

Oakwood Veterans' Plots Nears...

# Final TAPS

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**THE BLOWING OF TAPS** in Statesville's Veterans' plot, in Oakwood Cemetery, soon could be a thing of the past. After about four more veterans' funerals, all the spaces will be filled.

Cemetery officials, as of now, say no other land has been set aside for veteran burials.

City Council, back in July 1943, sold the American Legion and the Spanish American War veterans a parcel of land in Oakwood Cemetery, the exact size is unclear, for one dollar.

At that time the plot was to provide burial space for any veteran who could not afford a regular grave site. Almost immediately the stipulation was ignored and graves were provided, free, for any veteran who requested one.

Even so, the area filled slowly until "stacking" was approved. This method, one casket buried on top of another, removed a big obstacle by allowing a veteran and spouse to be buried together. Requests for burial sites then increased dramatically.

Records show the first grave in the area was that of Nathan Freeze, May 15, 1943 and the next was James Brewer, November 24, 1944. The area was enlarged in 1972 and possibly one or two other times. To date, about 458 spaces have been used.



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**BURIAL SITES**-for veterans will shortly be a thing of the past in Oakwood Cemetery. Joe Troutman, owner of Nicholson Funeral Home, is shown at one of the first graves in the section.