Burial Benefits
Serving Those Who Serve Conference

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Cemetery Director
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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
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

Keeping the Promise, Together
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
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
  Hmoung 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
Keeping the Promise, Together

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