



City of New Bedford

Office of City Council

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James D. Oliveira
Councillor Ward One

April 13, 2017

The Honorable Thomas Hodgson
High Sheriff of Bristol County
400 Faunce Corner Road
Dartmouth, MA 02747

Dear Sheriff Hodgson:

This letter is being written pursuant to your assistance in the past few years with the placing of Flags at gravesites to honor deceased Veterans for Memorial Day.

Once again, I am requesting your assistance on behalf of the Portuguese-American War Veterans, the organization responsible for flagging approximately 1,600 Veterans graves at St. John's Cemetery, at the New Bedford/Dartmouth line. As you are aware, the majority of the Veterans in Post One are committed to maintaining the annual tradition of flagging graves of fallen comrades, the practice has become a task and almost a "danger" to the individuals at that age, in light of the large number of graves they are committed to marking.

It is with that concern, and with the knowledge of your commitment to our Veterans and the community-at-large, that I am requesting your assistance and the assistance of your pre-release work crews in marking Veterans' graves once again this year.

The Veterans would like to arrange to schedule the work crews for the middle of the week of May 22 – 26 in order to allow sufficient time to complete the task, and yet be late enough in the week to discourage youths and vandals from removing the Flags prior to the Memorial Day Ceremonies.

As always, your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

James D. Oliveira, Councillor Ward One
Vietnam-Era Veteran

JDO: rrr

cc: City Council Consent Agenda of April 27, 2017/File