

A Guide for the Veteran's Family

Veterans discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and service members who pass away while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, as well as spouses and dependent children of Veterans and active duty service members, may be eligible for VA burial and memorial benefits.

Spouses or dependent children of living Veterans may be eligible. With certain exceptions, active duty service beginning after Sept. 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and after Oct. 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum of 24 consecutive months or the full period of active duty (as in the case of reservists or National Guard members called to active duty for a limited duration). Active duty for training, by itself, while serving in the reserves or National Guard, is not sufficient to confer eligibility. Reservists and National Guard members, as well as their spouses and dependent children, are eligible if they were entitled to retired pay at the time of death, or would have been upon reaching requisite age.

A copy of the Veteran's discharge document that specifies the period(s) of active duty and character of discharge is usually sufficient to determine eligibility.



Saratoga County

Veterans Service Agency

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Saratoga County

Veterans Service Agency



Burial in VA National Cemeteries

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible Veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For Veterans, benefits also include a burial flag (with case for active duty) and military funeral honors.

Benefits available

- Burial in a National Cemetery
- Burial Flag
- Military Honors
- Grave Marker or Headstone
- Presidential Memorial Certificate

HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

Upon request, DOD will provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of "Taps." A funeral honors detail consists of two or more uniformed members of the armed forces, with at least one member from the deceased's Veterans branch of service.

BURIAL ALLOWANCE

VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$2,000 if the Veteran's death is service-connected.

VA will pay up to a \$700 burial and funeral allowance for Veterans who, at time of death, were entitled to receive pension or compensation or would have been entitled if they were not receiving military retirement pay.

VA will pay up to a \$700 plot allowance when a Veteran is buried in a cemetery not under U.S. government jurisdiction if: the Veteran was discharged from active duty because of disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; the Veteran was receiving compensation or pension or would have been if the Veteran was not receiving military retired pay.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries, of which 71 are open for new casketed interments and 19 are open to accept only cremated remains. The funeral director or the next of kin makes interment arrangements by contacting the National Cemetery Scheduling Office or national cemetery in which burial is desired.



PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE

Presidential Memorial Certificates are issued upon request to recognize the United States military service of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. Next of kin, relatives and other loved ones may apply for a certificate by mailing, e-mailing, or faxing a completed and signed VA Form 40-0247 along with a copy of the Veteran's military discharge documents or proof of honorable military service. All requests must be sent with supporting military documents or proof of honorable military service. Completed and signed documents along with supporting military documents can be submitted as follows:

- By US Mail to :
The Department of Veterans Affairs,
Presidential Memorial Certificates Program (41A1C), 5109 Russell Road, Quantico VA 22134.
- Faxed to our toll free fax service at 1-800-455-7143.
- Scanned and attached to an e-mail addressed to: pmc@va.gov. E-mail requests must have forms and documents attached.



MILITARY HONORS

Upon request, DOD will provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of "Taps." A funeral honors detail consists of two or more uniformed members of the armed forces, with at least one member from the deceased's branch of service



BURIAL FLAGS

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his or her country



NEW YORK STATE BENEFITS

Supplemental Burial Allowance, of up to \$6,000 is authorized for certain military personnel killed in combat or on active duty in hostile/imminent danger locations on or after September 29, 2003. Military personnel must have resided in New York State and received pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger at the time of their death

