

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Death and Burial Benefits

Funeral Honors

The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. Upon the family's request, Public Law 106-65 requires that every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the veteran's parent service of the armed forces. The DOD program calls for funeral home directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the veterans' family. Veteran's organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors. When military funeral honors at a veterans' cemetery are desired, they are arranged prior to the committal service by the funeral home.

Burial in Veterans Cemeteries

Burial benefits includes a gravesite in any of the National or State Veterans Cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government Headstone or Marker, a Burial Flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in veteran cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains. Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a veteran's cemetery include burial with the veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the veteran's headstone. While there is no cost for any veteran's interment, state veterans cemeteries may have a minimal cost for spouses and/or dependents.

Headstones, Markers, and Medallions

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a government headstone, marker, or medallion for the grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. Spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery are not eligible for a government-provided headstone or marker.

Presidential Memorial Certificates

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President; to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans. Eligible recipients include the deceased veteran's next of kin and loved ones. More than one certificate may be provided. Eligible recipients may apply for a PMC in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail. Please be sure to enclose a copy of the veteran's discharge and death certificate. Please submit copies only, as original documents cannot be returned. For more information visit: <http://www.cem.va.gov>

Burial Flags

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) provides a U.S. flag at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service to his or her country. You may get a flag at any VA Regional Office or U.S. Post Office. Generally, the funeral director will assist in obtaining a U.S. flag for the family.

Burial Allowances

Some veterans may be eligible for VA burial allowances, which are partial reimbursements of an **eligible veteran's** burial and funeral costs. The reimbursements are generally described as; a burial and funeral expense allowance, and/or a plot interment allowance. *Not all veterans are eligible for Burial Allowance.*

[For More Information, concerning these or any Veteran or Dependent Benefits:](#)
[Call Toll-Free 1-800-572-6245 or Visit: http://www.veterans.ky.gov](http://www.veterans.ky.gov)