

**Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration**

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NCA Volunteerism Information Sheet

Background:

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) provides many volunteer opportunities to the public to serve America's veterans. Volunteers help NCA to meet our mission of providing burial space for America's veterans and maintaining our cemeteries as national shrines. Volunteers serve on cemetery honor guards or as buglers helping to provide honors at veteran burials. Some choose to serve on cemetery support committees that help plan special events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies. Other volunteers assist with general or specific beautification projects. Many others help out with administrative tasks at the cemetery's public information center or administrative offices.

NCA currently maintains more than 2.8 million gravesites at 125 VA national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites.

Goal:

To increase volunteerism at national cemeteries from individuals or organizations to include veterans service organizations, and grassroots non-profit and community organizations.

How You Can Participate:

Volunteers usually make direct contact with NCA through personal contact with NCA staff at an outreach event, convention, cemetery special event or are referred from other local VA facilities such as VA Medical Centers. Additionally, our current volunteers help other potential volunteers get in contact with NCA to find out about opportunities. NCA staff at the Memorial Service Network offices and at national cemeteries conduct numerous outreach presentations annually. One component of these presentations is volunteer opportunities at NCA specifically and in general how to become a VA volunteer. NCA staff can help to identify volunteer opportunities best suited to meet the goals of individuals or organizations.

In fiscal year 2007, volunteers donated approximately 365,000 hours of service at VA national cemeteries.

For More Information: Please visit NCA's Website at www.cem.va.gov. You may also contact Robin Cooper at (202) 461-6240 or via email at robin.cooper@va.gov