



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration

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## **Facts About the National Cemetery Administration**

### **MISSION**

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

### **NCA STATISTICS**

- NCA maintains approximately 3.4 million gravesites at 133 national cemeteries, one national Veterans' burial ground and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico.
- Approximately 473,000 full-casket gravesites, 124,000 in-ground gravesites for cremated remains, and 154,000 columbarium niches are developed in VA's 133 national cemeteries.
- NCA manages approximately 20,500 acres within its cemeteries. Approximately 57 percent are undeveloped and, along with available gravesites in developed acreage, have the potential to provide approximately 6.3 million gravesites.
- Of the 133 national cemeteries, 73 are open to all interments; 17 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, when VA managed 82 national cemeteries, annual interments in VA national cemeteries have increased by more than 244 percent, from 36,400 to 125,185 in FY 2014. Interments are expected to increase annually until the year 2020.
- Of the 125,185 interments conducted in FY 2014, 64.5 percent were in the 20 busiest national cemeteries: Riverside (Calif.); Florida; Calverton, (N.Y.); Fort Snelling (Minn.); Jefferson Barracks (Mo.); Fort Logan (Colo.); Fort Rosecrans/Miramar (Calif.); Dallas-Fort Worth (Texas); Fort Sam Houston (Texas); Willamette (Ore.); Great Lakes, (Mich.); Abraham Lincoln (Ill.); Sacramento Valley (Calif.); National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona; Houston (Texas); Tahoma (Wash.); Ohio Western Reserve; Massachusetts; South Florida; and Sarasota (Fla.).

- As of Sept. 30, 2014, nine national cemeteries contained more than 100,000 occupied gravesites, collectively accounting for 42 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.); Fort Sam Houston (Texas); and Florida.
- Largest National Cemetery: Calverton, N.Y. 1,045 acres.
- Smallest National Cemetery: Hampton VAMC, Va. 0.03 acres.
- Oldest National Cemetery: 14 established in 1862 (12 are currently maintained by VA).
- Newest National Cemetery: Tallahassee National Cemetery, Fla., established in October 2015.
- Since 1973, NCA has furnished more than 12 million headstones and markers. In FY 2014, NCA furnished approximately 354,943 headstones and markers.
- NCA provided approximately 618,570 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved ones of deceased Veterans in FY 2014.
- Since 1980, NCA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program has awarded grants totaling more than \$617million to establish, expand, improve, operate and maintain 95 Veterans cemeteries in 45 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. These VA funded Veteran cemeteries provided more than 32,000 burials in 2014.
- Volunteers donated more than 257,000 hours at national cemeteries during FY 2014.
- More than 4.4 million people visited VA national cemeteries in FY 2014.
- VA recently implemented plans for new properties that will increase accessibility to a VA burial option. Two new cemeteries are planned in Florida, one in western New York, one in southern Colorado and one in Nebraska. In addition, VA plans to increase burial access for Veterans by establishing seven more National Veterans Burial Grounds in sparsely populated rural locations across the country.
- VA estimates that 566,000 Veterans in the United States and Puerto Rico died in 2014. Nineteen percent of U.S. Veterans chose to be buried in a national or state Veterans cemetery in FY 2014. As new national and state Veterans cemeteries open, this percentage is expected to increase.

