

U.S.
Department of
Veterans
Affairs

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

NATIONAL
CEMETERY
ADMINISTRATION

Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration (43A2)
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NATIONAL AND STATE VETERAN CEMETERIES

What are the differences between a National Veterans Cemetery and a State Veterans Cemetery?

National Cemeteries are maintained by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA). There are a total of 155 National Cemeteries in 42 states and Puerto Rico.

The four (4) National Cemeteries in Maryland are:

- a. Annapolis National Cemetery
- b. Baltimore National Cemetery
- c. Loudon Park National Cemetery
- d. Point Lookout Confederate Cemetery



Take a look inside at how you can access VA memorial and burial benefits for you and your eligible family members.



VA is committed to the development and expansion of cemeteries for Veterans. Today, approximately 95 percent of Veterans live within 75 miles of an open national or state/tribal run Veterans' cemetery.



Many states have established State Veterans Cemeteries.

Eligibility is similar to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemeteries, but may include residency requirements. Even though they may have been established, expanded, or improved with Government funds through the VA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program, state veterans cemeteries are run solely by the states.

The six (6) State Cemeteries in Maryland are:

- a. Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery in Cheltenham, MD
- b. Crownsville Veterans Cemetery in Crownsville, MD
- c. Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery in Hurlock, MD
- d. Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery, Rocky Gap Veteran Cemetery
- e. The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Cemetery Program
In Crownsville, MD.

Note: Contact the Cemeteries to determine gravesite or interment availability.



What is the eligibility for Burial at these cemeteries?

Burial in a VA National or State Cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces and Veterans who have met minimum active duty service requirements (i.e. 90 days prior to September 1980, twenty-four months after 1980) as applicable by law and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Reserve components who die while on active duty under certain circumstances or who die while on training duty, and former service members who retired at the time of death.

Spouses, minor children, and dependent unmarried adult children (i.e. college student or physically or mentally disabled). State Veteran Cemeteries may have residency requirements.



How do I make Burial Arrangements?

To assist veterans and their families with end-of-life planning, VA provides determination of eligibility for burial in a VA National Cemetery prior to time of need.

Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery.

Another method is to have the Funeral Home or next-of-kin to contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to make arrangements.



What are the Veteran's Burial Benefits?

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any 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.



Who pays for Headstones, Markers, and Medallions?

VA provides headstones and markers for graves of eligible veterans in private and government cemeteries in the world.

VA also pays for a bronze medallion that can be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker.

At a minimum, Government-furnished headstones and markers must be inscribed with the legal name of the deceased, branch of service, rank, date of birth, date of death, and Section and Grave number.



Headstones and markers are furnished for eligible spouses and dependents of Veterans only in a national, military base, or state, territorial or tribal Veterans cemetery. Spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery are not eligible for a government-furnished headstone or marker.

To order a Headstone or Marker, you must complete VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker. To order a Medallion, you must complete VA Form 40-1330M, Claim for Government Medallion for Placement in a private cemetery.



Why does VA provide a Burial Flag?

A Burial Flag is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his or her country. Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin.

When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making a request for it.

You may apply for the flag by completing VA Form 27-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes.



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Burial Eligibility

Burial in a VA national cemetery or state Veterans cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces and Veterans who have met minimum active duty service requirements, as applicable by law and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty under certain circumstances or who die while on training duty are also eligible for burial, as are service members and former service members who were eligible for retired pay at the time of their death. Spouses, minor children and, under certain conditions, dependent unmarried adult children are also eligible for burial even if they predecease the Veteran.



Benefits

Burial benefits include a gravesite in any VA national cemetery with available space, or a VA-funded state/tribal cemetery; the opening and closing of the grave; grave liner; government headstone or marker; perpetual care of the grave; a burial flag; and Presidential Memorial Certificates at no cost to the family. VA's Veterans Benefits Administration pays a burial and plot allowance for those Veterans eligible by law. For information, please contact the nearest VA Regional Office at 800-827-1000.



The VA National Cemetery Administration honors Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation.

Arranging Burial

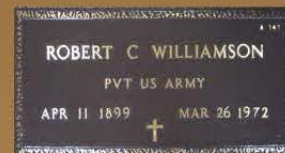
The funeral home or next-of-kin should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to make burial arrangements for Veterans, spouses and/or their eligible dependents. Fax all available military discharge documents to the scheduling office at 866-900-6417 and follow up with a call to 800-535-1117. The scheduling office representatives will assist with the verification process. It may require 48 hours to determine eligibility for burial in a national cemetery.

Pre-Need Determination



VA provides determinations of eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery prior to the time of need to assist Veterans and their families with end-of-life planning. Interested individuals may submit *VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery*, along with a copy of supporting documentation of military service such as a DD214, if readily available, by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299 or by mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151. Please do not email applications as it may put personally-identifiable information at risk.

Headstones, Markers and Medallions



VA provides headstones and markers for the graves of eligible Veterans in private and government cemeteries around the world. VA also provides a bronze medallion that can be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker. The medallion is furnished in lieu of a traditional government headstone or marker.



Presidential Memorial Certificates

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is inscribed with the Veteran's name and bears the President's signature to honor the memory of honorably discharged, deceased Veterans. Intended recipients include next-of-kin and loved ones.



Burial Flag & Military Funeral Honors

VA provides U.S. flags to drape the caskets of members of the armed forces and eligible Veterans. The flag is given to the next-of-kin. Apply for the flag by completing *VA Form 27-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes*. U.S. post offices are the primary issuing point for burial flags. The Department of Defense (DOD) provides military funeral honors. Funeral directors should request this on behalf of the Veterans' family. To learn more, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/.

Nationwide Gravesite Locator

The burial locations of Veterans and their family members in VA national cemeteries, some state Veterans cemeteries and various other military and Department of the Interior cemeteries may be accessed through the Nationwide Gravesite Locator (<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>) and at gravesite locator kiosks at national cemeteries.

Veterans Legacy Initiative

The Veterans Legacy Program offers educators an integrated new suite of lesson plans designed to teach students about the service and sacrifice of our nation's Veterans, and to take advantage of our national cemeteries as historic places for teaching and learning - both in the classroom and on-site. The educational resources of the Veterans Legacy Program draw on rich resources from national cemeteries to offer teachers a variety of hands-on activities directly connected to national curriculum standards. Visit www.cem.va.gov/legacy for more information.