

Message from the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery Staff

Welcome to Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. 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.

Overview



- Saratoga National Cemetery was established in 1999.
- The cemetery serves an estimated 200,000 Veterans in New York and Vermont.
- Situated on 373 acres, the cemetery accommodates casketed and cremated remains.
- Over 1,000 burials are conducted each year.
- Saratoga National Cemetery also maintains a soldier's lot at Albany Rural Cemetery in Albany, NY.
- The cemetery has several memorials, including:

The ship's bell from the U.S.S. Saratoga.

A black-mist granite memorial which honors Saratoga cemetery Veterans.

A black-mist granite pyramid memorial for Congressman Gerald B.H. Solomon.

A granite and bronze memorial honoring U.S. submarine Veterans.

Making Burial Arrangements

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

The funeral home should fax all available military discharge documents to the scheduling office at (866) 900-6417 and follow up with a call to (800) 535-1117. If military discharge documents are not available, scheduling office representatives will assist the funeral home or next-of-kin with the verification process. This process may require 48 hours or more to determine eligibility for burial in a national cemetery.

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.

Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery 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.

Floral Policy

We welcome and encourage fresh-cut flowers throughout the year and provide flower containers for gravesite display. Cemetery visitors are free to use the containers located in receptacles placed throughout the grounds. All floral arrangements, including artificial, are picked up by cemetery staff on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, with the exception of the holiday season.

Artificial flowers and potted plants are only allowed after the end of mowing operations in the fall on October 10th and must be removed when mowing operations resume in the spring on April 15th.

During the holiday season, from December 1st through January 20th, wreaths less than 18 inches in diameter and not higher than the headstone, gravesite blankets and other seasonal decorations may be placed on gravesites.

To maintain the dignity of the cemetery, commemorative items, balloons, pinwheels, glass items, votive lights, statues, gravesite blankets, shepherd's hooks and permanent plantings, among other items, are not allowed.

No item or object may be attached to a headstone, marker or columbarium cover in a national cemetery.

History and Background

More than 1.4 million Veterans live in New York and more than 225,000 reside in the Albany/Saratoga area. Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery is New York state's sixth national Veteran's cemetery.

The ship's bell from the USS Saratoga, CV-3, was installed as a memorial at the cemetery in 1999. The USS Saratoga was launched in 1925 and spent 20 years at sea, including action during World War II. It was taken out of service and destroyed in 1946. New York Congressman Dean P. Taylor requested the bell in 1946. It was first displayed at Saratoga Spring's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Memorial Home, dedicated on Veteran's Day in 1949. The bell was later restored and permanently mounted at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.

An American black-mist granite memorial was erected in 2001 to honor Veterans from Saratoga County. The monument features two granite slabs inscribed with approximately 980 names of individuals who gave their lives for their country. A granite obelisk is at the forefront of the monument.

A pyramidal black-mist granite memorial for Congressman Gerald B.H. Solomon, who was instrumental in the national cemetery's establishment, was erected in 2002, the year the cemetery was renamed in his honor.

A granite and bronze memorial was erected in honor of U.S. submarine Veterans on October 19, 2002. The American Veterans (AMVETS) donated a carillon in 1999.

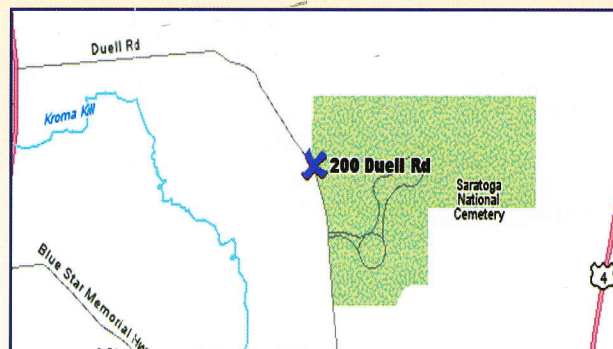
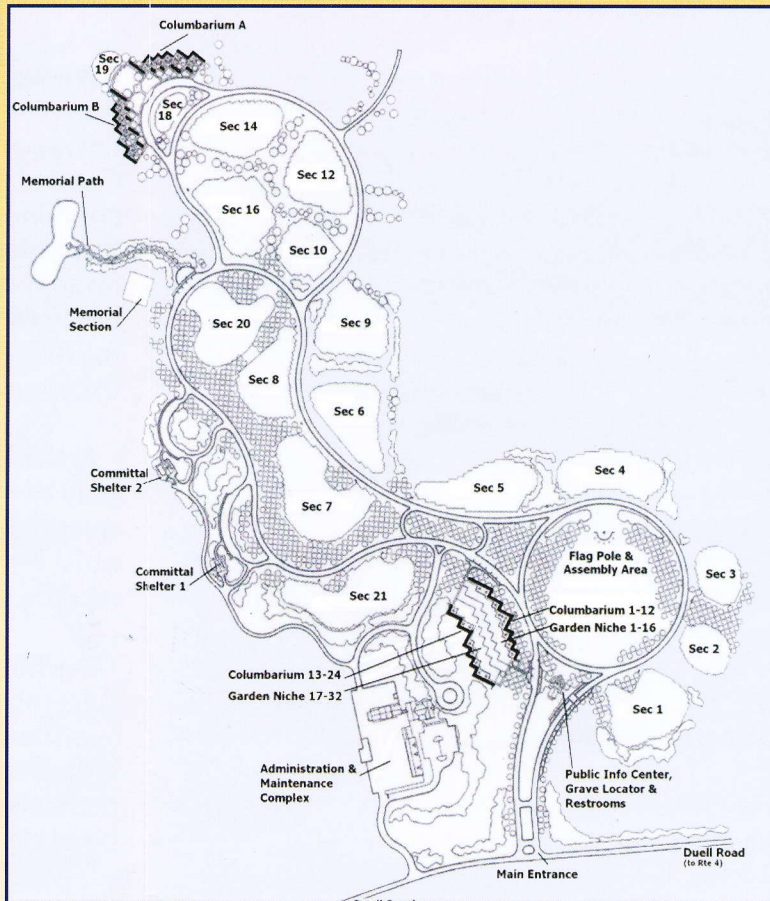
Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery

Directions:

From Interstate 87, take exit 12 east (Route 67, Malta) and proceed east on Route 67 to the intersection of Route 9. Turn left on Route 9 and proceed north to the intersection of Route 9P.

Turn right onto Route 9P and proceed east along Saratoga Lake to the intersection of Route 423. Turn right onto Route 423 and proceed east to the intersection of Route 4. Turn left onto Route 4 and proceed north. Then turn left onto Wilbur Road. Proceed on Wilbur Road to intersection of Duell Road.

Turn right onto Duell Road and follow it to the cemetery.



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*"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*



For More Information:

Gerald B.H. Solomon
Saratoga National Cemetery
200 Duell Road
Schuylerville, NY 12871

Cemetery Administration Office
Phone: (518) 581-9128
Fax: (518) 583-6975

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

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