



01-10-2017

From: Mike Olsen, Base Chaplain

To: Perch Base Membership

Subj: **VA BURIAL BENEFITS**

Here is a packet of materials to give you information on your eligibility and the process for obtaining veteran burial benefits. My research at the VA and a large Funeral Service in Surprise, plus a visit with the staff at the **National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona**, has allowed me to put together this packet of information.

It quickly became evident that there is much misunderstanding among veterans regarding burial services that are provided by the government. For example:

Every veteran with any discharge other than dishonorable, who has at least 24 months of active duty, is eligible for the following free services;

- National or State Veterans cemetery grave site.
- Opening/closing and providing grave liner.
- Government headstone or marker.*
- Perpetual free care.
- Ceremonial full military honors.
- American flag (which the next of kin retains)
- "Presidential Memorial Certificate"
- * Headstones and markers are also provided for private internment.

Those who meet the following criteria, are eligible for **added** services, including fees for other burial and funeral costs (see flyer).

- Service related disability
- VA pension
- Died while in VA medical care

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I've tried to include copies of the forms that you or your family will need to have completed. As you would expect, you will need proof of your service, generally in the form of a DD-214. A new form, which could help save time is the first form in the stack; "**APPLICATION FOR PRE-NEED DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY.**" You could do that today and make things easier for those who survive you.

With over 1,700 veterans dying every day in this country, the real pros in doing all the paperwork are the funeral directors. They have all of the forms and paperwork and, frankly, can do it all for your family, as long as your survivors have that important DD-214.

At the end of the packet I've included information on Navy burial at sea. On the West Coast these are done from San Diego, Honolulu or Bremerton. Burial at sea of cremated remains is fairly straight forward, though may take awhile and your biggest duty is to get them to the port of embarkation at your own expense. You can have a small memorial service on the dock before the ship leaves port, though you cannot accompany. Remains not cremated have to meet a lot of expensive requirements including stainless steel casket, refrigerated storage, shipping etc.

I hope that this packet will be a good resource for your family when they have to deal with your passing. Please feel free to contact me at any time. I would be pleased to assist in any way that I am able.

As your chaplain, I am available to conduct a memorial service if needed.

Fair seas and a following breezes,

Yours, in service,

Mike

Perch Base Chaplain

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10 IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT YOUR VA BURIAL BENEFITS

As a veteran you may qualify for certain funeral benefits, but they don't come automatically. In most cases someone must request them, which can be time-consuming and stressful for your family. Dignity Memorial professionals are available to help you prepare your request in advance.

1

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) BENEFITS DO NOT COVER ALL THE FUNERAL OR CREMATION ARRANGEMENTS OF HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS.

Certain monetary, recognition and service benefits may be available; however, reimbursement for funeral or cremation service expenses is limited and usually only applies to veterans who:

- > Veteran died because of a service-related disability, OR
- > The Veteran was receiving or was entitled to receive a VA pension or compensation at the time of death, OR
- > The Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under contract at a non-VA facility

Standard guidelines are provided as an overview, but only the VA can rule on your exact benefits.

2

YOU WILL NEED DOCUMENTATION TO VERIFY MILITARY SERVICE.

You will normally be required to provide a *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty* document to verify military service. (Before 1950 it is commonly known as the Report of Separation which includes the documents WD AGO 53-55, NAVPERS 553, NAVMC 78PD or NAVCG 553. After 1950 it is known as the DD 214). All documents are forms of a veteran's discharge papers.

3

A VETERAN'S FAMILY MUST REQUEST A UNITED STATES FLAG.

A flag is provided at no cost to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran. Generally, the flag is given to the next of kin. Only one flag may be provided per veteran. An *Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes* (VA Form 27-2008) must be submitted along with a copy of the veteran's discharge papers. Flags may be obtained from VA regional offices and most U.S. Post Offices.

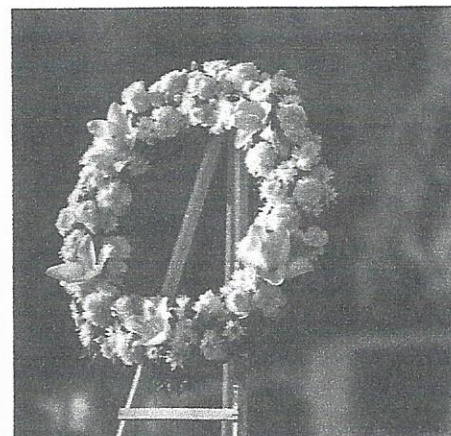
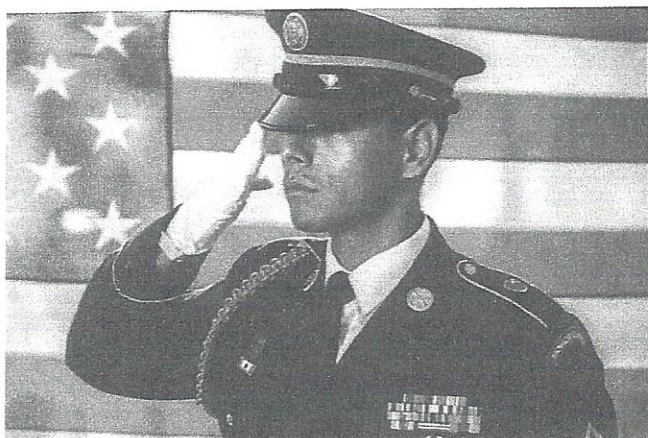
Your Dignity Memorial provider will help your family request your flag.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS CEREMONIES MUST BE SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE.

The law entitles every eligible veteran to receive a military funeral honors ceremony, which includes the folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of "Taps," upon the family's request.

This Department of Defense program calls for the funeral director to request military funeral honors on behalf of the veteran's family.

Your Dignity Memorial provider works with various veterans organizations to assist in the provision of military funeral honors.



VETERANS' CASKETS ARE NOT FREE.

As a standard policy, neither the VA nor the various branches of service provide a free casket for a deceased veteran, unless death occurs while on active duty. Through our unique relationship with American Legion Departments in specific states and with the Veterans of Foreign Wars nationally, Dignity Memorial providers offer caskets and other merchandise at a discounted price to their members.

A "PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE" MUST BE REQUESTED.

Provided through a program initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, an engraved paper "Presidential Memorial Certificate" signed by the current president is provided to families to honor the memory of honorably discharged, deceased veterans.

Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail. Your local Dignity Memorial provider can assist your family in obtaining this certificate.

IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO BE BURIED IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY, MONETARY BURIAL BENEFITS ARE LIMITED.

Veterans buried in a private cemetery may be eligible to receive a partial reimbursement for their burial costs. If a death is service-related, benefits up to \$2,000 may be paid for burial expenses.

In order to receive burial and funeral benefits, as well as plot allowances, there are specific requirements that must be met such as:

- > The Veteran died because of a service-related disability, OR
- > The Veteran was receiving or was entitled to receive a VA pension or compensation at the time of death, OR
- > The Veteran died while hospitalized by the VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility.

Based upon eligibility requirements described earlier, for non-service-related deaths on or after October 1, 2011, the VA will pay up to \$700.00 toward burial and funeral expenses (if hospitalized by the VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by the VA at time of death), and a \$700.00 plot-internment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). An annual increase in burial and plot allowances will be based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

The final amounts will be determined by eligibility and are at the discretion of the VA.

In order to determine the final reimbursement amount, an *Application for Burial Benefits* (VA Form 21-530) must be submitted within two years from the date of the veteran's permanent burial. If your family does not have the Form 21-530 at the time of death, your Dignity Memorial provider will help secure one.

THERE ARE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BURIAL IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY.

Any member of the Armed Forces who dies while on active duty or any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable is entitled to burial in a VA national cemetery. Under certain conditions, the surviving spouse and minor children of an eligible person may also be entitled to this benefit.

In addition, non-veteran parents may be interred in a national cemetery with their child if that child was killed in combat and has no other eligible survivors. In order for such burial to occur, an official must determine that there is available space.

Burial in a VA national cemetery includes:

- > An assigned gravesite (if space is available)
- > Opening and closing of the grave
- > A grave liner for casketed remains
- > A government headstone or marker
- > Perpetual care at no cost to the family

Cremated remains are buried or inurned in VA national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.



9

HEADSTONES, MARKERS OR MEDALLIONS FOR A BURIAL
SPACE IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY MUST BE REQUESTED.

Any deceased veteran discharged under conditions other than dishonorable is eligible for a standard Government headstone, marker or medallion. The VA, upon request and at no charge to the applicant, will furnish a Government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. A bronze medallion in several sizes is also available to be placed on existing privately purchased headstones or markers. The Government is not responsible for costs associated with affixing the medallion to the privately purchased headstone or marker.

Upright headstones are available in granite or marble, and flat markers are available in granite, marble, or bronze. The style must be consistent with existing monuments or markers at the place of burial. Niche markers for cremated remains are also available.

An "Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veteran's Cemetery" (VA Form 40-1330) must be submitted for headstones or markers. VA Form 40-1330M must be submitted if requesting the medallion.

If your family does not have form 40-1330 or VA form 40-1330M, your Dignity Memorial provider will help secure one.

10

THE ISSUANCE OR REPLACEMENT OF MILITARY SERVICE MEDALS,
AWARDS AND DECORATIONS MUST BE REQUESTED IN WRITING.

For deceased veterans, requests for medals will be accepted from the next-of-kin. Requests should be submitted in writing to the appropriate military service branch division of the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). To submit a request, use Standard Form 180 (SF-180), available through the VA or downloadable through the NPRC website at www.archives.gov/veterans/. There is generally no charge for medal or award replacements.

For more information, or for the mailing address of the military branch office to submit your request to, call 866-272-6272 or visit the NPRC website. If your family does not have the necessary form, a Dignity Memorial provider will help secure one.

ABOUT MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

The military funeral honors ceremony is a final demonstration of our nation's deep gratitude to those who have, in times of war and peace, faithfully served. The U.S. Department of Defense now provides, at no cost, the rendering of military funeral honors for an eligible veteran if requested by the family. Families of eligible veterans request funeral honors through their funeral director, who is responsible for arranging for the funeral honors detail.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- > members on active duty
- > retirees
- > and former members of the Selected Reserve
- > U.S. veterans of any war
- > Other U.S. veterans who served at least one term of enlistment and separated under conditions other than dishonorable

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE?

- > Individuals discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions
- > Individuals sentenced to death or life imprisonment without parole for a federal or state capital offense

As provided by law, the honor guard detail shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces, one of whom is a representative of the parent branch of service of the deceased veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presentation of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of "Taps," either by a bugler or by official electronic recording. The veteran's parent service representative will present the flag.

Your Dignity Memorial provider can help your family request military funeral honors. The request form is included in this guide.

VERIFYING ELIGIBILITY

The preferred method for verifying eligibility is the DD 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. If the DD 214 is not available, any discharge document showing other than dishonorable service can be used.

To download forms and find more information, visit www.archives.gov/veterans/.

Arranging Burial in a VA National Cemetery

- Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces and Veterans who have met minimum active service duty requirements and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Their spouse, widow or widower, minor children, and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities, may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran. Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty or while performing training duty, or were eligible for retired pay, may also be eligible for burial.
- Gravesites in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance. However, families are encouraged to prepare in advance by discussing cemetery options and setting aside copies of any discharge documents.
- VA will provide—at no cost to the Veteran's family—a gravesite, headstone or marker, Presidential Memorial Certificate, U.S. flag, perpetual care of the gravesite and will open and close the grave. Fees for services provided by funeral directors and other related costs must be paid for by the Veteran's family.
- VA's Veterans Benefits Administration pays a burial and plot allowance for those Veterans who are eligible by law. For information, please contact the nearest VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000.
- To establish eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery, the family should provide: the Veteran's discharge document; report of casualty; or the Veteran's full name; military rank; branch of service; dates of entry and discharge; serial, Social Security, and/or VA claim numbers; date and place of birth; and date of death.

Burial in a National Cemetery

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our 124 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family.

Preparing in Advance

For Burial in a VA National Cemetery

Gravesites in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance; however, reservations made prior to 1962 will be honored. Families are encouraged to prepare in advance by discussing cemetery options, collecting the veteran's military information including discharge papers, and by contacting the cemetery where burial is desired.

For Burial in a Private Cemetery

We suggest that if burial will be in a private cemetery and a Government headstone or marker will be requested for the veteran's grave, that the family complete VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans' Cemetery, in advance and place it with the veterans military discharge papers for use at the time of need.



APPLICATION FOR PRE-NEED DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

NOTE: Please read information on reverse before completing this form. If additional space is required, attach a separate sheet of paper.

Submit Application and Supporting Documentation to VA by:
Email: to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at: eligibility.preeed@va.gov; or
Mail: to National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151; or
Fax: to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (855) 840-8299

IMPORTANT: Pre-Need means before death. Only complete this form if you are applying for a Pre-Need determination of eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery. **Time of Need** means time of death. **DO NOT** complete this form if the individual is already deceased; instead, contact a local funeral home or the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535-1117 to expedite processing.

***REQUIRED ITEMS: YOU MUST COMPLETE THOSE ITEMS IDENTIFIED WITH AN ASTERISK (*)**

SECTION I - VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER

(Claims for eligibility for burial are based upon the Veterans/Servicemember's military service)

*1. VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER NAME <i>(Include Suffix) (Last, First, Middle Name or Initial)</i>		*2. NAME USED DURING MILITARY SERVICE <i>(Include Suffix)</i> <i>(If different than Item 1) (Last, First, Middle Name)</i>		3. MAILING ADDRESS <i>(Street, City, State, and Zip Code, P.O. Box, Rural Route, etc.)</i>	
*4. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	5. MILITARY SERVICE NUMBER <i>(If different from SSN)</i>		6. VA CLAIM NUMBER <i>(If known)</i>		*7. GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE
8. DATE OF BIRTH <i>(MM/DD/YYYY)</i>		9. PLACE OF BIRTH <i>(City, State or Territory)</i>		*10. IS VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER DECEASED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	
*11. DATE OF DEATH <i>(If applicable) (MM/DD/YYYY)</i>		*12. MARITAL STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> SEPARATED <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED			
*13. MILITARY STATUS USED TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION <i>(Check all that apply)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> A. VETERAN <input type="checkbox"/> B. RETIRED ACTIVE DUTY <input type="checkbox"/> C. DIED ON ACTIVE DUTY <input type="checkbox"/> D. RETIRED RESERVE <input type="checkbox"/> E. RETIRED NATIONAL GUARD <input type="checkbox"/> F. DEATH RELATED TO INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING <input type="checkbox"/> G. OTHER <i>(See instructions)</i>					

MILITARY SERVICE DATA

*14. BRANCH OF SERVICE	15. DATE OF ENTRY	16. DATE OF DISCHARGE	17. DISCHARGE - CHARACTER OF SERVICE <i>(See instructions)</i>	18. HIGHEST RANK ATTAINED <i>(No pay grades)</i>	19. STATE <i>(Abbrev.)</i> <i>(National Guard Service Only)</i>

20. IS THERE ANYONE CURRENTLY BURIED IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY UNDER THIS VETERAN'S/SERVICEMEMBER'S ELIGIBILITY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <i>(Complete Item 21)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <i>(Skip Item 21)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <i>(Skip Item 21)</i>		21. NAME OF DECEDENT(S) AND VA NATIONAL CEMETERY WHERE BURIED	
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22. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ATTACHED YES NO *(See instructions for information on recommended documentation.)*

SECTION II - CLAIMANT INFORMATION

(Information about the individual for whom determination for eligibility for burial in a VA National Cemetery is requested)

*23. CLAIMANT <i>(See instructions)</i> (**Each Claimant requires a separate VA Form 40-10007) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> (Name) Last First Middle </div>		*24. CLAIMANT'S MAILING ADDRESS <i>(Street, City, State, and Zip Code, P.O. Box, Rural Route, etc.)</i> <i>(If different from item 3)</i>	
WHO IS (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> A. THE VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER NAMED IN ITEM 1 <input type="checkbox"/> B. THE SPOUSE/SURVIVING SPOUSE OF THE VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER IN ITEM 1 <input type="checkbox"/> C. AN UNMARRIED ADULT CHILD OF THE VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER IN ITEM 1 <input type="checkbox"/> D. OTHER <i>(Please specify)</i>		25. CLAIMANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER <i>(Include Area Code)</i>	
29. DESIRED VA NATIONAL CEMETERY <i>(Optional - See instructions)</i>		*26. CLAIMANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER <i>(If different from item 4)</i>	
		*27. CLAIMANT'S DATE OF BIRTH <i>(MM/DD/YYYY)</i> <i>(If different from item 8)</i>	
		*28. CLAIMANT'S MAIDEN NAME <i>(If applicable)</i>	
		30. EMAIL ADDRESS <i>(Optional - See instructions)</i>	

SECTION III - CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

CERTIFICATION: By signing below, I certify that I am the Claimant identified in item 23, or an individual signing for the Claimant identified in Item 34. All of the information entered on this form about the Claimant is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. A fraudulent statement that leads to burial in a national cemetery or receiving other benefits from the VA could result in disinterment from that national cemetery and other penalties in accordance with the law. I acknowledge that otherwise eligible individuals may be barred from burial for committing certain serious crimes, as provided under 38 U.S.C. § 2411. VA will therefore validate a previous determination of eligibility at the time of need to check for those bars in addition to law changes or Claimant status changes that may affect eligibility of the Claimant.

*31. YOUR SIGNATURE	*32. DATE	*33. YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE CLAIMANT IN ITEM 23 <i>(Check one; See instructions)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> A. SELF <i>(Stop here. Leave Items 34-37 blank)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> B. INDIVIDUAL SIGNING FOR THE CLAIMANT who is under 18 years of age, is mentally incompetent, or is physically unable to sign the pre-need application <i>(Complete items 34 through 37)</i>	
*34. NAME OF INDIVIDUAL FROM ITEM 33B COMPLETING FOR THE CLAIMANT <i>(Last, First, Middle Name)</i>		*35. MAILING ADDRESS OF INDIVIDUAL COMPLETING THIS FORM FOR THE CLAIMANT <i>(Street, City, State, and Zip Code, P.O. Box, Rural Route, etc.)</i>	
*36. TELEPHONE NUMBER <i>(Include Area Code)</i>		37. EMAIL ADDRESS <i>(Optional)</i>	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING VA FORM 40-10007 APPLICATION FOR PRE-NEED DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

For more complete information on eligibility requirements for burial in a VA national cemetery, visit the National Cemetery Administration online at http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/eligible.asp or call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535-1117. For the purposes of this form, the term burial includes inurnment (above ground remains placement in a columbarium) and scattering of ashes, (if the cemetery chosen offers those options). **A Pre-Need determination of eligibility does not guarantee burial in a specific VA national cemetery. Burial in a specific VA national cemetery will be scheduled at the Time of Need.** In order to assist in completing this form, specific instructions and explanations for certain items are given below.

SECTION I: VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER

Eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery is based on the qualifying service of a Veteran/Servicemember. This section of the form is used to determine if qualifying service exists. Not all items are mandatory, however, answers to questions will aid VA in searching for records in archives to support the claim.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Item 13 | Military status used to apply for eligibility determination: For VA benefit purposes, a Veteran is a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. VA will determine on a case-by-case basis whether certain Reserve duty qualifies. If eligibility derives from a status not listed, or if the individual is not certain of the status, check "Other" and submit evidence of service and VA will provide appropriate assistance. Servicemembers who die on active duty are eligible for burial. If you are arranging burial for an active duty Servicemember or his or her dependents, you should contact a local funeral home or the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535-1117 to expedite processing. |
| Item 17 | Discharge - Character of Service: Please indicate one type of "Discharge - Character of Service": Honorable; General; Entry Level Separation/Uncharacterized; Other Than Honorable; Bad Conduct; or Dishonorable. If uncertain of the type of discharge or character of service, indicate "Other" and include available supporting documents. |
| Item 22 | Supporting military service documents: VA recommends that you attach photocopies of readily available supporting documents so that we can make the determination quickly. Documents may include the most recent discharge document (DD Form 214) showing the highest rank and valor awards and decorations, active duty service records other than for training purposes, or active duty for a minimum of 24 continuous months for enlisted Servicemembers after September 7, 1980; for officers, after October 16, 1981, or the full period for which the person was called to active duty. If you are unable to locate copies of military records, apply anyway, as VA will attempt to obtain records necessary to make a determination. |

SECTION II: CLAIMANT INFORMATION

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|------------------------|---|
| Item 23 | Each Claimant requires a separate VA Form 40-10007.

23b. Spouse means a person who is or was legally married to a Veteran. Surviving Spouse mean a person who was legally married to a Veteran at the time of the Veteran's death and includes a surviving spouse who had a subsequent remarriage. A non-Veteran spouse of a Veteran whose marriage to the Veteran was dissolved by divorce or annulment issued by an authoritative court is not eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery.

23c. An unmarried adult child of the Veteran is an individual who became permanently physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before reaching 21 years of age, <i>or</i> before reaching 23 years of age if pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution. If you are making a claim for an unmarried adult child, please provide supporting documentation such as recent medical documentation pertaining to the disability, date of onset of the disability, and the age of the child when diagnosed with this disability. VA recommends that you provide photocopies. <i>Note: Minor children of eligible Veterans are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. The minor child of an eligible Veteran is a child who is unmarried and who is under 21 years of age; or who is under 23 years of age and is pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution.</i>

23d. Please explain your Claimant status or relationship to the Veteran/Servicemember. |
| Items 29 and 30 | A list of VA national cemeteries is available online at http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/cems/allnational.asp A favorable Pre-Need determination of eligibility does not guarantee burial in a specific national cemetery. Burial in a specific VA national cemetery will be scheduled at the time of need. If you provide an email address, VA may use your email address to communicate with you about your claim and burial benefits. |

SECTION III: CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

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|------------------------|---|
| Items 31 and 32 | The pre-need application must be signed (Item 31) and dated (Item 32) for VA to process. |
| Item 33 | You must indicate your relationship to the claimant in Item 33.

33a. Check (A) if you are the claimant

33b. Check (B) and complete Items 34-37 if your are signing for a claimant who has not attained the age of 18 years, is mentally incompetent, or is physically unable to sign the pre-need application. You may be a court-appointed representative, a person who is responsible for the care of the individual (including a spouse or other relative), or an attorney in fact or agent authorized to act on behalf of the claimant under a durable power or attorney. If the claimant is in the care of an institution, a manager or principal officer of the institution may sign the form. Please attach supporting documents or an affidavit establishing your position relative to the claimant. |

Privacy Act Information: VA considers the responses you submit confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). VA may only disclose this information outside the VA if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 175VA41A, published in the Federal Register. VA considers the requested information relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law.

Respondent Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data sources, gather the necessary data, and complete and review the collection of information. The obligation to respond is voluntary and not required to obtain or retain benefits.



DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS

BURIAL AND PLOT INTERMENT ALLOWANCE

WHAT ARE VA BURIAL ALLOWANCES?

VA burial allowances are flat-rate monetary benefits that are generally paid at the maximum amount authorized by law for an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs. A VA regulation change in 2014 simplified the program to pay eligible survivors quickly and efficiently. Eligible surviving spouses of record are paid automatically upon notification of a Veteran's death, without the need to submit a claim. VA may grant additional benefits, including the plot or interment allowance and transportation allowance, if it receives a claim for these benefits.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

If the burial benefit has not been automatically paid to the surviving spouse, VA will pay the first living person to file a claim of those listed below:

- The Veteran's surviving spouse, **OR**
- The survivor of a legal union* between the deceased Veteran and the survivor, **OR**
- The Veteran's children, regardless of age, **OR**
- The Veteran's parents or surviving parent, **OR**
- The executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased Veteran

*Legal union means a formal relationship between the decedent and the survivor existed on the date of the Veteran's death, which was recognized under the law of the State in which the couple formalized the relationship and evidenced by the State's issuance of documentation memorializing the relationship.

The Veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- The Veteran died as a result of a service-connected disability, **OR**
- The Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, **OR**
- The Veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided to receive his or her full military retirement or disability pay, **OR**
- The Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, **OR**
- The Veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to, or from, a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, **OR**
- The Veteran had an original or reopened claim for VA compensation or pension pending at the time of death and would have been entitled to benefits from a date prior to the date of death, **OR**
- The Veteran died on, or after, October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

HOW MUCH DOES VA PAY?

Service-Connected Death

If the Veteran died on or after September 1, 2001, the maximum service-connected burial allowance is \$2,000. If the Veteran died before September 11, 2001, the maximum service-connected burial allowance is \$1,500. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, VA may reimburse some or all of the costs of transporting the deceased Veteran's remains.

Non Service-Connected Death

- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2016, VA will pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$749 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2015, but before October 1, 2016, VA will pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$747 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2014, but before October 1, 2015, VA will pay \$300 for burial allowance and \$745 for a plot.

Effective October 1, 2011, there are higher non-service-connected death rates payable if the Veteran was hospitalized by VA at the time of his or her death.

- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2016, VA will pay a \$749 burial allowance and \$749 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2015, but before October 1, 2016, VA will pay a \$747 burial allowance and \$747 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2014, but before October 1, 2015, VA will pay a \$745 burial allowance and \$745 for a plot.

If the death occurred while the Veteran was properly hospitalized by VA, or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the Veteran's remains may be reimbursed.

Note: If the Veteran dies while traveling at VA expense for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, VA will pay burial and plot allowances and transportation expenses.

Unclaimed Remains

If a Veteran dies and their remains are unclaimed, the entity responsible for the burial of the Veteran would be entitled to a \$300 burial allowance. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, VA may reimburse the cost of transporting the deceased Veterans remains. VA may also reimburse for the cost of a plot.

HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

You can apply by completing [VA Form 21P-530 Application for Burial Benefits](#). You should attach a copy of the Veteran's military discharge document (DD Form 214 or equivalent) and a death certificate. If you are claiming transportation expenses, please attach a receipt for the expenses paid.

You can call us toll-free within the U.S. by dialing 1-800-827-1000. If you are located in the local dialing area of a VA regional office, you can also call us by checking your local telephone directory. For the hearing impaired, our TDD number is 711.

You should mail your application to the VA regional office located in your state. You can obtain the mailing address for VA regional offices by accessing our [locations site](#). The address is also located in the government pages of your telephone book under “United States Government, Veterans.”

RELATED BENEFITS

[VA National Cemetery Burials](#) / [Headstones, Markers and Medallions](#) / [Presidential Memorial Certificates](#) / [Burial Flags](#)





(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)
(VA DATE STAMP)

APPLICATION FOR BURIAL BENEFITS (Under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 23)

IMPORTANT - Read instructions carefully before completing form. YOUR COMPLIANCE WITH ALL INSTRUCTIONS WILL AVOID DELAY. Type or print all information.

1. FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME OF DECEASED VETERAN

2. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF VETERAN

3. VA FILE NUMBER

4. FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME OF CLAIMANT

5. TELEPHONE NUMBER(S) *(Include Area Code)*

5C. E-MAIL ADDRESS

A. DAYTIME

B. EVENING

6A. MAILING ADDRESS OF CLAIMANT *(Number and street or rural route, city or P.O., State and ZIP Code)*

6B. IF CLAIMANT IS A FUNERAL HOME PROVIDE THE EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN)

PART I - INFORMATION REGARDING VETERAN

7A. DATE OF BIRTH

7B. PLACE OF BIRTH

8A. DATE OF DEATH

8B. PLACE OF DEATH

8C. DATE OF BURIAL

8D. WHERE DID THE VETERAN'S DEATH OCCUR? *(Check one)*

- VA MEDICAL CENTER NURSING HOME UNDER VA CONTRACT
 STATE VETERANS HOME OTHER *(Specify)*

SERVICE INFORMATION *(The following information should be furnished for the periods of the VETERAN'S ACTIVE SERVICE)*

9A. ENTERED SERVICE		9B. SERVICE NUMBER	9C. SEPARATED FROM SERVICE		9D. GRADE, RANK OR RATING, ORGANIZATION AND BRANCH OF SERVICE
DATE	PLACE		DATE	PLACE	

10. IF VETERAN SERVED UNDER NAME OTHER THAN THAT SHOWN IN ITEM 1, GIVE FULL NAME AND SERVICE RENDERED UNDER THAT NAME

11. ARE YOU CLAIMING THAT THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS DUE TO SERVICE?

- YES NO

PART II - CLAIM FOR BURIAL BENEFITS AND/OR INTERMENT ALLOWANCE IF PAID BY CLAIMANT

NOTE - If claiming Plot Allowance Only, do not complete Part II, but complete Parts III and IV on page 4.

12. PLACE OF BURIAL OR LOCATION OF CREMAINS

13. WAS BURIAL (WITHOUT CHARGE FOR PLOT OR INTERMENT) IN A STATE OWNED CEMETERY, OR SECTION THEREOF, USED SOLELY FOR PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR BURIAL IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY?

- YES NO *(If "No," complete Items 15 and 16)*

14. WAS BURIAL IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY OR CEMETERY OWNED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

- YES NO *(If "No," complete Items 15 and 16)*

15. BURIAL PLOT, MAUSOLEUM VAULT, COLUMBARIUM NICHE, ETC. COST IS: *(CHECK ONE)*

- PAID BY ANOTHER PERSON(S) PAID BY CLAIMANT FOR BURIAL
 DUE FUNERAL DIRECTOR NONE
 DUE CEMETERY OWNER

16. IF PLOT/INTERMENT EXPENSES ARE UNPAID, WHO WILL FILE CLAIM FOR EXPENSES? *(Name and Address)*

17. TOTAL EXPENSE OF BURIAL, FUNERAL, TRANSPORTATION, AND IF CLAIMED, BURIAL PLOT

\$

18. AMOUNT PAID

\$

19. WHOSE FUNDS WERE USED?

20A. HAS THE PERSON WHOSE FUNDS WERE USED BEEN REIMBURSED?

- YES NO *(If "Yes," complete Items 20B and 20C)*

20B. AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENT

\$

20C. SOURCE OF REIMBURSEMENT

21A. HAS ANY AMOUNT BEEN, OR WILL ANY AMOUNT BE ALLOWED ON EXPENSES BY LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL AGENCY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (If "Yes," complete Items 21B and 21C)	21B. AMOUNT \$	21C. SOURCE(S)
22. WAS THE VETERAN A MEMBER OF A BURIAL ASSOCIATION OR COVERED BY BURIAL INSURANCE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (Before answering, read and comply with Instruction 7 on Page 2)		
PART III - CLAIM FOR PLOT COST ALLOWANCE		
IMPORTANT - Complete only if burial was NOT in a national cemetery or cemetery owned by the Federal Government.		
23. WAS BURIAL (WITHOUT CHARGE FOR PLOT OR INTERMENT) IN A STATE OWNED CEMETERY, OR SECTION THEREOF, USED SOLELY FOR PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR BURIAL IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	24. PLACE OF BURIAL OR LOCATION OF CREMAINS	
25A. COST OF BURIAL PLOT (Individual Grave Site, Mausoleum Vault, or Columbarium Niche) \$	25B. DATE OF PURCHASE	25C. DATE OF PAYMENT
26A. HAVE BILLS BEEN PAID IN FULL? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (If "No," complete Items 26B and 27)	26B. AMOUNT PAID \$	27. WHOSE FUNDS WERE USED?
28A. HAS PERSON WHOSE FUNDS WERE USED BEEN REIMBURSED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (If "Yes," complete Items 28B and 28C)	28B. AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENT \$	28C. SOURCE OF REIMBURSEMENT
29A. HAS ANY AMOUNT BEEN, OR WILL ANY AMOUNT BE ALLOWED ON EXPENSES BY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (If "Yes," complete Items 29B and 29C)	29B. AMOUNT \$	29C. SOURCE
PART IV - CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE		
I CERTIFY THAT the foregoing statements made in connection with this application on account of the named veteran are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.		
30A. SIGNATURE OF CLAIMANT (If signed using an "X", complete Items 36A thru 37B) (If signing for firm, corporation, or State agency, complete Items 30B thru 31)	30B. OFFICIAL POSITION OF PERSON SIGNING ON BEHALF OF FIRM, CORPORATION OR STATE AGENCY	
31. FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE FIRM, CORPORATION, OR STATE AGENCY FILING AS CLAIMANT		
NOTE - Where the claimant is a firm or other unpaid creditor, Items 32A thru 35 MUST be completed by the individual who authorized services.		
I CERTIFY THAT the foregoing statements made by the claimant are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.		
32A. SIGNATURE OF PERSON WHO AUTHORIZED SERVICES (If signed using an "X", complete Items 36A thru 37B)	32B. NAME OF PERSON AUTHORIZING SERVICES (Type or Print)	
33. ADDRESS (Number and street or rural route, city or P.O., State and ZIP Code)		
34. DATE	35. RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN	
WITNESS TO SIGNATURE IF MADE BY "X"		
NOTE - If claimant signed above using an "X", signature must be witnessed by two persons to whom the person making the statement is personally known, and the signatures and addresses of such witnesses must be shown below.		
36A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS	36B. ADDRESS OF WITNESS	
37A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS	37B. ADDRESS OF WITNESS	
PENALTY - The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact knowing it to be false.		
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEADSTONES AND MARKERS		
The Department of Veterans Affairs will furnish, upon request, a Government headstone or marker at the expense of the United States for the unmarked graves of certain individuals eligible for burial in a national cemetery, but not buried there. These individuals include any veteran with an other than dishonorable discharge who dies after service or any serviceman or servicewoman who dies on active duty. Certain other individuals may also be eligible for the headstone or marker. Headstones or markers for all individuals in a national or post cemetery are furnished automatically without request from the family. For additional information on burial benefits go to the web site, www.cem.va.gov/bbene_burial.asp . To obtain VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker go to www.va.gov/vaforms or contact your local VA regional office. The address of that office can be found at to www.va.gov/directory .		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATION FOR BURIAL BENEFITS (UNDER 38 U.S.C., CHAPTER 23)

IMPORTANT - READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). They may be disclosed outside the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) only if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law and is required to obtain benefits. Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: We need this information to determine your eligibility burial benefits. Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 22 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.

1. GENERAL

- a. **BURIAL ALLOWANCE** - An amount towards the expenses of the funeral and burial of the veteran's remains. Burial includes all recognized methods of interment.
- b. **PLOT ALLOWANCE** - Plot means the final resting place of the remains. The allowance is payable towards:
 - (1) Expenses incurred for the plot or interment if burial was not in a national cemetery or other cemetery under the jurisdiction of the United States; OR
 - (2) Expenses payable to a State (or political subdivision) if the veteran died from non service-connected causes and was buried in a State-owned cemetery or section used solely for the remains of persons eligible for burial in a national cemetery.
- c. **BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DEATH** - When the veteran's death occurred as the result of a service-connected disability, a special "service-connected" rate is payable.
- d. **TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES** - The cost of transporting the body to the place of burial may be paid in addition to the burial allowance when:
 - (1) The veteran died of a service-connected disability or had a compensable service-connected disability and burial is in a national cemetery; OR
 - (2) The veteran died while in a hospital, domiciliary or nursing home to which he/she had been properly admitted under authority of VA; OR
 - (3) The veteran died en route while traveling under prior authorization of VA for the purpose of examination, treatment or care.

2. WHO SHOULD FILE A CLAIM

- a. **CREDITOR** - If expenses have not been paid, the claim should be filed by the funeral director or crematory service by completing Parts I, II, and IV. If the funeral director or crematory service has paid or advanced funds for or furnished the plot or interment expenses, inclusion of these items on the statement of account will serve as claim for the plot allowance. If cemetery owner or other creditor has not been paid for the plot and related interment expenses, he/she may file claim by completing Parts I, III, and IV. If both the funeral director and cemetery owner are unpaid, each must submit a separate VA Form 21-530 signed by the person who authorized services.
- b. **PERSON WHOSE FUNDS WERE USED** - If all creditors have been paid, the claim should be filed by the person or persons whose personal funds were used by completing Parts I, II, and IV.

- c. VETERAN'S ESTATE - If the expenses were paid from the veteran's estate, the claim should be filed by the executor/administrator by completing Parts I, II, and IV. Submit a copy of the letters of administration or letters testamentary certified over the signature and seal of the appointing court.
- d. STATE - If a veteran whose death is non service-connected was buried without charge for plot or interment in a State-owned cemetery or section used for persons eligible in a national cemetery, the claim may be filed by the State official completing Parts I, III (Items 23 and 24), and IV.

3. TIME LIMIT FOR FILING A CLAIM - A claim for non service-connected burial expenses or plot allowance must be filed with VA within 2 years from the date of the veteran's permanent burial or cremation. If a veteran's discharge was corrected after death to "Under Conditions Other Than Dishonorable," the claim must be filed within 2 years from the date of correction. The 2-year limitation does not apply to service-connected burial benefits, transportation expenses or reimbursement of headstone expenses.

4. COMPLETING CLAIM BY A FIRM OR STATE AGENCY - The claim must be executed in the full name of the firm or State agency, and show the official position or connection of the individual who signs on its behalf.

5. PROOF OF DEATH TO ACCOMPANY CLAIM - Death in a government institution does not need to be proven. In other cases, the claimant must forward a copy of the public record of death. If proof has previously been furnished VA, it need not be submitted again.

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT MUST ACCOMPANY CLAIM

- a. FUNERAL DIRECTOR - A statement of account on the funeral director's letterhead must show the name of the veteran; the nature and cost of services, including any payments made to another funeral home (show name and address); all credits; and the name of the person or persons by whom payment in whole or in part was made.
- b. TRANSPORTATION - If transported by common carrier, a receipt must accompany the claim. All receipts for transportation charges should show the name of the veteran, the name of the person who paid and the amount of the charges. The itemized statement of account should show the charges made for transportation. Failure to itemize charges may result in delay or payment of a lesser amount.
- c. ACCOUNT PAID IN FULL - The statement of account should be receipted in the name of the firm or individual performing the services. Bills or receipts filed in support of this claim become a part of the permanent record and will not be returned, unless specifically requested.
- d. PLOT ALLOWANCE ONLY - In a claim for the plot allowance only, the statement of account must show the cost of the veteran's individual grave site, the mausoleum vault, or the columbarium niche.

7. BURIAL ASSOCIATION OR BURIAL INSURANCE - If the veteran was a member of a burial association or if any insurance company is obligated to pay all or part of the burial expenses, Item 22 should be answered "Yes." It will be necessary to support the claim with a statement from the association or insurance company setting forth the terms of the contract and how and with whom settlement was made.

8. SERVICE RECORD - The original or certified copy of the veteran's service separation document (DD214 or equivalent) which contains information as to the length, time, and character of service will permit prompt processing.

9. TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE - You can call us toll-free within the U.S. by dialing 1-800-827-1000. If you are located in the local dialing area of a VA regional office, you can also call us by checking your local telephone directory. For the hearing impaired, our TDD number is 1-800-829-4833.

10. WHERE DO I MAIL MY COMPLETED APPLICATION? - You should mail your application to the VA regional office located in your state. You can obtain the mailing address for VA regional offices by accessing the VA Internet web site at www.va.gov/directory. The address is also located in the government pages of your telephone book under "United States Government, Veterans."

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

CLAIM FOR STANDARD GOVERNMENT HEADSTONE OR MARKER

RESPONDENT BURDEN - Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it has a valid OMB number. Your obligation to respond is voluntary, however, your response is required to obtain benefits. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the VA Clearance Officer (005R1B), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please DO NOT send claims for benefits to this address.

BENEFIT PROVIDED

a. HEADSTONE OR MARKER

Only for Veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990 - Furnished for the grave of any eligible deceased Veteran. Will be provided for placement in private cemeteries regardless of whether or not the grave is already marked with a privately-purchased headstone or marker.

Only for Veterans who died before November 1, 1990 - Furnished for the **UNMARKED GRAVE** of any eligible deceased Veteran. The applicant must certify the grave is **unmarked**. **For Veterans that served prior to World War I, a grave is considered marked when a headstone/marker displays the decedent's name only, or if the name was historically documented in a related document, such as by a number that is inscribed on a grave block and is recorded in a burial ledger. For service during and after World War I, a grave is considered marked if a headstone/marker displays the decedent's name and date of birth and/or death, even though the Veteran's military data is not shown.**

b. MEMORIAL HEADSTONE OR MARKER - Furnished for placement in a cemetery only to commemorate a deceased eligible Veteran whose remains have not been recovered or identified, were buried at sea, donated to science, or cremated and the remains scattered. May not be used as a memento. Check box in block 28 and explain in block 27.

c. MEDALLION - Eligible Veterans may receive a Government-furnished headstone or marker, or a medallion, but not both. *If requesting a medallion, please use VA Form 40-1330M.*

WHO IS ELIGIBLE - Any deceased Veteran discharged under honorable conditions and any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty. A deceased Veteran discharged under conditions other than honorable may also be eligible. A copy of the deceased Veteran's discharge certificate (DD Form 214 or equivalent) or a copy of other official document(s) establishing qualifying military service must be attached. **Do not send original documents;** they will not be returned. **Service after September 7, 1980, must be for a minimum of 24 months continuous active duty or be completed under special circumstances, e.g., death on active duty.** Persons who have only limited active duty service for training while in the National Guard or Reserves are not eligible unless there are special circumstances, e.g., death while on active duty, or as a result of training. Reservists and National Guard members who, at time of death, were entitled to retired pay, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60, are eligible; a copy of the Reserve Retirement Eligibility Benefits Letter must accompany the claim. Reservists called to active duty other than training and National Guard members who are Federalized and who serve for the period called are eligible. Service prior to World War I requires detailed documentation, e.g., muster rolls, extracts from State files, military or State organization where served, pension or land warrant, etc.

WHO CAN APPLY - Federal regulation defines "applicant" as the decedent's Next-of-Kin (NOK); a person authorized in writing by the NOK; or a personal representative authorized in writing by the decedent. Written authorization must be included with claim. A notarized statement is not required.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CLAIM

FAX claims and supporting documents to **1-800-455-7143**.

IMPORTANT: If faxing more than one claim - fax each claim package (claim plus supporting documents) individually, i.e., disconnect the call and redial for each submission.

MAIL claims to: **Memorial Programs Service (41B)**
Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

A Government headstone or marker may be furnished only upon receipt of a fully completed and signed claim with required supporting documentation.

SIGNATURES REQUIRED - The applicant signs in block 17; the person agreeing to accept delivery (consignee) in block 22, and the cemetery or other responsible official in block 24. If there is no official on duty at the cemetery, the signature of the person responsible for the property listed in block 21 is required. Entries of "None," "Not Applicable," or "NA" cannot be accepted. State Veterans' Cemeteries are not required to complete blocks 17, 18, 22 and 23.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED - If assistance is needed to complete this claim, contact the nearest VA Regional Office, national cemetery, or a local veterans' organization. No fee should be paid in connection with the preparation of this claim. Use block 27 for any clarification or other information you wish to provide. Should you have questions when filling out this form, you may contact our Applicant Assistance Unit toll free at: 1-800-697-6947, or via e-mail at mpps.headstones@va.gov.

TRANSPORTATION AND DELIVERY OF MARKER - The headstone or marker is shipped without charge to the consignee designated in block 19 of the claim. **The delivery will not be made to a Post Office box.** The consignee should be a business with full delivery address and telephone number. If the consignee is not a business explain fully in block 27. For delivery to a Rural Route address, you must include a daytime telephone number including area code in block 20. If you fail to include the required address and telephone number information, we cannot deliver the marker. The Government is not responsible for costs to install the headstone or marker in private cemeteries.

CAUTION - *To avoid delays in the production and delivery of the headstone or marker, please check carefully to be sure you have accurately furnished all required information before faxing or mailing the claim. If inaccurate information is furnished, it may result in an incorrectly inscribed headstone or marker. Headstones and markers furnished remain the property of the United States Government and may not be used for any purpose other than to be placed at an eligible individual's grave or in a memorial section within a cemetery.*

DETACH AND RETAIN THIS GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET FOR YOUR RECORDS.



CLAIM FOR GOVERNMENT MEDALLION FOR PLACEMENT IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY

IMPORTANT: Please read the General Information Sheet before completing this claim. Type or print clearly all information except for signatures. Illegible printing could result in incorrect delivery of the medallion. Unless indicated otherwise all other blocks must be completed. **MILITARY DISCHARGE DOCUMENTS OR RELATED SERVICE INFORMATION ARE REQUIRED.**

1. NAME OF DECEASED VETERAN						2. GRAVE IS:																	
FIRST <i>(Or Initial)</i>		MIDDLE <i>(Or Initial)</i>		LAST		SUFFIX																	
						<input type="checkbox"/> CURRENTLY MARKED <i>(with privately purchased marker)</i>																	
						<input type="checkbox"/> NOT MARKED																	
VETERAN'S SERVICE AND IDENTIFYING INFORMATION <i>(Use numbers only, e.g., 05-15-1941)</i>																							
3. VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. OR SERVICE NO.						PERIODS OF ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY																	
SSN:			SVC. NO.:			5A. DATE(S) ENTERED			5B. DATE(S) SEPARATED														
						MONTH			DAY			YEAR			MONTH			DAY			YEAR		
4A. DATE OF BIRTH						4B. DATE OF DEATH																	
MONTH		DAY		YEAR		MONTH		DAY		YEAR													
6. BRANCH OF SERVICE (BOS) <i>(Check applicable box(es))</i> NOTE: <i>If one BOS is selected, it will be spelled out on the medallion, i.e. U.S. ARMY, U.S. AIR FORCE, etc. If more than one BOS is selected, they will be abbreviated on the medallion, i.e. USA, USAF, USN, USMC, USCG, etc.</i>									7. MEDALLION SIZE REQUESTED <i>(Check one)</i> <i>(Refer to instructions for exact sizes)</i>														
<input type="checkbox"/> ARMY			<input type="checkbox"/> MARINE CORPS			<input type="checkbox"/> COAST GUARD			<input type="checkbox"/> MERCHANT MARINE			<input type="checkbox"/> LARGE (M5)											
<input type="checkbox"/> NAVY			<input type="checkbox"/> AIR FORCE			<input type="checkbox"/> ARMY AIR FORCES (WW II)			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (USAAC, WAAC, etc.) <i>(Specify)</i> _____			<input type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM (M3)											
												<input type="checkbox"/> SMALL (M1)											
8. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT <i>(No., Street, City, State, and ZIP Code)</i>						9. ARE YOU:						10. DAYTIME PHONE NO. OF APPLICANT											
						<input type="checkbox"/> NEXT OF KIN <i>(Specify Relationship)</i> _____																	
						<input type="checkbox"/> AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE ON BEHALF OF DECEDENT <i>(Include Written Authorization)</i>						11. E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>(Optional)</i>											
						<input type="checkbox"/> AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE ON BEHALF OF NEXT OF KIN <i>(Include Written Authorization)</i>																	
<p>CERTIFICATION: By signing below I certify the medallion will be affixed to a privately purchased headstone or marker in the cemetery listed in Block 15 at no expense to the Government, and that I (or the party listed in Block 13) have agreed to accept delivery, and all information entered on this claim is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the decedent has never committed a serious crime, such as murder or other offense that could have resulted in imprisonment for life, has never been convicted of a serious crime, and has never been convicted of a sexual offense for which he or she was sentenced to a minimum of life imprisonment.</p> <p>PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties, which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false or for the fraudulent acceptance of any benefit to which you are not entitled.</p>																							
12A. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT												12B. DATE <i>(MM/DD/YYYY)</i>											
13. NAME AND DELIVERY ADDRESS FOR MEDALLION <i>(No., Street, City, State, and ZIP Code); (If same as applicant, please enter SAME)</i>									14. DAYTIME PHONE NO. <i>(Include Area Code)</i>						15. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CEMETERY WHERE PRIVATELY PURCHASED HEADSTONE OR MARKER OF THE DECEASED VETERAN IS LOCATED <i>(No., Street, City, State, and ZIP Code)</i>								

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

CLAIM FOR GOVERNMENT MEDALLION FOR PLACEMENT IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY

RESPONDENT BURDEN - Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it has a valid OMB number. Your obligation to respond is voluntary, however, your response is required to obtain benefits. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the VA Clearance Officer (005R1B), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please DO NOT send applications for benefits to this address.

BENEFIT PROVIDED - MEDALLION (Only for Veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990)

Furnished upon receipt of claim for affixing to an existing privately-purchased headstone or marker placed at the gravesite of an eligible deceased Veteran who is buried in a private cemetery. The medallion is made of bronze and available in three sizes: Large, Medium, Small. Each medallion is inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom (*see Note in Block 6 of the claim for further information*). Eligible Veterans may receive a Government furnished headstone or marker, or a medallion, but not both. *If requesting a headstone or marker, please use the VA Form 40-1330.*

Shown below are the three medallions with the actual dimensions (+/- 1/32") for width and height.



Large Medallion

Dimensions: 6 3/8" W, 4 3/4" H, 1/2" D



Medium Medallion

Dimensions: 3 3/4" W, 2 7/8" H, 1/4" D



Small Medallion

Dimensions: 2" W, 1 1/2" H, 1/3" D

WHO IS ELIGIBLE - Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty and is buried in a private cemetery in a grave marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Any deceased Veteran discharged under honorable conditions, who died on or after November 1, 1990, and is buried in a private cemetery in a grave marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. A deceased Veteran discharged under conditions other than honorable, who died on or after November 1, 1990, and is buried in a private cemetery in a grave marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker, may also be eligible. A copy of the deceased Veteran's discharge certificate (DD Form 214 or equivalent) or a copy of other official document(s) establishing qualifying military service must be attached. **Do not send original documents;** they will not be returned. **Service after September 7, 1980, must be for a minimum of 24 months continuous active duty or be completed under special circumstances, e.g., death on active duty.** Persons who have only limited active duty service for training while in the National Guard or Reserves are not eligible unless there are special circumstances, e.g., death while on active duty, or as a result of training. Reservists and National Guard members who, at time of death, were entitled to retired pay, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60, are eligible; a copy of the Reserve Retirement Eligibility Benefits Letter must accompany the claim. Reservists called to active duty other than training and National Guard members who are Federalized and who serve for the period called are eligible.

WHO CAN APPLY - Federal regulation defines "applicant" as the decedent's Next of Kin (NOK); a person authorized in writing by the NOK; or a personal representative authorized in writing by the decedent. Written authorization must be included with claim. A notarized statement is not required.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CLAIM

FAX claims and supporting documents to: **1-800-455-7143.**

IMPORTANT: If faxing more than one claim - fax each claim package (*claim plus supporting documents*) individually (*disconnect the call and redial for each submission*).

MAIL claims to: **Memorial Programs Service (41B)**
Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

A VA medallion may be furnished only upon receipt of a fully completed and signed claim with required supporting documentation.

SIGNATURES REQUIRED - The applicant must sign in Block 12A. The applicant must be the Next of Kin or an authorized representative of the decedent or the Next of Kin.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED - If assistance is needed to complete this claim, you may contact our Applicant Assistance Unit toll free at: 1-800-697-6947, or via e-mail at meps.headstones@va.gov. No fee should be paid in connection with the preparation of this claim. For more information regarding medallion eligibility, affixing procedures, and sizes, visit our website at www.cem.va.gov.

DELIVERY - The medallion is shipped without charge to the name/address designated in Block 13 of the claim. The Government is not responsible for costs associated with affixing the medallion to the privately purchased headstone or marker. Appropriate affixing adhesives, hardware and instructions are provided with the medallion.

CAUTION - *To avoid delays in the production and delivery of the medallion, please check carefully to be sure you have accurately furnished all required information and documents before faxing or mailing the claim. The Government is not responsible for costs associated with affixing the medallion to the privately purchased headstone or marker. Medallions furnished remain the property of the United States Government and may not be used for any purpose other than to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone or marker of an eligible deceased Veteran buried in a private cemetery.*

DETACH AND RETAIN THIS GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET FOR YOUR RECORDS.



IMPORTANT: Please read the General Information Sheet before completing this form. Type or print clearly all information except for signatures. Illegible printing could result in an incorrect headstone or marker or delivery. *Blocks outlined in bold are optional inscription items. Unless indicated otherwise all other blocks must be completed. **MILITARY DISCHARGE DOCUMENTS OR RELATED SERVICE INFORMATION ARE REQUIRED.***

1. FOR VA USE ONLY

2. NAME OF DECEASED TO BE INSCRIBED ON HEADSTONE OR MARKER (NO NICKNAMES OR TITLES PERMITTED)				3. GRAVE IS:	
FIRST (Or Initial)	MIDDLE (Or Initial)	LAST	SUFFIX	<input type="checkbox"/> CURRENTLY MARKED (with privately purchased marker)	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT MARKED

VETERAN'S SERVICE AND IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (Use numbers only, e.g., 05-15-1941)

4. VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. OR SERVICE NO.			PERIODS OF ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY (For additional space use Block 27)					
SSN: _____ OR SVC. NO.: _____			6A. DATE(S) ENTERED			6B. DATE(S) SEPARATED		
			MONTH	DAY	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
5A. DATE OF BIRTH			5B. DATE OF DEATH					
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	YEAR			

7. HIGHEST RANK ATTAINED (No pay grades)	8. BRANCH OF SERVICE (Check applicable box(es) - must be consistent with rank in Box 7)							
	ARMY	NAVY	MARINE CORPS	COAST GUARD	AIR FORCE	ARMY AIR FORCES	MERCHANT MARINE	OTHER (Specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. VALOR OR PURPLE HEART AWARD(S) (Documentation must be provided)						10. WAR SERVICE (Check applicable box(es))						
MEDAL OF HONOR	DST SVC CROSS	NAVY CROSS	AIR FORCE CROSS	SILVER STAR	BRONZE STAR MEDAL	PURPLE HEART	OTHER (Specify)	WORLD WAR II	KOREA	VIETNAM	PERSIAN GULF	OTHER (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. TYPE OF HEADSTONE OR MARKER REQUESTED (Check one)						12. DESIRED EMBLEM OF BELIEF						
FLAT BRONZE	FLAT GRANITE	UPRIGHT MARBLE	FLAT MARBLE	BRONZE NICHE	UPRIGHT GRANITE	NONE	EMBLEM NUMBER (Specify) (See reverse side of this form for available emblems)					
<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> G	<input type="checkbox"/> U	<input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> Z	<input type="checkbox"/> V	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____					

13A. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (No., Street, City, State, and ZIP Code)				13B. DAYTIME PHONE NO. OF APPLICANT			
				14. E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional)			
				15. FAX NO. (Optional)			

16. ARE YOU:

NEXT OF KIN (Specify relationship) _____

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE ON BEHALF OF DECEDENT (Include Written Authorization)

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE ON BEHALF OF NEXT OF KIN (Include Written Authorization)

CERTIFICATION: By signing below I certify the headstone or marker will be installed in the cemetery listed in block 21 at no expense to the Government and all information entered on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the decedent has never committed a serious crime, such as murder or other offense that could have resulted in imprisonment for life, has never been convicted of a serious crime, and has never been convicted of a sexual offense for which he or she was sentenced to a minimum of life imprisonment.

PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties, which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false or for the fraudulent acceptance of any benefit to which you are not entitled.

17. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT		18. DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	
19. NAME AND DELIVERY ADDRESS OF BUSINESS (CONSIGNEE) THAT WILL ACCEPT PREPAID DELIVERY (No., Street, City, State, and ZIP Code); P.O. BOX IS NOT ACCEPTABLE		20. DAYTIME PHONE NO. (Include Area Code)	21. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CEMETERY WHERE GRAVE IS LOCATED (No., Street, City, State, and ZIP Code)

CERTIFICATION: By signing below I agree to accept prepaid delivery of the headstone or marker.

22. PRINTED NAME AND SIGNATURE OF PERSON REPRESENTING BUSINESS (CONSIGNEE) NAMED IN BLOCK 19		23. DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	

CERTIFICATION: By signing below I certify the type of headstone or marker checked in block 11 is permitted in the cemetery named in block 21.

24. PRINTED NAME AND SIGNATURE OF CEMETERY OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL	25. DAYTIME PHONE NO. (Include Area Code)	26. DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

27. REMARKS (Additional inscription space will vary in size according to the type of marker)

28. CHECK BOX BELOW IF REMAINS ARE NOT BURIED AND EXPLAIN IN BLOCK 27 (e.g., buried at sea, remains scattered, etc.)		29. SECTION/GRAVE NO. (State Cemetery Only)	
<input type="checkbox"/> REMAINS NOT BURIED			

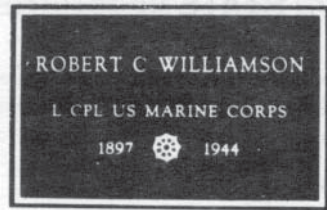
ILLUSTRATIONS OF STANDARD GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

**UPRIGHT HEADSTONE
WHITE MARBLE OR
LIGHT GRAY GRANITE**



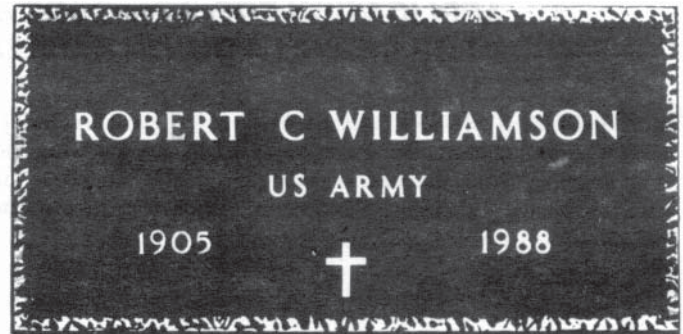
This headstone is 42 inches long, 13 inches wide and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 230 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color, and the marble may contain light to moderate veining.

BRONZE NICHE



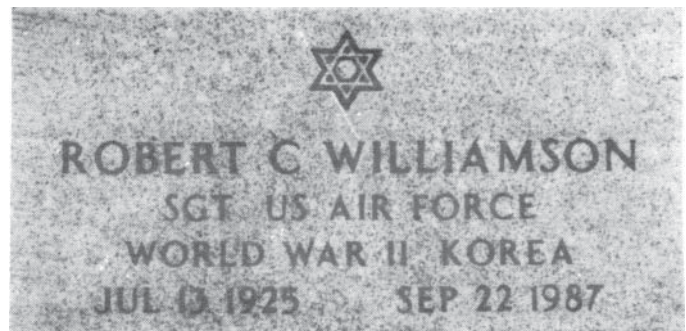
This niche marker is 8-1/2 inches long, 5-1/2 inches wide, with 7/16 inch rise. Weight is approximately 3 pounds; mounting bolts and washers are furnished with the marker. Used for columbarium or mausoleum interment. Also provided to supplement a privately-purchased headstone or marker for eligible Veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990 and are buried in a private cemetery.

**FLAT MARKERS
BRONZE**



This grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, with 3/4 inch rise. Weight is approximately 18 pounds. Anchor bolts, nuts and washers for fastening to a base are furnished with the marker. The base is not furnished by the Government.

LIGHT GRAY GRANITE OR WHITE MARBLE



This grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 130 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color; the marble may contain light to moderate veining.

NOTE: Civil War Era headstones - In addition to the headstone and markers pictured, two special styles of upright headstones are available for those who served with Union Forces during the Civil War or for those who served in the Spanish-American War, and another for those who served with the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. Requests for these special styles should be made in block 27 of the claim. It is necessary to submit detailed documentation that supports eligibility. Inscriptions on these headstone types are intentionally limited to assure historic accuracy. For example, only rank above 'Private' was historically authorized; emblems of belief and the words 'Civil War' are not provided.

INSCRIPTION INFORMATION

MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND MARKERS (remains are not buried). The words "In Memory Of" are mandatory and precede the authorized inscription data. The words "In Memory Of" are only inscribed when remains are not available.

MANDATORY ITEMS of inscription at Government expense are: Legal Name, Branch of Service, Year of Birth, Year of Death, and for State Veterans and National Cemeteries only, the section and grave number. Branches of Service are: U.S. Army (USA), U.S. Navy (USN), U.S. Air Force (USAF), U.S. Marine Corps (USMC), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF), and other parent organizations authorized for certain periods of time; and special units such as Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASP), U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Different examples of inscription formats are illustrated above. More than one branch of service is permitted, subject to space availability.

OPTIONAL ITEMS are identified on the claim in boxes with bold outlines. These items may be included at Government expense if desired. Optional items include month and day of birth in block 5A, month and day of death in block 5B, highest rank attained in block 7, awards in block 9, war service in block 10, and emblem of belief in block 12. War service includes active duty service during a recognized period of war and the individual does not have to serve in the actual place of war, e.g., Vietnam may be inscribed if the Veteran served during the Vietnam War period, even though the individual never served in the country. Supporting documentation must be included with the claim if you wish to include the highest rank and/or awards.

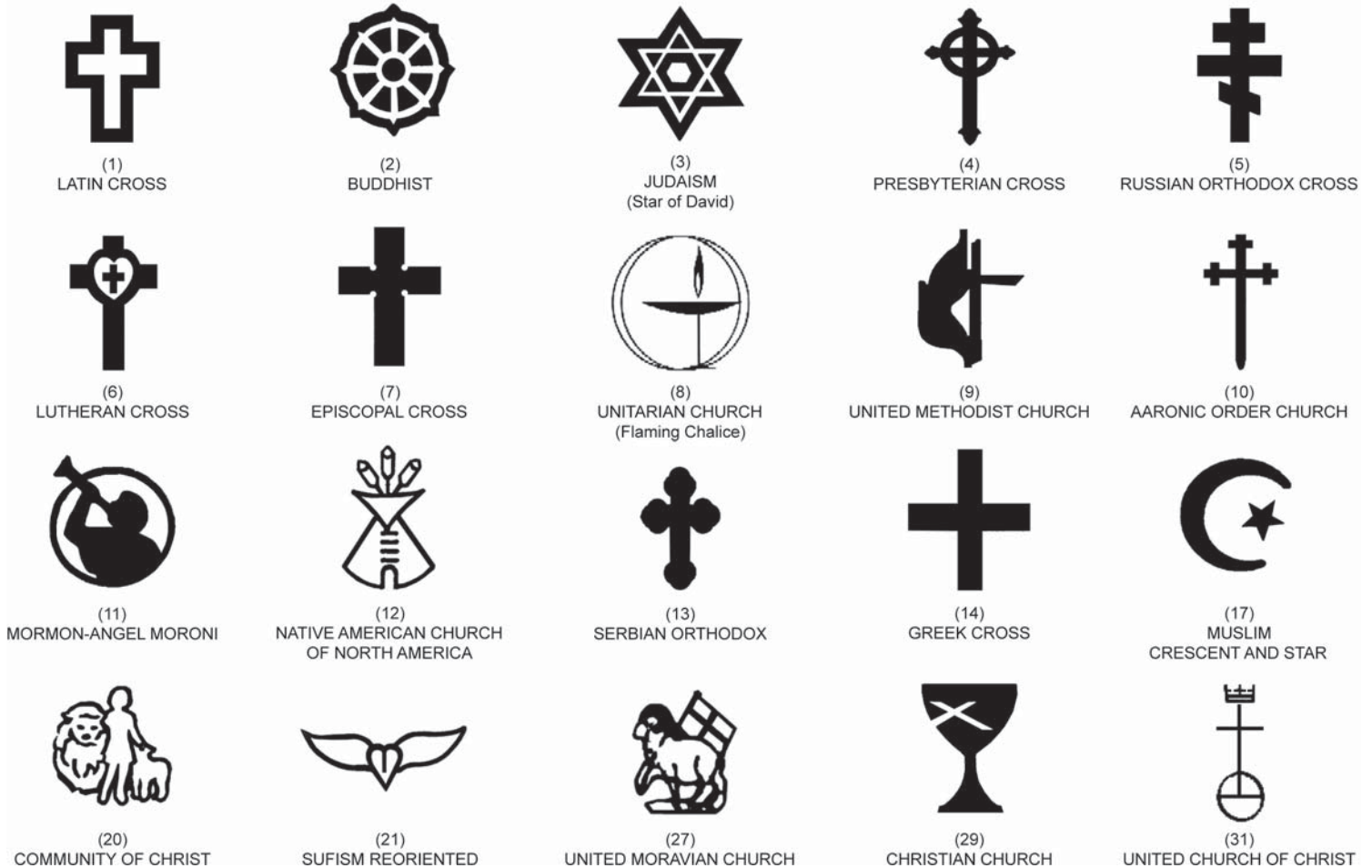
ADDITIONAL ITEMS may be inscribed at Government expense if they are requested on the initial claim and space is available. Examples of additional items include appropriate terms of endearment, nicknames (in expressions such as "OUR BELOVED POPPY"), military or civilian credentials or accomplishments such as DOCTOR, REVEREND, etc., and special unit designations such as WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS, ARMY AIR CORPS, ARMY NURSE CORPS or SEABEES. All requests for additional inscription items should be stated in block 27, and are subject to VA approval. No graphics, emblems or pictures are permitted except available emblems of belief, the Medal of Honor, and the Southern Cross of Honor for Civil War Confederates.

RESERVED SPACE for future inscriptions **at private expense**, such as spousal or dependent data, is allowed if requested in block 27 and if space is available. Only two lines of space may be reserved on flat markers due to space limitations. Reserved space is unnecessary on upright marble or granite headstones as the reverse side is available for future inscriptions.

INCOMPLETE OR INACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE CLAIM MAY RESULT IN ITS RETURN TO THE CLAIMANT, A DELAY IN RECEIPT OF THE HEADSTONE OR MARKER, OR AN INCORRECT INSCRIPTION.

AVAILABLE EMBLEMS (See block 12)

The graphics shown below are of 20 representative emblems of belief for placement on Government-furnished headstones/markers.



EMBLEMS OF BELIEF AVAILABLE:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>LATIN CROSS (01)
 BUDDHIST (Wheel of Righteousness) (02)
 JUDAISM (Star of David) (03)
 PRESBYTERIAN CROSS (04)
 RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CROSS (05)
 LUTHERAN CROSS (06)
 EPISCOPAL CROSS (07)
 UNITARIAN CHURCH (Flaming Chalice) (08)
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (09)
 AARONIC ORDER CHURCH (10)
 MORMON (Angel Moroni) (11)
 NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA (12)
 SERBIAN ORTHODOX (13)
 GREEK CROSS (14)
 BAHAI (9 Pointed Star) (15)
 ATHEIST (16)
 MUSLIM (Crescent and Star) (17)
 HINDU (18)
 KONKO-KYO FAITH (19)
 COMMUNITY OF CHRIST (20)
 SUFISM REORIENTED (21)
 TENRIKYO CHURCH (22)
 SIECHO-NO-IE (23)
 THE CHURCH OF WORLD MESSIANITY (Izunome) (24)
 UNITED CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE (25)
 CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH (26)
 UNITED MORAVIAN CHURCH (27)
 ECKANKAR (28)
 CHRISTIAN CHURCH (29)</p> | <p>CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE (30)
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (31)
 HUMANIST (AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION) (32)
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) (33)
 IZUMO TAISHAKYO MISSION OF HAWAII (34)
 SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - USA (35)
 SIKH (KHANDA) (36)
 WICCAN (37)
 LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD (38)
 NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH (39)
 SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH (40)
 CELTIC CROSS (41)
 ARMENIAN CROSS (42)
 FAROHAR (43)
 MESSIANIC JEWISH (44)
 KOHEN HANDS (45)
 CATHOLIC CELTIC CROSS (46)
 THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST (Cross and
 Crown) (47)
 MEDICINE WHEEL (48)
 INFINITY (49)
 LUTHER ROSE (51)
 LANDING EAGLE (52)
 FOUR DIRECTIONS (53)
 CHURCH OF NAZARENE (54)
 HAMMER OF THOR (55)
 UNIFICATION CHURCH (56)
 SANDHILL CRANE (57)
 MUSLIM (Islamic 5 Pointed Star) (98)</p> |
|---|--|

To obtain the most recent information about headstones and markers including the complete and most current list of available emblems of belief (listing all names and graphics), please visit our website at www.cem.va.gov. You may also request a copy of this list by contacting our Applicant Assistance Unit toll free at 1-800-697-6947, or via e-mail at: mps.headstones@va.gov.



APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES FLAG FOR BURIAL PURPOSES

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE: VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required to obtain or retain benefits. Giving us the veteran's SSN account information is voluntary. Refusal to provide the veteran's SSN by itself will not result in the denial of benefits. VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by a Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine entitlement to benefits under the law. The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: We need this information to determine eligibility for issuance of a burial flag to a family member or friend of a deceased veteran (38 U.S.C. 2301). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 15 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.

IMPORTANT - Postmaster or other issuing official: Submit this form to the nearest VA regional office. Be sure to complete the stub at the bottom.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DECEASED VETERAN *(Complete as much as possible)* *(Information provided is considered essential when applying for other VA benefits.)*

1. FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME OF VETERAN <i>(Print or type)</i>		2. MAIDEN NAME OR OTHER NAME(S) VETERAN USED WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY <i>(Print or type)</i>	
3. VA FILE NUMBER	4. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	5. MILITARY SERVICE NUMBER/SERIAL NUMBER	
6. BRANCH OF SERVICE <i>(Check box)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> ARMY <input type="checkbox"/> NAVY <input type="checkbox"/> AIR FORCE <input type="checkbox"/> MARINE CORPS <input type="checkbox"/> COAST GUARD <input type="checkbox"/> SELECTED SERVICE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <i>(Specify)</i>			
7. DATE ENTERED ACTIVE DUTY <i>(or Selected Reserve)</i>	8. DATE RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY <i>(or Selected Reserve)</i>	9. DATE OF BIRTH	10. DATE OF DEATH
11. DATE OF BURIAL	12. PLACE OF BURIAL <i>(Name of cemetery, city, and State)</i>		
13. HAS DOCUMENTATION BEEN PRESENTED OR ATTACHED THAT SHOWS THE VETERAN MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA? <i>(See Paragraphs C, D, and E of the "Instructions")</i> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <i>(If "No," explain in Item 15, "Remarks" (See paragraph E of the "Instructions"))</i>			

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FLAG RECIPIENT AND APPLICANT

14A. NAME OF PERSON ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FLAG	14B. RELATIONSHIP OF DECEASED VETERAN <i>(See Paragraph F of the "Instructions")</i>		
14C. ADDRESS OF PERSON ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FLAG <i>(Number and street or rural route, city or P.O., State and ZIP Code)</i>			14D. TELEPHONE NUMBER
15. REMARKS			

I CERTIFY that the statements made in this document are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that the deceased veteran is eligible, in accordance with the attached instructions, for issue of a United States flag for burial purposes, and such flag has not been previously applied for or furnished.

16. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>(Sign in INK)</i>	17. ADDRESS OF APPLICANT <i>(Number and street or rural route, city or P.O., and ZIP Code)</i>	18. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED VETERAN	19. DATE SIGNED
---	--	--------------------------------------	-----------------

PENALTY - The law provides that whoever makes any statement of a material fact knowing it to be false shall be punished by a fine, imprisonment, or both.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF FLAG (ONLY ONE FLAG MAY BE ISSUED FOR EACH DECEASED VETERAN)

20. SIGNATURE OF PERSON RECEIVING FLAG <i>(Sign in INK)</i>	21. DATE FLAG ISSUED	
22. NAME AND ADDRESS OF POST OFFICE OR OTHER FLAG ISSUE POINT	FOR VA USE	
	DATE NOTIFICATION FORWARDED TO SUPPLY	STATION NUMBER

VA FORM 27-2008, MAR 2015

SUPERSEDES VA FORM 27- 2008, JUL 2012, WHICH WILL NOT BE USED.

This stub is to be completed by the POSTMASTER or other issuing official. Upon receipt the VA Regional Office will detach and forward it to the appropriate Supply Officer.

NOTIFICATION OF ISSUANCE OF FLAG

DATE FLAG ISSUED	ISSUING POINT TELEPHONE NO.	ADDRESS OF POST OFFICE OR OTHER FLAG ISSUE POINT
SIGNATURE OF POSTMASTER OR OTHER ISSUING OFFICIAL		

INSTRUCTIONS

A. How can I contact VA if I have questions?

If you have questions about this form, how to fill it out, or about benefits, contact your nearest VA regional office. You can locate the address of the nearest regional office in your telephone book blue pages under "United States Government, Veterans" or call 1-800-827-1000 (Hearing Impaired TDD line 1-800-829-4833). You may also contact VA by Internet at <https://iris.va.gov/>.

B. How do I apply for a burial flag?

Complete VA Form 27-2008, and submit it to a funeral director or a representative of the veteran or other organization having charge of the funeral arrangements or acting in the interest of the veteran. You may get a flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office. When burial is in a national, State or military post cemetery, a burial flag will be provided.

C. Who is eligible for a burial flag?

Generally, veterans with an other than dishonorable discharge. *Note:* This includes veterans who served in the Philippine military forces while such forces were in the service of the U.S. armed forces under the President's Order of July 26, 1941 and died on or after April 25, 1951, and veterans who served in the Philippine military services are eligible for burial in a national cemetery.

Veterans who were entitled to retired pay for service in the reserves, or would have been entitled to such pay but not for being under 60 years of age.

Members or former members of the Selected Reserve (Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Naval Reserve; Air National Guard; or Army National Guard) who served at least one enlistment or, in the case of an officer, the period of initial obligation, or were discharged for disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty, or died while a member of the Selected Reserve.

D. Who is not eligible for a burial flag?

Veterans who received a dishonorable discharge.

Members of the Selected Reserve whose last discharge from service was under conditions less favorable than honorable.

Peacetime veterans who were discharged before June 27, 1950 and did not serve at least one complete enlistment or incur or aggravate a disability in the line of duty.

Veterans who were convicted of a Federal capital crime and sentenced to death or life imprisonment, or were convicted of a State capital crime and sentenced to death or life imprisonment without parole, or were found to have committed a Federal or State capital crime but were not convicted by reason of not being available for trial due to death or flight to avoid prosecution.

Discharged or rejected draftees, or members of the National Guard, who reported to camp in answer to the President's call for World War I service but who, when medically examined, were not finally accepted for military service.

D. Who is not eligible for a burial flag? (Continued)

Persons who were discharged from World War I service prior to November 12, 1918, on their own application or solicitation by reason of being an alien, or any veterans discharged for alienage during a period of hostilities.

Persons who served with any of the forces allied with the United States in any war, even though United States citizens, if they did not serve with the United States armed forces.

Persons inducted for training and service who, before entering such training and service were transferred to the Enlisted Reserve Corps and given a furlough.

Former temporary members of the United States Coast Guard Reserve.

E. What documentation is required in order to receive a burial flag?

Provide a copy of the veteran's discharge documents that shows service dates and the character of service, such as DD Form 214, or verification of service from the veteran's service department or VA. Various information requested, is considered essential to the proper processing of the application. Ensure these areas are completed as fully as possible. *Note:* If the claimant is unable to provide documentary proof, a flag may be issued when a statement is made by a person of established character and reputation that he/she personally knows the deceased to have been a veteran who meets the eligibility criteria.

F. Who is eligible to receive a burial flag?

Only one flag may be issued for each deceased veteran. Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin as a keepsake after its use during the funeral service. The flag is given to the following person(s) in the order of precedence listed:

surviving spouse

children, according to age

parents, including adoptive, stepparents, and foster parents

brothers or sisters, including brothers or sisters of half blood

uncles or aunts

nephews or nieces

others, such as cousins or grandparents

When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making a request for it. If there is no living relative or one cannot be located, and no friend requests the flag, it must be returned to the nearest VA facility.

Note: The flag cannot be replaced if it is lost, destroyed, or stolen. Additionally, a flag may not be issued after burial unless it was impossible to obtain a flag in time to drape the casket or accompany the urn before burial. If the next-of-kin or friend is requesting the flag after the veteran's burial, he or she must personally sign the application and explain in Item 15 "Remarks" the reason that prevented timely application for a burial flag.



Department of Veterans Affairs

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE REQUEST FORM

RESPONDENT BURDEN: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average two minutes per response. Statutory authority for the Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) Program is 38 U.S.C. 112. The information requested is approved under OMB Control Number 2900-0567, and is necessary to allow eligible recipients (next of kin, other relatives or friends) to request additional certificates and/or replacement or correct certificates on receipt of the original PMC.

The National Cemetery Administration does not give, sell or transfer any personal information outside of the agency. VA may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. Responding to this collection is voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to VA Clearance Officer (005G2), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420. **SEND COMMENTS ONLY.** Please do not send applications for benefits to this address.

INSTRUCTIONS: When inserting the veterans name below, **DO NOT** include nickname, military rank, or civilian title. Complete a new VA Form 40-0247 for each additional name and/or mailing address.

NAME OF VETERAN		NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF PERSON REQUESTING CERTIFICATE
NUMBER OF CERTIFICATES REQUESTED	HOME OR WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER <i>(Include area code and do not insert spaces between numbers)</i>	

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the decedent has never committed a Capital Crime or was never convicted of a sexual offense for which he or she was sentenced to a minimum of life imprisonment.

SIGNATURE OF REQUESTOR

RETURN COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH A COPY OF THE DISCHARGE DOCUMENTS TO:

Presidential Memorial Certificates (41B3)
National Cemetery Administration
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

Fax To: 1 (800) 455-7143

Or

VA FORM 40-0247
MAY 2013

HISTORY

This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by all subsequent Presidents. Statutory authority for the program is Section 112, Title 38, of the United States Code.

ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers the PMC program by preparing the certificates which bear the current President's signature expressing the country's grateful recognition of the Veteran's service in the United States Armed Forces.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible recipients include the next of kin and loved ones of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. More than one certificate may be provided.

APPLICATION

Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply for a PMC in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail or toll-free fax. Requests cannot be sent via email. Please be sure to enclose a copy of the Veteran's discharge and death certificate to verify eligibility, as we cannot process any request without proof of honorable military service. Please submit copies only, as we will not return original documents.

CHECK THE STATUS

If you have already requested a PMC more than sixteen (16) weeks ago and have not received it yet, please call 1-202-565-4964 to find out the status of your request. Please do not send a second application unless we request you to do so. Veteran Service Officers and Funeral Homes: If you have questions about the status of a request please contact us at 1-202-565-4964. You may also send request for status by email to pmc@va.gov. Our application form (VA Form 40-0247) is shown above. Please save this form to your computer and make as many copies as you might need.

National Memorial



Cemetery of Arizona

23029 North Cave Creek Road Phoenix, Arizona 85024

Phone: 480-513-3600 Fax: 480-513-1412

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT A NATIONAL CEMETERY?

What burial services does VA not provide?

VA does not make funeral arrangements or perform cremations. Families should make these arrangements with a funeral home or cremation provider. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation provider will be at the family's expense.

What burial benefits are offered in a National Cemetery?

Burial benefits available at no cost to the family include a gravesite in any of our 131 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Families may choose to have cremated remains buried in the ground or inurned in a columbarium in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and dates of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried in a national cemetery, even if they predecease the Veteran or if the Veteran is buried elsewhere.

Who is responsible for arranging Military Funeral Honors for the Veteran?

The cemetery will make arrangements for military honors and you may confirm with your FD that honors have been scheduled. Upon the family's request, Public Law 106-65 requires that every eligible Veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the Veteran's parent service of the armed services. Retirees (20+ years) are eligible for full military honors which includes rifle salute if available. If the military branch cannot provide a rifle salute, local Veterans organizations may have volunteers who will provide this service upon request.

Who provides the burial flag?

The Funeral Director is generally responsible for providing the burial flag and should ensure that the casket will be properly draped with the flag or that the urn is accompanied by a burial flag. In the event you are bringing the urn to the cemetery yourself and you have requested military honors, we will provide the flag in this instance if the funeral Home has not provided it. If you do not have one; you may obtain a burial flag at any VA



Department of
Veterans Affairs

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

Fact Sheet

Monetary Burial Benefits Regulation Change

VA is proposing to change its monetary burial benefits regulations to pay eligible survivors more quickly and efficiently. If approved, these regulations would authorize VA to pay, without a written application, eligible surviving spouses basic monetary burial benefits at the maximum amount authorized in law through automated systems rather than reimbursing them for actual costs incurred.

- Under current rules, VA pays burial benefits for burial and funeral expenses on a reimbursement basis, which requires survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally pays at the maximum amount permitted by law.
- The proposed amendments to the burial regulations will permit VA to pay, at a flat rate, burial and plot or interment allowances thereby enabling VA to automate payment of burial benefits to eligible surviving spouses.

The changes are intended to help survivors of Veterans bear the cost of funerals by changing regulations to get them the benefits they deserve more quickly

The proposed regulation, if approved, would do the following:

- Restructure, consolidate, and clarify VA's current monetary burial benefits rules to make them easier to understand by Veterans, their survivors, and other stakeholders,
- Clearly establish VA's priority of payments and enable automated payment to eligible surviving spouses,
- Remove the requirement for *eligible* surviving spouses to file a claim for basic burial allowances and simplify the burial claims process for all beneficiaries,
- Establish in regulations a presumption that VA will pay the service-connected (SC) burial allowance for Veterans that were rated totally disabled from service-connected conditions at the date of death, and
- Implement portions of Public Law 112-260, authorizing monetary burial benefits for Veterans without wartime service whose remains are unclaimed.

Statement:

“VA is committed to improving the speed and ease of delivery of monetary burial benefits to Veterans’ survivors during their time of need. The proposed changes will permit VA to automatically pay the basic burial or interment allowances to eligible surviving spouses, without the need for a written application. VA wants to help survivors of Veterans bear the cost of funerals by changing regulations to get them the benefits they deserve more quickly.”



Retroactive Casket or Urn Reimbursement Requests

On January 10, 2013, Congress enacted the “Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012”, Public Law 112-260, which authorized the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish a casket or urn of such quality as the Secretary considers appropriate for a dignified burial in a national cemetery of a deceased eligible Veteran who died with no known next of kin and without sufficient financial resources to furnish a casket or urn (Unclaimed Veteran). This authority became effective one year after the date of enactment.

VA published a proposed rule July 2, 2014, in the *Federal Register* to obtain public comments on the casket and urn standards and reimbursement claim procedures. VA published the final rule April 13, 2015. The final rule addresses public comments and codified the casket and urn reimbursement program in section 38.628 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations. VA began processing requests for reimbursement May 13th, 2015.

Because the casket and urn authority took effect January 10, 2014, before the regulations were finalized, VA advised individuals or entities to hold their receipts for caskets or urns purchased for the burial of an Unclaimed Veteran. VA will retroactively reimburse for caskets or urns purchased for Veterans who died on or after January 10, 2014, and who were interred in a VA national cemetery after that date. The following information explains the reimbursement process by time frame of interment. For burials that occurred on or after May 13, 2015 see the [Unclaimed Veteran Remains Casket or Urn Reimbursement Program Fact Sheet](#). For information on other benefits available to assist with providing Unclaimed Veterans a dignified burial please see the [Unclaimed Veteran Remains Fact Sheet](#).

<u>For Veterans Who Died on or After January 10, 2014, and Interred in a VA National Cemetery before July 2, 2014</u>	
Who may apply?	Individuals or entities that paid for a casket or urn to bury an eligible Veteran, in a VA national cemetery, who died on or after January 10, 2014, with no next of kin and insufficient resources for burial.
Type of casket or urn required?	Prior to proposed rule: Caskets and urns are not required to meet the regulatory standard for construction material as stated in the proposed rule. All other standards published July 2, 2014, are necessary.
<u>For Veterans Who Died on or After January 10, 2014, and Interred in a VA National Cemetery on or after July 2, 2014 and before May 13, 2015</u>	
Who may apply?	Individuals or entities that paid for a casket or urn to bury an eligible Veteran, in a VA national cemetery, who died on or after January 10, 2014, with no next of kin and insufficient resources for burial.
Type of casket or urn required?	After proposed rule: Caskets and urns must meet the following regulatory standards published in the <i>Federal Register</i> July 2, 2014: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caskets must be of at least 20-gauge metal thickness, designed to contain human remains and include a gasketed seal and external fixed rails or swing arm handles. ▪ Urns must be made of a durable material, such as plastic, wood, metal, or ceramic, designed to hold cremated human remains, and include a secure closure to contain the cremated remains.
Reimbursement Rate and Application Instructions are the same for Both Periods	
Reimbursement Rate?	Actual cost up to the maximum 2015 rate of \$1,967 for a casket and \$172 for an urn.
What must I submit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed VA Form 40-10088, Request for Reimbursement of Casket/Urn ▪ Provide the invoice for the casket/urn used for the unclaimed Veteran’s burial ▪ Completed VA Form 10091, FSC Vendor File Request Form or provide Vendor ID in box 11 of Part II of VAF 40-10088
Where do I submit my claim?	Completed VA forms may be faxed or mailed to the following office: National Cemetery Administration Office of Field Programs (41) ATTN: Retroactive Reimbursement Request 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Room 415-K Washington, DC 20420 <div style="text-align: right;">FAX (not toll-free) 202-273-6697</div>



Burial in a National Cemetery

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our 124 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family.

Preparing in Advance

For Burial in a VA National Cemetery

Gravesites in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance; however, reservations made prior to 1962 will be honored. Families are encouraged to prepare in advance by discussing cemetery options, collecting the veteran's military information including discharge papers, and by contacting the cemetery where burial is desired.

For Burial in a Private Cemetery

We suggest that if burial will be in a private cemetery and a Government headstone or marker will be requested for the veteran's grave, that the family complete VA Form 40-1330, *Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans' Cemetery*, in advance and place it with the veterans military discharge papers for use at the time of need.

UNITED STATES NAVY BURIAL AT SEA PROGRAM

BURIAL AT SEA (BAS) is a means of final disposition of remains that is performed on United States Naval vessels. The committal ceremony is performed while the ship is deployed, therefore, family members are not allowed to be present. The commanding officer of the ship assigned to perform the ceremony will make notification to the family of the date, time, latitude and longitude, once the committal service has been completed.

ELIGIBILITY: Individuals eligible for this program are: (1) active duty members of the uniformed services; (2) retirees and veterans who were honorably discharged. (3) U.S. civilian marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command; and (4) dependent family members of active duty personnel, retirees, and veterans of the uniformed services.

HOW TO GET STARTED: After the death of the individual, for whom the request for BAS is being made, the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) will complete the enclosed BAS request/authorization form and ensure all required documentation is included. Documents which must accompany the request: (1) a photocopy of the death certificate; (2) the burial transit permit or the cremation certificate; and (3) a copy of the DD Form 214, discharge certificate, or retirement order.

CREMATED REMAINS (Cremains): Cremains must be in an urn, may be temporary (plastic/metal/cardboard) container to prevent spillage in shipping. The cremains, along with the completed BAS package, and the burial flag will be forwarded to the Burial-at-Sea Coordinator at the desired port of embarkation (listed below). Prior to shipment, it is recommended that a phone call be made informing the coordinator of the pending request. It is recommended that the packaged cremains be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested.

INTACT REMAINS (Casketed): Specific guidelines are required for the preparation of casketed remains to be buried at sea. Remains must be in a metal casket. All expenses incurred in this process are the responsibility of the PADD, who will select a funeral home in the area of the port of embarkation. Remains are not forwarded to the receiving funeral home until the coordinator is notified a ship has been assigned and an embarkation date is anticipated. The coordinator will advise regarding shipment to the receiving funeral home to allow sufficient time for casket preparation. The casketed remains, the request form, supporting

documents, and the burial flag are to be forwarded to the receiving funeral home. Once the receiving funeral home has the casket prepared, the coordinator will make the inspection and complete the checklist for the preparation of casketed remains. It is recommended that funeral homes responsible for preparing and shipping intact remains, contact Navy Mortuary Affairs at the Military Medical Support Office in Great Lakes, Illinois to receive the preparation requirements. **NOTE:** Norfolk and San Diego are the only ports for embarkation of intact remains.

BURIAL FLAG: A Burial Flag, is required for all committal services performed aboard United States Naval vessels, with the exception of family members who are not authorized a burial flag. The PADD may wish to send a flag with the remains/cremains to be flown on the vessel during the committal service. Following the services at sea, that flag will be returned to the PADD. If the PADD does not wish to send a burial flag, the ship's flag will be flown during the committal service, but no flag will be forwarded to the family.

PORTS OF EMBARKATION/COORDINATORS

Norfolk, Va.

Commander, Naval Medical Center
ATTN: Code 0210C
620 John Paul Jones Cir.
Portsmouth, VA 23708-5100
Phone: (757) 953-2617\2618

Jacksonville, Fla.

Officer in Charge
Naval Hospital Branch Clinic
Naval Station
Mayport, FL 32228
Phone: (904) 270-7296/5301

Corpus Christi, Tex.

Commanding Officer
Naval Hospital
ATTN: Code 0104
10651 "E" Street
Corpus Christi, TX
Phone: (361) 961-2255

San Diego, Calif.

Commanding Officer
Naval Medical Center
ATTN: Code 22-BAS
San Diego, CA 92134-5000
Phone: (619) 532-8305
(800) 290-7410

Bremerton, Wash.

Commanding Officer
Naval Hospital
ATTN: Code 015-DA
Bremerton, WA 98312-5008
Phone: (206) 475-4387/4303

Honolulu, Hi.

Navy Liaison Unit
Tripler Army Medical Center
Tripler AMC, HI 96859-5000
Phone: (808) 433-6611

If you have questions about our Burial-At-Sea program, please feel free to contact our office toll-free at 1-888-647-6676, and follow the voice menu.

Over 1,700 veterans pass away daily, and generally, there are little or no veteran government benefits for their funeral or cremation services.

We encourage all veterans to take advantage of the unique benefits and extraordinary savings offered by the Member Benefits Program from Dignity Memorial® funeral, cremation and cemetery providers.

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL

Dignity Memorial Providers Help Veterans' Families Receive VA Burial Benefits.

Questions?
Call 1-866-508-5834



10 Important Facts About Your VA Burial Benefits

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL

While You May Qualify As A Veteran For Certain VA Burial Benefits, They Do Not Come Automatically!

In order to receive veteran burial benefits, they must be requested, generally in writing, and this can take considerable time and effort for your family. Your local Dignity Memorial provider can help secure the VA burial benefits you are entitled to.

Just Consider:

1 U.S. Department Of Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits Do Not Cover All The Funeral Or Cremation Arrangements Of Honorably Discharged Veterans.

There is a common belief that the VA pays for all the funeral or cremation arrangements of an honorably discharged veteran. There are certain monetary, recognition and service benefits that may be available. However, reimbursement for funeral or cremation service expenses is limited and usually only applies to veterans who:

- ♦ The Veteran died because of a service-related disability, OR
- ♦ The Veteran was receiving or was entitled to receive a VA pension or compensation at the time of death, OR
- ♦ The Veteran died while hospitalized by VA or while receiving care under contract at a non-VA facility

Standard guidelines are provided as an overview, but only the VA can rule on your exact benefits.

2 You Will Need Documentation To Verify Military Service.

A "Report of Separation From the Armed Forces of the United States" (discharge papers) is normally required to verify military service.

In most cases, this report is the "DD 214." If this report or its equivalent is not available, a "Request Pertaining To Military Records, Standard Form 180" can be sent to the Military National Personnel Record Center. A

copy of the Report of Separation will be mailed to the veteran, deceased veteran's next of kin or other persons or organizations that are authorized to receive it.

If your family does not have the deceased veteran's DD 214 or discharge papers at the time of death, any Dignity Memorial provider will be glad to help secure one.

3 A Veteran's Family Must Request A United States Flag.

A flag is provided at no cost to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran. Generally, the flag is given to the next of kin. Only one flag may be provided per veteran.

Upon the request of the family, an "Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes" (VA Form 21-2008) must be submitted along with a copy of the veteran's discharge papers. Flags may be obtained from VA regional offices and most U.S. Post Office

For your family's convenience, your Dignity Memorial provider will be glad to help them request your flag.

4 Military Funeral Honors Ceremonies Must Be Scheduled In Advance.

Upon the family's request, the law requires that every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, which includes the folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of "Taps."

The ceremony is performed by a military funeral honors detail consisting of two or more uniformed military persons and at least one person who is a member of the veteran's branch of the Armed Forces.

This Department of Defense program calls for the funeral director to request military funeral honors on behalf of the veteran's family.

Your Dignity Memorial provider works with various veteran's organizations to assist in the provision of military funeral honors.

5 Veterans' Caskets Are Not Free.

As a standard policy, neither the VA nor the various branches of service provide a free casket for a deceased veteran, unless death occurs while on active duty.

6 A "Presidential Memorial Certificate" Must Be Requested.

Initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, a "Presidential Memorial Certificate" is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged, deceased veterans.

Eligible recipients of the certificate include the deceased veteran's next of kin and loved ones. More than one certificate may be requested.

Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail.

Your local Dignity Memorial provider can assist your family in obtaining this certificate.

7 If You Choose Not To Be Buried In A VA National Cemetery, Monetary Burial Benefits Are Limited.

Veterans buried in a private cemetery may be eligible to receive a partial reimbursement for their burial costs. If a death is service-related, benefits up to \$2,000 may be paid for burial expenses.

Based upon eligibility requirements described earlier, for non-service-related deaths on or after October 1, 2011, the VA will pay up to \$700.00 toward burial and funeral expenses (if hospitalized by the VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by the VA at time of death), and

a \$700.00 plot-internment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). An annual increase in burial and plot allowances will be based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

In order to determine the final reimbursement amount, an *Application for Burial Benefits* (VA Form 21-530) must be submitted within two years from the date of the veteran's permanent burial. If your family does not have the Form 21-530 at the time of death, your Dignity Memorial provider will help secure one.

8 There Are Eligibility Requirements For Burial In A VA National Cemetery.

In general, any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies while on active duty or any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable is entitled to burial in a VA National Cemetery. Under certain conditions, the unremarried surviving spouse and minor children of an eligible person are also entitled to this benefit.

House Bill 3219, passed in 2010, makes provisions for non-Veteran parents to be interred in a National Cemetery with their child if their child was killed in combat or training, and space is available.

Burial in a VA National Cemetery includes:

- ♦ *an assigned gravesite (if space is available)*
- ♦ *opening and closing of the grave*
- ♦ *a grave liner for casketed remains*
- ♦ *a Government headstone or marker*
- ♦ *perpetual care at no cost to the family*

Cremated remains are buried or inurned in VA National Cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

You May Not Reserve Space In a VA National Cemetery Ahead Of Time.

VA national cemeteries only allow arrangements to be made at the time of death. So if you are not choosing burial in a private cemetery, there is no guarantee that spouses or other family members will be interred side-by-side – or even nearby.

Burials In VA National Cemeteries Are Usually Not Conducted On Weekends.

When there are relatives or funeral dignitaries who are attending from out of town, it is important to note that the weekend arrangements private cemeteries will almost always make are not generally provided by VA National Cemeteries.

Your local Dignity Memorial provider will assist you in selecting a cemetery location anywhere in America.

9 Headstones, Markers or Medallions For A Burial Space In A Private Cemetery Must Be Requested.

Any deceased veteran discharged under conditions other than dishonorable is eligible for a standard Government headstone, marker or medallion. The VA, upon request and at no charge to the applicant, will furnish a Government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. A bronze medallion in several sizes is also available to be placed on existing privately purchased headstones or markers. The Government is not responsible for costs associated with affixing the medallion to the privately purchased headstone or marker.

Upright headstones are available in granite or marble, and flat markers are available in granite, marble, or bronze. The style must be consistent with existing monuments or markers at the place of burial. Niche markers for cremated remains are also available.

An "Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veteran's Cemetery" (VA Form 40-1330) must be submitted for headstones or markers. VA Form 40-1330M must be submitted if requesting the medallion.

If your family does not have form 40-1330 or VA form 40-1330M, your Dignity Memorial provider will help secure one.

10 The Issuance Or Replacement Of Military Service Medals, Awards And Decorations Must Be Requested In Writing.

Military service medals, awards and decorations are available from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) which is under the jurisdiction of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Family members may request medals and awards for living veterans only if they have obtained their signed authorization. For deceased veterans, requests will be accepted from the next-of-kin (unremarried widow or widower, son or daughter, father or mother, brother or sister of the deceased veteran.)

Requests should be submitted in writing to the appropriate military service branch division of the NPRC. Standard Form 180 (SF 180), available through the VA, is recommended to submit your request. Generally, there is no charge for medal or award replacements. For more information, or for the mailing address of the military branch office to submit your request to, please call 1-86-NARA-NARA (1-866-272-6272) or visit the NPRC website at www.archives.gov.

If your family does not have form SF 180 at the time of death, any Dignity Memorial provider will be glad to help secure one.

About VA

We are the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs – “VA” for short. We offer a wide range of benefits for our Nation’s veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

About This Pamphlet

This pamphlet contains brief information about VA benefits available to survivors of military servicemembers and veterans. Contact us to determine potential eligibility in specific cases, and for current benefit rates.

BURIAL

Reimbursement of Burial Expenses – A burial allowance may be paid to help offset expenses of the veteran’s funeral and burial. The allowance is payable for veterans who:

- died of a service-connected disability, or
- were in receipt of compensation or pension, or retired pay in lieu thereof, or
- died in a VA facility.

Plot Allowance – If not buried in a national cemetery, a plot allowance may be payable for veterans who:

- were discharged for disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or
- were in receipt of compensation or pension, or retired pay in lieu thereof, or
- died in a VA facility.

National Cemetery – Most veterans, their spouses, and dependent children are eligible for burial in one of VA’s national cemeteries at no cost to the family. Many states have veterans cemeteries, built with VA grants, with similar benefits.

Headstone or Marker – VA provides a headstone or marker for veterans buried in any cemetery worldwide.

Flag – An American flag is provided to drape the casket or accompany the urn of an eligible veteran. The flag is presented to the veteran’s next of kin upon burial.

Presidential Memorial Certificates – Family and other loved ones may request these personalized certificates.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to unmarried surviving spouses and dependent children of servicemembers who die during active military service, or veterans who:

- die after military service because of a service-connected disability, or
- were receiving or entitled to receive VA compensation for a service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling
 - for at least 10 years immediately preceding death, or
 - since the veteran’s release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, or
 - for at least one year immediately preceding death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war.

***See note about restoration of entitlement**

PARENTS’ DIC

This is a monthly benefit paid to parents of veterans who die in service or as a result of a service-connected disability. There are qualifying income limits and the amount payable varies based on the parents’ other income.

DEATH PENSION

Death pension is a monthly benefit paid to unmarried surviving spouses and dependent children of wartime veterans whose death is not due to a service-connected disability. There are qualifying income limits and the amount payable varies based on the amount of other income.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education and training benefits are available to unmarried surviving spouses and dependent children of

- servicemembers who die during active military service, or
 - veterans who die of a service-connected disability, or
 - veterans who were rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability at the time of death.
- There are time limits for use of this benefit. A surviving spouse has 10 years from the date that eligibility is established, but 20 years if the veteran died while on active duty. Children are eligible from age 18 to 26. Educational and vocational counseling, and employment as a work-study student, are also available.

***See note about restoration of entitlement**

HOME LOAN GUARANTY

The unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran whose death was service connected is generally eligible for this program. VA guarantees loans to purchase a home, including a condominium or manufactured home, or to refinance an existing home loan.

***See note about restoration of entitlement**

HEALTH CARE

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) provides coverage for unmarried surviving spouses and children of veterans who:

- died of a service-connected disability, or
- were permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability at the time of death, or
- died in service in the line of duty, and the dependents are not eligible for Department of Defense TRICARE benefits.

***Note: Restoration of Entitlement** – Entitlement may be restored for a surviving spouse who remarried after the veteran’s death if the remarriage ended in death, divorce, or annulment. A surviving spouse that remarries at age **57** or older, or at age **55** or older for CHAMPVA entitlement, generally retains entitlement to DIC, home loan guaranty, and education and training benefits.

LIFE INSURANCE PROCEEDS

The veteran may have had an active life insurance policy with VA. Such policies include:

- United States Government Life Insurance
- National Service Life Insurance
- Veterans Special Life Insurance
- Veterans Reopened Insurance
- Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
- Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance
- Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI)*
- Veterans’ Group Life Insurance (VGLI)*

**Free financial counseling is available to SGLI and VGLI beneficiaries.*

EDUCATION PROGRAM REFUND

Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) – If the veteran died while on active duty, or within one year of separation or discharge due to a service-connected disability, the beneficiary of the veteran's SGLI or VGLI policy is eligible for a refund of the veteran's MGIB military pay reductions which were not paid to the veteran in benefits.

Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) – A veteran's designated survivor is eligible to be refunded the veteran's VEAP contributions that were not paid to the veteran in benefits.

RELATED BENEFITS

CIVIL SERVICE PREFERENCE

The unmarried surviving spouse of certain deceased veterans (for example, war-time veterans) may qualify for hiring preference within the Federal government. The mother of a veteran who died during military service is also eligible. VA provides an eligibility certification upon request.

COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES

The Armed Forces provide commissary and exchange privileges to the unremarried surviving spouse of veterans who die of a service-connected disability. VA provides an eligibility certification upon request.

CONTACT VA

Toll-Free Telephone Assistance

For more information about specific benefits, visit the nearest VA regional office or call

(800) 827-1000

Other VA Toll-Free Numbers

CHAMPVA	(800) 733-8387
Education & Training	(888) 442-4551
Home Loan Eligibility Center	(888) 244-6711
VA Life Insurance	(800) 669-8477
Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI/VGLI)	(800) 419-1473
Direct Deposit	(877) 838-2778
Headstones/Markers (status of claims only)	(800) 697-6947
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)	(800) 829-4833

Internet

Information about the wide range of VA benefits and services, including benefit rates, is available at

www.va.gov.

Survivors. For information specific to survivors, select "Benefits," then "Survivors' Benefits."

Inquiries. A "Contact VA" link is available for e-mail inquiries.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

Veterans Benefits Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20420



VA Benefits for Survivors

"...to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan..."

- Abraham Lincoln -

RESCISSION: VA Pamphlet 21-03-1, dated April 2003

VA Pamphlet 21-03-1
January 2006

Visiting the Cemetery

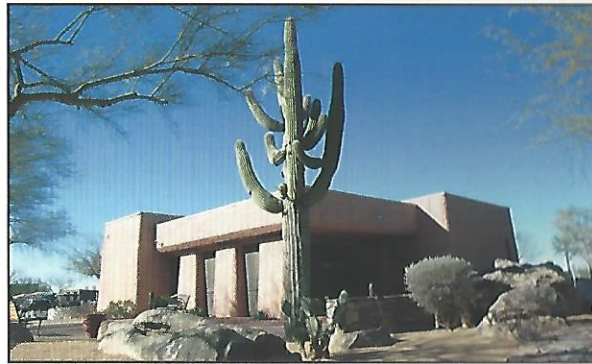
Thousands of people visit the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona each year. Many come for a committal service or to visit the gravesite of a loved one, others to attend special observances or to enjoy the peaceful setting. We welcome all visitors to this shrine for our nation's heroes.

The cemetery is open to the public daily from sunrise to sunset for visitation of cemetery grounds. Specific gravesites can be found using an automated gravesite locator kiosk at the public information center. A Nationwide Gravesite Locator for national cemeteries is also available on the Internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

General cemetery information is available in the public information center. Visitors to specific gravesites may park along the edge of the road near the gravesite they are visiting. Restrooms and a water fountain are located in the public information center.

Visitors attending committal services should gather at the Public Information Center or scheduled committal shelter. Roadway parking is available throughout the cemetery and near the committal shelter during services. Special observances and ceremonies are held at the amphitheatre.

VA regulations 38 CFR 1.218 prohibit the carrying of firearms (either openly or concealed), explosives or other dangerous or deadly weapons while on VA property, except for official purposes, such as military funeral



honors. Possession of firearms on any property under the charge and control of VA is prohibited. Offenders may be subject to a fine, removal from the premises, or arrest.

A Memorial Day ceremony is held annually the last Monday in May. For the time and date of the ceremony, call the cemetery office at (480) 513-3600.

While we invite visitors to the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, we remind them of its solemn purpose and ask that they act in a dignified manner while on the cemetery grounds. For this reason, public gatherings of a partisan nature are not permitted. In addition, sports or recreational activities are not permitted, including:

- Bicycle riding
- Jogging
- Picnicking
- Roller blading
- Walking of pets
- Fishing or hunting

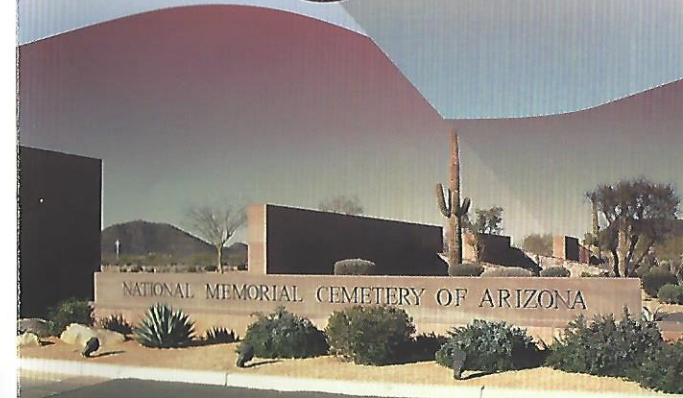
NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF ARIZONA

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

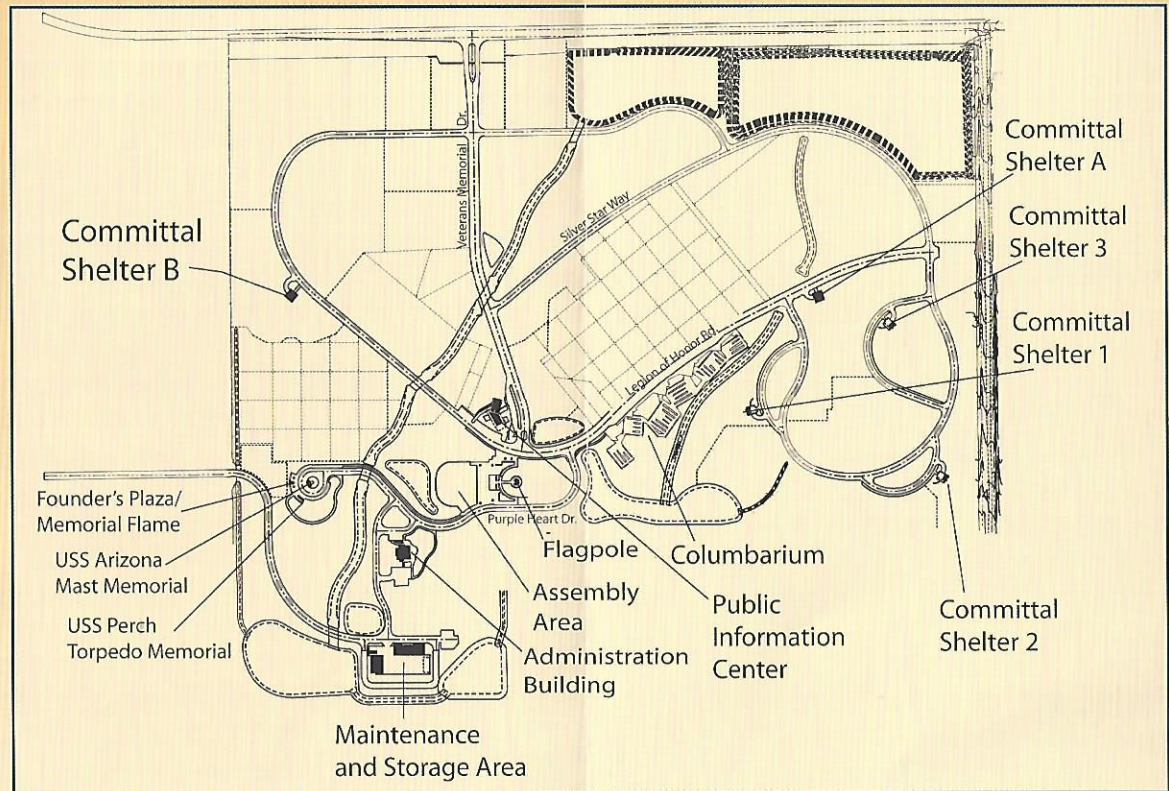
National Cemetery
Administration



*"To care for
him who shall
have borne the
battle and for his
widow, and his
orphan."*

*- Abraham Lincoln
Second Inaugural Address
March 4, 1865*

National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona

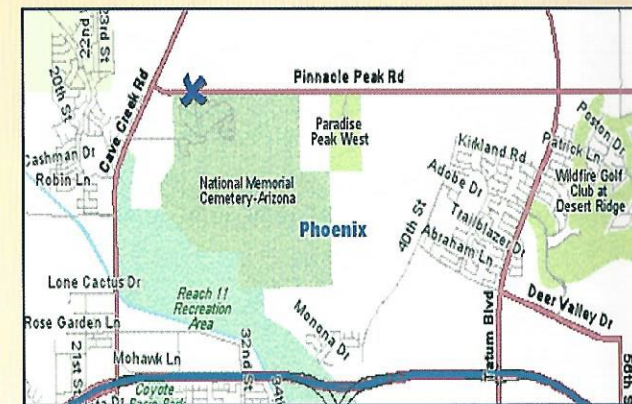


Directions:

From Sky Harbor International Airport, take State Route 51 North. It ends at the 101. Veer to the left (West) and take Exit 28 (the first exit) which is Cave Creek Road. Turn right (North) on Cave Creek Road. Drive two miles to Pinnacle Peak Road. Turn right (East) on Pinnacle Peak Road and drive approximately 1/4 mile. The cemetery entrance is on the right side of the road.

From Phoenix:

Take Interstate 17 north and follow the directions above.



For More Information:

National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona
23029 North Cave Creek Road
Phoenix, AZ 85024

Cemetery Administration Office
Phone: (480) 513-3600
Fax: (480) 513-1412

Burial Arrangements:
Phone: (800) 535-1117
Fax: (866) 900-6417

NCA website: <http://www.cem.va.gov/>

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter:



www.facebook.com/

Overview

Message from the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona Staff

Welcome to the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona. We hope you find peace amid these quiet and beautiful grounds and visit us again.

Families often contact us during a difficult time - after the loss of a loved one.

We're here to make the burial process as comfortable as possible. We encourage Veterans and their families to talk with us in advance for information or about any questions or concerns.

When the time comes, we will ensure the committal service and any other requests are handled respectfully. We pledge to honor the dignity and memory of each person and to provide excellent service to family and friends during this difficult time.

Our Mission

The National Cemetery Administration honors veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our nation.



- The National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona was established in 1989.
- The cemetery serves over 1.5 million Veterans in Arizona.
- Situated on 225 acres, the cemetery accommodates casketed and cremated remains and has over 11,000 niches for cremated remains.
- More than 3,000 burials are conducted each year.
- The National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona also maintains Prescott National Cemetery in Prescott, Arizona.



Making Burial Arrangements

The funeral home or next-of-kin should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to make burial arrangements for Veterans, spouses and/or eligible dependents.

The funeral home can fax all available military discharge documents to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (866) 900-6417 or scan and email the documentation to NCA.Scheduling@va.gov with the name of the decedent in the Subject Line. Follow up with a call to (800) 535-1117 in order to schedule the interment.

The scheduling office will be open seven (7) days a week, from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Central time, except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Please contact the cemetery directly to:

- Schedule active duty interments
- Schedule memorial services without interment
- Cancel or reschedule interments
- Change information initially provided to the scheduling office
- Request disinterment or relocation of remains

Burial benefits provided by the National Cemetery Administration, at no cost to the veteran, include: burial plot; opening and closing of the gravesite; a government liner; headstone or marker with inscription; interment flag; perpetual care of the gravesite; and a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

Funeral director's services are not covered.

Gravesites are assigned by the cemetery

and cannot be selected in advance. Assignments are made without regard to rank, ethnic or religious background, branch of service or other factors.

The Veteran and spouse are interred in the same grave. If both were Veterans, they may choose to be buried side-by-side in separate graves.

Military honors are provided by the Department of Defense and are to be arranged by the funeral director. If there is no funeral director, cemetery staff will assist the family in arranging for military honors.

Burials and interments are scheduled between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except designated holidays. Out of respect for all persons buried at the cemetery the main flag is lowered to half-staff 30 minutes before the first service, where it remains until 30 minutes following the last service of the day.

National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona has the following burial site options:

- Casket: in-ground only
- Cremation: in-ground
- Cremation: above-ground columbarium

The administration office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on designated holidays.

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