

Greetings from your Department Judge Advocate,

Comrades,

Some of you may be aware that I worked for the National Cemetery Administration for a long time. One thing that a lot of us do not think about is our Burial Benefits.

**Burial Benefits:**

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of the VA national cemeteries and State Veteran Cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care,

You can plan ahead to make the process of applying for a burial in a VA national cemetery easier for your family members in the event of your death. To do this, you'll need to apply for a pre-need eligibility determination.

The pre-need eligibility determination is only for VA national cemeteries. If you want to be buried in a [state or tribal Veterans cemetery](#), check the site you want ahead of time since some state Veterans cemeteries require that you live in that state or have other rules around eligibility.

Fill out an Application for Pre-need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery ([VA Form 40-10007](#)). You can either print it and mail it or complete it online at <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/>

**Send your completed application (with copies of your supporting documents) to:**

NCA FP Evidence Intake Center  
PO Box 5237  
Janesville, WI 53547

**If both you and your spouse are applying, you'll each need to fill out your own application.**

To apply, you'll need your (or your sponsor's):

- Social Security number
- Date and place of birth
- Military status and service history (like service dates, discharge character, and rank—commonly found on the DD214 or other separation documents)

Discharge papers (DD214 or other separation documents)

**Note:** If you don't have discharge papers, [find out how to request the DD214](#) ([SF-180](#))

**Government headstone:**

**For a headstone, grave marker, or wall marker,** fill out the Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker ([VA Form 40-1330](#)).

**Marker, or medallion:**

**For a medallion to be placed on a privately purchased headstone or marker,** fill out the Claim for Government Medallion for Placement in a Private Cemetery (**VA Form 40-1330M**).

**Burial flag:**

If you go to your local Post Office with a copy of the Veterans DD 214, you can get a Burial free from the Post Office

**Presidential Memorial Certificate:**

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate signed by the current president. (**VA Form 40-0247**)

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran. The Veterans family should make funeral or cremation arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation office will be at the family's expense

Please feel free to contact me.

Keep your Powder Dry,

Mike "Trike" Lecza

Department of MD JAG