ExploreVA
Memorial Benefits

VA provides compassionate, professional memorial and burial services to ease Veteran families through the loss of their loved ones.

Did You Know...

- VA provides burial and memorial services to Veterans at no charge to honor their service to the nation.
- Spouses and children may also receive these services.
- With new VA national, state, and tribal cemeteries opening soon, almost every eligible Veteran will have a VA burial option within about an hour's drive from home.

VA Serves Veterans

VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed, and that of their families. VA meticulously maintains 131 VA national cemeteries in 39 states and is adding new sites to accommodate Veterans and loved ones in their time of need.

VA memorial benefits may include the following services:

- **VA national cemetery burials.** For eligible Veterans and loved ones, VA national cemetery burials involve the opening and closing of the gravesite, inscribed headstones or markers, a burial flag, award of the Presidential Memorial Certificate, and perpetual care of the gravesite.
- **Casket or cremation burials.** VA national cemeteries can provide services for traditional casket or cremation burials.
- **Private cemetery burials and allowances.** VA may accord eligible Veterans and family members who elect to hold private cemetery burials with memorial benefits that include headstones, markers, or medallions to mark the gravesite, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. VA may also provide burial allowances toward a family's burial and funeral costs.

VA gravesites cannot be reserved, although arrangements can be made with funeral homes in advance. At the time of need, contact a funeral home to arrange a burial at a national cemetery. To schedule a burial, fax a DD-214 form or other discharge papers to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 866-900-6417 and follow up with a phone call to 800-535-1117. It takes about 10 minutes to establish eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery.

Find Out How You Can Benefit

Explore VA memorial benefits today at **Explore.VA.gov/Memorial-Benefits.**