

May 30, 2024

Ronald E. Walters
Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Acting Under Secretary Walters,

On Monday, we observed Memorial Day in honor of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to our country in the United States Armed Forces. Across the country, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hosted more than 130 Memorial Day ceremonies at our national cemeteries.

I was dismayed to hear that Memorial Day services at the Cheyenne National Cemetery were not carried out as planned. People traveled hundreds of miles and from surrounding states to participate in the solemn traditions honoring our fallen heroes. However, when they arrived at the cemetery, the VA was nowhere to be found.

The National Cemetery Administration established the Cheyenne National Cemetery in 2020 as part of an initiative to expand cemeteries in rural areas. Wyoming's population has one of the highest percentage of veterans in the country. On behalf of the nearly 50,000 veterans in my state, I find Monday's mishap at the Cheyenne National Cemetery to be completely unacceptable.

Memorial Day is more than just a long weekend, it is a day to pay respects to the brave individuals who died for our freedom. For the families who have lost a loved one or the veterans feeling forgotten after their service, I can only imagine the pain this day brings. Mistakes like these are not only disrespectful to the individuals who showed up for the ceremony, but has even greater ramifications to the reputation of the VA.

We must do better. I would like answers on what exactly occurred so we can ensure this never happens again.

Sincerely,



Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator