

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

November 21st, 2025

Secretary Doug Collins
U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Collins,

I write to urge quick execution of funding provided in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 VA Appropriations bill to establish a veterans cemetery in Augusta, Georgia through the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program. Augusta is home to over 66,000 military veterans and many military families.¹ The closest veterans cemeteries to Augusta are in Milledgeville, GA, and Columbia, SC, both of which are 80 miles away. The establishment of a veterans cemetery in Augusta would support the National Cemetery Administration's goal of providing veterans reasonable access to burial benefits within 75 miles of the veterans' home.² Augusta's veterans deserve the access to these benefits a cemetery in Augusta would provide.

Per information provided to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs (MilCon-VA), it is my understanding that the levels provided to the Grants for the Construction of Veterans Cemeteries account, an increase of \$90 million over the President's \$60 million Budget Request, should be sufficient to fund the establishment of a veterans cemetery in Augusta, based on its current priority ranking for FY26.³ I stand by ready to provide any additional information or support you may require in moving forward with this critical initiative.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your continued partnership in supporting Georgia's veterans.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator