

ROBERT M. STEVENS
DIRECTOR

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

51 Inman Street, Second Floor
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

TEL: (617) 349-4761

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RECEIVED
97 AUG 12 AM 9:55
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Date August 11, 1997

From Robert Stevens, Director *Bob*

Subject Council Order #101, dated 8/4/97 RE: REPORT ON MAKING THE GRAVE
MARKERS IN THE VETERANS LOT AT
THE CEMETERY MORE VISIBLE

As you are aware, many of our veterans' grave markers have sunken as a result of years of wear and tear. This problem is not unique to Cambridge, it is statewide. In FY 94, the State, (Department of Veterans Services) gave to the cities and towns monies to repair their markers. Cambridge received \$10,000. Due to the large number of veterans' graves at the cemetery, only half were restored. A private vendor who specialized in restoring grave markers did the work.

Currently there is no statewide appropriation for graves restoration. As a result, the remaining markers cannot be professionally restored. James Ryan, Superintendent of the Cambridge Cemetery, has informed me that he will make every effort to make them look presentable by trimming, weeding and landscaping the remaining grave markers.

Funding for graves restoration is a statewide initiative. I have taken the liberty of asking the Massachusetts Veterans' Agents Association, sponsors of the original graves restoration bill, to again request a statewide appropriation for graves restorations. (See attached)

I will keep you apprised of the progress of my request.

cc: Ralph Dunphy, Public Works Commissioner

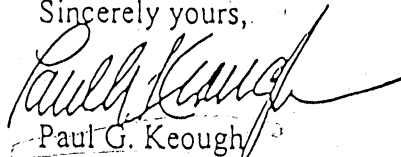
AUGUST 13, 1997 AT 9:30am IN THE PIEMONTE ROOM (5th FLOOR) OF BOSTON CITY HALL, THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF ALL VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS TO REVIEW STATUS OF LEGISLATION AND HOW TO GET THE REST OF OUR PACKAGE VOTED INTO LAW AS WELL AS INTRODUCING OTHER LEGISLATION. ALL VETERANS' ORGANIZATION ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND - PLEASE RSVP TO PAUL KEOUGH AT (617) 635-3507 SO WE CAN GET A HEAD COUNT.

If you have any legislation that you wish to be filed, please send the same to Paul Keough before August 13th or at least by Labor Day.

The Legislative Committee of the Massachusetts Veterans' Services Association has voted to recommend the following legislation:

- 1) Require Commissioner of OVS to set Chapter 115 budget at a minimum of the federal poverty level (which will increase the budget by almost \$200)
- 2) Re-establish a Gold Star Parent position on the OVS staff
- 3) Mandate that the Veterans' Auto Plate money go into a trust fund for use by the Soldiers' Home Trustees (eg. whale plate)
- 4) Allow Chapter 115 benefits for children even if not in the custodial care of the veteran

Sincerely yours,



Paul G. Keough

Deputy Commissioner, City of Boston

Office Telephone: 617-635-3507

Home Telephone: 617-327-62456

Legislative Agent

Massachusetts Veterans' Service Agents Association



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ROBERT M. STEVENS
DIRECTOR

August 7, 1997

Paul G. Keough
Deputy Commissioner
Veterans' Services Department
20 Church Street
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Paul: *Paul*

I would like to submit the following legislation to be filed:

"Item xxxx-xxxx for the maintenance and repair of Veterans' graves and monuments, the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Services is hereby authorized to spend ----- \$250,000."

As you are aware, the Office of Commissioner (DVS) has had an appropriation for Veterans' graves restorations in the past (see attached).

I believe Tom Materazzo, on behalf of the Agents Association, had Rep. Scaccia file the last appropriation that was received by the cities and towns. (As an add on to a CAPITOL bill).

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please call me at (617) 349-4764.

Sincerely,

Bob

Robert (Bob) Stevens
Director

cc: *Thomas Tullie*

GRAVES RESTORATION
Chapter 164, Section 2E, Acts of 1988 (Attached)
HISTORY

<u>Fiscal</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Account</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Secretariat</u>	<u>Beg Bal</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>Appropriated</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>Expended</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>End Bal</u> <u>Amount</u>	
89	4170-7890	Human Svcs	-	225,000	-	225,000	}
90	4170-7890	Human Svcs	225,000	-	-	225,000	} Account
91	4170-7890	Human Svcs	225,000	-	-	225,000	} Frozen
92	4170-7890	Human Svcs	225,000	-	-	225,000	} by
93*	4170-7890	Human Svcs	225,000	-	7,000	218,000	} Human
94*	1410-7890	A&F	218,000	-	202,066	15,934	} Services
95*	1410-7890	A&F	15,934	-	2,500	13,434	} Secretary
96	1410-7890	A&F	13,434	-	13,434	-	}

* End date extended one year.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
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7.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

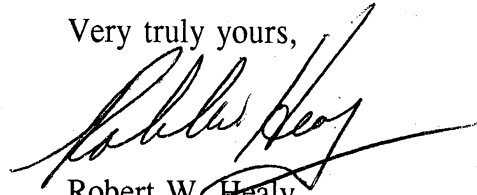
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

September 8, 1997

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 36, regarding making the grave makers in the Veteran's Lot at the Cemetery more visible, received from Director of Veterans' Services Robert Stevens.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #7

S-53/

Relative to Awaiting Report Item
Number Thirty-six, regarding making
the grave makers in the Veteran's
Lot at the Cemetery more visible.

In City Council September 8, 1997

PLACED ON FILE