

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs  
Washington, DC 20420

MAY 24 2017

Mr. Donald A. Kierkegaard  
Superintendent  
Meade School District  
1230 Douglas Street  
Sturgis, SD 57785

Dear Superintendent Kierkegaard:

I am writing to congratulate you and the Meade School District for being selected to partner with Black Hills State University (BHSU) to conduct research at Black Hills National Cemetery, Sicangu Akicita Owicaha Tribal Veterans Cemetery, and Lakota Freedom Tribal Cemetery as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration's Veterans Legacy Program.

The Veterans Legacy Program seeks to engage students and educators in researching community history through the veteran experience and to increase public awareness of the legacy of veterans memorialized in VA national cemeteries.

This partnership between VA, BHSU, and your school district is one of the first of many initiatives designed to share local veterans' stories of service and sacrifice. I hope this opportunity is a rewarding experience for your students and educators as you blaze the trail for school districts in the future.

For more information about the Veterans Legacy Program, please contact Dr. Bryce Carpenter, Educational Outreach Officer, by phone at (202) 461-5362, by email at [bryce.carpenter@va.gov](mailto:bryce.carpenter@va.gov) or visit [www.cem.va.gov/legacy](http://www.cem.va.gov/legacy).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald E. Walters". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ronald E. Walters  
Interim Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs