



CONGRESSMAN
MIKE ROGERS

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Veterans Update

■ **New Veterans National Cemetery in Holly Moving Forward**

Fulfilling a commitment to Michigan veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has awarded a \$8.7 million contract to an area small business to begin work on the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

Edge Construction of Farmington Hills received the contract to begin work on the new national cemetery. Construction is estimated to begin in a few weeks and burials are expected to begin in mid-2005 in a burial area within the construction area. This option allows for burials to begin during construction of the cemetery. The second phase of the construction project, planned for completion in 2007, will prepare for 10 additional years worth of gravesites.

Veterans with a discharge other than dishonorable, their spouses and dependent children are eligible for burial in a national cemetery. Other burial benefits for eligible veterans include a burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or marker – even if they are not buried in a national cemetery.

The groundbreaking for the new cemetery is scheduled for October 14, 2004. Information on the Great Lakes National Cemetery is available by calling (810) 695-2007.

■ **Guide to Federal Veterans Benefits**

A comprehensive guide to federal benefits available to veterans can be found on the internet at: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/Fedben.pdf>. This brochure describes federal benefits available to veterans and their dependents as of Jan. 1, 2004. To determine eligibility for VA health care, contact the Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-8387. For VA benefits eligibility, contact a VA benefits office at 1-800-827-1000.

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