



Funeral Planning for Arlington National Cemetery

This Defense Department brochure informs veterans, service members and their families, and service providers about funeral planning for those eligible to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. It offers details about who is eligible to be interred or inurned and/or receive military funeral honors at Arlington, as well as information about scheduling a funeral and more.

Eligibility

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 400,000 service members, veterans and their family members. Requirements are strict for in-ground burials. But most veterans who have at least one day of active service, other than training, and an honorable discharge are eligible for above-ground inurnment.

Eligibility for interment is determined at the time of death.

For information about eligibility, visit <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Funerals/Scheduling-a-Funeral/Establishing-Eligibility>. You can visit the cemetery's homepage at <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil>.

Additional information and resources

For information about burial in a national cemetery other than Arlington National Cemetery, visit <https://www.cem.va.gov>.

For additional resources, visit:

- Military Records for Veterans Burial/Funeral Benefits Form <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/products/military-records-for-veterans-burial-funeral-benefits-form-791>
- National Archives and Records Administration (for veterans' service records) <https://www.archives.gov/veterans>
- Navy Burial at Sea program via Veterans Affairs <https://www.va.gov>

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**Call or chat with us 24/7 from
anywhere in the world to learn
more: 800-342-9647.**

[MilitaryOneSource.mil](https://www.militaryonesource.mil)



*The information in this brochure was provided by Arlington National Cemetery.



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Military funeral honors

The honors provided at Arlington include:

- Military funeral honors
- Military funeral honors with funeral escort
- Dependent honors

Every uniformed service member or veteran of the armed forces is eligible for military funeral honors to be conducted by the decedent's branch of service. Funeral honors can only be rendered once.

For more information, visit <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Funerals/Funeral-Information/Military-Honors>.

Burial requirements

The required documents to be laid to rest at Arlington include:

- DD Form 214 (or service equivalent), with an honorable character of service
- For active-duty deaths, a statement of honorable service from a general court martial convening authority
- Death certificate
- DD Form 1300 (Report of Casualty)
- Cremation certificate (if applicable) and validation of the urn containing the decedent's remains
- Any other document as required by the executive director

An emergency records request can be made by visiting <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/emergencies>.



Scheduling a funeral service

Before a service can be scheduled, all documentation needs to be submitted by the family and reviewed by Arlington staff to establish and confirm eligibility. The selection of specific gravesites or niches is prohibited. Scheduling military funeral services at Arlington is primarily influenced by three factors:

- Type of remains
- Military resources available
- Family preferences

When the family or funeral home makes the first call to the Arlington's customer service center at 877-907-8585, they are given a case number for tracking purposes and are asked to email all required documents for review.

Learn more about scheduling a funeral service by visiting <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Funerals/Scheduling-a-Funeral>.

Family passes

A permanent pass is issued to the next of kin at the time of burial. Additional passes are available for authorized personnel, including the parents, children and siblings of the deceased. Passes are not for touring the cemetery. Temporary passes, valid for one visit only, can be issued to authorized personnel who do not have a permanent pass.

For more information, visit <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Funerals/Visiting-a-Gravesite>.

Headstones and niche covers

A marble headstone or niche cover is provided at no cost, which will include the appropriate inscription. The next of kin has 14 days to review the proposed headstone or niche cover text template prior to the date of interment. The cemetery staff will finalize the template.

