



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

Medallion Benefit

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides a medallion, by request, to be affixed to an existing, privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a Veteran.

This device is furnished in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or grave marker for those Veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.



Why choose a medallion: Bronze medallions are durable and can be easily affixed to privately purchased headstones by anyone, avoiding headstone or marker setting fees. The medallion also offers a way to identify the grave as that of a Veteran when a cemetery only allows one headstone per grave, preventing the use of a standard VA marker as a footstone.

Sizes: The medallion is available in three sizes: **Large** (6-3/8"W x 4-3/4"H x 1/2"D), **Medium** (3-3/4"W x 2-7/8"H x 1/4"D) and **Small** (2"W x 1-1/2"H x 1/3"D). Each medallion is inscribed with the word "VETERAN" across the top and the branch of service at the bottom.

Once a claim for a medallion is received and approved, VA will mail the medallion along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the device to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum or columbarium niche cover.

Important: This benefit is only applicable if the grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. In these instances, eligible Veterans are entitled to either a traditional Government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both.

To request a medallion, please use VA Form 40 - 1330M, Claim for Government Medallion for Placement in a Private Cemetery, which is available on the National Cemetery Administration website at: http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/order_instructions.asp. The Veteran's Next of Kin (NOK), a person authorized in writing by the NOK or a representative authorized in writing by the deceased Veteran may order the medallion.

If there are two Veterans interred, two medallions can be affixed to the privately purchased headstone.