

# VA



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

National Cemetery Administration

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## **VA Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials**

The Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials is one of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 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 (FACA), 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.

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 terms and may reappoint members for an additional term of service.

The Committee advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Memorial 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 also 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, to include the establishment of the Access, Outreach, and Choice Subcommittee to:

- study the unique burial needs of Native American and Alaskan American Veterans and their impact on the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), Veterans Cemetery Grant Program;
- determine ways to increase access to the hardest five percent of the Veteran population, such as Veterans who reside in rural areas;
- review the Emblems of Belief regulation and NCA's decision-making process;
- assist with the development of an Outreach Ambassador Program and review of outreach plan and materials; and
- review burial plot allowance discrepancies for eligible surviving spouses and family members.

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.

To learn more about the VA Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials, please visit [www.cem.va.gov/cem/about/advisory\\_committee.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/about/advisory_committee.asp).