

Burial & Memorial Benefits

A practical guide for planning ahead and knowing what to do when a Veteran dies.

1 | Could the Veteran be eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery?

Eligibility depends on the Veteran's service and discharge status, with separate rules for some spouses and dependents. Check eligibility before making plans around a VA national cemetery.

[CHECK NATIONAL CEMETERY BURIAL ELIGIBILITY →](#)

2 | If eligible, consider a pre-need determination now

PLAN AHEAD WHEN POSSIBLE

A pre-need determination confirms eligibility in advance and can make things easier for the family later. It does not reserve a specific cemetery or gravesite.

[APPLY FOR PRE-NEED ELIGIBILITY ONLINE →](#)

[DOWNLOAD VA FORM 40-10007 →](#)

At the time of death

3 | If burial in a VA national cemetery is desired

[SCHEDULE A BURIAL / LEARN WHAT VA NEEDS →](#)

4 | Ask about military funeral honors

Military funeral honors are a Department of Defense benefit, separate from VA cemetery administration. A funeral director can often coordinate the request.

[MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS INFORMATION →](#)

5 | Check other burial and memorial benefits

- Burial allowance/reimbursement when eligibility rules are met.
- Government-furnished headstone, marker, or medallion in qualifying circumstances.
- Burial flag.
- Presidential Memorial Certificate.
- Burial benefits that may apply to eligible spouses and dependents.

[VA BURIAL & MEMORIAL BENEFITS →](#)

[CHECK / APPLY FOR VA BURIAL ALLOWANCE →](#)

Keep these records where family can find them

- DD214 or other separation papers.
- Pre-need eligibility decision, if obtained.
- Preferred cemetery and funeral-home information.
- Marriage/dependent records when relevant.