



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
UNDER SECRETARY FOR MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Deborah K. Ross
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Via Email

Dear Representative Ross:

Thank you for your letter of March 3, 2021, regarding your request that the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration (NCA), work expeditiously to fix flooding and drainage issues at Raleigh National Cemetery and for NCA to keep you informed of the progress.

I appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns. You are correct that we have modified an existing grounds maintenance contract to provide proactive monitoring of the area to ensure more timely drainage of that section of the cemetery. Additionally, two trees were removed from the affected section in order to establish turf and natural drainage.

NCA is also pursuing a permanent solution that involves the design and construction of a replacement storm sewer system and a drainage solution for the southeast corner of the cemetery where the flooding has occurred. The award of the design contract is anticipated in mid-March and is expected to take 90 days to complete. Upon completion of the design, a construction contract will be awarded with a targeted completion date of September 2021.

We will provide future updates as design and construction details become available.

Thank you for your support of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald E. Walters". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Ronald E. Walters
Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs