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 3.7 million graves with approximately 700,000 additional developed gravesites available: 418,000 available gravesites for casketed remains, 119,000 in ground gravesites for cremated remains and 162,000 columbarium niches for cremated remains.

• NCA manages approximately 21,400 acres within its cemeteries. Approximately 57 percent is undeveloped and, along with available gravesites in developed acreage, has the potential to provide approximately 5.3 million gravesites.

• Of the 136 VA national cemeteries, 78 are open to all interments; 17 can accommodate cremated remains and the remains of family members for interment in the same gravesite as a previously deceased family member; and 41 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 366 percent, from 36,400 to 135,306 in FY 2018. Interments are expected to increase annually until the year 2020.

• Of the 135,306 interments conducted in FY 2018, 65 percent were in the 20 busiest national cemeteries: Riverside (CA); Florida (FL); Calverton (NY); Ft. Snelling (MN); Jefferson Barracks (MO); Dallas-Ft. Worth (TX); Ft. Logan (CO); Great Lakes (MI); Ft. Sam Houston (TX); Ft. Rosencrans/Miramar (CA); Sacramento Valley (CA); Abraham Lincoln (IL); Willamette (OR); National Military Cemetery of Arizona (AZ); Houston (TX); Tahoma (WA); Ohio Western Reserve (OH); South Florida (FL); Massachusetts (MA); and Sarasota (FL).

• As of Sept. 30, 2018, 10 national cemeteries contained more than 100,000 occupied gravesites, collectively accounting for 41 percent of all NCA gravesites maintained: Long Island (NY); Calverton (NY); Riverside (CA); Fort Snelling (MN); Jefferson Barracks (MO); Willamette (OR); South 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: 12 established in 1862.


• Since 1973, NCA has furnished more than 13.6 million headstones and markers. In FY 2018, NCA furnished approximately 351,556 headstones and markers. Of this number, 165,311 headstones and markers and 13,142 medallions were issued to Veterans interred in private cemeteries worldwide.

• NCA provided approximately 517,858 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved ones of deceased Veterans in FY 2018.

• Since 1980, NCA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program has awarded grants totaling more than $816 million to establish, expand, improve, operate and maintain 112 Veterans cemeteries in 48 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. These VA-funded Veteran cemeteries provided more than 39,450 burials in FY 2018.

• Volunteers donated more than 209,000 hours at national cemeteries during FY 2018.

• More than 5.4 million people visited VA national cemeteries in FY 2018.

• VA opened Omaha National Cemetery in August 2016 and Pike’s Peak National Cemetery opened for first interments in October 2018. Western New York National Cemetery is under development. In addition, VA plans to increase burial access for Veterans by establishing seven more rural national cemeteries in sparsely populated locations across the country. 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 of U.S. Veterans (596,000), who died in the U.S. and Puerto Rico in FY 2018 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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