

# **FAQ: “MILLENNIUM PROJECT” - Phase III**

## **NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC**

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

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### **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 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 gravesites. More than 16,400 markers were renovated in Phase I. Phase II involved the renovation of 14,000 gravesites. Phase III began 14 January 2013, and will concentrate on the renovation of the gravesites in Burial Sections S, V, W, M, N, and O. There are 7,670 gravesites in these sections.

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

The work has been contracted out to CHOE Enterprises, a service-disabled veteran-owned company, and is being carried out under the supervision of NMCP staff.

The renovation of a burial section can take up to 90 days, depending on such factors as inclement weather, public holidays and unexpected operational interruptions.

#### **IS AN AREA UNDER RENOVATION CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC?**

As work commences in a section, that 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 to allow for the 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 with a non-biodegradable product, and stored until time to be reinstalled. 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 container/vase at the site, it will be removed and examined by a contractor and a member of the cemetery staff to determine its condition. Four types of determinations can be made: Made of Asbestos; Unserviceable-1 (not in good condition, but can be reinstalled); Unserviceable -2 (deteriorated to the point where reinstallation is not feasible); Serviceable.

If your in-ground container/vase is found to be constructed of material other than asbestos, and is either in Serviceable or Unserviceable-1 condition, it will be tagged with the number of your loved one’s gravesite, cleaned, and stored for safekeeping. It will also be reinstalled along with the grave marker at no cost to the next of kin once the renovation in the section is completed. Asbestos and Unserviceable-2 containers will be disposed of properly.

### **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 to be made of asbestos will not be reinstalled, but disposed of as hazardous material.

If the status of your in-ground container/vase has been determined to be Unserviceable-2, it will not be reinstalled when the renovation of the section is completed. You may come to the cemetery and retrieve it if you wish.

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

Per the original interment agreement, the cemetery is not responsible for the repair, maintenance or safe-guarding of in-ground containers/vases. In addition, the agreement states that 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 (as determined by the cemetery staff). Temporary vases provided by the cemetery can always be used for floral tributes at gravesites.

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