

# Welcome to the 2023 Tahoma National Cemetery Veteran Outreach Orientation

# Eligibility Verification

- ▶ Armed Forces on Active Duty
  - ▶ Veteran with “Other Than Honorable Discharge”
  - ▶ USMM Oceangoing service from Dec. 7, 1941- Dec.31, 1946
  - ▶ Reserve component activated (not training)
  - ▶ Reserve component Retirees
- ▶ **Spouse of Veteran**
    - ▶ Spouses can be placed at Tahoma even if they precede the Veteran
    - ▶ Surviving spouse with a subsequent marriage or eligible
    - ▶ Dual Veteran Spouses, are eligible for set a side graves
    - ▶ Dependent spouses are placed in the same gravesite with their Veteran. They share a headstone or niche cover with information for both decedents.

# Who is considered a dependent?

## Spouses

- ▶ We can place more than one spouse, if previous spouse has passed.
- ▶ The Veteran and spouse must be married to each other before death.
- ▶ Spouses that have remarried after Veteran passes are still eligible.

## Children

- ▶ Children under the age of 21 years old are eligible for burial.
- ▶ Adult – dependent children: must provide documentation, rely on parents for medical care.

# National Cemetery Scheduling Office Contact Tips

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## Great Eligibility Resource

- ▶ Monday – Friday 8:00am- 7:30pm EST
- ▶ Saturday 9:00am- 5:30pm EST
- ▶ Closed:
  - ▶ Thanksgiving
  - ▶ Christmas
  - ▶ New Year's Day
  - ▶ Sundays
- ▶ Email: [NCA.Scheduling@VA.gov](mailto:NCA.Scheduling@VA.gov)
- ▶ FAX # 1-866-900-6417
- ▶ Wait 30 minutes after submitting
- ▶ Call 1-800-535-1117
- ▶ Once you receive your case number; wait 30 minutes and call Tahoma National Cemetery to schedule service or answer additional questions
- ▶ (425) 413-9614 Tahoma National Cemetery

# Pre-need Eligibility

https://www.cem.va.gov

VA successfactors Home VA Shortcuts VA Forms FAITAS Dashboard Home - Finance Ser... VA EBS Profile Log In Staples Phone Headset Syst... Hours Calculator CardHolder

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

**VA** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Search Contact us Sign in

VA Benefits and Health Care About VA Find a VA Location My VA

I AM A...  
Select One

- National Cemetery Administration
- NCA Mobile Site
- Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM)
- Burial and Memorial Benefits**
  - Burial Benefits
  - Burial Eligibility
  - Burial Allowance
  - Survivor Benefits
  - Schedule a Burial
  - Military Funeral Honors
  - Burial Flags
  - Headstones, Markers, and Medallions
  - Presidential Memorial Certificates
  - Pre-Need Burial Eligibility

VA » National Cemetery Administration

## National Cemetery Administration

### Burial Benefits

Schedule a Burial  
Headstones & Markers  
Medallions  
PMCs  
Burial Flags  
& More

Burial benefits available include gravesites, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, all at no cost to the family.

[» Learn more](#)

Year in Review Preserving Veterans Legacies **Burial Benefits** Daily Burial Schedule

NCA 2021 Year in Review

**VA** NCA 2021 Year in Review

VLM Featured Veteran

**Clarence B. Craft**  
US Army, SFC

# Pre-Need Eligibility



VA Form 21P-530 'Application  
for Burial Benefits'



Fax application to:  
855-840-8299



NCA Scheduling Office

Mail: P.O. Box 510543  
St. Louis, MO 63151



Online: [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)



Resources available at [www.cem.va.gov](https://www.cem.va.gov)

The screenshot displays the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) website. The browser address bar shows the URL <https://www.cem.va.gov/funeraldirector.asp>. The website header includes navigation links: "VA Benefits and Health Care", "About VA", "Find a VA Location", and "My VA". A dropdown menu "I AM A..." is set to "Select One".

The main content area is titled "National Cemetery Administration" and "Assisting Families with Burial". It features several expandable sections:

- ELIGIBILITY**
  - Determine if the deceased is eligible for VA Burial Benefits
  - Important information on marriage
  - Pre-Need Burial Eligibility Determination
- BURIAL**
  - Help educate a Veteran or Veteran's family about VA Burial Benefits and National Cemetery burial
  - Find a National or State, Territorial or Tribal Veterans Cemetery near me
  - Make arrangements for national cemetery interment and/or committal service
  - Help prepare a family for a committal service at a national cemetery
  - Arrange for a burial flag for a deceased veteran
  - Help a family arrange for military funeral honors
- BURIAL FLAGS**
  - Arrange for a burial flag for a deceased veteran
- MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS**
  - Help a family arrange for military funeral honors
- HEADSTONES, GRAVE MARKERS AND MEDALLIONS**
  - Apply for a headstone or grave marker for a Veteran to be placed in a private or state veterans cemetery
  - Apply for a medallion (in lieu of a government marker) on behalf of a Veteran's family

On the right side, there are two additional sections:

- FREQUENTLY REQUESTED INFO**
  - Find a National or State, Territorial or Tribal Veterans Cemetery near me
  - Make arrangements for national cemetery interment and/or committal service
  - Arrange for a burial flag for a deceased veteran
  - Help a family arrange for military funeral honors
  - Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents
  - Bereavement Counseling
- FORMS**
  - PMC (40-0247)
  - Headstone or Marker (40-1330)
  - Medallion (40-1330M)
  - Burial Flag (27-2008)
  - Request Disinterment (40-4970)
  - Burial Allowance
  - Find a VA Form

On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with links such as "National Cemetery Administration", "NCA Mobile Site", "Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM)", "Burial and Memorial Benefits", "Find a Cemetery", "Grave Locator", "Daily Burial Schedule", "Frequently Asked Questions", "About NCA", "Media and Publications", "Resources and Links", "History and Education", "Veterans Cemetery Grants", "Design and Construction Service", "Volunteer Opportunities", "COVID-19 Alerts", "NCA Policy Publications", and "Site Map".

At the bottom left, there is a section titled "COVID-19 vaccines at VA" with a sub-header "Get the latest information and sign up to stay informed about COVID-19 vaccines".

# Gravesite Locator also available on mobile devices

The screenshot displays the National Cemetery Administration's Gravesite Locator website. The header features the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs logo and navigation links. A sidebar on the left provides links to various services, including the Gravesite Locator. The main content area is titled "National Cemetery Administration" and "Nationwide Gravesite Locator". It contains a search form with fields for Cemetery, Last Name, First Name, Middle Name, Date of Birth, and Date of Death. A "Search" button is located at the bottom right of the form. Below the form, there is a section titled "The database of burial information is updated each day." followed by a paragraph explaining the scope of the database. At the bottom left, there is a section for "NCA MOBILE SITE" with images of mobile devices.

gravelocator.cem.va.gov/ngl/index.jsp

VA TMS 2.0 IFAMS Gateway Site VA Welcome to VA Ins... VA Veterans Legacy M... (3) Facebook MBMS Memorial A...

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Get help from Veterans Crisis Line >

Health Benefits Burials & Memorials About VA Resources Media Room Locations Contact Us

NCA Mobile

Grave Locator

Find a Cemetery

Resources and Links

NCA Desktop Website

CONNECT WITH NCA

Facebook YouTube

Twitter Blog

NCA Email Updates:

Subscribe or Manage

General Inquiries:

National Cemetery Administration

Attn: General Inquiries

810 Vermont Avenue

Washington, DC 20420

1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)

NCA MOBILE SITE

Cemetery: Search All Cemeteries

search options

Last Name: \* (Required) exact match

First Name: exact match

Middle Name: exact match

Date of Birth: Month / Year (YYYY)

Date of Death: /

Search

The database of burial information is updated each day.

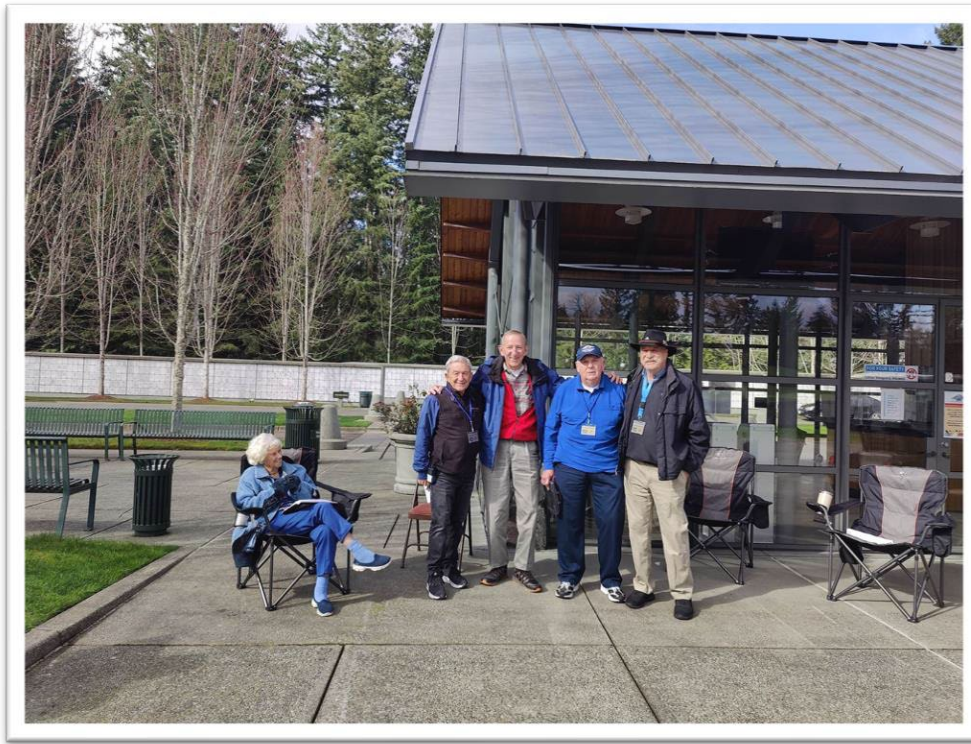
Search for burial locations of veterans and their family members in VA National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries, various other military and Department of Interior cemeteries, and for veterans buried in private cemeteries when the grave is marked with a government grave marker.

The Nationwide Gravesite Locator includes burial records from many sources. These sources provide varied data; some searches may contain less information than others. Information on veterans buried in private cemeteries was collected for the purpose of furnishing government grave markers, and we do not have information available for burials prior to 1997.

Erroneous information can be corrected, but we are unable to add to the information contained in the existing record.

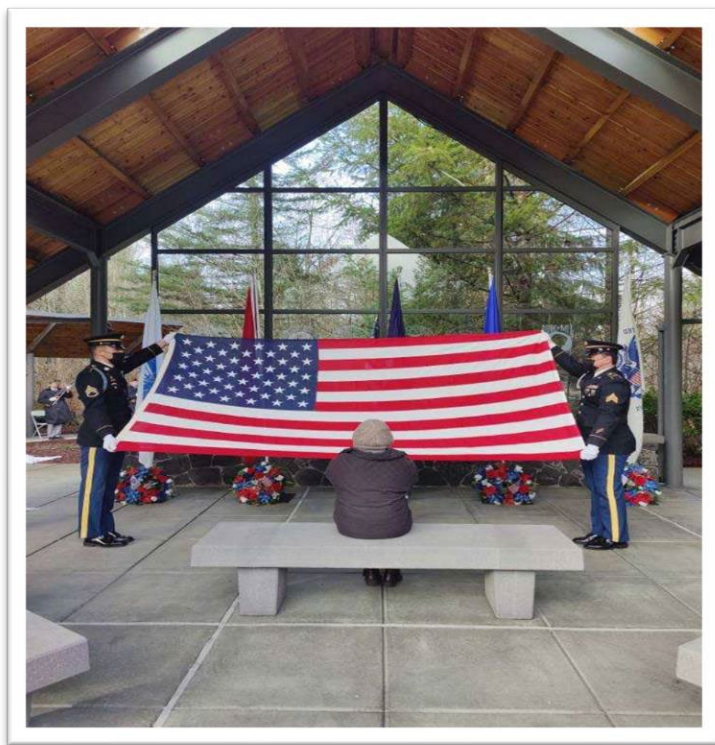


# Volunteering at Tahoma National Cemetery



- ▶ Tahoma National Cemetery relies heavily on our volunteers.
- ▶ Volunteers are needed Monday-Friday from 8:30am-3:00pm and occasional holidays.
- ▶ Volunteers assist families by answering questions, locating gravesites and checking in/escorting families for committal services.
- ▶ If you are interested, please give us a call.

# What happens during a Veteran Committal Service?



- ▶ Military Honors (when appropriate)
  - ▶ Most services include rifle salute from TNC VSO. Followed by TAPS.
  - ▶ Flag is folded, given to NOK
  - ▶ VSO Chaplain conducts service
- ▶ Clergy, Funeral Director or Family Member may speak if time permits
- ▶ Cemetery Administration Specialist retires urn or casket
- ▶ Family departs shelter
- ▶ Any part of service can be optional please discuss with staff when scheduling
- ▶ Services are held at Committal Shelters not gravesite.

# Dependent Services

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Dependent Services are self-led services

Family must provide their own clergy

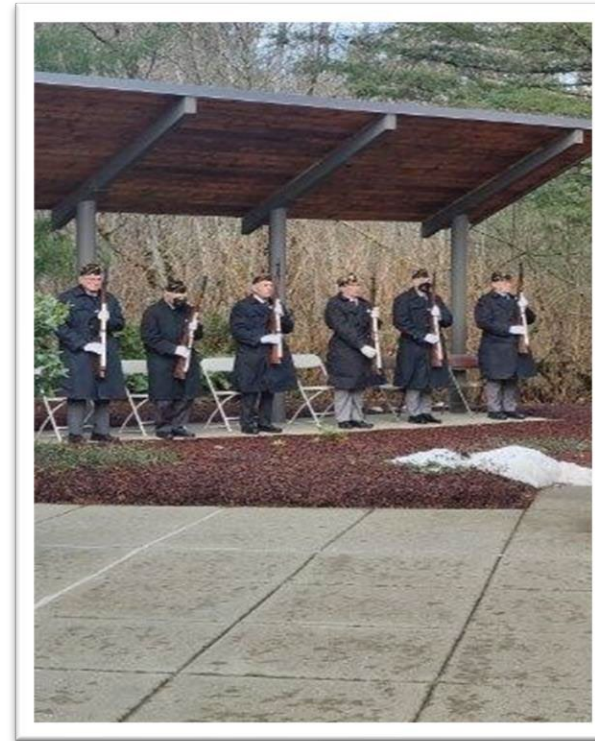
Staff will be present to welcome guest, park cars & assist with casket/urn

It is possible to schedule a double service for the Veteran and the spouse at the same time

Please indicate when scheduling service preferences for individual or combined service

# Second Saturday Services

- ▶ Second Saturday Services are offered every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month except for the month of November.
- ▶ These services are held to honor Veterans who were interred directly at Tahoma National Cemetery without military honors at the time of their burial.
- ▶ Types of burials include; witness placements, direct interments and indigent/unclaimed burials.





# What does the DOD provide during Military Honors?

- ▶ The DOD will provide up to 2 service members of the Veteran's branch to fold and present one flag to the next-of-kin during the service.
- ▶ The Army and Air Force will provide a rifle team for retirees' contingent on availability of staff.
- ▶ The current Air Force policy will **not** allow a two-person honor guard to act as pallbearers.





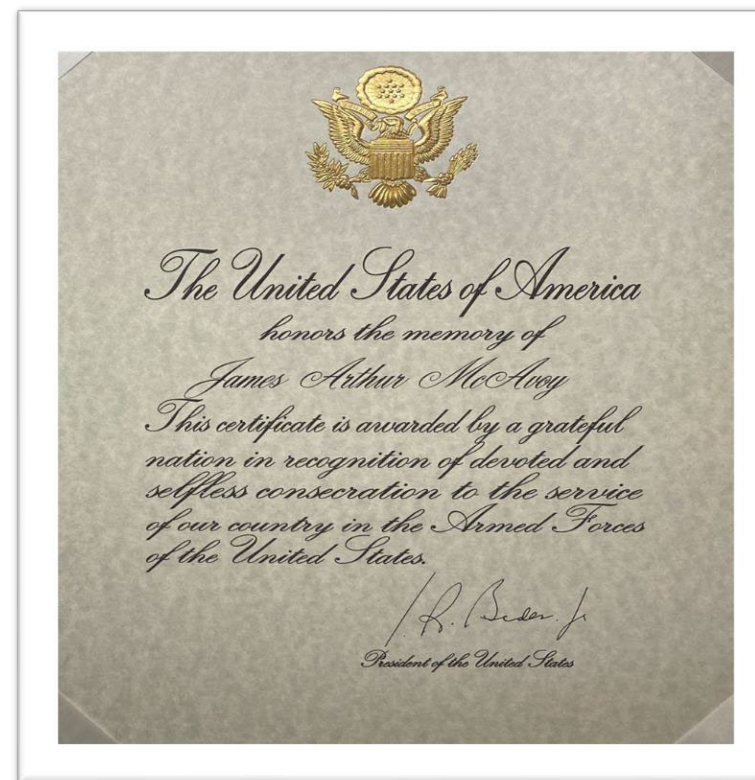
# What does the Volunteer Service Organization (VSO) provide during Military Honors?



- ▶ The VSO will provide a non-denominational chaplain for Veteran Services
- ▶ The VSO will provide a rifle team for Veteran services of 3-7 members
- ▶ The VSO will provide a bugler, if one is not available a recorded version of TAPS will be played at the shelter
- ▶ The VSO teams are on rotation.
- ▶ If you are interested in volunteering with your local VSO to assist in honors please contact Al Zarb (206) 930-6281 or email [alzvfw@comcast.net](mailto:alzvfw@comcast.net)

# Presidential Memorial Certificate

- ▶ Optional signed Presidential Certificate
- ▶ Signed Presidential Certificate from current sitting President
- ▶ Presented at the Committal Service to NOK
- ▶ Other request will be mailed
- ▶ White House Program



# Why Consider a National Cemetery?

## Tahoma National Cemetery

Item	Price Range
Plot	\$ No cost
Mausoleum Crypt	Not Available
Endowment Care	No Cost
Burial Vault or grave liner	No Cost
Opening and closing	No Cost
Headstone or grave marker	No Cost
Installation of headstone or grave marker	No Cost
Total (for plot burial)	No Cost

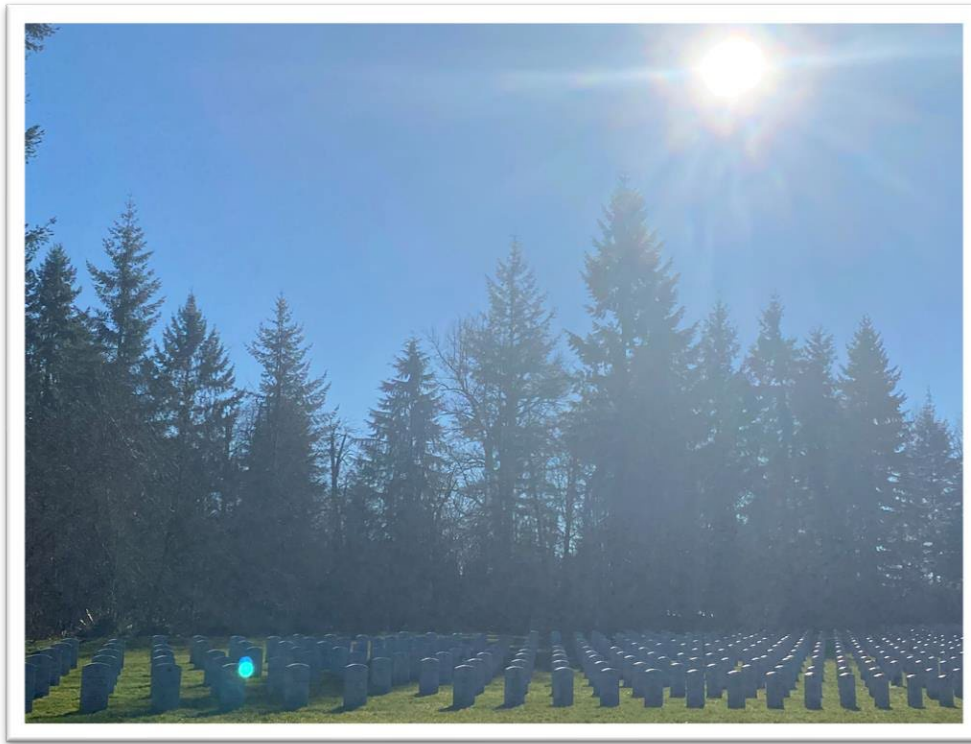
## Cost of a Private Cemetery

Item	Price Range
Plot	\$1500-\$2500
Mausoleum crypt	\$4500-\$8500
Endowment care	\$150-\$250
Burial vault or grave liner	\$500-\$2500
Opening and closing	\$1000-\$1500
Headstone or grave marker	\$500-\$4000
Installation of headstone or grave marker	\$450-\$850
TOTAL (for plot burial)	\$4100-\$11,600

# Getting your affairs in order;

- ▶ Once you have received your pre-need eligibility certificate:
- ▶ Give a copy to the executor of your will
- ▶ Give a copy to the funeral home you have chosen
- ▶ Ensure a copy of your DD214 is available to your family for military honors and other VA related benefits.
- ▶ Communicate your preferences with your family

# Burial Options: Casket Interment



- ▶ Pre-placed crypts
- ▶ When interring 2<sup>nd</sup> spouse, the entire headstone is replaced, the front inscription can be revised at this time.



# Burial Options: Columbarium Wall



- Urns must be smaller than 9x13x17

# Burial Options: Garden Cremation



- ▶ Garden Burial Size 3x3
- ▶ Please Alert Staff to larger urn/vault size when scheduling service
- ▶ When 2<sup>nd</sup> spouse is entered there is less room on marker for terms of endearment



# Burial Options: Memorial Wall (scattered cremains)



## Burial Options: Ossuary (scattered combined Cremation)



- ▶ Currently no occupants
- ▶ When remains are placed in ossuary, decedents must also have a memorial marker.



# Yearly Ceremonies

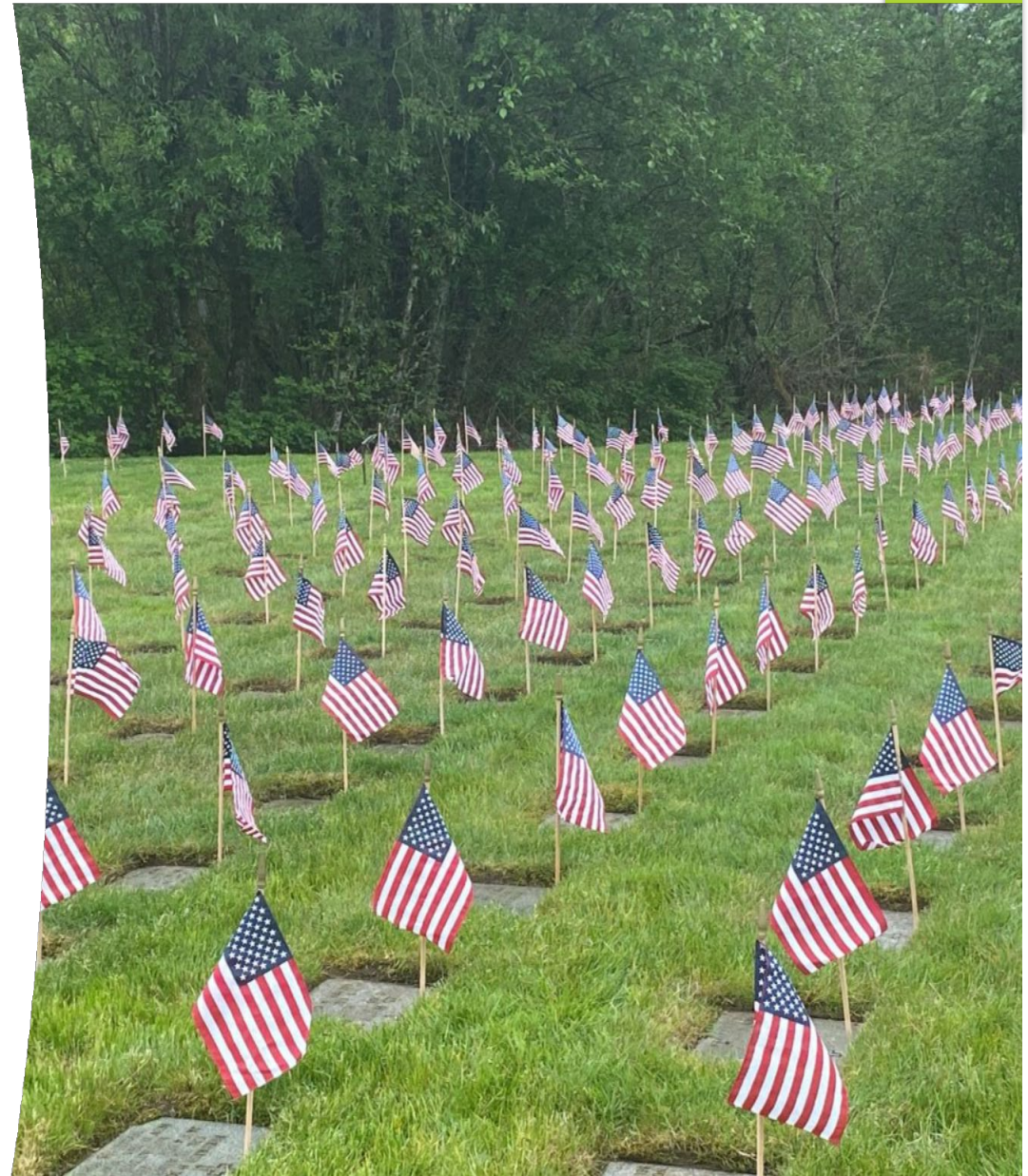
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration
- To honor and pay tribute to Vietnam Veterans and their families
- Held in March





# Yearly Ceremonies

- Memorial Day
- Memorial Day Ceremony conducted the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every May.





# Yearly Ceremonies

- Veterans Day
- November 11



# Yearly Ceremonies

- ▶ Wreaths Across America
- ▶ Wreaths are generously donated from benefactors across the nation, volunteers place wreaths on gravesites on the same day at National Cemeteries across the nation.
- ▶ Held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of December







# Questions????

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!! [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NATCENTAHOMA](https://www.facebook.com/natcentahoma)