

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 approximately 3.1 million gravesites at 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites.
- Approximately 380,000 full-casket gravesites, 112,000 in-ground gravesites for cremated remains, and 130,000 columbarium niches are available in already developed acreage in our 131 national cemeteries.
- There are approximately 20,000 acres within established installations in NCA. Nearly 60 percent are undeveloped and – along with available gravesites in developed acreage – have the potential to provide approximately 5.6 million gravesites.
- Of the 131 national cemeteries, 72 are open to all interments; 18 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 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 222 percent, from 36,400 to more than 117,400 in FY 2011. Interments are expected to increase annually until the year 2016.
- Of the 117,400 interments conducted in FY 2011, 65.5 percent were in the 20 busiest national cemeteries: Riverside, Calif.; Florida National; Calverton, N.Y.; Fort Snelling, Minn.; Jefferson Barracks, Mo.; Fort Logan, Colo.; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Willamette, Ore.; Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas; Fort Rosecrans, Calif.; National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona; Abraham Lincoln, Ill.; Tahoma, Wash.; Houston, Texas; Great Lakes, Mich.; Sacramento Valley, Calif.; Massachusetts; South Florida; Ohio Western Reserve; and Indiantown Gap, Pa.
- As of Sept. 30, 2011, eight national cemeteries each contained more than 100,000 occupied gravesites, collectively accounting for 39 percent of all NCA gravesites maintained: Long Island, N.Y.; Calverton, N.Y.; Riverside, Calif.; Fort Snelling, Minn.; Jefferson Barracks, Mo.; Willamette, Ore.; Golden Gate, Calif.; and Fort 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: Washington Crossing National Cemetery, Pa., established in January 2010.
- Since 1973, NCA has furnished more than 11.3 million headstones and markers. In fiscal year 2011, NCA furnished approximately 371,000 headstones and markers.
- NCA provided approximately 780,000 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved ones of deceased Veterans in fiscal year 2011.
- Since 1980, NCA's Veterans State Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP) has awarded more than \$482 million to 41 states, territories and tribal organizations for the establishment, expansion or improvement of 86 state Veterans cemeteries. In fiscal year 2011, NCA-supported Veterans cemeteries provided nearly 29,500 interments.
- Volunteers donated nearly 322,000 hours at national cemeteries during fiscal year 2011.
- More than 7.4 million people visited VA national cemeteries in fiscal year 2011.

VA has recently implemented a number of new burial policies that will increase accessibility to a VA burial option. Two new cemeteries in Florida, one in western New York, one in southern Colorado and one in Nebraska are planned. In addition, VA plans to increase access for rural Veterans by establishing National Veterans Burial Grounds in existing public or private cemeteries in eight sparsely populated rural locations across the country. VA estimates that 645,364 Veterans in the U.S. and Puerto Rico died in 2011. More than 15 percent of U.S. Veterans chose to be buried in a national or state Veterans cemetery in FY 2011. As new national and state Veterans cemeteries open, this percentage is expected to increase.