

Washington State Veterans Cemetery Cemetery Volunteer, Cortège Driver

This position supports WDVA's mission of "***Serving Those Who Served***" by honoring Veterans with a final resting place and lasting tribute that commemorate their service to our nation, by serving all Veterans and their families with the utmost dignity, respect and compassion. Under the direction of the Cemetery Administrative Assistant this position assists with ushering families from the cortège assembly area to the designated committal shelter for interment services. This work has a direct impact on our customers' decisions as to whether they select our facility as the final resting place for family members. This position is ideal for empathetic, outgoing, and detail oriented individuals wishing to honor veterans for their military service.

Drivers join a team of dedicated professionals whose purpose is to uphold our nation's sacred trust by honoring our community's veterans and their families in their final resting place. It is a personally rewarding experience to be able to serve families in some of their most difficult times as they experience the loss of a loved one.

The primary responsibility of the leader is to usher families and their guests, to the committal shelter in a timely manner to meet scheduled service time constraints. In order to accomplish this, interested individuals should possess soft skills beneficial to this role which include: good communications, problem solving, and teamwork skills. Individuals should be flexible yet decisive and have the ability to work under pressure with good time management skills. Drivers are trained on basic cemetery policies and procedures during detailed orientation sessions and ride-a-longs with experienced drivers. Staff are always available to assist in any situation.

Volunteer drivers should have a current state driver's license and be able to drive a motorized golf cart. Volunteers should be able to communicate clearly and effectively with staff through the use of a 2-way radio. Anyone wishing to volunteer must complete an application with WDVA. Your registration information will be securely maintained at the cemetery visible only to administrative staff, and will not be shared with anyone else. Applications are available at the cemetery or by calling 509-299-6280. Upon receiving your completed application, cemetery staff will contact you to learn more about your skills, availability and to schedule training.

ACCEPTABLE ATTIRE FOR CORTEGE DRIVERS

The first and overriding principal is that the cortège driver must always present a dignified, honorable, respectful and non-controversial appearance. Attire must always be clean, well maintained and neutral in colors. Remember that drivers complement the staff and represent WDVA in providing honor and tribute to others, not to showcase themselves.

Discrete civilian attire such as dark slacks or suit and white shirt with solid, dark tie is always appropriate for males. Similarly, dark skirt or slacks with white blouse would be suitable for females. Subdued colors such as black, greys, blues or browns are preferred; avoid bold vibrant colors such as red, yellow, pink or green. Appropriate outer wear such as hats, gloves and overcoats are essential during colder months and inclement weather. Open toed shoes or sandals are not allowed for safety reasons.

FINANCIAL COMPENSATION OR HONORARIUMS

Under no circumstances shall a volunteer require, request, or otherwise suggest that they be compensated for their participation in an interment service. There will be no exceptions to this rule. If it becomes known that any member is doing this, it shall be cause for removal.

If offered an unsolicited honorarium you may accept it with gratitude and dignity.