. Development continued at a steady pace with the dedication of the Memorial Chapel in 1973. Only 3 years later it became apparent that expansion was imminent. In 1975 an additional 113 acres, adjacent to the existing cemetery, was acquired and the installation of the main gateway connecting with Route 27 soon followed.

This report describes the master plan for the undeveloped area of the cemetery which, once implemented, will provide sufficient burial sites into the next century.

The Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery covers an area of 168 acres with burial sites occurring on approximately one-third of the site.

All grave sites are marked with flush headstones which do not break up the pleasing open meadow appearance of the cemetery, while at the same time allowing for easy maintenance.



*Reverend Leonard LeClair, Chairman,
of the Non-Denominational Memorial Chapel.*

Father LeClair

*The following News Article was published in
the Morning Sentinel, August 5, 1972.*

Fr. LeClair Working to Build Memorial Chapel.

It was easy to see that the Rev. Leonard A. LeClair was enthusiastic as the good natured priest came to Waterville one day this week.

Actually, Fr. LeClair was in town to boost an upcoming softball game for the benefit of a favorite project of his, the construction of a memorial chapel in the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Chaplain at the Veterans Administration Center at Togus for the past 26 years, Fr. LeClair is serving as chairman of the Memorial Chapel Committee which is aiming to raise well over \$100,000 for the project.

Past Presidents of the Calumet Club in Augusta have pledged \$20,000 toward construction of the chapel and will have a benefit softball game at Mt. Vernon Ave., Augusta, Aug. 24 at 7:30 p.m. The game will feature the Gov. Curtis All Stars and the Calumet Club Past Presidents.

As head of the overall fund drive for the non-denominational chapel, Fr. LeClair is anxious to make this long-cherished dream come true and is seeking to raise \$20,000 in the next few weeks. He's concentrating on the Kennebec Valley in this latest effort. Raising the \$20,000, along with funds already obtained, would enable the start of the construction this fall, Fr. LeClair indicated. "This is a civic as well as a patriotic venture," the priest said as he reviewed key aspects of the project.

The Chapel strategically located in the Veterans Cemetery on the Old Belgrade Road, Augusta, adjacent to Interstate 95, is primarily designed as a monument to veterans.

The non-denominational chapel would provide for committal services in dignified surroundings, with services available at the convenience of the next of kin, regardless of the time of day or week or weather.

Fr. LeClair said the structure will contain a carillon designed to toll ten minutes before each hour. The VA chaplain admits that "I must have sent out 50,000 letters since then" as he described the launching of the memorial project in April of 1970. Actually, plans for the fund-raising campaign were mapped at a meeting in Waterville more than two years ago.

Dedication Memorial Chapel

*Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Old Belgrade Road, Augusta
October 22, 1973-10:00 a.m.*

PRESIDING

Robert Washburn, Director, State Bureau of Veterans Services.

9:40 A.M.: CARILLON CONCERT
By David Stewart, Hallowell.

10:00 A.M.: NATIONAL ANTHEM
195th Army Band, Maine National Guard
CWO Nathan Diamond, conducting.

INVOCATION

Rabbi David Berent, Lewiston, Retired Chaplain, VA, Togus.

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Robert Washburn, Augusta.

REMARKS

Chaplain Leonard A. LeClair, Chaplain, VA, Togus.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

195th Army Band, Maine National Guard.

ADDRESS

The Honorable Kenneth M. Curtis, Governor of Maine

MUSICAL SELECTION

America The Beautiful, 195th Army Band.

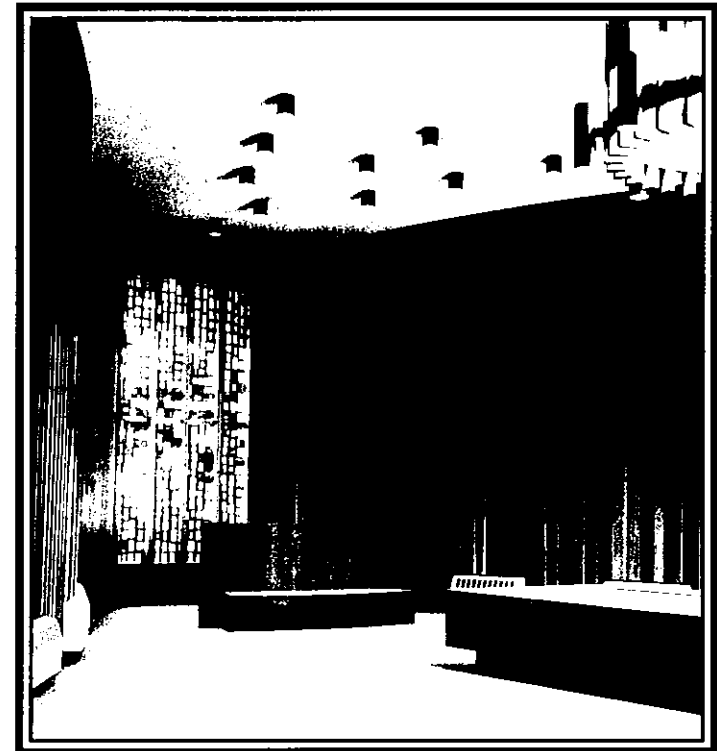
BENEDICTION

Chaplain Robert E. Lee, Portland, Maine Army National Guard.

CARILLON CONCERT

David Stewart

Floral Arrangements donated by Garden Club Federation of Maine.



1973 Photo Interior of the Memorial Chapel

Taken at the dedication ceremony October 22, 1973

Memorial Chapel

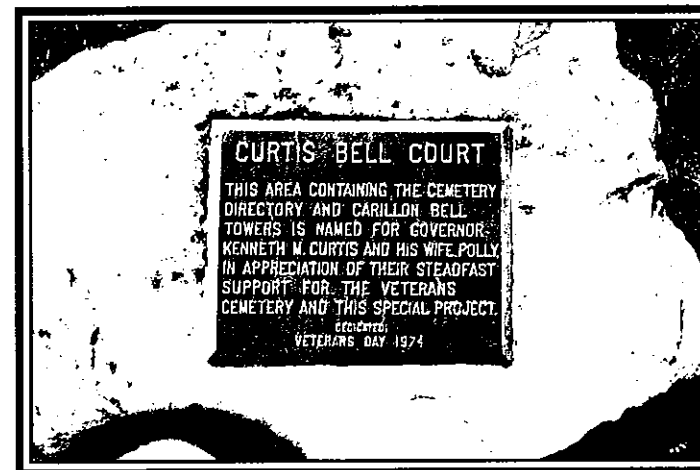
The non-denominational chapel provides for committal services in dignified surroundings. Services can be held at the convenience of the next of kin, regardless of time of day or week or weather. The exterior has a siding made of granite chips imbedded permanently in a space age material. The interior is panels of richly grained wood. Three beautiful stained glass windows designed by a world famous craftsman in Rome reaches from floor to ceiling. A center feature is a raised bier to let the casket sink to a lower floor at the conclusion of each committal service.

The design of the chapel was by architect John Leasure of Portland, who explained the symbolism of his design as follows: "The chapel should not only be an enclosure for burial services but also a religious sculpture." The chapel's triangular shape "is symbolic of our three major religious groups. Each window depicts some phase of our state's armed forces heritage," he said. "Adding most significance to the windows is the position each one has in the chapel". Leasure spent long hours in the cemetery. He studied the terrain and everything about it from dawn to dusk.

The ceiling lifts to a large translucent plastic dome which directs bright light from the exterior directly over the raised bier.

The Memorial Chapel was dedicated on October 22, 1973 at 10:00 a.m.

The first concert on the new Americana Carillon was heard before and after the dedication ceremonies.



Inscription Bronze Plaque

CURTIS BELL COURT.

Named for Governor Kenneth Curtis and his wife Polly.

Dedication of Chapel Bell Court

*Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery
November 11, 1974-1:30 P.M.*

PRESIDING

Robert Washburn-Director Veterans Services

CARILLON CONCERT

David Stewart, Hallowell.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Robert E. Lee, Portland-Maine National Guard.

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Robert R. Washburn

REMARKS

Chaplain Leonard A. LeClair, VA Center Togus.

ADDRESS

Honorable Kenneth M. Curtis, Governor of Maine

BENEDICTION

Rev. William A. Dunstan

The Carillon

The Schulmerich "Americana" Carillon is an exclusive development of Schulmerich Carillons, Inc. of Sellersville, Pennsylvania. The instrument consists of 25 English and 25 Harp miniature bell tone generators, of bronze bell metal, which are struck by metal hammers, producing exact true bell tones almost inaudible to the human ear. The bell vibrations are then amplified over one million times through specially designed electronic equipment, producing true bell music with the depth and richness of traditional cast bells of massive proportions.

The instrument provides the tone equivalent of over 75,000 pounds of cast bells tuned to the finest standards. The Harp Bells, which are a part of the "Americana" Carillon, are a new tone color in bell music, and add the mellow beauty of the plucked harp, enables the musician to play selections which were not possible heretofore.

The "Americana" Carillon may be played from its own two-manual console. Selector switches at the console will permit the bells to be heard within the chapel alone, from the outside alone, or together. Automatic operation by means of a Roll Player is controlled by a calendered program clock, which can be set to play the Carillon at any time of the day. Selections of beautiful and traditional music may be played periodically on the bells for the benefit of visitors to the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery and to comfort the bereaved.

Veterans Memorial Chapel

History

The idea of a memorial chapel for the Maine Veterans Cemetery was conceived some time in 1969. The American Legion endorsed this concept and Ivan Forsythe a member of Bourque Lanigan Post No. 5, the American Legion who was the Department Chaplain of that organization, was appointed to follow through on the project. It soon became evident that a program of this stature should not be the responsibility of just one organization; it had to be a concentrated effort by all groups and it had to be a State project.

The heads of Maine's service organizations, a few "old timers", and an area senator as well as a representative of the Legislature, and members of various religious groups, met early in 1970 and a committee was organized. The Rev. Leonard G. LeClair a Past Department Chaplain of the American Legion was elected Chairman; other officers were Malcolm L. Stoddard, Vice-chairman; Harry MacBurnie, Treasurer, Donald Bourassa, Secretary; Clarence McKay, Publicity; also two trustees: the Rev. George E. Whitter and Rabbi David Berent of Togus. After a few preliminary meetings, a campaign was launched in April 1970.

Father LeClair, being the extrovert that he was, carried the idea to the people, through television and radio, and through numerous articles in the press. Canisters were placed in stores, tag days were organized, suppers, parties and candy sales were conducted as part of a widespread effort to raise funds.

Mr. MacBurnie, in the background, kept an excellent set of books and accounted for every penny that came in. He maintained a listing of all those who gave, whether the contribution was one dollar or one thousand dollars.

When major problems arose, the entire committee met and came up with decisions that generally were practical and sound.

A building committee was later formed to help in the selection of an architect, to examine and study the plans, to choose a contractor and get the building started. This committee included a representative of the Governor's office; three persons from the Bureau of Improvement, Niran Bates, Richard Bachelder and Howard McCartney; Robert Washburn of the Bureau of Veterans Affairs, Major General Edwin Heywood, the Adjutant General; Harold Irish, Superintendent of the Cemetery; and Father LeClair, Chairman of the Association.

Copies of the committee's decisions were generally approved by the Governor's Office and also sent to the Executive Council to keep them informed.

An architect was selected and a contractor named. After many meetings that saw changes, disagreements, and compromises, work on the building was started.



Governor Kenneth M. Curtis

Tribute to Governor Curtis

By
Father LeClair

Always has it been known that there exists no greater love than that of a man who will fight and lay down his life for his friends. It is equally true that there is no greater loyalty than that of the man who will fight and live in remembrance of his friends. Such a man is Kenneth Curtis, Governor of the State of Maine, who gave unselfishly of his time and presence in the effort to make the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery and Memorial Chapel a reality.

When the call comes for Kenneth Curtis, man of Maine, to join that endless column into time, those with inner perception will hear a mighty chorus mount.

To you from falling hands,
we threw the torch.
You held it high.
You broke no faith with us who lie
where you now lie,
in a soldiers field.

Rev. Leonard A. LeClair

Testimonial of Robert Washburn

Director, State Bureau of Veterans Services

Congratulations to Father Leonard LeClair for his untiring and successful efforts in bringing about our striking new memorial chapel. I also want to express my appreciation to all of the other persons and organizations whose collective work and generosity assisted in making the chapel possible.

I am proud to have been given the opportunity to have overseen the construction and development of Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery and to have had a part in bringing the chapel to reality. It has been my privilege to have served under Governors Kenneth M. Curtis and John H. Reed, both of whom fully supported the veterans cemetery. It was the direct personal intervention of Governor Curtis that removed certain obstacles in the way of the then proposed chapel which resulted in construction of this newest memorial to our Maine veterans.

I also greatly appreciate the opportunity I have had to serve under General Edwin C. Heywood who cooperated fully in the chapel project and wish him every happiness in his retirement and future endeavors.

Robert R. Washburn

The Legacy Windows

"For Our Freedom and Yours"

J. DeLauro, Designer

We speak:

As you stand here in communion with us,
You are surrounded by three symbols,
Windows which in this triangle complete the circle of life.
In their difference they are the same.

Within the intertwining colors of each,
Our faith in God is acknowledged.
Through the sacrifices of we the dead.

Faith in our God.
In our Country,
In our Family.

Hope for the
Preservation of our beloved freedoms,
In the belief of a hereafter.

And Charity by our willingness to give of ourselves
For the benefit of all men,
To live in harmony and peace.
The three windows read as one.

Our basic faiths are symbolized by the
Trinity of Three,
Catholic, Protestant and Jewish.
From within the centrum emerge
Bursting nuances of color signifying the
Multi race and varying ethnicity of the land
For which we died.

Our national colors dominate!
Red for our blood,
White and Blue for the purity and virtue,
And fidelity of our cause.

This is our blessed legacy to you.

Richard C. Prusinski

Acknowledgments



Memorial Day Services: In the foreground, American Legion Department Adjutant Charles H. Michaud Jr., of Waterville, Past Department President, American Legion Auxiliary Alice Severance of South China, Mrs. Velma Quinney and American Legion Past Department Commander Clifford Quinney of Winthrop.

Acknowledgments

Harold T. Andrews Post No. 17 The American Legion, Portland, Maine
Sponsored Resolution to establish a Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Delegates to the 1962 Department Convention of the American Legion.
Voted unanimously to support the Resolution to establish a Veterans Memorial Cemetery for Maine veterans.

Past Department Commander The American Legion, John Levinsky, Stonington, Maine
Appointed members to work for legislation for a Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Past Department Commander The American Legion, Robert C. MacFarland, Thomaston, Maine.
Served as Chairman of the Committee. Advisory and Planning Committee member.

Past National and Past Department Commander The American Legion, William J. Rogers, Auburn, Maine.
Served as Legislative Chairman

Past Department Adjutant The American Legion, Nathaniel T. Cobb, Waterville, Maine
Secretary, Public Relations. Advisory and planning Committee member.

Honorable John H. Reed, Governor of Maine
Loyal Supporter. Signed Legislation into Law 102nd Legislature.

Members of the Governor's Council
Loyal Supporters

Members of the 102nd and the 103rd Legislature
Who made it all possible.

Honorable Burton G. Shiro, Waterville, Maine
Maine Senator who sponsored the Legislation.

Honorable Margaret Chase Smith, United States Senator, Skowhegan
Loyal Supporter who arranged appointments for the Committee to meet with the Department of Interior and Arlington Cemetery Officials.

Acknowledgments, Continued

Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Robert R. Washburn, Augusta.
Assisted in Legislation and Supervised the Construction of the cemetery.

Reverend Leonard A. LeClair, Togus, Chaplain
Worked countless hours to realize his dream of a Memorial Chapel to become a reality.

Honorable Kenneth Curtis, Governor of Maine
Dedicated supporter who worked for the appropriations and gave one of the Dedication addresses.

Major General Edwin Heywood, Adjutant General Augusta, Maine
Dedicated Supporter.

Past Department Chaplain of the American Legion, Ivan E. Forsythe, Waterville, Maine
Dedicated supporter. Raised several thousand dollars to build the Memorial Chapel

Harry MacBurnie, Augusta
Treasurer Memorial Chaplain Association

Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, United States Senator and former Governor of Maine
Waterville and Rumford, Maine.
Loyal Supporter and gave one of the Dedication addresses on Memorial Day 1970.

Harold "Pete" Irish, Augusta
First Superintendent of the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Stanley Johnson, Service Officer Veterans of Foreign Wars, Togus.
Dedicated Supporter

The Kennebec Valley Garden Club and the Maine Federation of Garden Clubs
Made several gifts for landscaping purposes.

Augusta Garden Club
Donated the first flower garden at the cemetery.

Acknowledgments, Continued

Telephone Pioneers of America
Donated trees for landscaping

American Legion Auxiliary of Winthrop
Donated the console for the carillon in memory of Emma "Skipper" O'Leary

Mrs. Edmund W. Hill in memory of her late husband
Donated 250 spruce trees.

Maine Army National Guard
New entrance road.
The right of way was cleared of trees, culverts installed and grading.

Amvets (American Veterans of World War II
Donated the lighting system at Memorial Circle

Gerald Dillingham
Tape deck for the playing of Taps at the chapel.

Mrs. Ronald Platt in memory of her husband
A public address system and lectern

Daughters of the American Revolution
Dedicated Supporters

Clark B. Fitz-Gerald, Castine, Maine
Memorial sculpture

Former VA Director, Col. Malcolm L. Stoddard, Hallowell, Maine
Member of the Advisory and Planning Committee

Gerald E. Bond, Belgrade
Member of the Advisory and Planning Committee

Maine Veterans and Veterans organizations and their Auxiliaries
Dedicated supporters. Donated many thousands of dollars to the Chapel, Bell Towers, Avenue of Flags, Granite Benches, and etc.

Media
Excellent news coverage.

Commendation of Departed Souls

Our Beloved, your Christian souls have departed out of this world and returned from whence they came:

In the Name of God the Father Almighty who created you;

In the Name of Jesus Christ, the Son who redeemed you;

In the Name of the Holy Spirit who sanctified you;

May your rest be eternally in peace, and your dwelling place in the paradise of God.

Amen.

Presentation of the American Flag

Graveside Service

As the Flag is being folded:

This banner of love and devotion, now being folded, is a living memorial of the courageous thoughts of our comrade, the one you came here to honor this day.

The blue field represents the sky that overlooks our land and denotes the watchfulness of God the Eternal.

The red stripes tell us of the blood, sweat and tears that has been offered and conquered our comrade's devotion to the responsible freedom of his country.

The white stripes boldly proclaim the peace that he helped to bring to our future generations.

This is his flag.

This is our Spiritual Heritage.

Receive it with the tears of our minds and the faith of our hearts.

Eligibility

Any person who "Served on active duty in the Armed Forces of The United States during any federally recognized period of conflict, served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces at any time during the period December 22, 1961, to August 5, 1964, or was eligible for an Armed Forces Expeditionary or campaign medal, and who, if discharged, received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions, provided that the discharge was not upgraded through a program of general amnesty" may be buried in this cemetery, without charge, if he/she, while a resident of the State of Maine, entered service, or was at the time of his/her death of one of his/her eligible dependents, a resident of the State of Maine. Eligible dependents are: the wife, husband, surviving spouse, unmarried minor child or unmarried adult child who became incapable of self-support before reaching the age of 18 because of mental or physical defects. An eligible dependent of a veteran may be buried in the cemetery if, at the date of the dependent's death, the veteran is eligible for such burial. They may be buried in graves adjacent to the veteran without charge, provided that if the veteran dies first, the survivors specify in writing their intent to be so buried, or if the dependent dies first, the veteran specifies in writing his/her intent to be buried in the Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

It is recommended that veterans establish their eligibility for burial before a death occurs. They may do so by contacting the Division of Veteran's Services, Augusta, Maine.

Division of Veterans Services

State House Station #117
Augusta, Maine 04333

(207) 626-4464

Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery Eligibility Application

Complete the items listed below and return so that eligibility may be determined:

1. Name of Veteran _____
Telephone No. _____
2. Address _____
3. Date of Birth _____
4. Service/Serial Number _____
5. Social Security Number _____
6. Veterans Administration Claim Number _____
7. Please submit this application along with a copy of your Military Discharge Form (DD214). If more than one period of service, please submit a copy of each DD214 you were issued.
8. Signature allowing the Veterans Administration to release verification of service information.

Please Cut and Return



Index

	<i>Page</i>
23rd Psalm	5
Dedication	7
Location	8
Origin	10
Resolution	11
Appointments	12
Notice to appointed committee members	13
Meeting Sept. 24, 1964	15
Maine Legionnaire - December 1964	17
Notice of Hearing 102nd Legislature	21
Sponsor	22
Hon. Burton G. Shiro, Testimony - 102nd Legislature	24
Robert C. MacFarland Testimony - 102nd Legislature	25
Robert R. Washburn Testimony - 102nd Legislature	27
William J. Rogers Testimony - 102nd Legislature	29
Nathaniel T. Cobb Testimony - 102nd Legislature	30
Legislative Document No. 397	31
Letter to all members of the 102nd Legislature	34
Press Release	36
Amendment	38
Col. Stoddard's Letter to 102nd Legislature	39
A.P. Story - March 10, 1965	40
Gov. Reed Signed Legislation	42
Site Selection and Advisory Committee	44
Activities - 1965-1967	45
Appropriation	46
Robert Washburn Testimony 103rd Legislature	48
Robert MacFarland Testimony 103rd Legislature	49
Other Testimony 103rd Legislature	50

HISTORY

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Spring and Summer 1968</i>	51
<i>First Burial</i>	52
<i>Dedication Program</i>	53
<i>Dedication Ceremony Highlights</i>	54
<i>Dedication Address Highlights - Gov. Curtis</i>	55
<i>Dedication Address Highlights - U.S. Senator Muskie</i>	56
<i>Memorial Sculpture</i>	57
<i>Memorial Circle-Boulders-Benches-Avenue of Flags-Bell Court</i>	59
<i>Operation</i>	60
<i>Excerpts Master Plan</i>	61
<i>Father LeClair-Chairman-Chapel Project</i>	65
<i>Dedication Program-Memorial Chapel</i>	66
<i>Memorial Chapel</i>	68
<i>Dedication Bell Court</i>	70
<i>The Carillon</i>	71
<i>History Memorial Chapel</i>	72
<i>Tribute to Gov. Curtis</i>	74
<i>Testimonial Robert Washburn</i>	75
<i>Legacy Chapel Windows</i>	76
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	77
<i>Commendation of Departed Souls</i>	82
<i>Flag Presentation Graveside Service</i>	83
<i>Eligibility</i>	84