

The Defense Department recognizes the important role funeral planners play in ensuring that our veterans receive military funeral honors. This brochure and the Military Funeral Honors page at <https://go.usa.gov/xJvfd> will assist you in making these arrangements on behalf of the family. The DOD thanks you for your continued support and commitment to our nation's veterans.



The rendering of military funeral honors is one way we show the nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended and served our country. It is the final tribute provided to the veteran and the family that supported them during their service. The tradition of providing military funeral honors began in ancient Greece and Rome. The funeral honors protocol of today traces its roots to these ceremonies, as well as to historical American experiences.



Military OneSource provides links to legislation, the Department of Veterans Affairs, a Military Funeral Honors Directory by service, and other useful information for veterans, families and funeral directors at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/military-life-cycle/veterans-military-funeral-honors>.

Note: It is important that the service casualty office be notified of a retiree's death, as it can provide additional information or resources to the family. The Office of Survivor's Assistance, at <https://www.va.gov/survivors>, can provide information for VA benefits and resources.



The DOD pledges to work with you to ensure that each request for military funeral honors is handled immediately and that the family is treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect.



For more information, visit <https://www.MilitaryOneSource.mil/military-life-cycle/veterans-military-funeral-honors>



MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS



MILITARY
ONESOURCE

The Defense Department is committed to recognizing the sacrifice and contributions of our nation's veterans by providing honors upon request by the family of an eligible veteran.

How much does a military funeral honors detail cost?

The DOD will provide military funeral honors to the family at no cost.

What are the core elements of the Military Funeral Honors Program?

The law mandates that the secretary of the military department render military funeral honors for an eligible veteran upon request by the family. A funeral honors detail, at a minimum, shall consist of no fewer than two members of the armed forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative from the service branch of the deceased veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presentation of the American flag and the playing of Taps. Taps will be played by a bugler, if available, or by ceremonial bugle or electronic recording. The veteran's service branch representative will present the flag. Upon request by the family for full military funeral honors, the detail will include the additional element of a rifle volley, subject to what is permitted at the place honors are presented.

How much notice should be provided for the honors request?

Contact the military service immediately so they can organize and transport the funeral honors detail. All requests should be submitted to the service branch in which the decedent served.

Who is eligible?

- Military members on active duty
- Military retirees
- Members and former members of the selected reserve
- Eligible U.S. veterans of any war
- Other U.S. veterans who served at least one term of enlistment and separated under conditions other than dishonorable

Who is not eligible?

Some veterans are not eligible for military funeral honors. This includes those discharged from the armed forces under dishonorable conditions and individuals sentenced to death for a federal or state capital offense. The service casualty office is responsible for determining eligibility for military funeral honors, so all requests for honors should be forwarded there for verification. Further clarification on eligibility is available in DOD Instruction 1300.15, "Military Funeral Support," which can be found on Military OneSource at <https://go.usa.gov/xJvfM>.

How can veterans service organizations assist in performing military funeral honors?

The DOD recognizes the valuable role that VSOs play in honoring our veterans. Many of

these organizations have close working relationships with cemeteries and funeral homes in their regions and are often the first stop in arranging military funeral honors for our veterans. However, the DOD requests that funeral directors make contact with the service of the veteran to coordinate military funeral honors. The DOD implemented an Authorized Provider Partnership Program, which provides support and training for VSOs. This program allows organizations to augment the legislated two-person uniformed member detail, when requested, and provide additional elements for a veteran's funeral. The veteran's service branch representative will present the flag, as required by law.

For more information on the program, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xJvGx>.

How can funeral planners assist the DOD with improving the Military Funeral Honors Program?

The DOD appreciates your feedback on the Military Funeral Honors Program and the services provided by DOD funeral honors personnel. You can help improve the services offered to veterans and their families by sending your comments to:

**Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)
Attn: Military Funeral Honors
1500 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C., 20301-1500**