



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



# National Cemetery Administration

**Advisory Committee on Operation Iraqi Freedom  
and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF)  
Veterans and Families**

**May 14, 2007**

**William F. Tuerk  
Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs**



# Mission

**The National Cemetery Administration honors veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our Nation.**

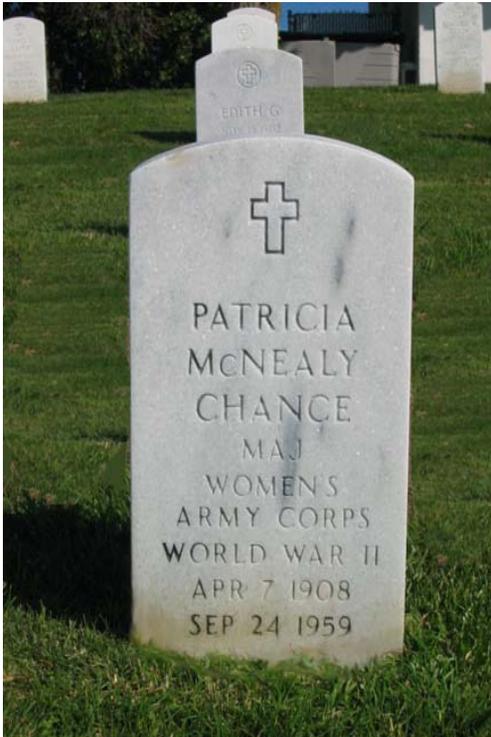
# Responsibilities

- **Provide burial space for veterans and maintain cemeteries as National Shrines**
- **Administer the Federal grants program for construction of state veterans cemeteries**
- **Furnish headstones and markers**
- **Administer the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program**

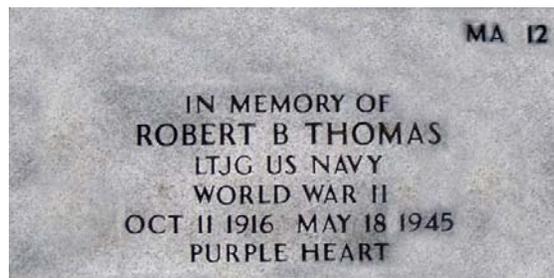
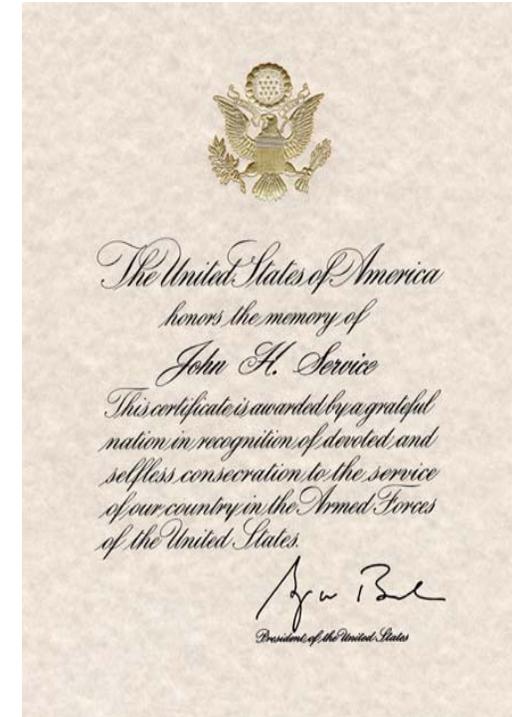
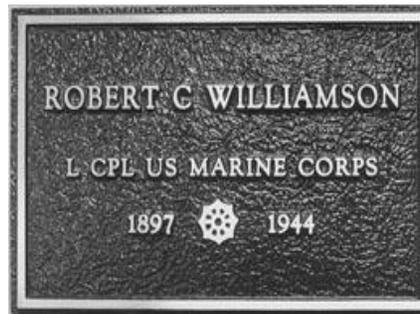
# National Cemetery Administration

- **1,527 FTE**
- **125 national cemeteries**
- **2.8 million gravesites**
- **96,797 interments (FY 2006)**

# National Cemetery Administration FY 2006 – Memorial Programs



**336,266 Headstones  
and Markers Provided**

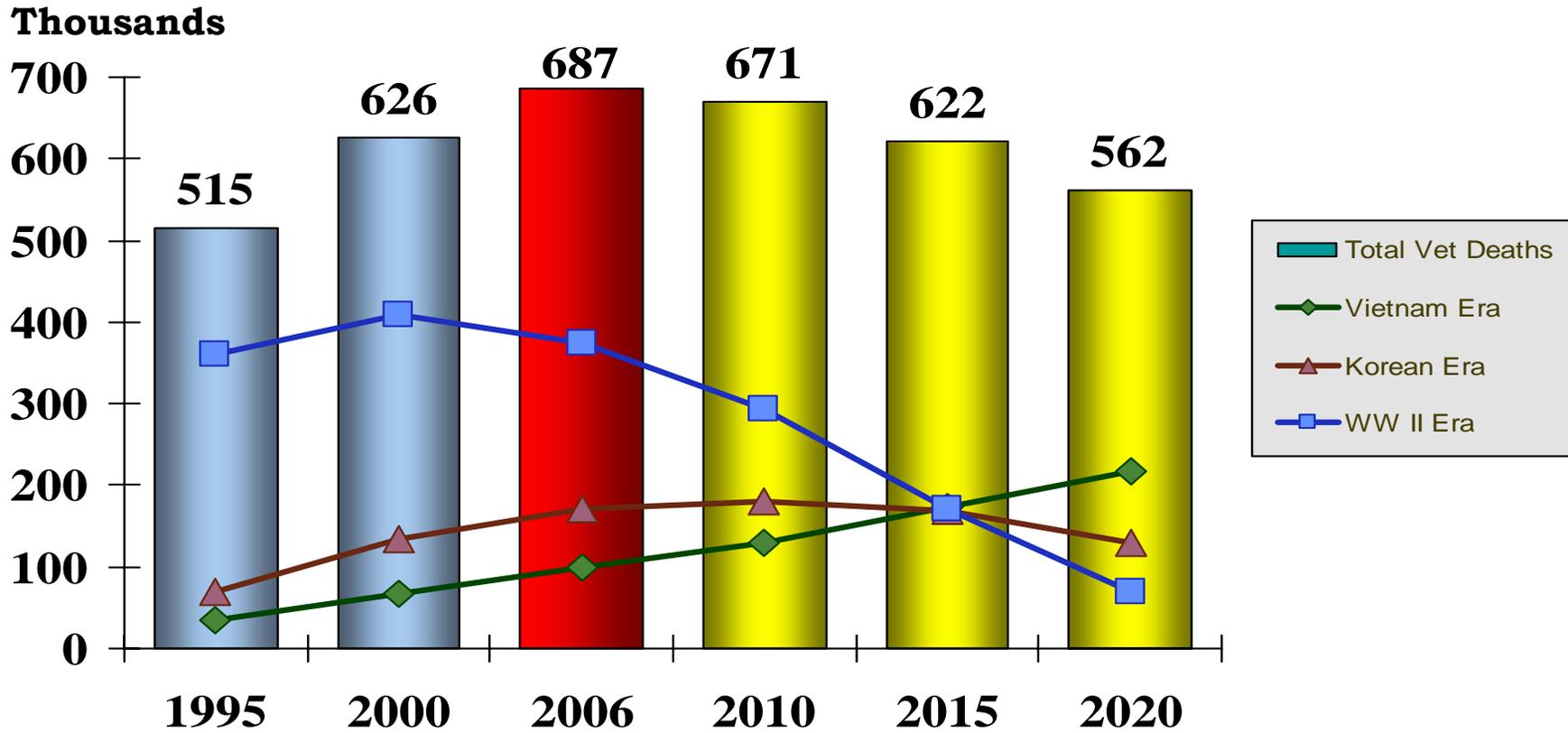


**405,538 Presidential  
Memorial Certificates**

# NCA Budget Request - FY 08

• Operations and Maintenance	\$167 Million
• Headstones, Markers, Allowances	\$ 41 Million
• Graveliners, OBR Reimbursements	\$ 77 Million
• State Cemetery Grants Program	\$ 32 Million
• Major Construction	\$ 167 Million
• <u>Minor Construction</u>	<u>\$ 24 Million</u>
<b>NCA Total Programs</b>	<b>\$ 508 Million</b>

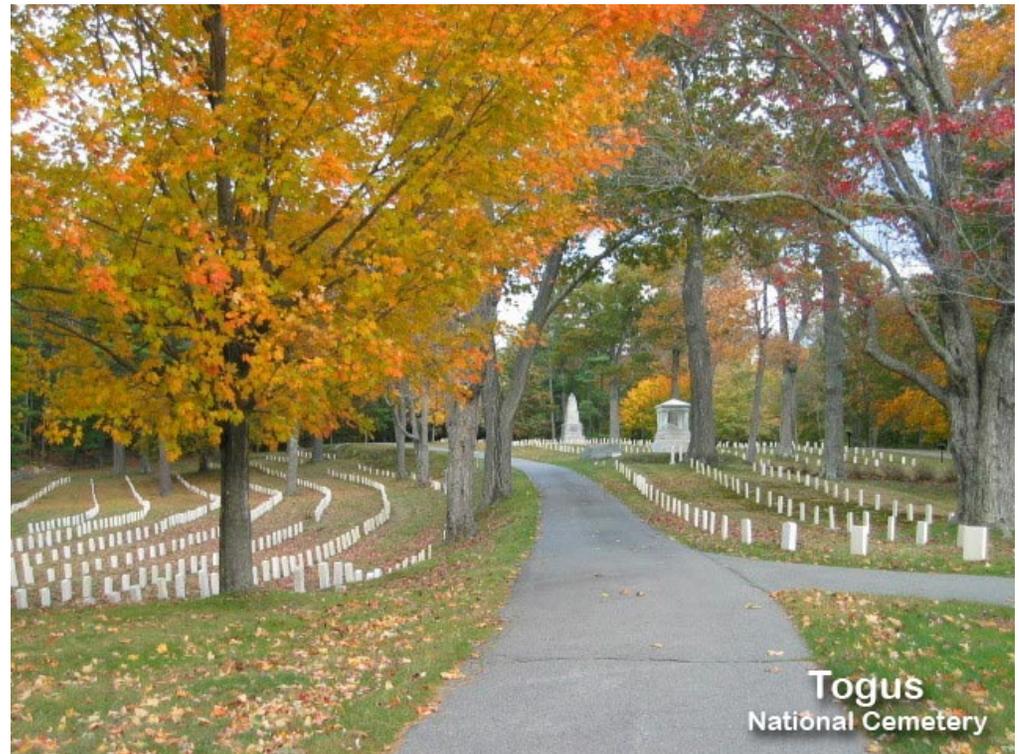
# Projected Veteran Deaths



<u>War Period</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Living Veterans</u>	<u>Median Age</u>
WW I	4,735,000	<10	105
WW II	16,113,000	3,242,000	83
Korean Conflict	5,720,000	3,086,000	75
Vietnam	8,744,000	7,287,000	59
Gulf War Era	4,647,000	4,297,000	36

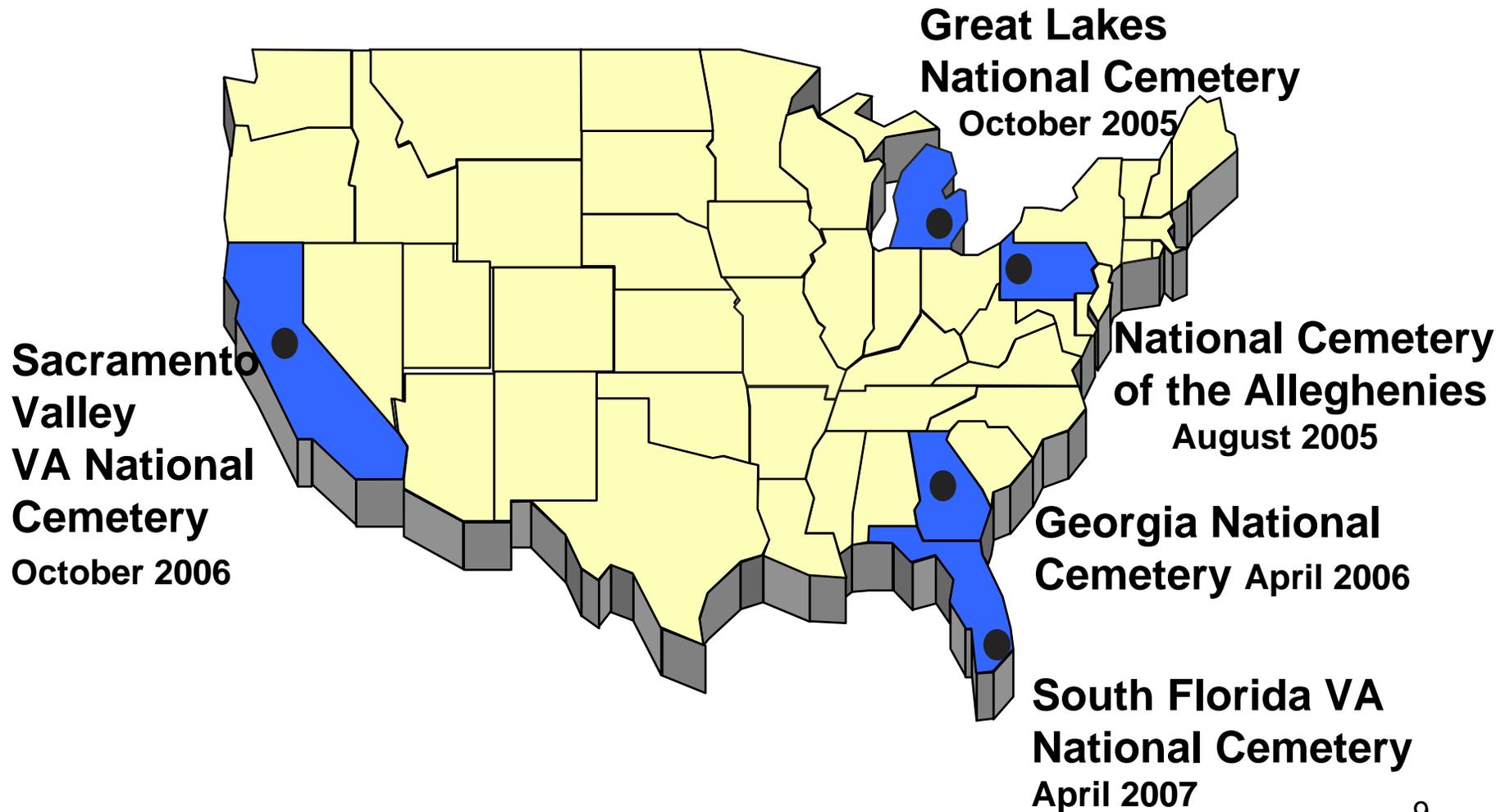
# NCA Strategy to Meet Burial Needs of Veterans

- Develop new cemeteries
- Extend the service life of existing cemeteries
- Encourage states to build veterans cemeteries



# New National Cemeteries

P.L. 106-117, Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act

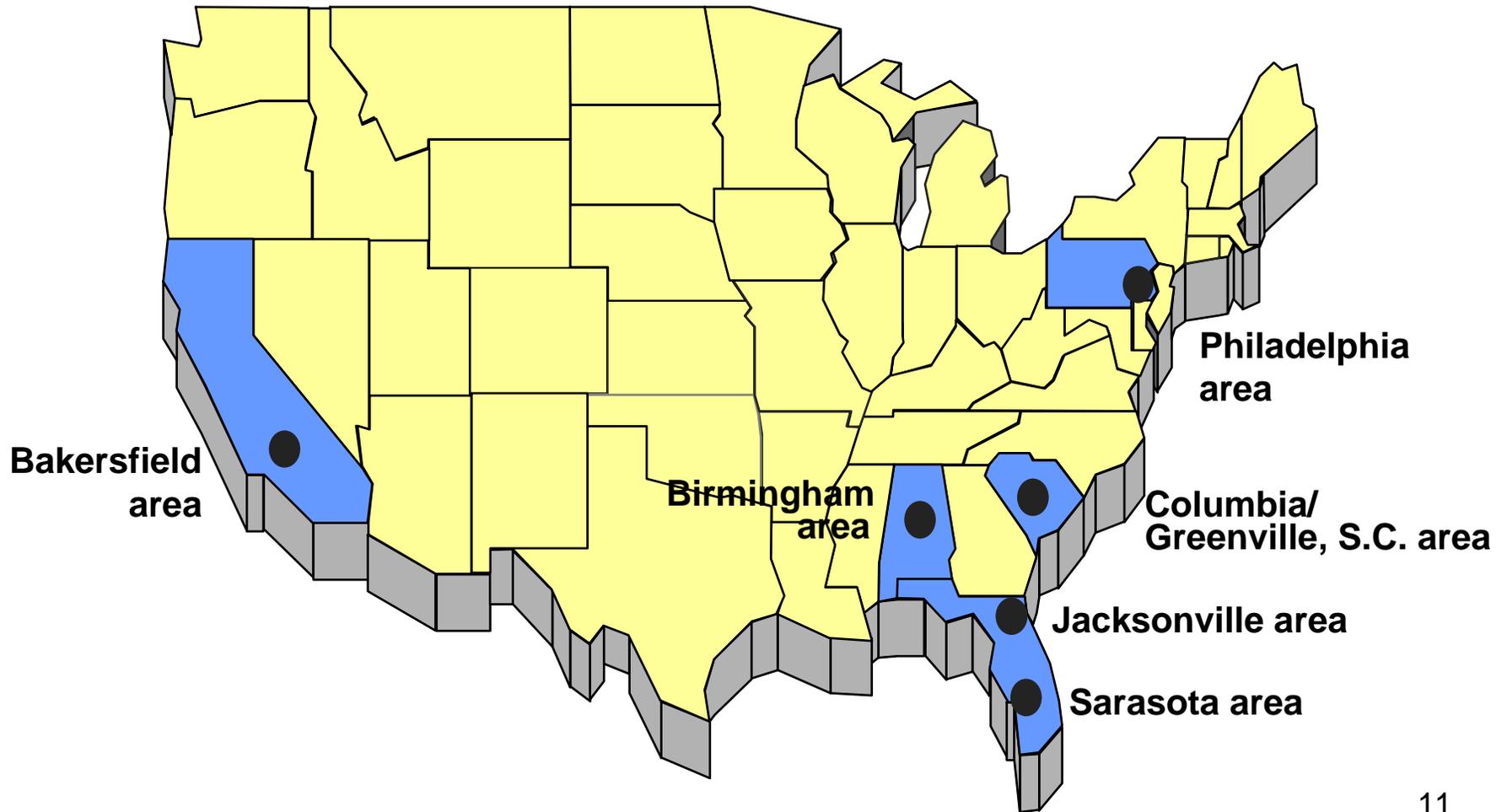


# South Florida VA National Cemetery



# Future National Cemeteries

P.L. 108-109, National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2003



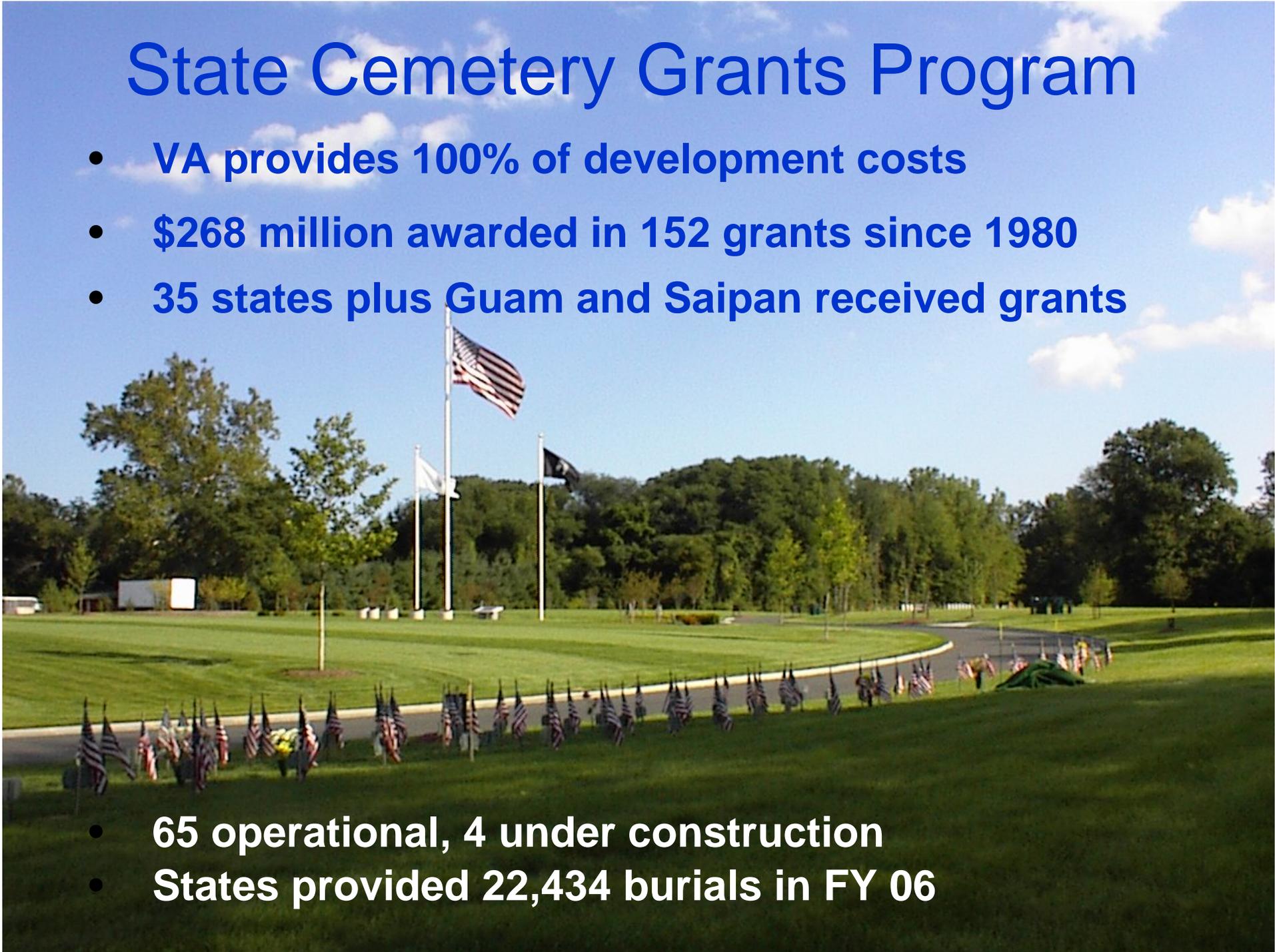
# National Cemetery Administration Gravesite Expansion Construction Projects FY08 Budget Request

CEMETERY	FY08 PROJECTS	COST ESTIMATE
Fort Sam Houston, TX	Gravesite Expansion & Roads (crypts & columbaria)	\$29,400,000
Fort Smith, AR	Develop Gravesites & Cemetery Expansion	\$2,500,000
NMCA, AZ	Install 8,100 Pre-placed Crypts, Sec 55, 56 & 57	\$2,000,000
Los Angeles, CA	Cloister Memorial Wall Expansion	\$450,000
Fort Logan, CO	Construct 7,500 Niche Columbaria	\$3,000,000
Puerto Rico, PR	Gravesite Expansion/Crypts	\$3,000,000
Black Hills, SD	Gravesite Expansion & Roads (crypts & columbaria)	\$467,000
Abraham Lincoln, IL	Install 3,000 Columbaria Niches	\$1,816,000
Roseburg, OR	Construct 3,000-Niche Columbaria & Site Improvements	\$3,000,000
Fort Gibson, OK	Gravesite Expansion & Maintenance Building	\$4,800,000

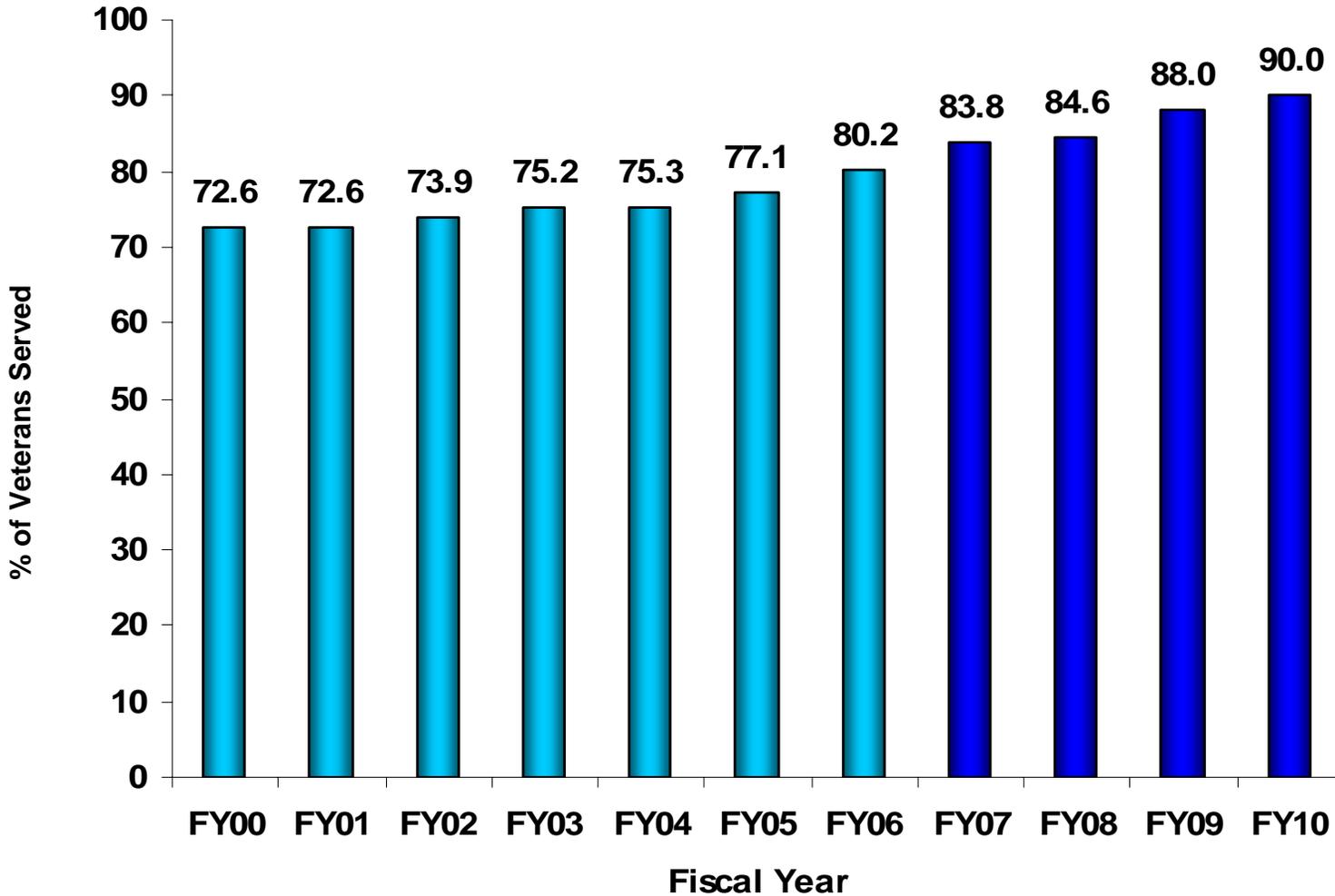
# State Cemetery Grants Program

- VA provides 100% of development costs
- \$268 million awarded in 152 grants since 1980
- 35 states plus Guam and Saipan received grants

- 65 operational, 4 under construction
- States provided 22,434 burials in FY 06

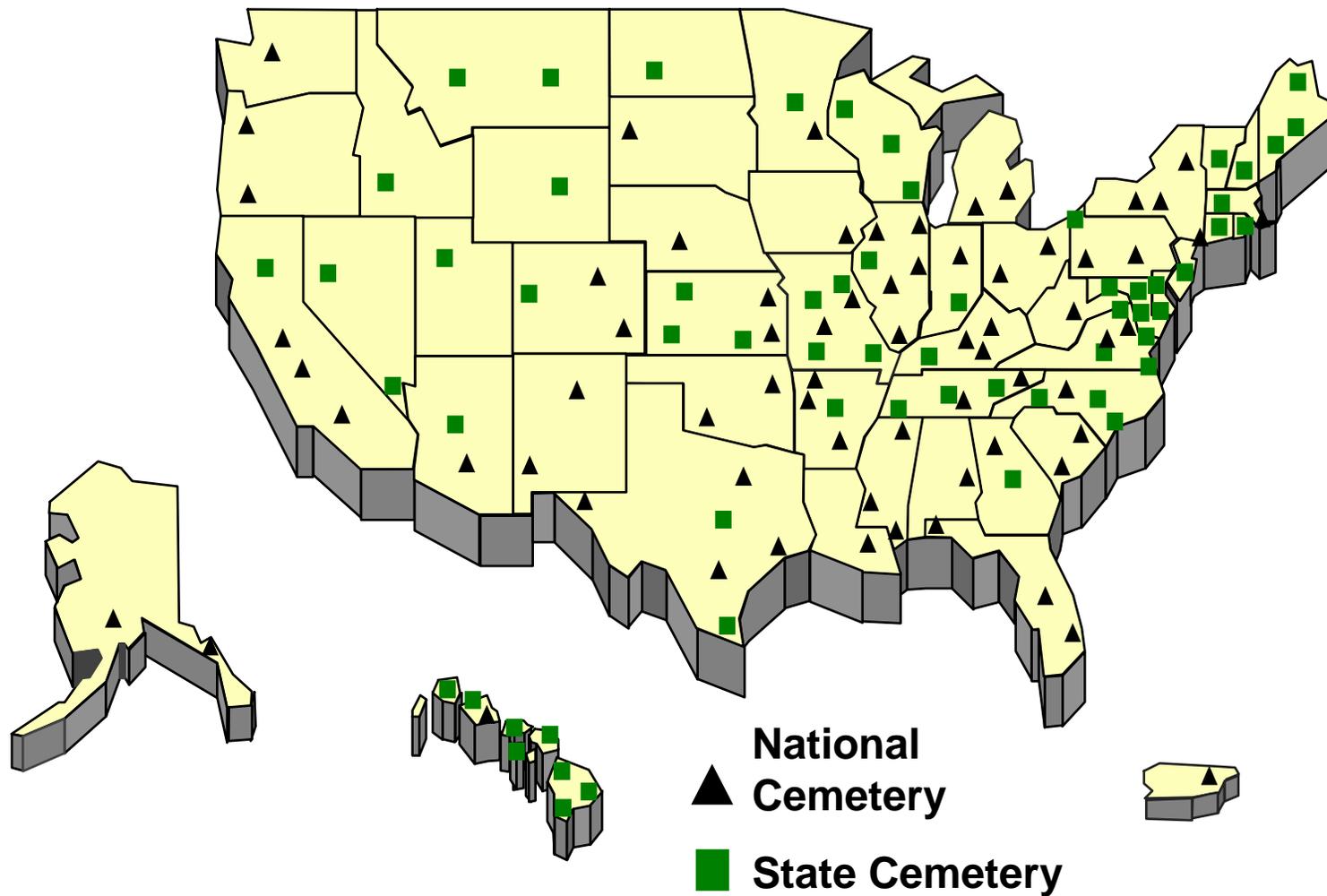


# Meeting Burial Needs – Percent of Veteran Population Served\*



\*within 75 miles of a national or state veterans cemetery

# Open National and State Cemeteries



# National Shrine Commitment



*An initiative to maintain the appearance of VA cemeteries in a manner befitting their status as National Shrines.*

# National Shrine Commitment

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, TX



Before



After

# Xeriscape at VA National Cemeteries



***National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona***



***Fort Bliss National Cemetery, TX***

# Burial with dignity in a National Shrine



***NCA will provide a lasting tribute to our Nation's veterans by being mission driven, results oriented and customer focused.***

