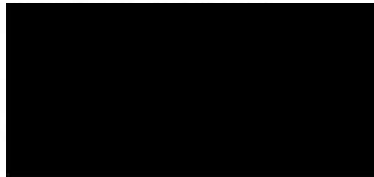




**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
National Cemetery Administration  
National Cemetery Scheduling Office  
PO BOX 510543  
St. Louis, MO 63151



Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

We have reviewed your request and supporting documentation for a determination of eligibility for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery in advance of need. We find that, as of the date of this letter, you are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery.

Eligibility criteria for burial in a VA national cemetery are stated in section 2402 of title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.), *Persons eligible for interment in national cemeteries*. This finding of pre-need burial eligibility does not reserve or guarantee a gravesite in a particular VA national cemetery. As an eligible Veteran, you will be entitled to a gravesite in any VA national cemetery with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, and a Government – furnished headstone or marker, at no cost to your family. We have enclosed the National Cemetery Administration brochure and a Burial Benefits Information sheet that explains these benefits in more detail.

VA will save your pre-need claim form, supporting documentation, and this decision letter in a recallable system to expedite your burial arrangements at your time of need. We encourage you to retain this information along with your other important papers in the enclosed embossed VA Burial and Memorial Benefits document holder. We also encourage you to discuss your burial wishes and arrangements with your family members or authorized representatives. At your time of death, should your family or personal representative request burial in a VA national cemetery, VA will confirm this finding of pre-need eligibility based on the laws in effect at that time.

I hope this information is helpful in planning for your future burial needs. Thank you for your interest in our VA national cemeteries.

Sincerely,

*Ginger Wilson*

Ginger Wilson  
Director, National Cemetery Scheduling Office



## Burial Benefits Information

**What does my pre-approval of eligibility mean?** You are now eligible to be buried in any VA national cemetery having space available.

All individuals determined to be eligible are entitled to burial, at no charge to the family, which includes:

- Opening/closing of the grave
- A government-furnished burial liner
- Government-furnished headstone or marker
- Perpetual care of the gravesite

In addition, if you are a Veteran and decide to be buried in a private cemetery, you are still entitled to receive a burial flag and a government-furnished headstone, marker, or bronze medallion. (Note: The spouse/dependent of an eligible Veteran does not receive any benefits if a burial is in a private cemetery)

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) may be requested to honor the memory of any deceased Veteran who was discharged under honorable conditions.

Headstones and markers must be inscribed with the name of the deceased, branch of service, and year of birth and death. The Veteran or family member also may choose to have the headstone and marker inscribed with other optional information, including an emblem of belief and, space permitting, additional text including military rank; war service such as World War II; complete dates of birth and death; military awards; military organizations, civilian or Veteran affiliations; and personalized Terms of Endearment. Terms of Endearment are placed on the bottom of the headstone and are sometimes called optional inscription. Here are some examples: "Forever in our hearts" or "Rest in Peace" or "Loving Wife, Mother, and Grandmother". Please refer to the enclosed chart of approved emblems of belief or visit our website for more information, <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/emblems.asp>.

We encourage you to discuss your final wishes with your family members to include memorialization requests and inscriptions, such as terms of endearment or preference for an emblem of belief.

Place this paper and your pre-need approval letter in the enclosed VA Burial and Memorial Benefits document holder and keep in a safe place that is accessible to those who will be handling your arrangements at your time of need.

Additional information about VA benefits and pre-need for burial eligibility may be found on the VA website at <http://www.cem.va.gov/> or you may contact your local cemetery.