



Timber Pines



Timber Pines Military Veterans, Inc.  
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## VA Burial Benefits: Advanced Planning

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) ensures those who served this nation are never forgotten. VA operates 156 national cemeteries and maintains over 4 million graves to honor their service and sacrifice.

Burial services at the VA national cemeteries are provided at no cost to eligible Veterans, their Spouses, and qualifying family members.

Enclosed in this document are guidelines that describe Burial Benefits and for Planning and Scheduling at a VA National Cemetery or VA Grant-Funded Cemetery.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration

# PLAN TODAY. HONOR FOREVER.

## VA BURIAL BENEFITS: PLANNING IN ADVANCE

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) ensures those who served this nation are never forgotten. VA operates 156 national cemeteries and maintains over 4 million graves to honor their service and sacrifice.

Burial services at VA national cemeteries are provided at no cost, helping you and your family save thousands of dollars.

*Eligible Veterans have earned VA burial benefits for themselves and their spouses.*

### Pre-need burial eligibility application

Starting end-of-life planning now with your loved ones can reduce your family's stress at a difficult time.

Veterans and spouses who want to be buried in a VA national cemetery can apply to find out in advance if they are eligible.



Burial site and burial of a casket or urn, perpetual care



Government headstone or marker



United States burial flag



Presidential Memorial Certificates



Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) profile page



*Completing the simple, online pre-need burial eligibility application is the starting point in end-of-life planning with your family.*

[www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families](http://www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families)

# PLAN TODAY. HONOR FOREVER.

## PLANNING AND SCHEDULING A BURIAL AT A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) ensures those who served this nation are never forgotten. VA operates 156 national cemeteries and maintains more than 4 million graves to honor their service and sacrifice. Burial services at VA national cemeteries are provided at no cost to eligible Veterans, their spouses, and qualifying family members.

**If you've lost a loved one and need to plan a burial at a VA national cemetery, we are here to guide you through the process. In many cases, we can schedule the burial with a single phone call.**

- 1. Gather Information and Documents:** Collect personal information identifying the deceased\* and military documents showing the Veteran's qualifying service. If the Veteran's discharge documents are not readily available, do not delay calling the Scheduling Office; VA will get copies of them.
- 2. Decide on Burial Details:** Determine the cemetery location, type of burial, and whether you will be requesting military funeral honors. If you are using a funeral home, your funeral director will assist.
- 3. Contact the National Cemetery Administration:** Contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to schedule a burial. If you have a pre-need decision letter, VA will already have much of the required information.

\*A death certificate is not usually required but may be in some cases. A representative will explain if needed.

### National Cemetery Scheduling Office

To request a burial, call 800-535-1117 (TTY: 711)  
Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET,  
and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET.

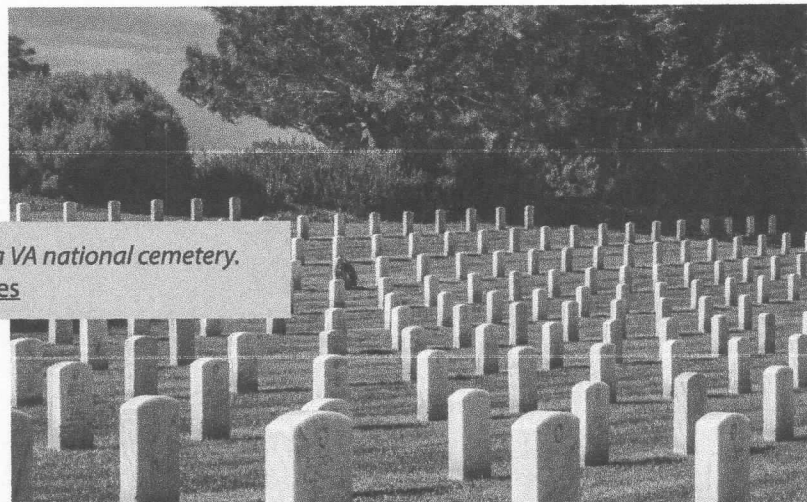


Scan for more information on burial in a VA national cemetery.  
[www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families](http://www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families)

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration



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National Cemetery Administration

# PLAN TODAY. HONOR FOREVER.

## A GUIDE TO YOUR VA BURIAL AND MEMORIAL BENEFITS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors our nation's Veterans with dignified burial services and final resting places that commemorate their service and sacrifice.



**156 VA national cemeteries**



**122 VA grant-funded cemeteries**



**50 states**



**14 tribal cemeteries**



**3 territories (Guam, Saipan,  
and Puerto Rico)**

Eligible Veterans have earned burial benefits at a VA national cemetery for themselves, their spouses, and qualifying family members. VA's burial and memorial benefits can save families thousands of dollars and planning in advance can reduce stress at a difficult time.

## Benefits at a VA national cemetery include:



**Burial site**



**Burial of a casket or urn**



**Government headstone or marker**



**Perpetual care of the burial site and cemetery grounds**



**United States burial flag**



**Presidential Memorial Certificates**



**Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM)  
profile page**



**Military funeral honors** (provided by the Defense Department)

## Did you know?

Family members of a Veteran may also be eligible for a burial allowance for the Veteran, helping you cover burial, funeral, and transportation costs.

## Cremation

Cremated remains are treated with the same care, respect, and honors as casketed remains. Depending on the cemetery, VA provides a columbarium niche, in-ground burial of cremated remains with a headstone or marker, or scattering garden options.

## Headstones, markers, and medallions

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are available to mark columbaria used for interment of cremated remains. The style chosen may be limited by the cemetery. VA can also provide a Veteran medallion that can be attached to private headstones in private cemeteries.

## Pre-need burial eligibility application

Veterans and spouses who want to be buried in a VA national cemetery can apply to find out in advance if they are eligible.

Completing the simple, online pre-need burial eligibility application is the starting point in end-of-life planning with your family.

## Veterans Legacy Memorial

Once approved for pre-need burial eligibility, Veterans get access to VA's Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM), the largest online memorial site dedicated to America's Veterans.

VLM's Living Veteran page allows Veterans to upload their own:

- » images
- » autobiographies
- » military and life milestones
- » historical documents

## Spouse and dependents

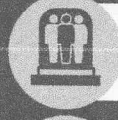
Burial benefits available for spouses and qualifying family members interred at a VA national cemetery include:



**Burial site**



**Burial of a casket or urn**



**Headstone or marker inscription**



**Perpetual care of the burial site and cemetery grounds**

Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

## Planning to use a private cemetery?

For Veterans who prefer a private cemetery, VA provides these memorial benefits at no cost:



**Government headstone, marker, or medallion\***



**United States burial flag**



**Presidential Memorial Certificates**

\*Installation costs not included



Scan for more information on VA's burial and memorial benefits and to start your pre-need burial eligibility application today.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration

# BURIAL BENEFITS AT VA NATIONAL CEMETERIES

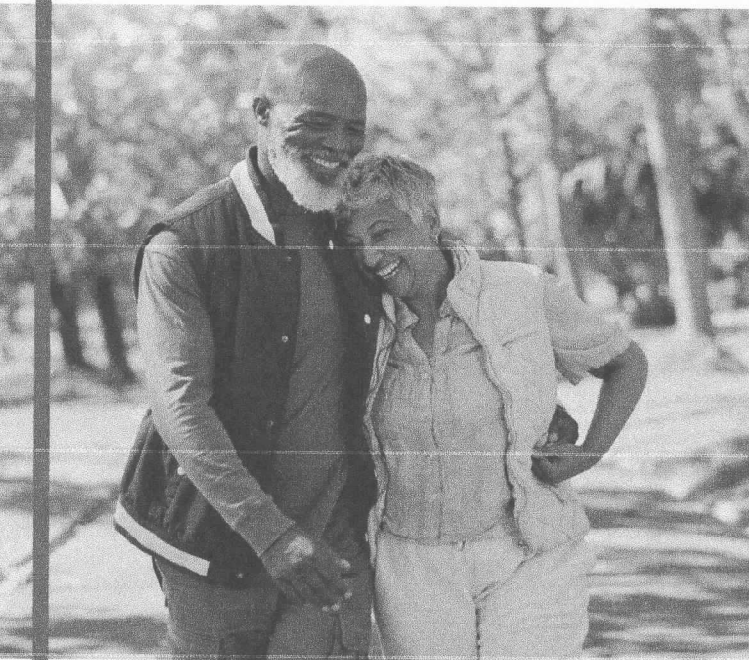
Eligible Veterans have earned VA burial benefits for themselves, their spouses, and qualifying family members at VA national cemeteries.



156 VA national cemeteries



4 million graves maintained



## Benefits for Veterans at a VA national cemetery include:



Burial site



Burial of a casket or urn



Government headstone or marker



Perpetual care of the burial site and cemetery grounds



United States burial flag



Presidential Memorial Certificates



Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) profile page



Military funeral honors (provided by the Defense Department)

PLAN TODAY.  
HONOR FOREVER.

VA's burial and memorial benefits can save you and your family thousands of dollars and planning in advance can reduce your family's stress at a difficult time.



Explore NCA's [Find a Cemetery](#) page to search for VA national cemeteries in your area.

## Pre-need burial eligibility application

Veterans and spouses who want to be buried in a VA national cemetery can apply to find out in advance if they are eligible.

Completing the simple, online pre-need burial eligibility application is the starting point in end-of-life planning with your family. It takes less than 10 minutes to fill out and could save your family thousands of dollars in burial costs.



## Spouse and dependents

Burial benefits available for spouses and qualifying family members interred at a VA national cemetery include:



**Burial site**



**Burial of a casket or urn**



**Headstone or marker inscription**



**Perpetual care of the burial site and cemetery grounds**

Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

## Did you know?

Family members of a Veteran may also be eligible for a burial allowance for the Veteran, helping you cover burial, funeral, and transportation costs.



Learn more about [VA's burial benefits](#) and start the pre-need burial eligibility application today

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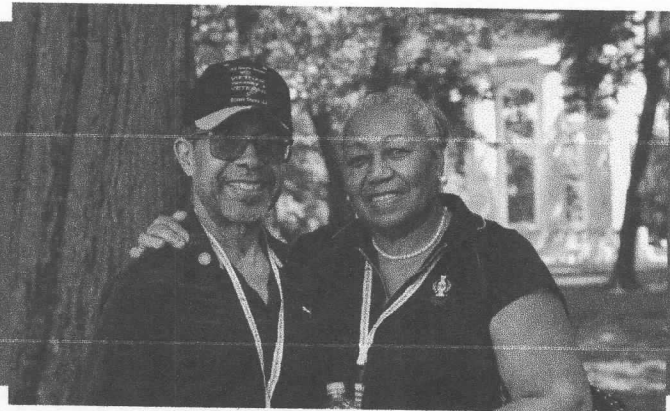


U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration

# BURIAL BENEFITS AT VA GRANT-FUNDED CEMETERIES

**94% of Veterans living in  
the U.S. live within 75 miles  
of a Veterans cemetery.**

This gives Veterans and their families more choices and ensures they receive the honor and remembrance they deserve.



**122 state, territorial, and tribal  
Veterans cemeteries**



**46 states**



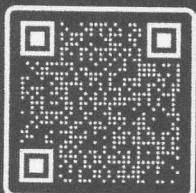
**3 territories (Guam, Saipan,  
and Puerto Rico)**

For eligible Veterans interested in choosing a VA grant-funded cemetery, learn more about the VA burial benefits available to you.



## Did you know?

Family members of a Veteran may also be eligible for a burial allowance for the Veteran, helping you cover burial, funeral, and transportation costs.



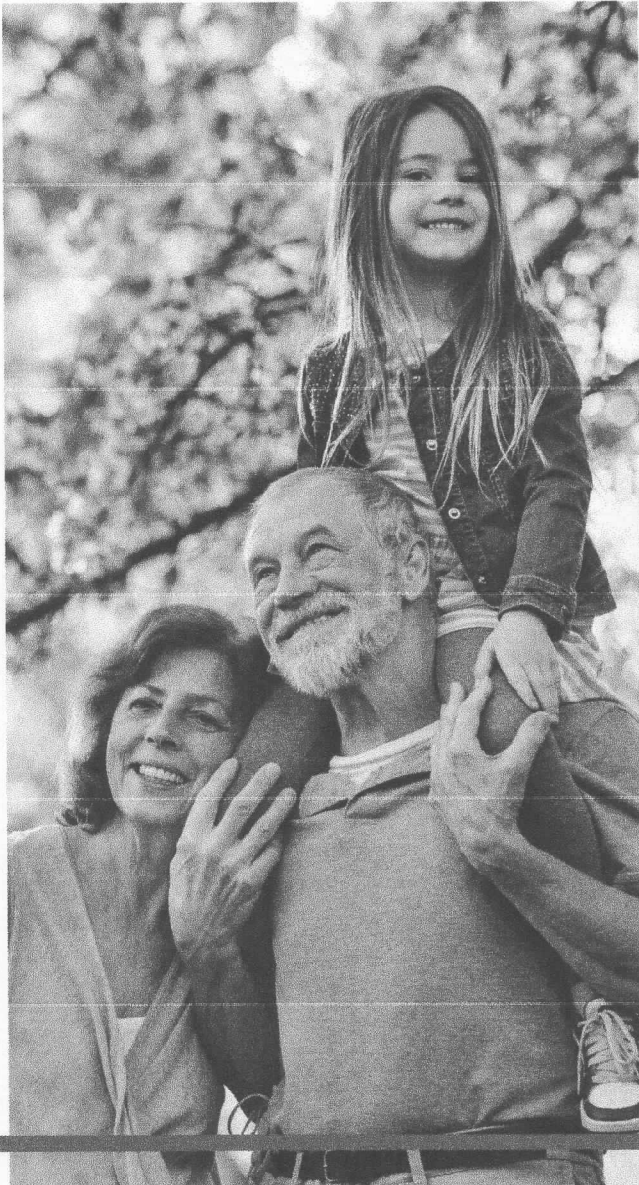
## PLAN TODAY. HONOR FOREVER.

VA's burial and memorial benefits can save you and your family thousands of dollars and planning in advance can reduce your family's stress at a difficult time.









# WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR BURIAL IN A VA GRANT-FUNDED CEMETERY?

Veterans and spouses who want to be buried in a state, territorial, or tribal cemetery should contact their desired cemetery ahead of time to find out about burial eligibility requirements.

Eligibility for burial in a VA grant-funded cemetery is similar to VA national cemeteries but may include residency requirements and interment fees for spouses.



## Benefits for Veterans at a VA grant-funded cemetery include:

-  **Burial site**
-  **Burial of a casket or urn**
-  **Government headstone or marker**  
(some cemeteries may charge a setting fee)
-  **Perpetual care of the burial site and cemetery grounds**
-  **United States burial flag**
-  **Presidential Memorial Certificates**
-  **Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) profile page**
-  **Military funeral honors** (provided by the Defense Department)

Explore NCA's [Find a Cemetery](#) page to search for state, territorial, and tribal cemeteries in your area. Reach out to your desired cemetery for more information on their full range of burial benefits.

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National Cemetery Administration

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National Cemetery Administration

# YOUR GUIDE TO COMPLETING VA'S PRE-NEED BURIAL ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION

*Veterans and spouses who want to be buried in a VA national cemetery can apply to find out in advance if they are eligible. This is called a pre-need determination of eligibility—and it can help make the burial planning process easier for your family at time of need.*

*Follow this guide to help you complete the pre-need burial eligibility application.*

## How to prepare before starting your application

Gather the information you'll need to apply:

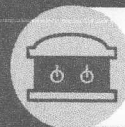
- » Your personal information, including Social Security number and date of birth
- » Your military history or the military history of the Veteran

### ***Gather supporting documents***

To help process your application faster, you can provide a copy of your DD214 or other separation documents (or the DD214 of the Veteran). If you don't provide a DD214, VA will try to find the records needed to determine eligibility.



## Benefits for Veterans at a VA national cemetery:



**Burial site and burial of a casket or urn, perpetual care**



**Government headstone or marker**



**United States burial flag**



**Presidential Memorial Certificates**

Visit NCA's [Find a Cemetery](#) page to explore VA national cemetery locations.

## How to apply

You can apply for pre-need burial eligibility online, by mail, or by fax.



### **Option 1: Online**

Apply for pre-need eligibility online today.



### **Option 2: By Mail or Fax**

Download and fill out an Application for Pre-need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery (VA Form 40-10007).

Mail the application and copies of any supporting documents to this address:

NCA Evidence Intake Center  
PO Box 5237  
Janesville, WI 53547

Or fax the application and copies of any supporting documents to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 855-840-8299.

## Need help filling out your application?

Reach out to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office:

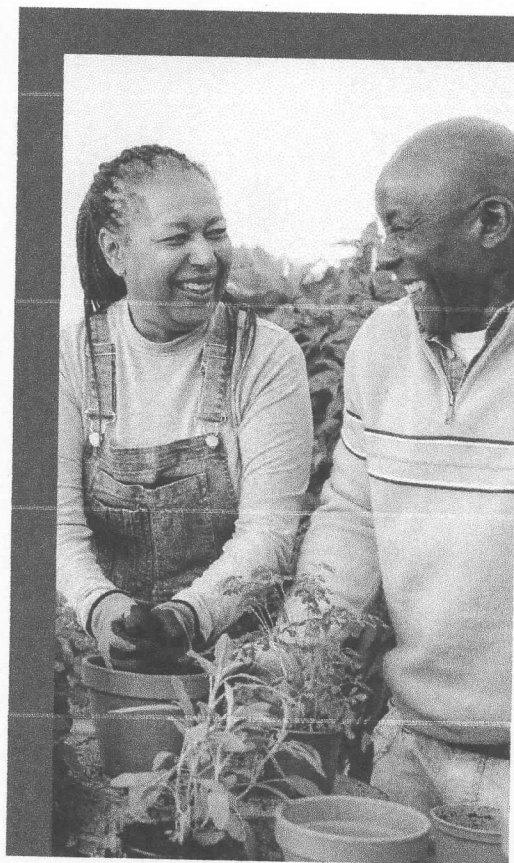
- » **Phone:** 800-535-1117 (TTY: 711) and select 4
- » **Office Hours:** Open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. ET to 5:30 p.m. ET

## What happens after I apply?

Your application will be reviewed by the National Cemetery Scheduling Office.

If it is determined that you are eligible, you will receive a pre-need decision letter notifying you of your eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery.

If it is determined that you are not eligible, you will receive a decision letter explaining why you are not eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. You will also receive a document that explains your options for requesting a decision review if you disagree with the decision.



### ***Need to schedule a burial at a VA national cemetery?***

If a Veteran or their spouse has passed away, the family does not need to complete a pre-need burial eligibility application. Instead, contact a local funeral home or the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117 to schedule the burial.



Find out more about your VA benefits and apply today

**VA**



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National Cemetery Administration