

**VA****U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

# News Release

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## VA national cemeteries to adjust operations in response to COVID-19

**WASHINGTON** —All U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries are open and will continue to provide interments for Veterans and eligible individuals. However, effective March 23 — as part of the agency’s response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) — committal services and the rendering of military funeral honors will discontinue until further notice.

Immediate family members (limited to no more than 10 individuals) of the deceased may witness the interment if requested.

“We are committed to the safety of our Veterans, their families and employees, and [have implemented an aggressive public health response](#) to COVID-19,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “At the same time, we continue to take steps to provide flexibility to Veterans and their loved ones, where possible.”

Families choosing to continue with interment may schedule a committal service for a later date. Families wishing to postpone an already scheduled interment to a later date should contact the cemetery as soon as possible to convey their wishes.

Although VA national cemeteries remain open to visitors, guests are strongly urged to obey local travel restrictions and avoid unnecessary travel. Certain portions of a cemetery typically open to the public, such as public information centers or chapels, may be closed to the public. Contact your [local cemetery](#) for updates regarding closures.

For more information, contact NCA at 202-891-9987. Veterans can call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117 or [schedule a burial arrangement online](#).

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