Willamette National Cemetery 11800 SE Mt. Scott Boulevard Portland, OR 97086-6937

Historical Information:

Willamette National Cemetery is located about 10 miles southeast of Portland in Clackamas County, Ore. As the result of lobbying efforts by several veterans' organizations, Congress passed Public Law 388 authorizing the secretary of war to establish a national cemetery in the Portland vicinity in 1941. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bill into law; however, he felt that funds for the purchase of land should be limited to defense needs. As a result, no appropriation was made to build the cemetery.

At the conclusion of World War II, regional authorities again began urging the development of a national cemetery in Oregon. In 1949, the state donated approximately 102 acres and subsequent donations in 1952 brought the total land area to a little over 201 acres. A final parcel of 68 additional acres was dedicated in 1995.

Construction work started in 1950, and the area was officially designated Willamette National Cemetery on Dec. 14, 1950. The first burial occurred in 1951.

Directions from Portland International Airport (PDX):

Cemetery is located in Southeast Portland. From Portland International Airport, take Airport Way to Interstate 205 South. Proceed south approximately seven miles to Foster Rd., (exit 17). Take exit and travel east on Foster 3/4 mile. Then turn right on 110th Drive. Proceed uphill 3/4 mile. Cemetery entrance is on the left.