

NCA History

- Omnibus bill of 1862, signed into law on July 17, authorized President Lincoln to purchase grounds for use as national cemeteries
- Fourteen national cemeteries established in 1862
- Previously soldiers were buried where they fell

NCA Mission

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation.

NCA Vision

To be the **model of excellence** for burial and memorial benefits for our Nation's Veterans and their families.



NCA Responsibilities

- Provide burial space for Veterans and eligible family members
- Maintain national cemeteries as national shrines
- Administer the Federal grants program for construction of state and tribal Veterans cemeteries
- Furnish headstones, markers and medallions for the graves of Veterans around the world
- Administer the Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) Program
- Administer the First Notice of Death (FNOD) program



Partners in Managing Military and Veterans Cemeteries

- VA – 134 cemeteries
- VA grant-funded cemeteries - 103
- Army – 30 cemeteries
 - Arlington National Cemetery
- Interior – 14 cemeteries
 - Gettysburg National Cemetery, PA
- American Battle Monuments Commission – 25
 - Overseas cemeteries



Biloxi National Cemetery
Biloxi, MS





Cemetery Director Intern Program



Workload Data

Benefits	FY 15 Actual	FY 16 Projection	FY17 Projection
Interments	130,424	132,622	132,093
Headstones/ Markers/ Medallions	364,171	368,309	368,059
Presidential Memorial Certificates	661,064	625,000	635,000

- Perpetual care provided for 4.3 million Veterans, service members, Reservists and family members in 3.5 million gravesites
- Manages 8,902 developed acres

Veterans Serving Veterans

- 1,700-1800 employees
- About 87% of our employees work outside of DC
- Over 74.25% of NCA employees are Vets
 - highest of any Federal agency
- 28.09% are disabled Veterans



Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VGCP)

- VA provides 100% of development costs
- 100 operational state and tribal cemeteries in 48 states, Guam and Saipan
- Over \$640 million in grants awarded since 1978
- 35,000 burials in FY2015
- Dedicated and opened 100th grant-funded cemetery in 2016



Customer Satisfaction

In 2013, NCA again achieved the highest ranking of any participating organization public or private

Fifth consecutive time!



Survey Questions	FY 14 Goal	FY 14 Actual
Cemetery Appearance	99%	98%
Quality of Service	97%	96%
Recommend to Other Vets	99%	98%



Eligibility Criteria and Scheduling

- Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who dies on active duty
- Any Veteran who was discharged under qualifying conditions (*other than dishonorable*)
- National Guard members and Reservists with 20 years of qualifying service, who are entitled to retired pay
- Spouses, minor children and certain parents



The National Cemetery Scheduling Office serves all national cemeteries, seven days a week, 362 days a year

Toll Free Number:
1-800-535-1117



Veteran Burial Benefits

- Gravesite
- Opening and closing of the grave
- Grave liner
- Perpetual care of the gravesite



Memorial Benefits

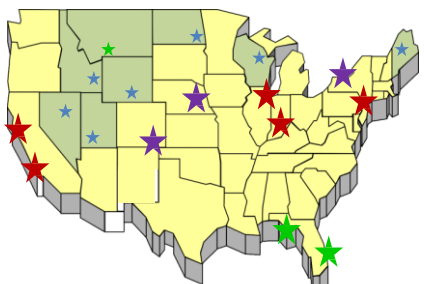
- Headstone, Markers or Niche Covers
- Bronze Medallion
- Presidential Memorial Certificate
- U.S. Burial Flag
- Military Funeral Honors

Memorial Benefits

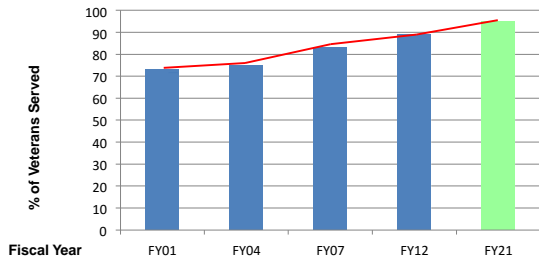


Opening New National Cemeteries

- National Cemeteries**
Tallahassee, FL
Cape Canaveral, FL
Omaha, NE
Western New York
Southern Colorado
- Urban Initiative**
San Francisco
Los Angeles
Chicago
Indianapolis
New York
- Rural Initiative**
Nevada
Wyoming
Idaho
Montana
North Dakota
Utah
Wisconsin
Maine



Percentage of Vets Served*



*By 2021, 95% of Veterans (over 20 million) will have access to an open national, state or tribal Veterans cemetery within 75 miles of home

Pre-Need Eligibility Determination

NCA is developing procedures to provide initial pre-need eligibility determinations to Veterans who make requests through their elected representatives or directly to NCA.

- > Pre-need eligibility determinations assist Veteran with funeral decisions in advance of need.
- > Pre-Need eligibility verification is subject to a final eligibility verification at time of need.
- > Pre-Need eligibility does not guarantee burial in a specific cemetery or reserve a gravesite until time of need.
- > If Veteran is not eligible during the Pre-Need determination, the Veteran will be entitled to VA Appeals Rights.

Veterans Legacy Program



Teacher-developed Lesson Plans, Aligned to Core Standards, focused on Veteran service, use wide-ranging primary sources, incorporate storytelling and interactive features, draw on NCA and partner resources for learning, and promote awareness of VA national cemeteries.



Interactive Maps and Video Vignettes assist the on-site and the virtual visitor to navigate significant features in VA's cemeteries and highlight our Veterans, historic memorials and VA national cemeteries.



Workshops, Seminars and Tours provide opportunities for teachers, students, and the general public to engage in educational programs at VA cemeteries and online.



Innovative Research Opportunities will be stimulated by VA's historically diverse cemeteries including Veterans' personal stories, and memorial landscapes. NCA's professional historians provide access to documentation from the NCA History Collection about burials and historic resources at one of VA's 134 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites

