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FLOOR DEBATE

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city of Alliance has agreed to do that, along with their golf course. It's in the same area, so they felt that they could do the maintenance with...rather than have that fall on any state projects. Also, the veterans service officer will do some of the bookkeeping. So this was a county-city, and then the state came forwards with...to, you might say, match the funds that had already been raised, and go ahead with our design cost. And of course, after that, then the \$1.5 million or \$2 million or whatever it's going to cost for the construction will be carried on by the federal governments, and the thing will get underway. We think we can get this grant fund through in short order time. We've been working with the federal people, and they know where we're coming from and what we've been doing on this, and we feel that we are in a good position to receive our grant money and get some construction started. This is not only, as you say, whether we're doing something for veterans that are passing on, but it does give veterans peace of mind knowing that they have something that they can rely on. There's many veterans that are looking forward to something like this if they have to have a final resting place. And this is something that really is...will be an asset to Nebraska, and is probably the first one in the nation, that we've found so far, where there's a city, county, and local support and state support all goes together to operate and build these state veterans cemeteries. So this is something that's probably of a historical nature as far as the process that we're doing to do it. But I think Senator Schimek outlined it correctly, that that was part of the reason we've come across with these bills. Senator Hartnett and I worked on this while he was here, and this was usually the best solution we've come up with so far. So whether we advance Senator Chambers' amendment, either way, Alliance is...we're trying to get it started, and we think once we get one built, then there will be money coming through some of our funding that we'll be able to work on, on the next one. But if this amendment of Senator Chambers' passes, well, then this just jump-starts the whole veterans cemetery system in Nebraska considerably, and I have no quarrels with that. I think if the body so pleases to do that, then I'm in favor of it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Loudon. Senator Schimek.