MESSAGE FOR MEDICAL CENTER EMPLOYEES
THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BURIAL FLAG PROGRAM

The United States Flag presented at a Veteran’s funeral is one of the most visible symbols recognizing military service and is an enduring gift treasured by the deceased Veteran’s family. Most flags are issued by United States Post Offices using the VA Form 27-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes. The most current electronic fillable form is dated March 2015 and is available online at http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-27-2008-ARE.pdf.

Post Offices are required to forward the completed VA Form(s) 27-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes and attached documentation to the closest VA Regional Office within three days.

The VARO mailroom staff will forward the lower portion of the completed application daily to the associated VAMC Distribution Points responsible for replenishing the stock of burial flags at any post office for which it receives an order.

Responsibilities of Medical Centers Acting As Flag Distribution Points:

While all VAMCs are authorized to order and issue burial flags for internal requirements, specific VAMC’s across the country are designated as area distribution points for burial flags. These VAMCs will establish a stock level of flags based upon the number of requests it receives for flags via the lower portion of the VA Form 27-2008. Upon receipt of a lower portion of the VA Form 27-2008(s) from the VARO, the distribution point will immediately mail the requested number of burial flags to the corresponding issuing post office.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Flag replenishments must be shipped immediately upon receipt of the replenishment request to ensure that issuing post offices do not deplete their stock of flags. VAMCs may not set batch requirements such as only shipping in case lots.

Responsibilities of All VA Medical Centers:

Each VAMC will establish and maintain a minimum stock of flags for internal use (see further instructions in the next paragraph) and be prepared to provide a burial flag upon request in the event that a flag is not available through the US Post Office or VA Regional Office.

Flags issued by a VAMC to honor a deceased veteran on site must be accounted for by a completed VA Form 27-2008 and the application forwarded to:

Memorial Programs Service (41A1)
Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

Please Note: Only one flag per veteran may be issued by the VA.

VA Medical Centers can find complete guidance and VA Regional Office Burial Flag contact information at: http://www.va.gov/opal/nac/sdc/burialFlags.asp by sending an e-mail message to Flags.Interment@va.gov, or in an emergency by phoning (708) 786-7758/7763.