

December 8, 2014

Florence M. Sikes
8844 Bliss Rd.
Gibsonton, FL 33534

Re: Flags for Hackney

Dear Friends,

I wanted to take a few minutes and extend my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to have once again had the pleasure of working with the fine men at Witt Fence Co., and for being the sole provider and donator of the flag pole base for the flags and my fundraiser, Flags for Hackney. As I have championed this cause, it was my desire to have an American Flag for every veteran that has been laid to rest at Hackney Riverview Cemetery. Obviously, I could not have paid the \$5000.00 that it would have taken to put a flag on every veteran, so I turned to the community and organizations like yours to aid me in this cause.

When my husband, Mason Sikes, a proud Army and Korean War Veteran and lifelong community resident, passed away in December of 2013; I noticed a gravesite above Mason's that had an old tattered and torn American Flag standing proudly above the headstone. That flag became the inspiration to not only replace it but to post a flag for every veteran's gravesite that was part of the cemetery. Since that time, we have placed one hundred thirty-seven flags in the graveyard.

That dream would not have been possible without the generous donations that outstanding people, like yourselves, have donated. So, from the bottom of my heart I would like to extend my sincere loving gratitude to you and say thank you so much for helping me to recognize those who gave us the freedom we share in this great country.

Sincerely,



Florence M. Sikes