



# 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.

-  **155+ VA national cemeteries**
-  **120+ VA grant-funded cemeteries**
-  **14 tribal cemeteries**
-  **50 states**
-  **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 military services)

## 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.