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The Honorable Max Cleland
Secretary
American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Secretary Cleland:

As you know, Clark Veterans Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 8,300 U.S. service members and their dependents. Following a volcanic eruption in 1991, the U.S. abandoned Clark Air Force Base, leaving the cemetery covered in ash and overgrown by weeds. Clark Veterans Cemetery is sacred ground, and I know you agree that we have a solemn duty as a nation to ensure that the brave Americans buried there have the dignified and well-maintained final resting place that they deserve.

On December 16, 2013, the United States and the Government of the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) governing cooperation between our two countries in the restoration, operation, and maintenance of Clark Veterans Cemetery in the Philippines.

In light of the completion of the MOU, I request that the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) provide my office a detailed plan to restore, operate, and maintain Clark Veterans Cemetery consistent with Section 106 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (S. 3202; Public Law 112-260).

I look forward to reviewing ABMC's implementation plan and coordinating with you to ensure the important work at Clark Veterans Cemetery can begin without delay.

Sincerely,



Kelly A. Ayotte
United States Senate