



**Fiscal Year 2017
Appropriations Wins**

**Congressman Henry Cuellar
28th Congressional District, TX**

Fiscal Year 2017 HOUSE Appropriations Wins

MILCON - VA

1. Public-Private Partnerships for VA Cemeteries: Authorizes states and local governments to establish partnerships to help defray the cost of operation and maintenance of a state Veterans' cemetery in a rural area.

"Public-private partnerships.-- In order to provide a burial option to those veterans who may not have reasonable access to a national cemetery or State cemetery, the Committee encourages VA to prioritize funding under the State veterans cemetery grant program for the establishment of veterans cemeteries in rural and highly rural areas. Additionally, States and local governments are encouraged to utilize public-private partnerships that are currently available to help defray the cost of operation and maintenance of a State veterans' cemetery."

Rural burial access. – The Committee continues to be concerned that there are geographic pockets in the country that would qualify for the VA rural veterans burial grounds initiative, but which are not served because their State as a whole does not qualify for it. Since 8 percent of veterans live in areas that do not meet the VA goal of having access to a burial option within 75 miles of their home, the Committee requests a report not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act describing VA's future plans to narrow the gap of veterans without reasonable access to burial. The Committee encourages VA to include in its plans consideration of options in which private entities would donate land to establish rural cemeteries and the establishment of satellite cemeteries.