

## FACT SHEET

- AK has the highest number of veterans per capita in the nation.
- 9,469 vets in FNSB (McDowell Group Inc. 2005)
- 10,983 vets in Interior region of AK (McDowell Group Inc. 2005)
- 15% of Interior vets are 65+
- Federal grant program will pay 100% of costs for design, construction, & operating equipment
- Also available are follow-on grants for expansion & improvement of existing facilities
- Veterans Benefits Administration pays \$300 plot allowance to state per internment. (non-service related death)
- For service related deaths VBA pays up to \$2,000
- Access to Fort Rich Cemetery is sometimes restricted depending upon Army's security status.
- Only access to Sitka is by air or marine highway.

### Notable Internments

- 2 Medal of Honor recipients buried in AK (1 at Ft. Rich, 1 at Sitka)
- Major Kermit Roosevelt, son of Pres. Theodore Roosevelt is buried at Ft. Rich
- James Green Brady, Governor of the Territory of Alaska from 1897 to 1906, is buried in Sitka National Cemetery.
- Charles William Paddock, "The Worlds Fastest Human", two-time Olympic Gold Medalist, is buried at Sitka National Cemetery. (Former Marine Corp. Captain)

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has confirmed the following:

- No dollar amount is required:
  - To submit a preapplication for a state veterans cemetery through grants.gov
  - For the VA to acknowledge receipt of the preapplication to the State with a Federal Application Number
  - To rank the project for the FY 2010 Priority List of Pending Applications
- If the preapplication is submitted through grants.gov before the July 1, 2009 deadline, the project will be ranked on the FY 2010 Priority List.
- However, the \$250,000 in the capital budget for the Vet Cemetery will not be sufficient to rank the project in the highest possible ranking on the FY 2010 Priority List.
- If the VA does not have the certification of State matching funds in the amount of \$750,000 by the August 15, 2009 deadline, the project will not be high enough for a funding opportunity in FY2010.
- The VA will reimburse the State of Alaska for all allowable and approved expenses. Once the state submits the preapplication through grants.gov, the reimbursement of eligible costs will be considered and if deemed appropriate, approved.
- Reimbursement will be at 100% and will include the State's matching Architectural and Engineering fees, inspection fees, construction costs, and initial equipment. However, it will not include land acquisition.