



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



National Cemetery Administration

Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans

Presented by:

The Honorable William F. Tuerk

Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs

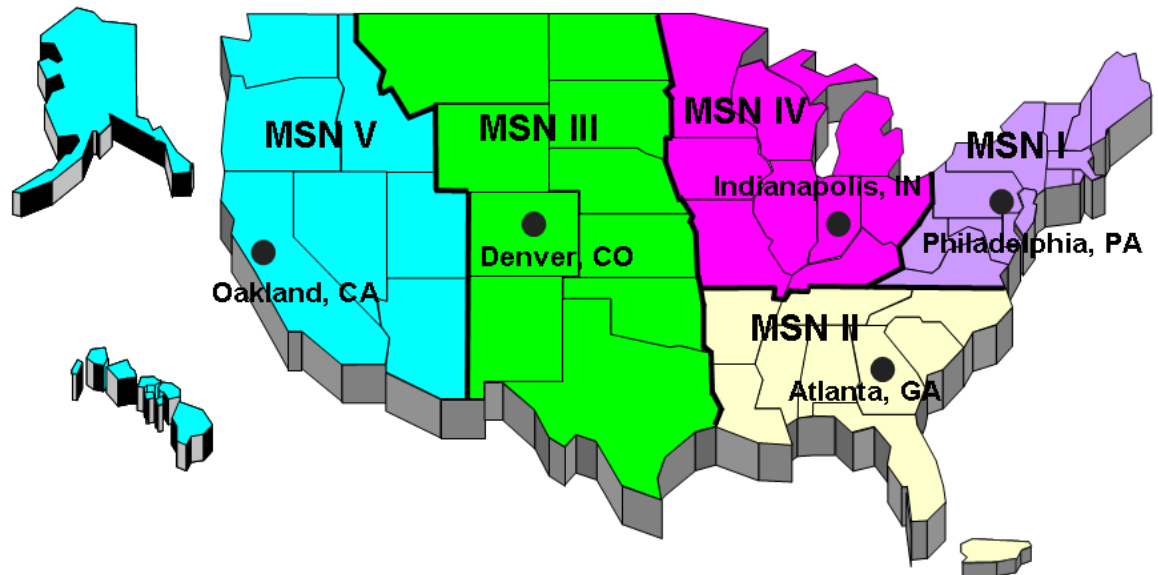
June 17, 2008

Responsibilities

- **Provide burial space for veterans and maintain cemeteries as National Shrines**
- **Administer the Federal grants program for construction of state veterans cemeteries**
- **Furnish headstones and markers**
- **Administer the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program**

National Cemetery Administration

- 125 Cemeteries
- 2.9 million gravesites
- 100,185 total burials FY 2007
- 1,589 FTE
- Five Memorial Service Networks
 - 1 Philadelphia, PA
 - 2 Atlanta, GA
 - 3 Denver, CO
 - 4 Indianapolis, IN
 - 5 Oakland, CA



American Customer Satisfaction Index

2007 Survey Results

- Highest score in customer satisfaction ever awarded to a federal agency or private organization ... rating of 95 out of 100 possible
- 98% of respondents believed that NCA served their loved ones in a respectful way
- Repeated NCA's overall score of 95 that was also earned in the last survey (conducted in 2004)

Eligibility

- Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.
- Any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- National Guard members and Reservists with 20 years of qualifying service, who are entitled to retired pay or would be entitled, if at least 60 years of age.
- Spouses and minor children.

Burial Benefits

- Grave Site
- Opening and closing of the grave
- Grave liner
- Headstone or marker
- Perpetual care of the grave site
- U.S. Flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificate

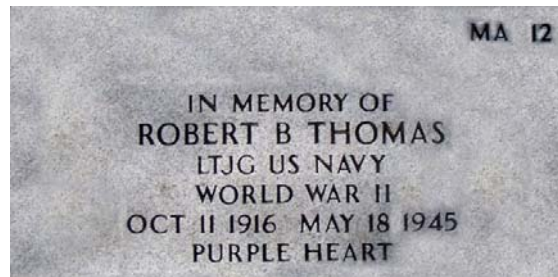
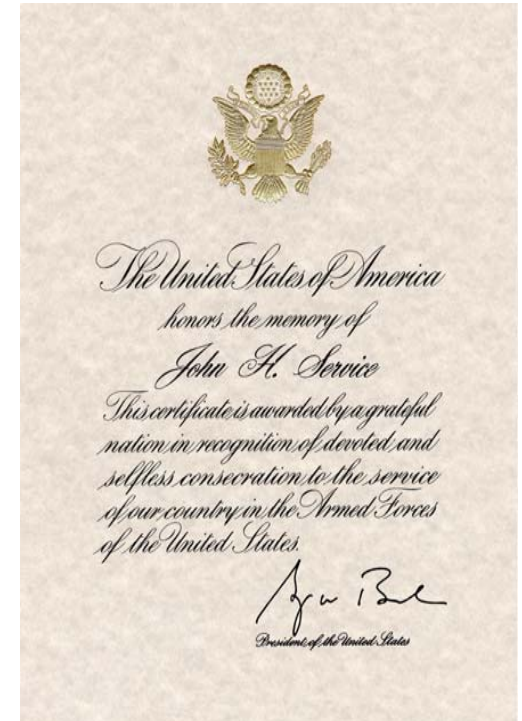
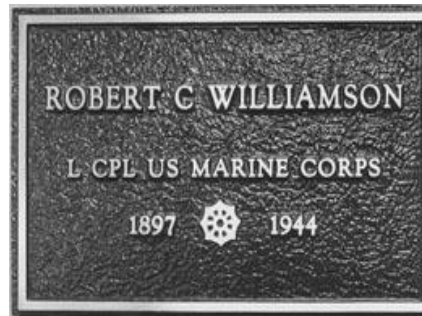


National Cemetery Administration

FY 2007 – Memorial Programs



**359,530 Headstones
and Markers Provided**



**423,143 Presidential
Memorial Certificates**

Veterans by Period of Service

<u>Service Era</u>	<u>Participants</u> ¹	<u>Living Veterans</u> ²	<u>Median Age</u> ³
WW II	16,113,000	2,583,000	84
Korea	5,720,000	2,792,000	77
Vietnam	8,744,000	7,773,000	61
Peacetime ⁴	--	5,987,000	--
Gulf War	Current	5,239,000	38
Total		23,442,000 ⁵	61

Note 1: U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs: "America's Wars" Fact Sheet, Nov 2007

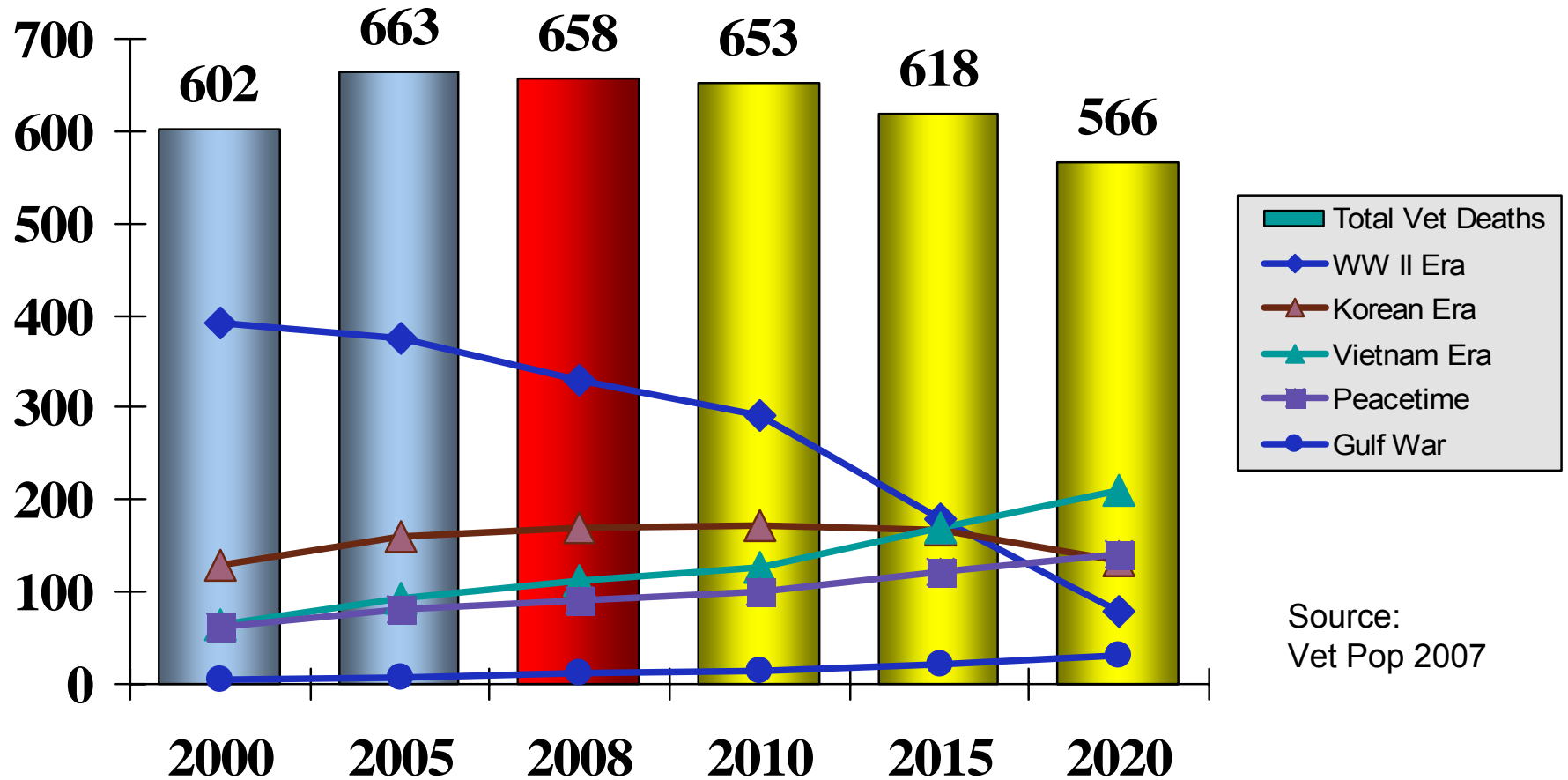
Notes 2,3: U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs: Office of the Actuary Vet-Pop 2007

Note 4: Veterans who served pre-Korean Conflict (excluding WWII) or in the periods between Korean Conflict and Vietnam Era or Vietnam Era and Gulf War

Note 5: Column does not total exactly because some veterans served during more than one period of war.

Projected Veteran Deaths

Thousands



Source:
Vet Pop 2007

NCA Strategy to Meet Burial Needs of Veterans

- Develop new cemeteries
- Extend the service life of existing cemeteries
- Encourage states to build veterans cemeteries



Construction of
South Florida VA National Cemetery

Expansion of National Cemeteries

P.L. 106-117, Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act



South Florida
National Cemetery



Great Lakes
National Cemetery, MI



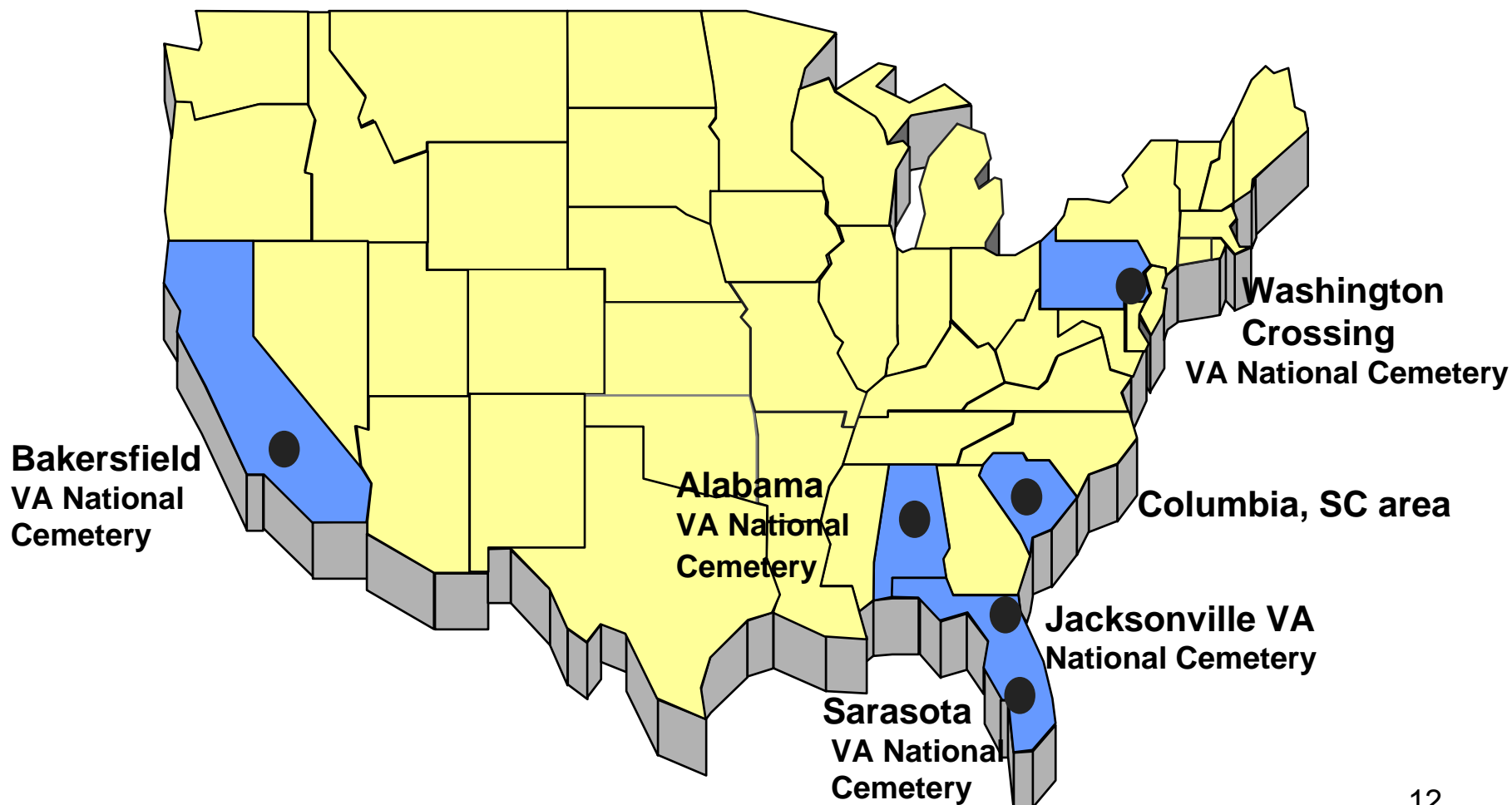
National Cemetery
of the Alleghenies, PA



Sacramento Valley
National Cemetery, CA

Future National Cemeteries

P.L. 108-109, National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2003



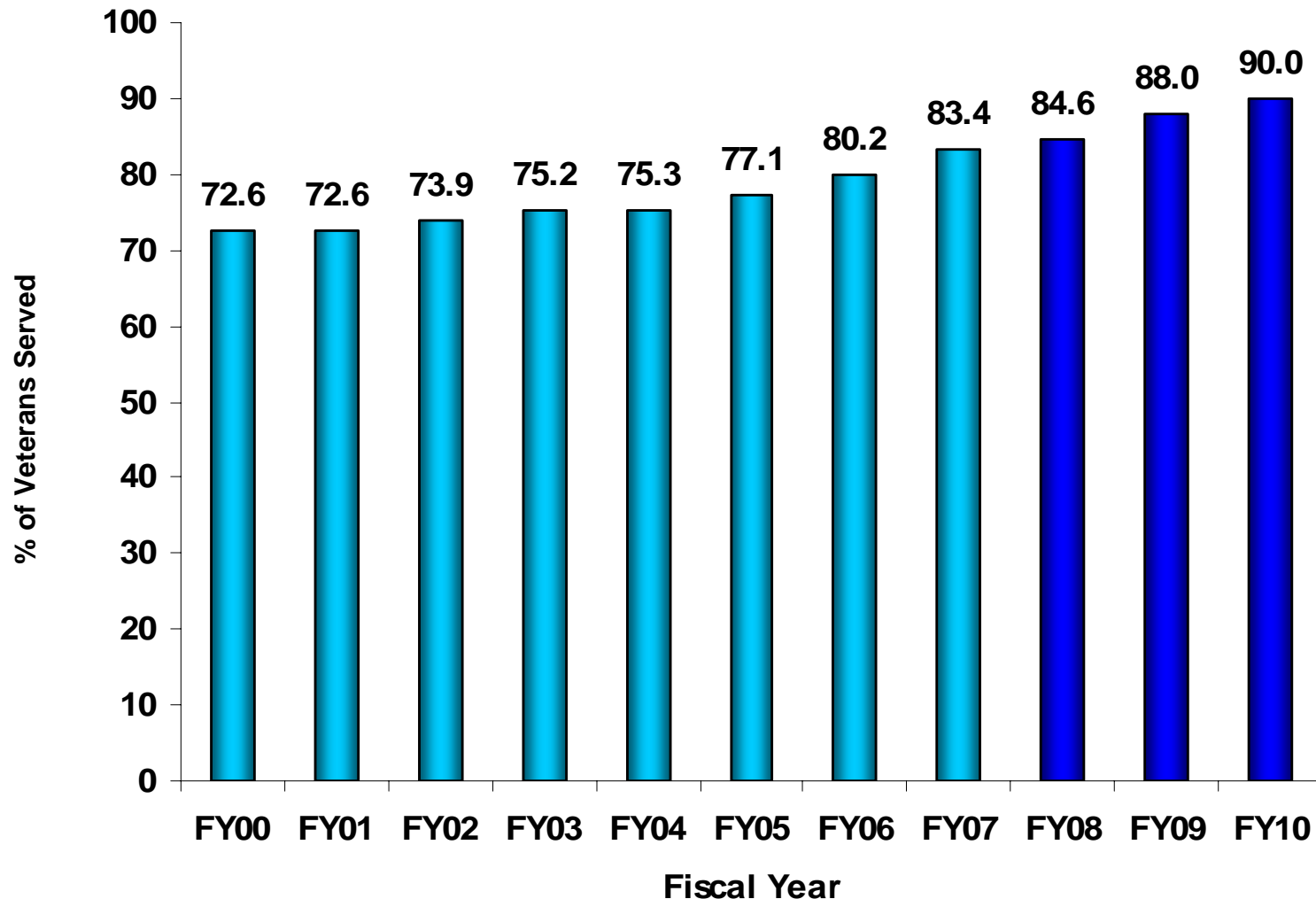
State Cemetery Grants Program

- VA provides 100% of development costs
- \$316 million awarded in 162 grants since 1980
- 35 states plus Guam and Saipan received grants



- 69 operational, 5 under construction
- 23,200 interments in FY 2007

Meeting Burial Needs – Percent of Veteran Population Served*



*within 75 miles of a national or state veterans cemetery

National Shrine Commitment



An initiative to maintain the appearance of VA cemeteries in a manner befitting their status as National Shrines.

National Shrine Commitment



Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Brooklyn, NY



Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
San Antonio, TX

Water-wise landscaping at VA National Cemeteries



National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona



Fort Bliss National Cemetery, TX

Fulfilling the Final Promise of Care

