



City of New Bedford

Office of City Council

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Brian K. Gomes

Councillor at Large

*City Council President
1998, 2011 & 2015*

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Paul Heroux
High Sheriff of Bristol County
400 Faunce Corner Road
Dartmouth, MA 02747

Dear Sheriff Heroux:

This letter is being written pursuant to the assistance of the Bristol County Sheriff's Department in years past regarding the placing of Flags at gravesites to honor deceased Veterans for Memorial Day.

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 Veterans are committed to maintaining the annual tradition of flagging graves of fallen comrades, the practice has become a task and almost a "danger" to individuals of 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 the previous commitment of the Bristol County Sheriff's Department 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 Memorial Day.

As always, your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Brian K. Gomes, Councillor at Large

BKG: rrr

cc: File

"BECAUSE NEW BEDFORD IS TOO IMPORTANT TO QUIT!"