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.

• NCA administers 155 national cemeteries, 82 of which are open to all interments, and an additional 20 which are open to interments of cremated remains only. In addition to VA national cemeteries, two national cemeteries – Arlington and the United States Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery – are administered by the Army. Fourteen national cemeteries are maintained by the Department of the Interior. The American Battle Monuments Commission maintains 26 American cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States.


• The Rural Initiative was established to provide access to VA burial benefits for Veterans who reside in rural areas and who have not previously had reasonable access to a national or state Veterans cemetery.

• Nearly 5 million people, including 4 million Veterans from the Revolutionary War to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan – are honored with a burial in a VA national cemetery. More than 22,000 acres from Hawaii to Maine, and from Alaska to Puerto Rico are devoted to memorializing those who served this nation. More than 390 Medal of Honor recipients are buried in VA’s national cemeteries.

• Since 1973, when VA managed 82 national cemeteries, annual interments in VA national cemeteries have increased by more than 348% from 36,422 to 126,884 in FY 2020.

• Of the 126,844 interments conducted in FY 2020, 63% were in the 20 busiest national cemeteries: Riverside (CA); Calverton (NY); Florida (FL); Jefferson Barracks (MO); Dallas-Ft. Worth (TX); Fort Snelling (MN); Ft. Sam Houston (TX) Great Lakes (MI); Abraham Lincoln (IL); Ft. Logan (CO); Houston (TX); Miramar/Ft. Rosecrans (CA); National Military Cemetery of Arizona (AZ); Sacramento Valley (CA); Willamette (OR); Tahoma (WA); Ohio Western Reserve (OH); South Florida (FL); Massachusetts (MA); and Sarasota (FL).
• As of Sept. 30, 2020, 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: Riverside, CA, 1,236 acres.
• Smallest National Cemetery: Hampton VAMC, VA, 0.03 acres.
• Oldest National Cemetery: 11 established in 1862.


• Since 1973, NCA has furnished more than 14 million headstones and markers to national, state and tribal cemeteries and private cemeteries.

• In FY 2020, NCA furnished 323,051 headstones and markers. Of this number, 148,372 headstones and markers and 12,189 medallions were issued to Veterans interred in private cemeteries worldwide.

• NCA provided approximately 547,019 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved ones of deceased Veterans in FY 2020.

• Since 1980, NCA’s Veterans Cemetery Grants Program has awarded grants totaling more than $867 million to establish, expand, improve, operate and maintains more than 118 Veterans cemeteries in 49 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. These VA-funded Veteran cemeteries provided approximately 40,000 burials in FY 2020.

• Volunteers donated more than 90,000 hours at national cemeteries during FY 2020. This number dropped significantly due to COVID-19.

• More than 3.4 million people visited VA national cemeteries in FY 2020.

• NCA is also expanding access to cemeteries for urban Veterans, with four columbaria-only sites scheduled for construction in New York, NY; Chicago, IL; Indianapolis, IN, and Alameda, CA. A columbarium addition was dedicated at Los Angeles National Cemetery in October 2019, re-opening that cemetery to first interments after being closed for 40 years.

• Twenty percent (105,845 Veterans interred in FY20) of U.S. Veterans who died (estimated 592,682 in FY20) in the U.S., and Puerto Rico in FY 2020 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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