

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration

FACTS ABOUT THE NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

MISSION

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA), honors Veterans and their eligible family members with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our nation.

NCA STATISTICS

- NCA maintains 3.83 million graves with 628,746 additional developed gravesites available: 356,873 available gravesites for casketed remains, 115,115 in ground gravesites for cremated remains and 156,758 columbarium niches for cremated remains.
- As of the end of FY2019, NCA manages approximately 22,368 acres within its cemeteries. Approximately 59% is undeveloped, and, along with available gravesites in developed acreage, has the potential to provide approximately 5.1 million casket gravesites.
- As of the end of FY2019, of the 138 VA national cemeteries, 79 are open to all interments; 16 can accommodate cremated remains and the remains of family members for interment in the same gravesite as a previously deceased family member; and 43 will accommodate only interments of family members in the same gravesite as a previously deceased family member.
- As of the date on this fact sheet, May 2020, four additional cemeteries have been transferred by the Department of the Army to the VA, bringing the total number of VA national cemeteries to 142. Two of these four can accommodate cremated remains and the remains of family members for interment in the same gravesite as a previously deceased family member; and two will accommodate only interments of family members in the same gravesite as a previously deceased family member.
- Since 1973, when VA managed 82 national cemeteries, annual interments in VA national cemeteries have increased by more than 370% from 36,422 to 134,833 in FY 2019.
- Of the 134,833 interments conducted in FY 2019, 64% were in the 20 busiest national cemeteries: Riverside (CA); Florida (FL): Calverton (NY); Ft. Snelling (MN); Jefferson Barracks (MO); Dallas-Ft. Worth (TX); Great Lakes (MI); Ft. Sam Houston (TX); Abraham Lincoln (IL); Ft. Rosecrans/Miramar (CA); Ft. Logan (CO); Willamette (OR); Sacramento Valley (CA); National Military Cemetery of Arizona (AZ); Tahoma (WA); Houston (TX); Ohio Western Reserve (OH); South Florida (FL); Massachusetts (MA); and Sarasota (FL).
- As of Sept. 30, 2019, 10 national cemeteries contain more than 2,160,258 occupied gravesites, collectively accounting for 57% of all NCA gravesites maintained: Long Island (NY); Riverside (CA); Calverton (NY); Fort Snelling (MN); Jefferson Barracks (MO); Willamette (OR); Florida National Cemetery (FL); Fort Sam Houston (TX), and Golden Gate (CA).

- Largest National Cemetery: Calverton, NY, 1,045 acres.
- Smallest National Cemetery: Hampton VAMC, VA, 0.03 acres.
- Oldest National Cemetery: 11 established in 1862.
- Newest National Cemetery: Snake River Canyon National Cemetery established in March 2020.
- Cemetery Acquisitions: added from the Dept. of the Army: Ft. Lawton Post Cemetery - Aug. 22, 2019; Ft. Missoula Post Cemetery - Oct. 16, 2019; Ft. Sheridan National Cemetery - Dec. 13, 2019; Ft. Douglas Post Cemetery - Dec. 20, 2019; and Vancouver Barracks National Cemetery - March 6, 2020.
- Since 1973, NCA has furnished more than 14 million headstones and markers.
- In FY 2019, NCA furnished 345,780 headstones and markers. Of this number, 161,939 headstones and markers and 13,168 medallions were issued to Veterans interred in private cemeteries worldwide.
- NCA provided approximately 564,804 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved ones of deceased Veterans in FY 2019.
- Since 1980, NCA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program has awarded grants totaling more than \$862 million to establish, expand, improve, operate and maintain 116 Veterans cemeteries in 49 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. These VA-funded Veteran cemeteries provided more than 39,932 burials in FY 2019.
- Volunteers donated more than 191,000 hours at national cemeteries during FY 2019.
- More than 3.4 million people visited VA national cemeteries in FY 2019.
- NCA has built two rural cemeteries that are now open - Fargo National Cemetery, in Fargo, North Dakota which had its first interment in October 2019, and Snake River Canyon National Cemetery in Buhl, Idaho, which had its first interment in March 2020. In addition, NCA plans to establish six more rural national cemeteries in sparsely populated locations across the country. NCA newest national cemetery, Western New York National Cemetery, is under development. By FY 2021, NCA is scheduled to open five columbaria-only sites in New York, NY; Chicago, IL; Indianapolis, IN, Alameda, CA; and Los Angeles, CA.
- Twenty percent (113,365 Veterans interred in FY19) of U.S. Veterans who died (estimated 584,000 in FY19) in the U.S., and Puerto Rico in FY 2019 were buried in a national, state or tribal Veterans cemetery. As new national, state and tribal Veterans cemeteries open, this percentage is expected to increase.

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