

## 6x6 "UNKNOWN" MARKERS INSTALLATION

- 1. PURPOSE:** This notice provides general guidance regarding the installation of the 6" x 6" "unknown" markers placed in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries administered by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).
- 2. BACKGROUND:** Between 1873 and 1903, a block of marble or durable stone six inches square and 30 inches long was used to mark the graves of unknown dead. The 6" x 6" markers were to be set so that 12 inches of the marker was aboveground. Beginning October 21, 1903, the graves of those unknown were marked with the same design marker used on the graves of the known dead.
- 3. ACTION:** Over the years many 6" x 6" markers have settled and/or were raised to various heights. As is our policy in all older sections for any type of headstone or marker, replacement 6" x 6" markers should be set the same distance aboveground as other similar markers in that burial section. When a general resetting of headstones is scheduled in an area where there are the 6" x 6" markers, they should be reset so that 12 inches of the marker is aboveground. If replacement is necessary, existing 6" x 6" unknown markers should be replaced in kind.
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** NCA, Office of Field Programs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, is responsible for the contents of this notice.
- 5. RESCISSION:** This notice will expire June 2006; however, the information will remain in effect unless changed by a future notice or other official publication.

/s/  
Steve L. Muro  
Director, Office of Field Programs

Distribution: Electronic