



U.S. Department  
Of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration

## Fact Sheet

Los Angeles National Cemetery  
950 S. Sepulveda Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90049  
310-268-4675

[www.va.gov/burials-memorials](http://www.va.gov/burials-memorials)  
[www.facebook.com/NatCemLosAngeles](https://www.facebook.com/NatCemLosAngeles)

October 2019

### ***Los Angeles National Cemetery Columbarium Expansion***

The Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (NCA) recently completed the first phase of its columbarium expansion project at Los Angeles National Cemetery. The cemetery closed to new burials for casketed remains in 1978. The new columbarium is an above-ground, cremation-only facility that will serve Veterans and their eligible family members the Greater Los Angeles Area for decades to come.

#### **Project Details**

Construction started: September 2017

Project Cost: \$17.38 M

Acres Developed: 4.4

Number of Niches: 10,357 (initial phase) with an estimated final capacity of 90,854 niches

Other project details: This phase of the project includes a committal shelter, restrooms, and a Gravesite Locator kiosk.



#### **NCA Urban Initiative**

The columbarium expansion at Los Angeles National Cemetery is the first project under NCA's Urban Initiative to open. The Urban Initiative improves access to burial benefits in certain densely populated areas to better serve Veterans, their spouses and families. In some of the largest urban areas that VA serves – New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Indianapolis – the national cemeteries which still have capacity are more than 60 miles removed from the service area core. These cemeteries inter a smaller percentage of eligible veterans than other large-city national cemeteries that are located closer to its urban core. In most cases, sites that are large enough to provide the full range of burial services over an extended period are not available. VA determined that these cities could be better served by developing space-efficient, columbarium-only cemeteries within or nearer the urban core. The nearest cemetery for Los Angeles Veterans is Riverside National Cemetery, which is approximately 80 miles away.

#### **Scheduling Services at Los Angeles National Cemetery**

On October 1, 2019, the National Cemetery Scheduling Office will begin to schedule committal services in the new columbarium for services beginning October 15, 2019. The new columbarium is above-ground, cremation-only. Los Angeles National Cemetery can accommodate casket burials for Veterans

and eligible family members joining their loved one in an existing gravesite. Riverside National Cemetery is the closest cemetery that offers all burial options for new interments.

Scheduling is easy. Fax all discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 866-900-6417 and follow up with a phone call to 800-535-1117. You can also scan and email all discharge documentation to [NCA.Scheduling@va.gov](mailto:NCA.Scheduling@va.gov). For more information, go to [www.va.gov/burials-memorials](http://www.va.gov/burials-memorials).

## **Eligibility**

Burial in a VA national cemetery is open to all members of the Armed Forces and Veterans who have met minimum active duty service requirements, as applicable, and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who die while on active duty or who die while on training duty, under certain circumstances, are also eligible for burial, as are service members and former service members who were eligible for retired pay at the time of their death.

A Veteran's spouse, minor children, and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities (if diagnosed by age 21 or 23 if enrolled in college), may also be eligible for burial, even if they predecease the Veteran.

VA provides the gravesite, grave liner, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, and perpetual care of the gravesite at no cost to the family.

## **Pre-Need Burial Eligibility Determination**

VA implemented the pre-need burial eligibility determination program to assist anyone who would like to know if they are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. VA is promoting pre-need eligibility determinations to encourage Veterans and their eligible family members to plan in advance to use VA burial benefits that Veterans have earned through their military service. Advanced planning for a Veteran's or loved-one's passing can eliminate unnecessary delays and reduce stress on a family at a difficult time. For more information and to apply online, go to <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/>.

## **About Los Angeles National Cemetery**

Los Angeles National Cemetery was established in 1889, as part of the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The cemetery is located across from the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center and has grown to more than 118 acres. Some of the cemetery's built features are unusual, including an administration building-chapel (built 1939-40), and the NCA's only indoor columbarium (built 1940-41) – both were built by the Works Progress Administration in a distinctive Spanish Revival style of stucco and tile. The cemetery was designated as Los Angeles National Cemetery in 1973.

## **About the National Cemetery Administration**

VA operates 138 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's national cemeteries. VA also provides funding to establish, expand, improve, and maintain 105 Veterans cemeteries in 47 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, online at [www.va.gov/burials-memorials](http://www.va.gov/burials-memorials), or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000.