

Apply for Burial in a VA National Cemetery and for Memorial Products



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Choose VA

This guide will help you apply for burial in a VA national cemetery, a government-furnished headstone, marker, or medallion for burial in a private cemetery, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a burial flag for a loved one.

Apply for VA Burial and Memorial Products:

1

PREPARATION

- Decide whether burial will be in a VA national cemetery, state or tribal Veterans' cemetery or a private cemetery and desired memorial products
- For burial in a VA national cemetery, a private cemetery (for a headstone, marker, or medallion) or for a Presidential Memorial Certificate, collect the following information and submit it with your application.
 - **Discharge document(s) (DD214 member-4** or equivalent)
 - **Orders**, if activated by Executive Federal Order from the National Guard or Reserves
 - **Pre-need determination approval letter** (if previously completed)

2

APPLICATION

- Apply** for burial in a VA national cemetery by:
 - **Faxing** discharge document(s) to 866-900-6417, or
 - **Scanning** discharge document(s) to NCA.Scheduling@va.gov, or
 - **Calling** the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117
- Apply** for a government-furnished **headstone, marker or medallion** for placement in a private cemetery by submitting a:
 - **VA Form 40-1330**, Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker, or
 - **VA Form 40-1330M**, Claim for Government Medallion for Placement in a Private Cemetery
- Apply for a Presidential Memorial Certificate** by submitting a:
 - **VA Form 40-0247**, Presidential Memorial Certificate Request Form
- Apply for a burial flag** by submitting a:
 - **VA Form 27-2008**, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes
- Forms are available at: https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits

3

DECISION

- For more **information** or to find out the **status** of your claim, **call** the:
 - National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117 (for burial in a VA national cemetery), daily, M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST, and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 - Applicant Assistance Unit (for government-furnished headstones, markers, and medallions) at 800-697-6947, M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST.
 - Presidential Memorial Certificates at 202-632-7300, M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST.

I WANT TO BE BURIED IN A STATE OR TRIBAL VETERANS' CEMETERY

State and tribal Veterans' cemeteries may have different requirements to apply for burial. Please contact the cemetery for eligibility and other information.

WHAT IS A PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE?

A Presidential Memorial Certificate is an engraved paper certificate signed by the current President, honoring the memory of the deceased Veteran.

WHERE DO I SEND THE FORMS?

Headstones, markers, medallions and Presidential Memorial Certificates, please: **scan and upload** the form to: access.va.gov, or **fax** the form to: 800-455-7143, or **mail** the form to: NCA FP Evidence Intake Center, PO BOX 5237, Janesville, WI 53547

Burial flags:

Visit your nearest VA Regional Office, or a U.S. Post Office. Your funeral director may also assist.

Information you'll need to know to apply for burial and memorial products:

Am I eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery or a memorial product?

Veterans, Service members, spouses and dependents may be eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery and a memorial product if they meet one of the requirements listed below:

- A Veteran who did not receive a dishonorable discharge, or
- A Service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training, or
- The spouse or minor child of a Veteran, even if the Veteran died first, or
- The unmarried adult dependent child of a Veteran, or
- In some cases, National Guard or Reserve members

Note: Spouses and dependents are not eligible to receive a Presidential Memorial Certificate or burial flag and are not eligible to receive a headstone, marker or medallion if buried in a private cemetery.

FOR BURIAL AT A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Can I plan ahead for my burial in a VA national cemetery?

Yes, first and foremost, you should inform family members about your desires for your burial. VA has a program that can assist by confirming eligibility for burial in a national cemetery. Anyone can apply for the pre-need eligibility determination by completing a **VA Form 40-10007** and submitting it to the address on the form. This program is particularly helpful for those who are uncertain of their eligibility because they do not understand the eligibility requirements, are concerned that their type of service or their character of service (discharge type) would not meet the requirement or do not have access to their discharge documents. Veterans, spouses, retirees, National Guard and Reserve members are encouraged to apply. However, Pre-need eligibility is not required.

What will a funeral director do?

A funeral director will assist the family by gathering and providing the documents needed by VA, calling the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to schedule the burial, acquiring a burial flag, requesting Military Funeral Honors from the Department of Defense, and serving as a liaison between the family and VA for burial matters.

Are military funeral honors provided at a VA national cemetery?

Yes, but they must be requested in advance. The Department of Defense is responsible for providing military funeral honors at VA national cemeteries. Funeral Directors usually request military funeral honors on behalf of Veterans' families.

Veterans Service Organizations may assist in the provision of military funeral honors. VA national cemetery staff may also assist in coordinating military funeral honors.

FOR BURIAL IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY

Can a government headstone or marker be provided if a private headstone or marker is already on the grave?

If the Veteran died on or after November 1, 1990, is buried in a private cemetery, and the gravesite is marked with a privately-purchased headstone or marker, the Veteran is eligible for a government-furnished headstone or marker for placement on the same gravesite.

OTHER QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE:

What does burial in a VA national cemetery include?

Eligible Veterans, Service members or family members receive certain burial benefits at no cost. These burial benefits include:

- A gravesite in any of VA's 155 national cemeteries with available space,
- Opening and closing of the grave,
- A grave liner,
- A headstone or marker (no application needed),
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate (no application needed), and
- Perpetual (ongoing) care of the gravesite.

What if I don't have the discharge document(s)?

It is helpful if you are able to provide the discharge document(s). This will reduce delays and ensure VA has the most accurate military information for inscribing the headstone or marker. However, if you do not have the Veteran's discharge document(s), **VA will help** obtain the information needed to determine eligibility.

Where is my nearest VA national cemetery, and state and tribal Veterans cemeteries?

To locate your nearest cemetery, visit: <https://www.cem.va.gov/find-cemetery>.

Do I have to pay for a headstone, marker, or medallion?

No, you do not have to pay for the headstone, marker or medallion itself, but some private cemeteries charge a setting or installation fee. Please contact the cemetery for more information.

For forms and additional information, visit <https://www.cem.va.gov>