

Retail Service Talk

May 5, 2020

Postal Service Burial Flag Program

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE 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. The Department of Veterans Affairs has requested that all Post Offices in CAG A through L act as a burial flag depository in accordance with Post Office Retail Operations Handbook PO-209 and ASM 474. Each Post Office will place enough burial flags in inventory for immediate issue upon request.

Applicants seeking a burial flag are required to submit a completed VA Form 27-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes and attach a copy of the deceased veteran's DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty; or other documentation that contains acceptable evidence of the eligibility of the deceased Veteran whenever possible. Normally the family of the deceased Veteran or a funeral director acting on their behalf may apply for the flag. There is no time limit for request of a flag. Only one flag may be issued for each deceased Veteran. Completed forms must be mailed **within three days** to the Department of Veteran's Affairs at:

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

IMPORTANT NOTE: The issue of a flag may not be delayed, or refused, because additional attached documentation, such as discharge certificate, or DD Form 214, is not available at the time of request, as long as the requestor signs the application certifying eligibility. However it is critical that the VA receives a VA Form 27-2008 for each flag issued by the Post Office.

The most current electronic fillable VA Form 27-2008 is dated June 2018 and is available online at <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-27-2008-ARE.pdf>. **Do not** follow the mailing instructions on the June 2018, or earlier versions of VA form 27-2008. Older versions of the form can be accepted.

Replenishment of Flags: Orders for burial flags will be placed using eBuy+ (NSN 8345-00-656-1432) and fulfilled by the Material Distribution Center (MDC) in accordance with the 2020 Post Office Burial Flag Replenishment SOP.

Emergency Requests: Contact the USPS National Materials Customer Service

Telephone: (800) 332-0317, Option 4, Option 4

Email: MDC.CustomerService@usps.gov