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**Governor, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs announce Interior Alaska veterans' cemetery**  
*Longstanding effort to develop a veterans' cemetery north of Alaska Range finally realized*

AUGUST 16, 2018 FAIRBANKS – The longstanding effort to develop a veterans' cemetery in Interior Alaska took a major step forward Wednesday as Governor Bill Walker and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (“DMVA”) announced selection of a cemetery site at Mile 344 of Parks Highway.

The desire to have a veterans' cemetery near Fairbanks dates to the 1970s.

A solution was identified thanks to collaboration between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and an array of state agencies: DMVA, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Alaska Department of Transportation, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

“Veterans are the backbone of our state, and for far too long, there has been nowhere to lay those who served our country to rest north of the Alaska Range,” **Governor Bill Walker** said. “By working together with an array of federal and state agencies, we finally identified a viable site and a way to pay for this project. I applaud the persistence, passion, and cooperation that made this possible.”

The governor thanked Rep. David Guttenberg in particular for championing this cause in the Legislature for more than a decade.

An estimated 11,000 veterans and 10,000 active duty military members live in Interior Alaska. Construction of the cemetery is expected to begin in 2020.

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