

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration

VA Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials

The Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials is one of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) FACA Advisory Committees. The Committee is authorized by statute, Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 2401, and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.).

VA seeks a diverse group of applicants from the general public to consider for service on the Committee. Candidates for membership should be recognized authorities in fields pertinent to the needs of Veterans. Desirable qualifications include one or more of the following: military experience; industry experience related to memorial or burial benefits; government or non-government organization experience; familiarity with complex organizations; and diverse professional and personal experience.

The Committee advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect to the administration of VA national cemeteries, Soldiers' lots and plots, the selection of cemetery sites, the erection of appropriate memorials, and the adequacy of Federal burial benefits. The Committee provides periodic reports to the Secretary and Congress outlining recommendations, concerns and observations of VA's delivery of burial benefits and services to Veterans or work on specific projects such as:

- That VA consider providing a plot allowance for eligible spouses and dependents buried in state and tribal Veterans cemeteries.
- That NCA create a mechanism to report when Burial Operations Support System (BOSS) outages occur at state, tribal and National Park Service Veterans cemeteries.
- The committee is studying and investigating new or emerging burial practices and in particular the area of digital or online memorials and plans to make a recommendation in the future.

The Committee's recommendations and insights assist the Secretary in ensuring that burial benefit programs are meeting the needs of the nation's Veterans, spouses and their eligible family members and meeting the mandate to maintain VA national cemeteries as national shrines.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) enacted in 1972 ensures that advice from various advisory committees formed over the years is objective and accessible to the public. FACA places special emphasis on public participation in committee membership and open access to meetings and reports. Through FACA, the public has an opportunity to provide input into a process that may form the basis for government decisions.

Under current VA policy, the Committee's membership is composed of up to 12 members and three ex-officio members representing other federal government agencies responsible for Veteran cemeteries. The Secretary appoints the members of the committee to a two-year term and may reappoint members for an additional term of service.

To learn more about the VA Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials, please visit www.cem.va.gov/cem/about/advisory_committee.asp.

Updated January 2017