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(S.D.)-Cemetery For Tribal Veterans Near Completion



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/19/2012 09:59 AM

Photo: 600 crypts stand ready to be placed in burial plots at the new veterans' cemetery on the Rosebud reservation. The cemetery is expected to be completed this fall. (Photo courtesy of the Rapid City Journal)

RAPID CITY, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - Construction of a cemetery for military veterans who are members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is ahead of schedule and should be completed in the next two months.

Project construction manager Chris Wehrle of Wyss Associates says construction was supposed to be done by Memorial Day next year, but will likely finish in October or November.

Rosebud Sioux tribal members who completed a required amount of time on active military duty will be eligible for burial at the cemetery near Mission. There are more than 4,000 U.S. military veterans enrolled as members of the tribe.

The cemetery was funded with nearly \$7 million from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The department also has funded tribal cemeteries in California and Arizona.