

Mr. Collins,

Obviously, this is a matter of concern for The American Legion. While in this case, it does not appear that any veteran's remains have been treated improperly, the mistreatment of the tombstones, even if they are meant for disposal is very disturbing. How this nation treats our fallen service members must be a top priority, and ensuring that every aspect of this mission is carried out in a respectful and reverential manner must always be at the forefront.

This is uncharacteristic of the National Cemetery Administration, and they usually are very diligent in their attempts to deliver the most respectful aid to the families of our nation's veterans. While this may be the act of individuals and not indicative of any policy of the NCA, it is nonetheless disturbing and we will be following the actions around this situation closely.

While the dumping of discarded tombstones is quite upsetting, the use of them as paving stones for an employee's patio is especially disrespectful. It is our hope that those responsible for these acts are appropriately punished and dealt with by NCA.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ian de Planque

Assistant Director for Claims Service and Cemetery Affairs
(202) 263-XXXX