





WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
**VETERANS
AFFAIRS**

Veterans Cemetery, Medical Lake

Burial Benefits

Serving Those Who Serve Conference

Rudy Lopez
Cemetery Director

August 1, 2018

dva.wa.gov/cemetery

Overview

- NCA Overview
- VA Memorial Benefits
- DVA Program Overview
- Resources



US Department of Veterans Affairs

- Veterans Health Administration
- Veterans Benefits Administration
- National Cemetery Administration

VA.GOV

CEM.VA.GOV



Veterans Cemeteries

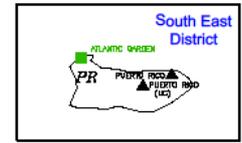
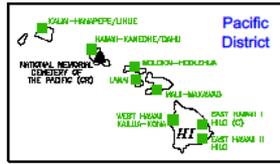
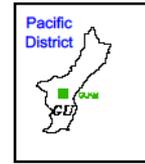
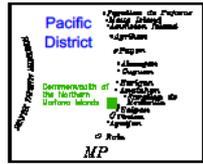
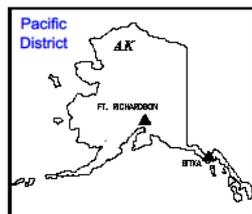
- **136 National Cemeteries**
- **30 Army***
- **14 Interior**
- **25 ABMC**
- **109 State & Tribal Veteran Cemeteries**



NATIONAL, STATE & TRIBAL VETERANS CEMETERIES



- LEGEND**
- ▲ NATIONAL CEMETERY (131)
 - (UC) Under construction
 - (CR) Cremation Only
 - (C) Closed
 - (NPS) National Park Service (Add:14)
 - NATIONAL VETERAN BURIAL GROUNDS (Add:7)
 - ◆ NATIONAL CEMETERY-COLUMBARIUM (Add:5)
 - STATE OR TRIBAL VETERANS CEMETERY
 - STATE VETERANS NURSING HOME/CEMETERY



NCA Responsibilities

- Provide Burial Space for Veterans and Eligible family members, and maintain national cemeteries as national shrines
- Administer Federal Grants Program for capital construction and subsequent development of state and tribal Cemeteries
- Furnish headstones, markers and medallions for graves of Veterans around the world
- Administer Presidential Memorial Certificate program
- Administer First Notice of Death program

Eligibility Criteria

- Any member of U.S. Armed Forces who dies on Active Duty
- Any Veteran who was discharged under qualifying conditions (other than dishonorable)
- National Guard members and Reservists with 20 years of qualifying service, entitled to retired pay
- Spouses and minor children
- Certain eligible parents



Burial Benefits

- Interment Plot
- Grave opening & closing
- Grave liner
- Perpetual care
- Headstone, marker or medallion
- U.S. Burial Flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificate



Military Funeral Honors

- PL 106-65, DoD Responsible for providing honors
- VSO may assist in providing honors
- NCA Cemetery staff may assist in coordinating



Veterans Cemetery Grants Program

- 110 Operational Cemeteries & Tribal Cemeteries in 48 states, Guam, Saipan & Puerto Rico (*98 State/*11 Tribal*)
- 5 Under Construction
- Over \$714M grants awarded since inception
- FY16 - 36,000 interments
- WA State \$8.8M in 2009 fund Veterans Cemetery



State Veterans Cemetery Medical Lake

- Dedicated May 2010; First Interment Jun 2010
- \$8.8M Grant – Collaborative Federal VA & WDVA Project
 - 120 acres
- Master Plan – Fed Grants
 - Phase I, Complete
 - Phase II, \$2.3M Complete
 - Phase III, \$3M Pending
- 4,700 Interred to Date
 - 772 families served FY18
 - 19.5% increase



State Veterans Cemetery



- **Inland Northwest Veterans and Family**
 - **Honorably Discharged Military**
 - **AD, Guard / Reservists Called to AD for Duties Other Than Training, Retired Guard & Reservists**
 - **Qualifying Family Members**



State Veteran Cemetery Funding

- **15% General Fund State**
- **VA Plot Allowance - Graduated Reimbursement**
\$762 to \$100
- **Family Member Interment - \$300**
- **CY17 AFLP Generated \$518K**
 - Order thru State Licensing Offices
 - Family Members' Purchases Authorized
 - Generate \$28 Revenue per License Annually
 - Available for Multiple Vehicles - Tax Deductible Donation



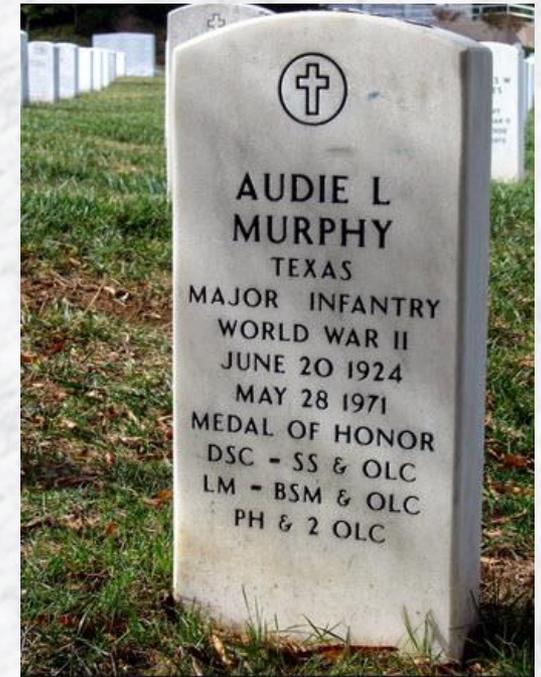
Scheduling

- *Pre-Need Determination / Pre-Registration*
- **National Cemeteries 866-900-6417**
- **WDVA**
 - **509-299-6280**
 - **Coordinate**
 - **Honors**
 - **Bugler**
 - **Minister**



Headstones, Markers

- VA Form 40-1330
- Bronze
- Uprights
- Niche Cover



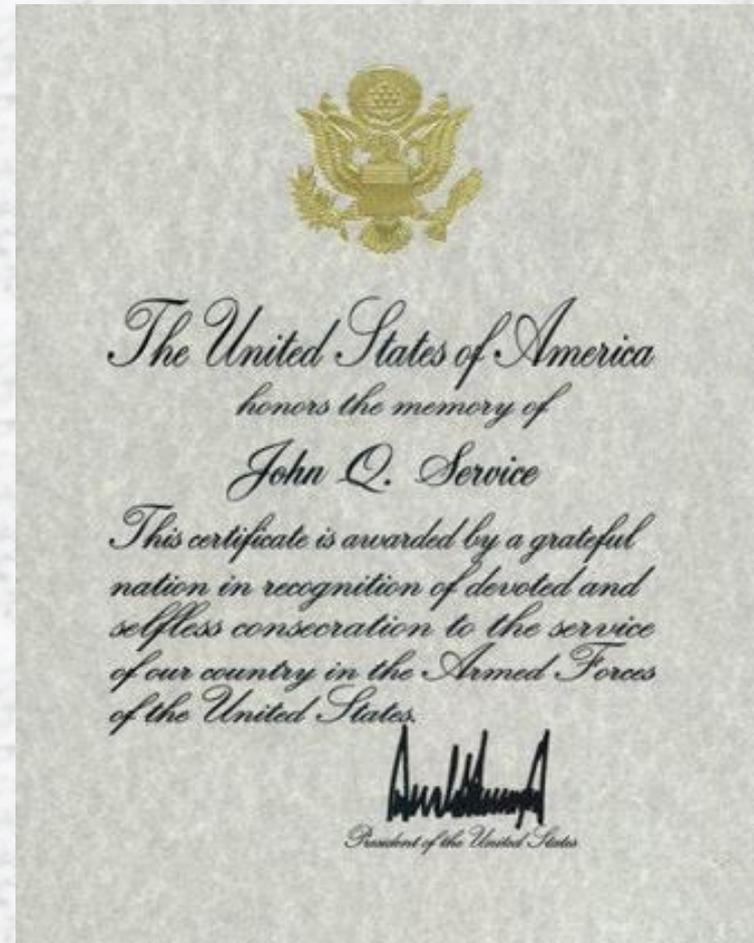
Medallions

- In Lieu of Marker
- Privately Purchased Marker
 - Small 2" x 1.5"
 - Medium 3.75" x 2.8"
 - Large 6.75" x 4.75"
- VA Form 40-1330M



Presidential Memorial Certificate

- May request more than one copy
- VA Form 40-0247
 - DD214 & DC
- ~16 Week Turnaround
 - (202) 632-7300



Death Notifications

- Social Security Admin
800-772-1213
- Veterans Administration
800-827-1000
*Inquire - Survivor Benefits
- Mil Retiree – CAR or
DFAS 800-321-1080
- Private Insurance



Serving Veterans in the 21st Century

- Meet Future Burial Needs
- Cemetery Standards of Appearance OAI Program
 - State Vet Cem - Compliance Review Program
 - National Shrine Status
- American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI)
 - Tahoma Recognition



Grants Program Update

- \$45M Annual Grants Budget - Prioritization
 - Expansion Projects
 - New Site Development
 - Improvement Projects
 - Raise & Realign, Clean, Turf Improvement
- FY18 Grants
 - 3 Establishment projects
 - Parkers Crossroads, Tennessee
 - Hyden, Kentucky
 - Deluth, Minnesota
- FY19 Grants to be awarded Oct 2018
- FY20 WDVA southern project

WDVA Cemetery Program

- Develop Medical Lake to meet EW needs
- Expand Access - second Grant Funded State Cemetery
 - South Central & South East Washington
 - Feasibility Study
 - 67K Vets surrounding 13 counties



Dignified Burial and Other Veteran's Benefits Improvement Act of 2012



**Interment of Pvt John Eberly, Union Army and 74 other Unclaimed Veterans,
Spouses and Children at Medical Lake, WA
April 2018**

Dignified Burial and Other Veteran's Benefits Improvement Act of 2012

Beginning January 10, 2014, the law provides VA authority to:

- Furnish caskets or urns for deceased Veterans who are unclaimed and have no resources
- Expand funeral expense and transportation reimbursement benefits to remains of unclaimed Veterans who have no resources

Dignified Burial and Other Veteran's Benefits Improvement Act of 2012

The law provides VA authority to:

- Exclude persons convicted of certain sex offenses from interment or honors
- Ensure wishes of next-of-kin are respected and given appropriate deference
- Allow honor guards selected by a Veteran's family access to NCA facilities

Significant Changes

- **Online Burial Schedule**
www.cem.va.gov/dailyburialschedule
- **Preneed Application**
VA Form 40-100007 (mail or fax)
- PL 107-103,
**Reimbursement of
Casket/Urn for Unclaimed
Veterans in a Nat'l
Cemetery**
- PL 115-141, **New Burial
Authority for Eligible
Hmong Individuals**



New Emblems of Belief



68 - Guardian Angel

69 - Heart

70 - Shepard & Flag

Wreaths Across America

- Mission: ***Remember, Honor, Teach***
- Saturday Dec 15 (*Tahoma 9am; ML 12noon*)



Cemetery Information

State Veterans Cemetery, Medical Lake

21702 W Espanola Road, Medical Lake WA 99022

509-299-6280 cemetery@dva.wa.gov

www.dva.wa.gov/cemetery



Tahoma National Cemetery

18600 SE 240th Street, Kent WA 98042

425-413-9614

www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/Tahoma.asp

Keeping the Promise, Together



Thanks for all you do to serve Veterans, their families, and survivors.