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WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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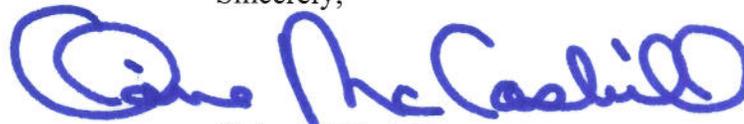
To the Members of the County Council:

I am writing to express my support for expanding the land available to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery to provide a peaceful final resting place for our nation's veterans. Since its founding, Jefferson Barracks has stood as a tribute to the individuals who have made America the nation it is today. From its earliest days as the Army's first permanent base west of the Mississippi River, to its time housing one of the many convalescent hospitals which cared for individuals injured during the Civil War, to its current status as one of the largest National Cemeteries in the country, Jefferson Barracks has been a hallowed memorial and the final resting place for those who gave 'the last full measure of devotion' in service to our nation.

As you know, unless Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery is able to acquire additional land, it is expected to run out of burial space for veterans in the coming years. As members of the Saint Louis County Council I know that you share my pride for the role Jefferson Barracks has played in honoring the service of our veterans and it is my hope that you will be able to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration to ensure Jefferson Barracks has adequate space to provide veterans a dignified burial for decades to come.

The tradition of honoring those who have served at Jefferson Barracks has continued unbroken for almost 190 years. Thank you again for your work on behalf of veterans and the Saint Louis community. Please know I am committed to working with you, the leadership of Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, veterans' organizations, and the local community to find a sustainable solution to this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
UNITED STATES SENATOR

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