

HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

[Important Notice - New Law Concerning Eligibility for Headstones and Markers](#)

[General Information](#)

[Eligibility for a Headstone or Marker](#)

NEW! [New Regulation - Headstone and Marker Application Process Updates](#)

[Ordering a Headstone or Marker](#)

[Types of Headstones and Markers Available](#)

[Important: Updated Instructions for Completing VA Form 40-1330](#)

 [VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker](#)

[Emblems of Belief Available for Placement on Headstones and Markers](#)

[Veterans Military Discharge Documents](#)

[Checking Status of a Headstone or Marker Request](#)

[Memorial Headstones and Markers](#)

[Setting Government Headstones and Markers](#)

[Replacement Headstones and Markers](#)

[Pre-World War I Era Headstones and Markers](#)

HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

Important Notice - New Law Concerning Eligibility for Headstones and Markers

Public Law 110-157, signed on Dec. 26, 2007, allows the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish a Government headstone or marker for the graves of eligible Veterans who died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, regardless of whether the grave is already marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Under the previous law, when the grave was already marked, only Veterans who died on or after Sept. 11, 2001 were eligible.

Public Law 110-157, also gives VA authority to “furnish, upon request, a [medallion](#) or other device of a design determined by the Secretary to signify the deceased’s status as a Veteran, to be attached to a headstone or marker furnished at private expense.” This benefit will be available in lieu of a Government furnished headstone or marker, for Veterans in privately marked graves who died on or after Nov. 1, 1990.

We currently estimate the medallion will be available by April 30, 2010. Please continue to monitor the [new medallion](#) web page for updated information regarding this new benefit.

Important: Eligible Veterans are entitled to either a Government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new device, but not both. If you think you may be interested in submitting a claim for the new medallion, we will begin accepting claims once a contract has been awarded for the manufacture of this new product. Claim instructions will be posted on this

website. If, after seeing the final new medallion design, you change your mind, you will still have the option to apply for a traditional Government-furnished headstone or marker.

There is no change in eligibility for Veterans in unmarked graves: Regardless of the date of death, VA will furnish, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world.

Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

"Honoring Those Who Served"

The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors.

"Honoring Those Who Served" is the title of the DOD

program for providing dignified military funeral honors to Veterans who have defended our nation.

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 forces. The DOD program calls for funeral home directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the Veterans' family. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

National Cemetery Administration cemetery staff can also assist with arranging military funeral honors at VA national cemeteries. Veterans organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors. When military funeral honors at a national cemetery are desired, they are arranged

prior to the committal service by the funeral home.

The Department of Defense began the implementation plan for providing military funeral honors for eligible Veterans as enacted in Section 578 of

Public Law 106-65 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000 on Jan. 1, 2000.

Questions or comments concerning the DOD military funeral honors program may be sent to the address listed below. The military funeral honors

Web site is located at www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil.

Department of Defense

Directorate for Public Inquiry and Analysis

Room 3A750, The Pentagon

Washington, DC 20301-1400

To arrange military funeral honors,
contact your local funeral home.

BURIAL BENEFITS

[Burial Benefits Available from the National Cemetery](#)

[Administration](#)

[Eligibility](#)

[Preparing in Advance](#)

[How to Make Burial Arrangements in a National Cemetery at the Time of Need](#)

[Burial of Unclaimed, Indigent Veterans](#)

[Burial Flags](#)

[Donating Burial Flags to National Cemeteries](#)

[Burial Allowance Benefits](#)

[Survivor Benefits](#)

[Burial in a Private Cemetery](#)

[Burial at Sea](#)

[VA-NCA-IS-1 Interments in VA National Cemeteries](#)

BURIAL FLAGS

Why Does VA Provide a Burial Flag?

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his or her country. VA will furnish a burial flag for memorialization for each other than dishonorable discharged Veteran who served during wartime
Veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941
Veteran who served after January 31, 1955
peacetime Veteran who was discharged or released before June 27, 1950

certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951
certain former members of the Selected Reserves

Who Is Eligible to Receive the Burial Flag?

Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin, as a keepsake, after its use during the funeral service. When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making request for it. For those VA national cemeteries with an Avenue of Flags, families of Veterans buried in these national cemeteries may donate the burial flags of their loved ones to be flown on patriotic holidays.

How Can You Apply?

You may apply for the flag by completing [VA Form 21-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes](#). You may get a flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office. Generally, the funeral director will help you obtain the flag.

Can a Burial Flag Be Replaced?

The law allows us to issue one flag for a Veteran's funeral. We cannot replace it if it is lost, destroyed, or stolen. However, some Veterans' organizations or other community groups may be able to help you get another flag.

How Should the Burial Flag Be Displayed?

The proper way to display the flag depends upon whether the casket is open or closed. VA Form 21-2008 provides the correct method for displaying and folding the flag. The burial flag is not suitable for outside display because of its size and fabric. It is made of cotton and can easily be damaged by weather.

For More Information Call Toll-Free at 1-800-827-1000

DEPENDENTS BENEFITS

Quick Tips

One of the more difficult tasks a survivor faces after the death of the veteran is completing the numerous claims forms for VA survivors' benefits. The anxiety and fear of the unknown - who to call, what to do, or where to go for help - can be an unpleasant experience. To help ease the burden and to ensure you will have the necessary details for filing a claim, here are some basic quick tips.

Documents Needed

the veteran's [discharge certificate or DD 214](#)

the veteran's VA claim's number or Social Security number

the veteran's death certificate

Government life insurance policy

a copy of all marriage certificates and divorce decrees (if any)

a copy of each child's birth certificate (or adoption order)

veteran's birth certificate to determine parents' benefits

Where to Get Help

[This web site](#)

[Secure electronic messaging](#)

[Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents](#) (An informative pamphlet)

VA service representatives can answer questions about benefits eligibility and application procedures. Contact the nearest VA benefits office at 1-800-827-1000 from any location in the United States and Puerto Rico. VA facilities also are listed in the federal government section of telephone directories under "Veterans Affairs".

[Nationwide Gravesite Locator](#)

[New National Cemeteries](#)

[Environmental Assessments \(Cemetery Construction\)](#)

SITE MAP

To help you navigate throughout the VA National Cemetery Administration Web site

easily, we have included a map of the pages below and above our Web site.

[Burial & Memorial Benefits Home Page](#)

National Cemetery Administration

Burial & Memorial Benefits

[Burial Benefits](#)

[Burial Benefits Available from the National Cemetery Administration Eligibility](#)

[Preparing in Advance](#)

[How to Make Burial Arrangements at the Time of Need](#)

[Burial of Unclaimed, Indigent Veterans](#)

[Burial Flags](#)

[Donating Burial Flags to National Cemeteries](#)

[Burial Allowance Benefits](#)

[Survivor Benefits](#)

[Burial in a Private Cemetery](#)

[Burial at Sea](#)

[VA-NCA-IS-1 Interments in VA National Cemeteries](#)

[Headstones and Markers](#)

[General Information](#)

[Eligibility for a Headstone or Marker](#)

[Ordering a Headstone or Marker](#)

[📄 VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker](#)

[Emblems of Belief Available for Placement on Headstones and Markers Veterans Military Discharge Documents](#)

[How to Complete VA Form 1330](#)

[Types of Headstones and Markers Available](#)

[Checking Status of a Headstone or Marker Request](#)

[Memorial Headstones and Markers](#)

[Setting Government Headstones and Markers](#)
[Replacement Headstones and Markers](#)
[Pre-World War I Era Headstones and Markers](#)

[Presidential Memorial Certificates](#)
[Eligibility for Benefits](#)

Other Benefits

[Military Funeral Honors](#)
[Burial Flags](#)
[Burial Allowance](#)

Facts and Information

[What's New](#)

[Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents](#)
[Nationwide Gravesite Locator](#)
[New National Cemeteries](#)
[Environmental Assessments \(Cemetery Construction\)](#)

[Cemeteries](#)

[Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemeteries](#)
[New National Cemeteries](#)
[State Veterans Cemeteries](#)
Department of the Army National Cemeteries
[Arlington National Cemetery](#)
[Department of Interior National Cemeteries](#)
[American Battle Monuments Commission National Cemeteries](#)

About NCA

[Mission, Vision, Purpose](#)

[Customer Service Standards](#)

[Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs](#)

[Advisory Committee on Cemeteries & Memorials](#)

[Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs](#)

[Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act of 1999](#)

[Fact Sheets](#)

[NCA Job Opportunities](#)

[Employee Benefits](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Freedom of Information Act Reading Room](#)

[Inquiries](#)

[Links to Related WWW Sites](#)

History

[General History](#)

[Dates of the Cemeteries](#)

[Leadership: Former Directors and Under Secretaries for Memorial Affairs, 1973-2005](#)

[*Landscapes of Honor & Sacrifice: The History of the National Cemeteries, 2003*](#)

["Memorial Day Order"](#)

["A Promise Made - A Commitment Kept"](#)

Historic - Resource Information

[Memorials Inventory Project](#) (MIP) - Final Report, January 2006

[Previous MIP Reports](#), 2001-2005

NCA Memorials

 [Alphabetical List](#)

 [By Cemetery](#)

 [By State](#)

Headstone-Cleaning Study of Government-Issued Marble Headstones, 2005-2007

[Project Description](#)

 [Fall 2005 Fieldwork](#)

[History of Government-Furnished Headstones and Markers](#)

[National Cemeteries with Lodges Designed by Gen. Montgomery Meigs](#)

["Bivouac of the Dead"](#)

 [National Cemeteries & Soldiers' Lots Listed in the National Register of Historic Places and Designated National Historic Landmarks](#)

Education Tools

Teaching with Historic Places (TWHP) Lesson Plans

["A Nation Repays Its Debt: The National Soldiers' Home and Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio"](#) (Dayton National Cemetery)

["Not to Be Forgotten: Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery"](#)

[More Lesson Plans](#) about places associated with national cemeteries

[Helpful Research Links](#)

[State Cemetery Grants Program](#)

[General Information](#)

[New State Veterans Cemeteries](#)

[Establishing a State Veterans Cemetery](#)

[State Grants Planning Model](#)

[Grant Requirements](#)

[State Cemetery Grants Program/Grant Information Kit](#)

[State Cemetery Grants Forms](#)

[List of State Veterans Cemeteries \(Address and Phone Numbers\)](#)

Office of Construction Management

These pages contain information on Architect Engineer design standards, construction standards, real property, environmental management, and other information associated with design and construction of national cemeteries.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Volunteer Opportunities

Nationwide Gravesite Locator

Search the 130 Department of Veterans Affairs' national cemeteries for burial locations.

"A Sacred Trust"

A video program providing an overview of the National Cemetery Administration and the many services it provides to our Nation's veterans.

Find a Facility

Federal Benefits for Veterans & Dependents

Obtaining Military Records & Medals

[Obtaining Military Records](#)

[The National Personnel Records Center](#)

[Obtaining Replacement Medals](#)

[VA Forms](#)

CEMETERIES

[Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemeteries](#) - **The VA's National Cemetery Administration** maintains 130 national cemeteries in 39 states (and Puerto Rico) as well as 33 soldier's lots and monument sites.

- [VA National Cemeteries](#) - A listing of VA national cemeteries, soldier's lots and monument sites
- [New National Cemeteries](#) - Fact sheets on our newest VA National Cemeteries

[State Veterans Cemeteries](#)- Many states have established state veterans cemeteries. Included is a listing of these state veterans cemeteries.

Department of the Army National Cemeteries - The Department of the Army maintains two national cemeteries, the Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery.

United States Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery
21 Harewood Road, NW
Washington, DC 20011
(202) 829-1829

[Arlington National Cemetery](#)

Interment Services Branch
Arlington, VA 22211
(703) 607-8585

[Department of Interior National Cemeteries](#) - A listing of 14 national cemeteries

maintained by the National Park Service.

[American Battle Monuments Commission Cemeteries](#) - The ABMC commemorative mission is reflected in 24 overseas military cemeteries that serve as resting places for almost 125,000 American war dead; on Tablets of the Missing that memorialize more than 94,000 U.S. servicemen and women; and through 25 memorials, monuments and markers.

DEPENDENTS BENEFITS

DIC

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/dependents/spouse.htm>
