

FAQ: “MILLENNIUM PROJECT”

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) REGARDING THE MILLENNIUM GROUNDS RENOVATION PROJECT

&

YOUR LOVED ONE’S GRAVESITE

WHAT IS THE “MILLENNIUM PROJECT”?

The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) is currently engaged in a \$4.5 million Millennium Grounds Renovation Project in which gravesites are being leveled; soil tilled to a depth of eight inches; and areas replanted with a new Bermuda grass called “Celebration” that is tolerant to both shade and drought.

WHY IS THIS WORK BEING DONE?

The turf at this national shrine has never been renovated before; this work is aimed at remediating the uneven “washboard effect” that appears in sections. Grave markers will be placed on a stabilizing material to prevent sinkage and facilitate access for annual cleaning.

HOW BIG AN UNDERTAKING IS IT?

There are 11 burial sections, and each section contains anywhere from 1,200 to 2,900 graves. More than 16,400 markers are to be renovated in Phase I [expected to be completed by January 2012]. Phase II will renovate 14,000 [sections K, L, E, F, G, H & U are expected to be completed by April 2012].

WHO IS DOING THE WORK, AND WHEN DO THEY EXPECT TO BE FINISHED?

The work has been contracted out to Veterans of the Land, and is being carried out under the supervision of NMCP staff.

It is estimated that each section will take 30 days to complete (provided there are no unexpected interruptions); Phase II work was 33 % completed as of January 2012.

IS AN AREA UNDER RENOVATION CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC?

As work commences in a section, that individual section will be closed due to safety concerns and to provide the contractor with uninterrupted access to the excavation area.

WHAT IF I CAME ALL THIS WAY TO PLACE FLOWERS ON MY LOVED ONE’S GRAVE, AND FIND THE SECTION IS UNDER RENOVATION? WHAT CAN I DO?

On a weekday, please go to the Administrative Office for assistance. On weekends and holidays, a security guard will direct you to the NMCP employee on duty. In all cases, you will be escorted for safety into the construction/renovation area site for your placement of your floral tribute.

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WHAT HAPPENS TO MY LOVED ONE’S GRAVESITE WHEN IT IS IN AN AREA BEING RENOVATED?

Your loved one’s grave marker is moved, cleaned and stabilized with a non-biodegradable product called “grass-pave.” It is re-installed at no cost to the next of kin when the renovation of the section is completed.

If there is an in-ground containers/vase at the site, it will be removed and examined. If these items are found to be in a serviceable condition, they will be tagged with the number of your loved one’s grave site, cleaned, and also stored for safekeeping. They will also be reinstalled at no cost to the next of kin once the renovation in the section is completed.

I’VE COME TO VISIT, AND CAN’T FIND THE IN-GROUND VASE. WHY WASN’T MY LOVED ONE’S CONTAINER/VASE REINSTALLED AFTER THE AREA WAS RENOVATED?

In-ground containers/vases that have been found by the contract workers, in consultation with NMCP staff, to no longer be in serviceable condition due to corrosion or other defects will not be re-installed.

WHAT CAN I DO IF MY LOVED ONE’S IN-GROUND CONTAINER/VASE WAS NOT REINSTALLED? WILL THE CEMEMTERY PAY FOR A NEW ONE?

Per the original interment agreement, the cemetery is not responsible for paying for the replacement of in-ground containers/vases if these items are found to be no longer in serviceable condition due to environmental conditions and natural causes. Temporary vases provided by the cemetery can always be used for floral tributes at grave sites.

Should you have a concern about the condition of such items and/or the determination of non-serviceability, please speak to a NMCP staff member in the Administrative Office.

WHAT HAPPENS TO IN-GROUND CONTAINERS/VASES THAT ARE DETERMINED TO NO LONGER BE IN SERVICABLE CONDITION?

The cemetery will store these items for 30 days after removal. Please contact a NMCP staff member should you, as next of kin, wish to retrieve such items.

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