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January 15, 2026

The Honorable Samuel Brown
Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
1722 I St NW
Washington, D.C. 20421

Dear Under Secretary Brown:

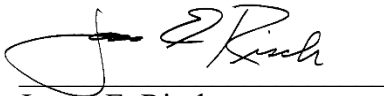
Thank you for your service to the United States and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). I write today on behalf of Idaho's veterans, who have always led the charge in defending our rights and freedoms. It is our duty to appropriately recognize and honor their service, sacrifice, and commitment to the United States by building a second VA national cemetery in Idaho.

VA National Cemeteries are vital to preserving the legacies of our nation's service members. Many of Idaho's 120,000 veterans have earned the right to be buried in these cemeteries—an option that should be readily available and accessible to them. While veterans in southern Idaho are well-served by VA national and grant-funded state cemeteries, veterans in North Idaho are forced to choose between forfeiting this honor or being buried outside Idaho.

For many of these veterans, the closest VA cemetery is outside their home state. Idaho's veterans served our country with distinction, and they should not be forced to be buried across state lines and away from their families simply because there is no other option.

I urge the Department of Veterans Affairs and National Cemetery Administration to honor the dedicated service of Idaho's veterans by building a new VA national cemetery in North Idaho. Idaho veterans have chosen Idaho for its quality of life, and they should not have to decide between the honor of a VA cemetery and the state they love.

Sincerely,



James E. Risch
United States Senator