

Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration

*"...to care for him who shall have borne the
battle, and for his widow, and his orphan..."*

- *President Abraham Lincoln*

Second Inaugural Address



Mission, Vision & Purpose

Mission: *NCA honors Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation*

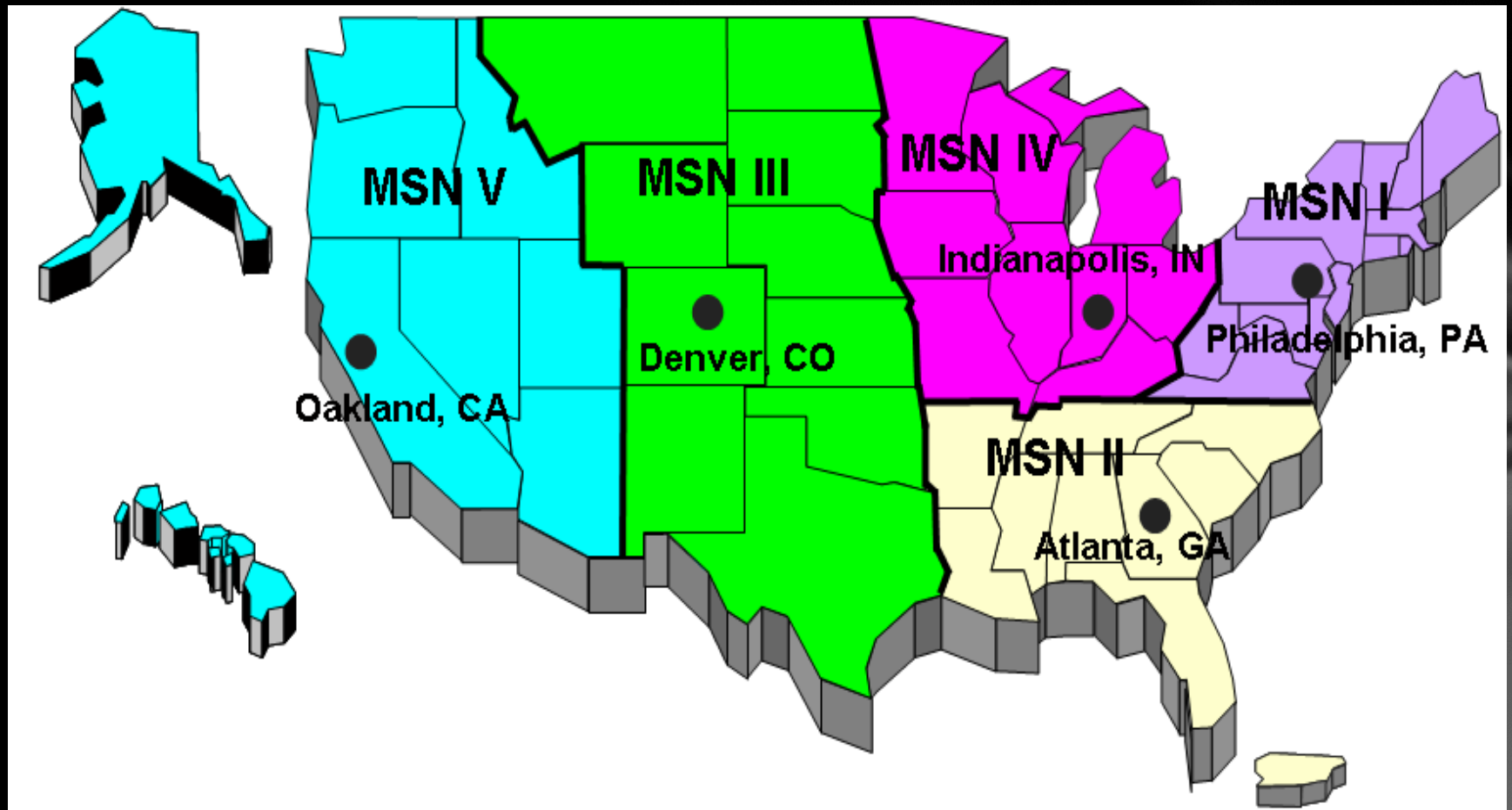
Vision: *NCA will be the model of excellence for burial and memorials for our Nation's Veterans and their families*

Purpose: *To provide burial space for Veterans and their eligible family members*

To maintain national cemeteries as national shrines, sacred to the honor and memory of those interred or memorialized there

To mark Veterans' graves with a Government-furnished headstone, marker or medallion and to provide Presidential Memorial Certificates in recognition of their service to a grateful nation

To administer grants for establishing or expanding state and tribal government veterans cemeteries



We currently maintain 3.2 million (+) gravesites at 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. This equates to 20,200 acres within the cemeteries, of which close to 57% are currently undeveloped, providing the potential for approximately 6.8 million additional gravesites.

History

National cemeteries were first developed in the United States during the Civil War. In July of 1862, Congress enacted legislation that authorized the President to purchase "cemetery grounds" to be used as national cemeteries "for those who shall have died in the service of the country."

In 1973, Public Law 93-43 authorized the transfer of 82 national cemeteries from the Department of the Army to the Veterans Administration, now the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Joining with 21 VA Veterans cemeteries located at hospitals and nursing homes, the National Cemetery System comprised 103 cemeteries after the transfer.

In 1998, this division was renamed the National Cemetery Administration



Port Huron Soldiers Lot



Eligibility

Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.

Any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

National Guard members and Reservists with 20 years of qualifying service, who are entitled to retired pay or would be entitled, if at least 60 years of age.

Spouses and dependent children



Burial Benefits



Grave Site

Opening and closing of the grave

Grave liner

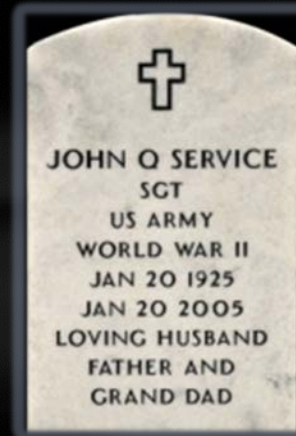
Perpetual care of the grave site

Headstone or marker

U.S. Flag

Presidential Memorial Certificate

Burial and Plot-Interment Allowance





Marion National Cemetery

Dayton National Cemetery



Of the 131 national cemeteries, 72 are open to all interments; 18 can accommodate cremated remains and the remains of family members for interment in the same gravesite as a previously deceased family member; and 41 will perform only interments of family members in the same gravesite as a previously deceased family member.

Burial Options

Depending on the location you choose, our currently open cemeteries may have one or more of the following interment options available:

Traditional casketed burial, either in a pre-placed vault, or a traditional liner

Cremains interred directly in the ground, or a pre-place urn vault

Columbarium

Scattering gardens

Memorial marker



Military Funeral Honors

DOD Responsibility

Section 578 of Public Law 106-65

Two Armed Forces Personnel

One from the deceased branch of service

Folding and presenting of the American flag to next of kin

Playing of "Taps" by a bugler if available or electronic recording

48-hour prior notification

Authorized Provider Partnership Program: VSO Units

ROTC, and others



National Shrine Commitment

A national shrine may be defined as a place of honor and memory that declares to the visitor or family member who views it that within its majestic setting each and every veteran may find a sense of serenity, historic sacrifice and nobility of purpose. Each visitor should depart feeling that the grounds, the gravesites and the environs of the national cemetery are a beautiful and awe-inspiring tribute to those who gave much to preserve our nation's freedom and way of life.

An initiative to maintain the appearance of national cemeteries in a manner befitting their status as national shrines.



Customer Satisfaction

For the fifth time since 2001, NCA has received the highest rating in customer satisfaction for any federal agency or private corporation surveyed, according to a prestigious, independent survey of customer satisfaction.

The American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) is the only uniform, national, cross-industry measure of satisfaction with the quality of goods and services available in the United States.

NCA participates in the ACSI every three years, previously in 2001, 2004, 2007 and 2010. Each time it has participated, NCA has received the top rating in the nation. For 2013, NCA achieved a customer satisfaction index of 96, 28 points above the average for federal government agencies and well above such companies as Coca-Cola, Apple Computers and the H.J. Heinz Co.





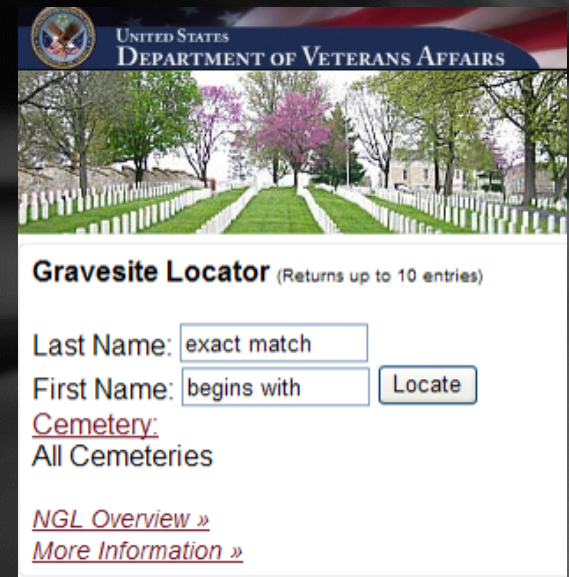
Gravesite Locator

Mobile Application for handheld devices/smart phones launched in 2009

Online Nationwide Gravesite Locator:

<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>

Kiosks at each National Cemetery with printable maps to assist with locating a loved one.



The screenshot shows the top of the Gravesite Locator website. At the top left is the United States Department of Veterans Affairs logo. To its right, the text "UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS" is displayed in a blue banner. Below the banner is a photograph of a cemetery path lined with white headstones and trees. The main heading "Gravesite Locator" is followed by the text "(Returns up to 10 entries)". Below this are two input fields: "Last Name:" with a dropdown menu set to "exact match", and "First Name:" with a dropdown menu set to "begins with". To the right of these fields is a "Locate" button. Below the input fields is a "Cemetery:" label with a dropdown menu set to "All Cemeteries". At the bottom of the form are two links: "NGL Overview »" and "More Information »".

Employment Opportunities



NCA strives to hire Veterans across the nation and in Puerto Rico

Currently 24 open positions ranging from WG-5 Caretaker to GS-05/07 Program Support Assistants on up to GS-12 Cemetery Director

NCA National Training Center in St. Louis, MO. Year long Cemetery Director Intern program in addition to cemetery operations specific trainings for all employees.

Continue to check on www.usajobs.gov



Women Veterans



Women are the fastest growing group within the Veteran population.

Female veterans married to a veteran are entitled to their own separate grave, headstone or marker, burial flag and Presidential Memorial Certificate. However, they may choose to be buried in the same gravesite as their spouse.



Center for Minority Veterans

The primary goal of this outreach initiative is to increase local awareness of minority Veteran related issues and develop strategies for increasing their participation in existing VA benefit programs for eligible Veterans. Minority Veterans Program Coordinator's are located at Regional Offices, Health Care Facilities and National Cemeteries and are responsible for:

Promoting the use of VA benefits, programs, and services by minority Veterans.

Supporting and initiating activities that educate and sensitize internal staff to the unique needs of minority Veterans.

Targeting outreach efforts to minority Veterans through community networks.

Advocating on behalf of minority Veterans by identifying gaps in services and make recommendations to improve service delivery within their facilities.

There is a Minority Veteran Program Coordinator (MVPC) located in each state's Regional Office, Health Care Facility and National Cemetery to educate and assist with your eligibility of benefits and services.

Initiatives

Urban Initiative

Rural Initiative

Newest Cemeteries Opened:

Cape Canaveral

Tallahassee

In Process:

Colorado Springs

Veterans Cemetery Grants Programs

State Veterans Cemeteries

Homeless Veterans Apprenticeships



Questions

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