



Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Eligible for Interment?

Eligibility for interment in the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery (DVMC) includes:

1. Any Delaware resident who was honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States, other than active duty for training (ADT), or reservists who have served more than 180 days of active federal service. Federal active military service does not have to be consecutive.
2. The veteran's spouse, upon pre-qualification of eligible veteran.
3. The veteran's dependents, when under the age of 21 and not married, or having a verifiable life-long dependency on the eligible veteran.
4. Legal resident of Delaware, means the veteran must have been a:
 - a. Legal resident of Delaware at the time of death; or
 - b. Legal resident for a period of 10 or more years (does not have to be consecutive); any cumulative period of 10 or more years will satisfy the residence requirement, regardless of the residence at time of death; or
 - c. Legal resident of Delaware when he or she entered the Armed Forces of the United States.
- d. Any Delaware National Guardsman or Reservist:
 - a. Eligible for retirement pay at age 60 regardless of residency.
 - b. Who has served on active duty for 180 days or more (does not have to be consecutive)

What is the Application for Interment?

The "Application for Interment" form is submitted when the decedent (Veteran or eligible Spouse/Dependent Child) is to be interred in the Veterans Cemetery. This form provides the Cemetery with the necessary contact information required to schedule interment.

If not already pre-registered, a Form DD-214 or equivalent discharge document must accompany the application form to establish eligibility. Likewise, if not already pre-registered, spousal interments require a Marriage Certificate and Dependent Child interments require proof of dependency. If the family is unsure if the Veteran or eligible spouse has been pre-registered, please call the Cemetery Office. Please be aware that the Cemetery cannot proceed with interment scheduling without proof of eligibility. For assistance in determining eligibility, please call 1-302-834-8046

What is the Cost for Burial in the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery?

DVMC does not collect fees from veterans for interment in the State Veterans Cemetery.

If time of death of veteran in relation to time of interment is in excess of two (2) years, current interment fees may apply. Veterans who are eligible for interment are also eligible for a Federal VA Plot Allowance. The State Veterans Cemetery Office applies for and collects this plot allowance.

Neither the State nor the Federal VA pay for other funeral expenses, such as preparation. These fees are paid by the Veteran's family or estate. Some Veterans or their widows/widowers are eligible for Federal VA benefits in addition to the plot allowance. To determine whether the veteran or family member is eligible for additional benefits, please call Mr. John Williams at 302-834-8046.

What Type of Interment Sites and Markers are Available?

The DVMC provides for in ground casket burial sites and cremation interments. For cremation interments the following options are available:

- A columbarium niche that includes an inscribed, bronze marker;
- An in-ground cremation inurnment that includes a flat ground inscribed, Bronze marker;
- A scattering garden with an inscribed marker "in memory of" the deceased.

Can I Select my Own Interment Site?

No. Families may choose the interment type; however grave/columbarium site selection is made by the Cemetery. Normally, the grave/columbarium sites are assigned chronologically.

What is the cost for a Headstone or Marker?

The DVMC secures markers from the Federal VA. There is no cost to the family.

"In Memory of" markers are also available in most instances to Veterans whose ashes have been scattered elsewhere and have yet to be memorialized in a cemetery.

For individuals interred in private cemeteries funeral homes typically assist with the ordering of Veteran headstones and markers.

How do I Schedule an Interment and Service?

Committal services are conducted Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Services are held in the Committal Chapel. The Committal Chapel is designed to provide a place of respectful remembrance. The Chapel provides protection from inclement weather, seating for the immediate family and guest with ample standing room for others.

(Because of safety concerns, the Cemetery does not permit graveside services.)

Can I Pre-Register?

Yes. Pre-registration allows a Veteran, Spouse or Dependent Child to establish in advance, eligibility for interment in the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Documentation such as a Form DD-214 for veterans and a marriage license for spouses is required during the pre-registration process. Individuals who pre-register are provided with a letter confirming their eligibility and are advised to file it with their other important documents. Pre-registering offers a way for a veteran or family member to make final arrangements; however we understand that circumstances may change and pre-registering does not override other decisions made as a result of estate planning or Next-of-Kin authorizations. The actual Application for Interment is not submitted until the eligible Veteran, Spouse, or Dependent Child is to be interred.

How do I Request Military Honors?

The Funeral Home or Next-of-Kin coordinates all Military Honors for those Veterans interred in the Cemetery. Honors include the playing of Taps, folding of the flag and its presentation to the next-of-kin. An Honor Guard detail of at least two members of the Armed Services are provided for the interment service of the eligible Veteran. For Veterans who retired from the military, a rifle volley may also be provided. Upon request, the Next-of-Kin can be provided with a list of clergy and volunteer organizations that provide Military Honors.

Where Can I Request a Flag?

Flags for presentation to the Next-of-Kin during services at the Veterans Cemetery should be provided by the Funeral Home. Flags can also be secured from designated US Post Offices or VA Regional Offices by filling out VA Form 21-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes. This form is available at: <http://www.cem.va.gov/bbene/bflags.asp> or call 1-800-827-1000.