

WEST REGION SUMMIT

OFFICE OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

APRIL 9 -10, 2013



Thomas J. Mullen

Interim Director

Miramar / Ft. Rosecrans

National Cemetery

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NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

- ▣ Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Veterans Health Administration
 - Veterans Benefits Administration
 - National Cemetery Administration
- ▣ Mission
 - Honor Veterans with a final resting places in national shrines.
 - Lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our Nation.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

▣ NCA Statistics

- 3.1 million gravesites at 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico.
- 340,000 full-casket gravesites, 93,000 in-ground gravesites for cremated remains and 111,000 columbarium niches
- Since 1973, annual interments in VA national cemeteries have increased by more than 200 percent,
- Oldest National Cemetery: 14 established in 1862 (12 are currently maintained by VA).
- Since 1973, NCA has furnished nearly 11 million headstones and markers.
- 14 percent of U.S. Veterans chose to be buried in a national or state Veterans cemetery in FY 2010.

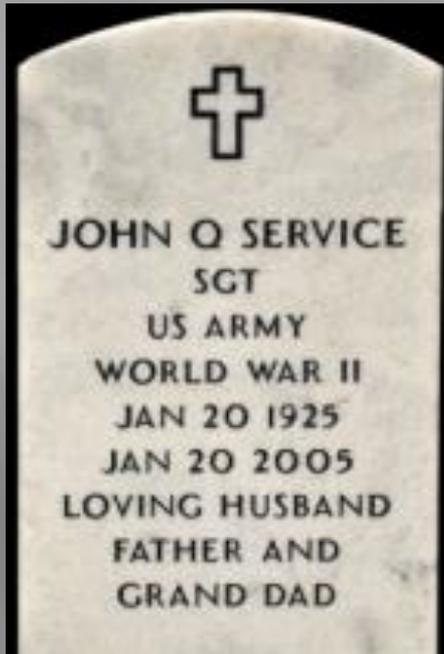
BURIAL BENEFITS

- ▣ Gravesite in any of our 131 National Cemeteries
- ▣ Opening and closing of the grave
- ▣ Perpetual care
- ▣ Government headstone or marker
- ▣ Presidential Memorial Certificate
- ▣ Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.
- ▣ National Cemetery Scheduling Office [1-800-535-1117](tel:1-800-535-1117).

HEADSTONE OR MARKER

- ▣ No charge to the applicant
- ▣ For the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible veteran
- ▣ Graves that are marked with a private headstone or marker.
- ▣ Ordered by the cemetery officials, funeral home or next of kin.
- ▣ Spouses and dependents are not eligible.

HEADSTONE OR MARKER



- ❑ Application available on line at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330.pdf>
- ❑ FAX applications to 1-800-455-7143.
- ❑ MAIL applications to:
Memorial Programs Service (41A1)
Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-3903

BURIAL FLAGS

- ▣ A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn.
- ▣ The flag is given to the next-of-kin.
- ▣ When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making request for it.
- ▣ VA national cemeteries with an Avenue of Flags, families may donate the burial flags to be flown on patriotic holidays.
- ▣ One flag and VA cannot replace it if lost, destroyed, or stolen however, some Veterans' organizations may help get another flag.

BURIAL FLAGS

- ❑ You may apply for the flag by completing [VA Form 21-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes](#).
- ❑ You may get a flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office. Generally, the funeral director will help you obtain the flag.



BRONZE MEDALLIONS

- ▣ Medallion in lieu of a traditional headstone or marker.
- ▣ Veterans that died on or after November 1, 1990.
- ▣ Available in three sizes, 5 inches, 3 inches, and 1-1/2 inches.
- ▣ "VETERAN" across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom.
- ▣ Appropriate affixing adhesive, instructions and hardware are provided with the medallion.

BRONZE MEDALLIONS

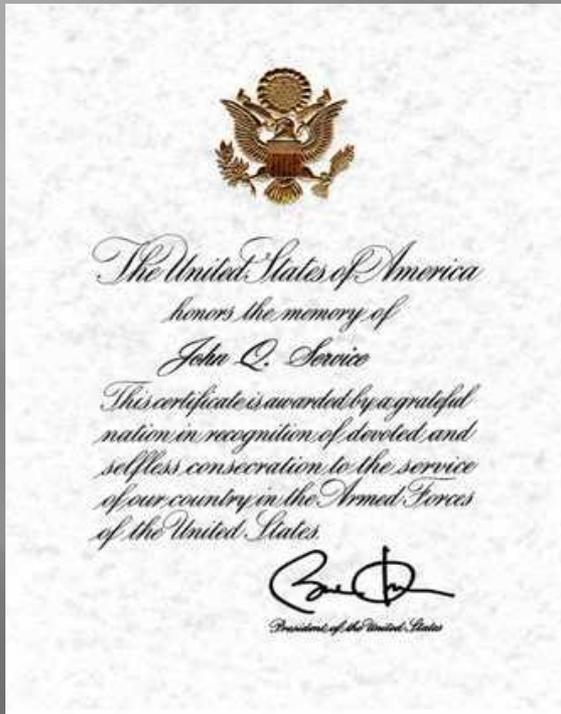
- ▣ Apply on NCA's web site at www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp.



Presidential Memorial Certificates

- ▣ Engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President
- ▣ Initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy
- ▣ Eligible recipients include the next of kin and loved ones of honorably discharged deceased Veterans.
- ▣ More than one certificate may be provided.

Presidential Memorial Certificates



- ❑ Application available on line at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-0247.pdf>
- ❑ FAX applications to 1-800-455-7143.
- ❑ MAIL applications to:
Presidential Memorial Certificates (41A1C)
National Cemetery Administration
5109 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-3903

NCA Emerging Burial Needs Study

Purpose – To ensure NCA continues to meet the burial and memorial needs of Veterans and their families

- ▣ A proactive approach to identify emerging burial practices that are important to Veterans in the 21st century
- ▣ Assess Veteran satisfaction with:
 - Current national cemetery burial and memorial options
 - Desire for new burial and memorial options currently not offered by VA
- ▣ An important focus will be the needs and expectations of minority Veterans, including Native American Veterans.
 - NCA attendance at VA conferences with Native American Veteran groups throughout the year, including the NCAI conference in Lincoln, NE in June 2012
- ▣ For more information, contact **Jeff Potts** at **202-461-4107** or at jeffrey.potts@va.gov

... "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" ...

