

U.S. Veterans Burial Benefits

Benefits

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of the 131 national cemeteries with available space. The items below are provided for free:

- Opening and closing of the grave
- Perpetual care
- Government headstone or marker
- Burial flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificate

Military Funeral Honors Ceremony

Upon the family's request, eligible Veterans can receive a military funeral honors ceremony, which includes folding and presenting of the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps.

Burial at Sea

This means of final disposition of remains is performed on a United States Navy vessel. 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 notify the family of the date, time and longitude and latitude once the committal service has been completed.

For more information or if you have any questions regarding benefits contact your local funeral home. With their special training and expertise they will be able to help guide you through the process. By discussing your preferences in advance, you can consider all of the options and create a memorable experience for the people you truly care about.

The National Cemetery Scheduling Office has the primary responsibility for verifying eligibility for burial in VA national cemeteries. A determination of eligibility is made in response to a request for burial in a VA national cemetery.

Information provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. For more information contact 1-800-827-1000 or visit www.cem.va.gov. Information last updated as of June 2014 and is subject to change.

Your Benefits

As a Veteran, you are entitled to certain burial and memorial benefits. This brochure covers eligibility of those benefits and how to prepare for the time of need. The National Cemetery Administration's (NCA) mission is to honor Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our nation.



Eligibility

- Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.
- Any Veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- The spouse, surviving spouse or dependent of an eligible Veteran or member of the Armed Forces may be eligible for interment in a national cemetery even if that Veteran is not buried or memorialized in a national cemetery.
- The minor children of an eligible Veteran. For purpose of burial in a national cemetery, a minor child is a child who is unmarried and:
 - Who is under 21 years of age; or,
 - Who is under 23 years of age and pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution.
 - The unmarried adult child of an eligible Veteran. For purpose of burial in a national cemetery, an unmarried adult child is of any age but became permanently physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before reaching 21 years of age, or before reaching 23 years of age if pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution. Proper supporting documentation must be provided.



Time of Need

Please advise your family of your wishes and where your discharge papers are kept. These papers are very important in establishing your eligibility. At the time of need, your family would contact a funeral home to assist them with making burial arrangements at the national cemetery. It is also a good idea to make preneed arrangements with a funeral home to make sure your wishes are known. Also, please note that gravesites in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance.

**The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300 and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.*