

# Facts About the National Cemetery Administration

## MISSION

The National Cemetery Administration honors veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our Nation.

## NCA STATISTICS

- NCA currently maintains more than 2.8 million gravesites at 125 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites.
- Approximately 306,600 full-casket gravesites, 93,700 in-ground gravesites for cremated remains, and 79,400 columbarium niches are available in already developed acreage in our 125 national cemeteries.
- There are approximately 17,000 acres within established installations in NCA. Just over half are undeveloped and—with available gravesites in developed acreage—have the potential to provide approximately 4.7 million gravesites.
- Of the 125 national cemeteries, 65 are open to all interments; 20 can accommodate cremated remains and the remains of family members for interment in the same gravesite as a previously deceased family member; and 40 will perform only interments of family members in the same gravesite as a previously deceased family member.
- Since 1973, annual interments in VA national cemeteries have increased by more than 175 percent, from 36,400 to nearly 100,200 in fiscal year 2007. Interments are expected to increase annually until the year 2009.
- Of the 100,200 interments conducted in fiscal year 2007, 68.8 percent were in the 20 busiest national cemeteries: Riverside, Calif.; Florida; Calverton, N.Y.; Fort Snelling, Minn.; Jefferson Barracks, Mo; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Logan, Col.; Willamette, Ore.; Dallas - Fort Worth, Texas; National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona; Houston, Texas; Tahoma, Wash.; Fort Rosecrans, Calif.; Abraham Lincoln, Ill.; Massachusetts; Long Island, N.Y.; Indiantown Gap, Pa.; Ohio Western Reserve; Great Lakes, Mich.; and Sacramento Valley, Calif.
- As of Sept. 30, 2007, 8 national cemeteries each contained more than 100,000 occupied gravesites, collectively accounting for 40 percent of all NCA gravesites maintained: Long Island, N.Y.; Calverton, N.Y.; Riverside, Calif.; Fort. Snelling, Minn.; Jefferson Barracks, Mo; Golden Gate, Calif.; Willamette, Ore.; Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

- Largest National Cemetery: Calverton, N.Y. 1,045 acres.
- Smallest National Cemetery: Hampton VAMC, Va. .03 acres.
- Oldest National Cemetery: 14 established in 1862 (12 are currently maintained by VA).
- Newest National Cemetery: South Florida VA National Cemetery in April 2007.
- Since 1973, NCA has furnished more than 9.9 million headstones and markers. In fiscal year 2007, NCA furnished more than 361,100 headstones and markers.
- NCA provided more than 423,100 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved ones of deceased veterans in fiscal year 2007.
- Since 1980, NCA's State Cemetery Grants Program has obligated more than \$312 million to 35 states, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas for the establishment, expansion, or improvement of 69 state veterans cemeteries. In fiscal year 2007, NCA-supported state cemeteries provided more than 23,000 interments.
- Volunteers donated approximately 366,000 hours at national cemeteries during fiscal year 2007.
- More than 8.1 million people visited VA national cemeteries in fiscal year 2007.
- In 1999 and 2003, Congress passed two laws directing VA to establish 12 new national cemeteries. One has been opened in Oklahoma, one in Pennsylvania, one in Michigan, one in Georgia, one in California and one in Florida. The rest—one in Alabama, one in California, two in Florida, one in Pennsylvania, and one in South Carolina—will be located near large populations of veterans who currently do not have access to a burial option.

## **VETERAN STATISTICS**

- VA estimates that 654,000 veterans in the U.S. and Puerto Rico died in 2007. Historically, about 12 percent of U.S. veterans choose to be buried in a national or state veterans cemetery. As new national and state veterans cemeteries open, this percentage is expected to increase.