WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

POLICY

POLICY NUMBER 510.300

TITLE **Interment, Disinterment, Re-interment**

EFFECTIVE DATE:	April 20, 2011
AUTHORITY:	General authority of the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, hereinafter referred to as WDVA, to manage and direct the Agency, RCW 43.60A.040, .050, and .060.
PURPOSE:	To provide information on the interment, disinterment or re-interment of remains in the Washington State Veterans Cemetery – Medical Lake, hereafter referred to as Cemetery.
APPLICABILITY:	All WDVA employees, cemetery staff, visitors or anyone entering the cemetery grounds.
DEFINITIONS:	**Disinterment**. The removal of human remains from their place of interment. **Interment**. The disposition of human remains by burial or the placement of cremains in a grave plot or in any location designated by WDVA for use as a permanent location of cremains. **Re-interment**. The interment of previously interred human remains. **Qualified Person**. A person who satisfies the requirements for eligibility for interment in national cemeteries found at 38 CFR 38.620 and 38 U.S.C. Section 2402 and is not prohibited from being interred by 38 U.S.C. § 2411 or 38 CFR 39.5.
POLICY:	**I. INTERMENT** **a. Remains**. Remains shall be delivered to the cemetery in a casket or, if cremated, in a recoverable container. If cremains will be placed in a location other than a grave plot, the container shall not exceed nine (9) inches in width, thirteen (13)

inches in height, and nine (9) inches in depth.

b. **Committal Services**. The cemetery provides a designated location for committal services. The cemetery does not provide graveside committal services. The cemetery does not provide facilities for viewing of remains. Arrangements for and any expenses associated with committal services shall be the responsibility of the applicant. Cemetery staff or an appointed cemetery designee may assist the applicant in applying for military honors.

c. **Relocation.** After initial placement, the cemetery will not relocate remains, except in situations where a veteran and spouse or qualified child have pre-registered and requested different placement requests. Only in these situations will the qualified decedent be moved to be placed with the second qualified decedent. (For example: A veteran requests a casket burial. The spouse requests cremation. If the spouse becomes deceased prior to the veteran, the spouse's cremated remains will be placed in the columbarium wall. When the veteran becomes deceased and is interred, the spouse's created remains will be removed from the columbarium wall and placed in the same in-ground site as the veteran.)

II. DISINTERMENT AND REINTERMENT.

a. **Disinterment**. The Cemetery Director may approve an application for disinterment when the applicant completes, signs and obtains all necessary affidavits on VA Form 40-4970 Request for Disinterment. The applicant must also submit proof of applicable governmental approval of the disinterment, including plans for transporting, and re-interment of the remains.

   The Cemetery Director shall comply with any court ordered disinterment that is within the court's jurisdiction.

b. **Re-interment**. The Cemetery Director may approve an application for re-interment of remains where the remains are of a qualified person and the applicant desires that the remains be interred in the cemetery or with the remains of a qualified person pre-registered for interment in the cemetery.

   i. Application and Proof of Eligibility. The

applicant for re-interment shall complete an interment application and submit proof of the eligibility of the qualified person and proof of applicable governmental approval of the disinterment, transporting, and re-interment of the remains.

III. **INTERMENT, DISINTERMENT, AND REINTERMENT.**

a. **Interment**. WDVA shall collect an amount equal to the then current USDVA reimbursement for opening and closing an interment site. The USDVA reimbursement is collected by WDVA.

The cemetery shall collect $300 for the interment of a spouse or qualified dependent children of a qualified veteran.

b. **Disinterment.** The cemetery shall collect an amount equal to the then current USDVA reimbursement for opening and closing an interment site. The expenses of removal, transportation and re-interment of remains, and the expenses of removal, transportation and reinstallation of the grave marker, if any, shall be paid by the applicant for disinterment.

c. **Re-interment.** The cemetery shall collect an amount equal to the then current USDVA reimbursement for opening and closing an interment site for re-interment. The expenses of re-interment of remains and reinstallation of the grave marker, if any, shall be paid by the applicant for re-interment.

REVIEW:	This policy shall be reviewed every five years and updated as necessary.
REFERENCES:	38 CFR 38.620; 38 U.S.C. Section 2402; 38 U.S.C. § 2411; 38 U.S.C. 501, 2408; 38 CFR 39.5; RCW 72.36.115; RCW 41.04.007
SUPERSESSION	None
ATTACHMENTS:	VA Form 40-4970 Request for Disinterment

John E. Lee, Director

April 13 2011
Date