







## COINS LEFT ON MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY HEADSTONES

These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America's military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin. A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect.

- Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited. 
- A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together. 
- A dime means you served with him in some capacity. 
- By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed. 

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.




Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a "down payment" to buy their fallen comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited. The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men and women can be traced to as far back as the Roman Empire.



## Coins on Non-Military Graves

The coins placed on graves carry a number of meanings and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of the coin. Throughout history, coins and other money have been used to bring good luck to the deceased and aid them in the afterlife.

Coins left on non-military headstones are not quite as common, but when you see them, the meaning is similar.

- By leaving a quarter at the grave indicates that you were with the decedent when they passed away. 
- A dime signifies that you worked together. 
- A nickel indicates that you went to school together. 
- Leaving a penny means that you visited the grave and wanted to pay your respects. 