MESSAGE FOR REGIONAL OFFICE 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. The Department of Veterans Affairs in cooperation with the United States Postal Service issues nearly half a million burial flags annually, and works constantly to ensure that burial flags are available throughout the Continental United States and overseas when requested. Most flags are issued by United States Post Offices using the VA Form 27-2008, Request for United States Burial Flag.

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.

Applicants seeking a burial flag will be required to submit a completed VA Form 27-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes and attach a copy of DD 214, Certificate of Release or Discharged from Active Duty; or other documentation that contains acceptable evidence of the eligibility of the deceased Veteran whenever possible.

Regional Office Responsibilities: Issuing offices will forward a completed VA Form 27-2008 to the VARO servicing the issue point, ensuring the lower portion is fully completed in support of the replenishment action. The Veterans Service Center (VSC) manager or delegate will ensure that the post office information on the VAF 27-2008 is completed and forwarded to the appropriate VAMC functioning as an area distribution point, triggering replenishment of a replacement flag. The top portion of the completed VAF 27-2008 will be forwarded to the NCA FNOD team for first notice of death (FNOD) processing. The current address for FNOD burial flag application processing is:

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

The VARO mailroom staff will forward the lower portion of the completed application on a daily basis to the VAMC Distribution Center having primary responsibility for replenishing the stock of burial flags at the post offices.

Regional offices can find complete guidance and VAMC Distribution Center addresses at: http://www.va.gov/opal/nac/sdc/burialFlags.asp sending an e-mail message to Flags.Interment@va.gov, or in an emergency by phoning (708) 786-7758 or 7509

IMPORTANT NOTE: The issue of a flag may not be delayed or refused because additional attached documentation, such as discharge certificate or DD-214 is not available at the time of request, as long as the requestor signs the application certifying eligibility.