
Sacramento Valley



National Cemetery

5810 Midway Road, Dixon, CA 95620

Phone: 707.693.2460 Fax: 707.693.2479 or 707.693.2478

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT A NATIONAL CEMETERY?

What burial services does VA not provide?

VA does not make funeral arrangements or perform cremations. Families should make these arrangements with a funeral home or cremation provider. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation provider will be at the family's expense.

What burial benefits are offered in a National Cemetery?

Burial benefits available at no cost to the family include a gravesite in any of our 131 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Some Veterans may also be eligible for a burial allowance. Families may choose to have cremated remains buried in the ground or inurned in a columbarium in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and dates of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried in a national cemetery, even if they predecease the Veteran or if the Veteran is buried elsewhere.

Who is responsible for arranging Military Funeral Honors for the Veteran?

Generally the funeral director (FD) is responsible for arranging military honors and you should confirm with your FD that honors have been scheduled. If you are making your own arrangements for a cremation burial without FD involvement, the cemetery will give you the contact number for the military branch in which your Veteran served. Military honors are provided by the Department of Defense and include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military personnel, with at least one being a member of the Veteran's parent service of the Armed Forces. If you desire a rifle salute, be sure to inquire if one can be provided. If the military branch cannot provide a rifle salute, local veterans organizations may have volunteers who will provide this service upon request.

Who provides the burial flag?

The FD is generally responsible for providing the burial flag and should ensure that the casket will be properly draped with the flag or that the urn is accompanied by a burial flag. In the event you are bringing the urn to the cemetery yourself and you have requested military honors, it is your responsibility to provide the burial flag. If you do not have one, you may obtain a burial flag at any VA Regional Office or U.S. Post Office by completing VA Form 21-2008 "Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes" and providing a copy of the Veteran's military discharge document.

Who determines what a committal service will include and who conducts the service?

The family will make that determination. Viewing facilities are not available and funeral services cannot be held at VA national cemeteries, but a brief committal service not to exceed 30 minutes may be performed. If clergy is desired, it is the family's responsibility to make the arrangements. In some cases the military branch of service will, upon request, provide a chaplain as part of the funeral honors detail or a local veterans organization may provide a volunteer chaplain. Committal services are generally held in a designated shelter and not at the grave. A cemetery representative will accompany you during your service. Burial will take place following the committal service after attendees have departed the cemetery. In favorable weather conditions, families may visit the grave after 4 PM the day of the burial. Floral arrangements will be placed on the grave by cemetery staff after the grave is finished.

Do I have any say as to what information appears on the headstone or marker?

You will be given a Monument Data/Additional Inscription form to complete so that you can specify how the decedent's name should appear, as well as to express your preferences for an emblem of belief and any special language you may wish to have inscribed (terms of endearment, etc.). VA has up to five (5) days following the burial to order the headstone or marker, but if the cemetery receives the form or instructions from the family on the day of the burial, the headstone or marker will be ordered that day. In the absence of specific instructions from the family, the cemetery will order the headstone or marker with a standard inscription.

When will the headstone or marker be placed on the grave?

It normally takes less than 60 days following burial for the headstone or marker to be completed, delivered and set in place. Occasionally transportation damage or inscription errors make it necessary to order a replacement and it could take longer than 60 days. You are welcome to call the cemetery before you visit to inquire if the headstone or marker has been set. A temporary marker will remain on the grave until the permanent headstone or marker is set.

Who should I call if I have additional questions or want to learn more?

You may call the cemetery office Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. You may also visit our website at <http://www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/sacramento.asp> for more information.