

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 1, 2004

The Honorable Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H.,
Surgeon General of the United States
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18-66
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Vice Admiral Carmona:

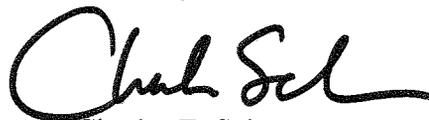
I am writing to respectfully request your aid in restoring a cemetery on Richmond County, New York once affiliated with a Federal U.S. Public Service Hospital that has been left abandoned for over a half century. This "forgotten acre" is the final resting place of nearly 500 men, primarily merchant seaman and veterans, who were patients at the nearby U.S. Public Service Hospital, now the Bayley Seton Hospital, between 1901 and 1937.

According to today's *Staten Island Advance*, in 1978, the then U.S. Department of Health pledged to clean up the cemetery and build a memorial to the deceased sailors; neither of these promises was kept. I am asking that your office fulfill its pledge and finally restore this neglected site. I stand ready to work with you to move this process forward in as expedited a manner as possible.

Only a decade after the last burial, the cemetery had already begun to deteriorate and calls were made for repairs. In 1947, then-Representative Ellsworth Buck called it "worse than a potters field." In its current state, it is a remote and overgrown spot whose clusters of crumbling headstones are surrounded by waste including burnt car wrecks. Simply put, the dilapidated state of this final resting place is deeply disturbing and unacceptable.

The site appears to have fallen through the cracks between agencies that no longer exist, and that is neither your fault nor that of anybody serving in Washington today. But the passage of a century does not end the Federal Government's obligation to honor the men who served our country, many of whom were willing to put their lives on the line to preserve our freedoms. There is no statute of limitations when it comes to keeping our promises, and we should restore the "forgotten acre" now.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICE:

<input type="checkbox"/> ALBANY: LEO O'BRIEN BUILDING ROOM 420 ALBANY, NY 12207 (518) 431-4070	<input type="checkbox"/> BINGHAMTON: FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING 15 HENRY STREET ROOM B6 BINGHAMTON, NY 13901 (607) 772-8109	<input type="checkbox"/> BUFFALO: 111 WEST HURON ROOM 620 BUFFALO, NY 14202 (716) 846-4111	<input type="checkbox"/> HUDSON VALLEY: P.O. BOX A RED HOOK, NY 12571 (914) 285-9741 (845) 569-0923	<input type="checkbox"/> LONG ISLAND: TWO GREENWAY PLAZA 145 PINE LAWN ROAD ROOM 300N MELVILLE, NY 11747 (631) 753-0978	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW YORK CITY: 757 THIRD AVENUE SUITE 1702 NEW YORK, NY 10017 (212) 486-4430 TDD: (212) 486-7661	<input type="checkbox"/> ROCHESTER: 100 STATE STREET ROOM 3040 ROCHESTER, NY 14614 (716) 263-5866	<input type="checkbox"/> SYRACUSE: 100 SOUTH CLINTON ROOM 841 SYRACUSE, NY 13261 (315) 423-5471	<input type="checkbox"/> WASHINGTON: 313 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510 (202) 224-6542 TDD: (202) 224-0420
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