



# ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL CEMETERY

## VISITOR AND FLORAL REGULATIONS

**National Cemeteries are shrines for the honored deceased who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Visitors to these hallowed grounds shall refrain from activity that is unbecoming to the final resting place of our nation's heroes.**

### VISITOR REGULATIONS:

- The use of the cemetery grounds for any form of sports or recreation to include but not limited to bicycling, jogging, exercise walking, skating, riding snowmobiles or all-terrain vehicles as well as hunting or fishing are not permitted at any time on federal property.
- Picnicking on cemetery grounds is forbidden.
- Littering the grounds will not be tolerated.
- Do not cut, break or injure trees, shrubs, grass or other plantings.
- It is against National Cemetery regulations to use the cemetery for public gatherings of a partisan nature, or any activities or boisterous actions that could be viewed as demeaning to the national shrine.
- Pets, such as dogs or other animals, leashed or unleashed shall not be brought upon cemetery grounds. Although, service animals, including those that guide the blind, assist the hearing-impaired or act as warning systems for the seizure prone, are welcome.
- Please do not sit on headstones or markers.

### FLORAL REGULATIONS:

- **All items placed on gravesites will be removed as soon as they become unsightly, or when it becomes necessary to facilitate cemetery operations such as mowing.**
- A limit of 3 floral arrangements may be placed on the grave at the conclusion of the committal service.
- Fresh cut flowers may be placed on the graves at any time.
- Artificial flowers will be permitted on graves during the period of Oct. 1 through April 1, and **will be removed as soon as they become unsightly.**
- Holiday wreaths or blankets are permitted on graves during the holiday season beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>. **All holiday items will be removed starting Martin Luther King Day.**
- Planting of seeds, such as grass or floral, trees or shrubs are not permitted on graves at any time.
- Potted plants and artificial flowers may be placed on graves only during the period 10 days before and 10 days after Easter and Memorial Day.
- Statues, vigil lights, breakable objects of any nature and similar commemorative items are not permitted on graves at any time. These will be removed and stored in a holding area for **30 days** prior to disposal.
- **No items such as stickers or balloons may be attached to a headstone or marker at any time.**
- The Department of Veterans Affairs does not permit adornments which are:
  - a. Considered offensive
  - b. Inconsistent with the dignity of the cemetery
  - c. Considered hazardous to cemetery personnel (for example, containing wires that become entangled in mowers and other equipment)
- **Please exercise caution if placing personal, sentimental or valuable items on gravesites. Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery is not responsible for any items placed on gravesites and cannot replace or reimburse items that have been damaged, lost or stolen. All items placed on gravesites become the property of the United States Government.**