

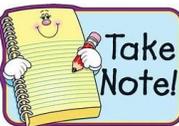
## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide **guidance** for planning a military funeral the details provided on the “Benefits” webpage of [www.MemorialRifleSquad.org](http://www.MemorialRifleSquad.org) . A table has links to information and forms required to complete the planning process. The table is organized with the Rows 1 thru 4 containing the steps for planning a military funeral. Table Rows 5 thru 8 contain informative and enlightening information about Military Honor Services.

Clip-art illustrations located in the table cells are “*hotspots*” which contain links that will direct you to another webpage with further details on the subject. Underlined **BLUE words** are also *hotspots* that provide further information. Placing the computer cursor over a *hotspot* will change the shape of the cursor (often a hand shape) indicating the presence of a link. Place the cursor on a *hotspot* and click to select the webpage with details.

Row	How Do I.....	Column	Description
1	<p><b>Get Started</b></p> 	<b>A</b> Guide Document	This document is an overview of information available in each table entry. A printed copy of this document will assist you to find the information you need. The descriptions may reference related table cells. Cells are referenced using a number and a letter combination. For example, 3B refers to row 3, “Take It step by step” and column B, “Burial Benefits”.
		<b>B</b> Burial Options	You have options in selecting burial benefits. Do you want burial at a private or National Cemetery, a burial flag, a headstone, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate? Details included items provided if using a private cemetery versus a National Cemetery.
		<b>C</b> Mental Health Issues	If planning is complicated due to a veteran mental health condition, start here to get assistance with benefits for the veteran.

2	<b>Plan Ahead</b>  	<b>A</b> A DD214	There are 2 documents that are key to start: a death certificate and a DD214 (discharge papers). If you <b>do not have a DD214, this link will let you know..</b>
		<b>B</b> Burial Pre-Approval & An Example	Plan <b>now</b> for your interment at a National Cemetery. Save your spouse/family time and anguish by requesting a pre-approval for burial. Click on <a href="#">EXAMPLE</a> for a copy of the letter you will receive.
		<b>C</b> Vet Personal Information & What to Do When??	The veteran should complete this form <b>ASAP</b> and keep it updated. It has a lot of information required by survivors for planning a funeral, closing accounts, collecting insurance, credit cards, etc. Click on <a href="#">WHAT To Do When</a> for a list of scenarios and action to take.
3	<b>Step by Step</b>  	<b>A</b> List of Information	This is information that will <b>assist survivor in answering questions</b> related funeral planning. It is recommended that the veteran complete this list <b>ASAP</b> . The information is required when calling funeral planning and scheduling.
		<b>B</b> The Planning Main Page	This is the <b>main page of the National Cemetery Admin with the planning steps</b> . It has a short video that introduces you to the funeral process.
		<b>C</b> Burial Benefits	<b>Requesting benefits</b> is not an initial priority but an important part of future planning. This webpage provides instructions and financial allowances.
4	<b>Get Assistance</b>  	<b>A</b> Funeral Home or Cremation Service	If you plan on using the services of a funeral home or cremation service, they can assist you in completing the burial planning steps. This is <b>NOT A HOTSPOT</b> since selection of this service is the exclusive choice of the veteran and/or family.
		<b>B</b> Minnesota County	The <b>CVSO (County Veteran Service Officer)</b> is an excellent resource for a veteran, spouse, and family. Dedicated, full-time staff are available to assist a veteran and their family for many services.
		<b>C</b> Ft. Snelling Administration	You will want to check with the Administration Staff of the National Cemetery you plan on using for your final resting place. Contact the Cemetery administration offices <b>AFTER</b> completing step 3B.

5	<p>Forms</p> 	<p><b>A</b> What Ifs</p>	This link provides a list of “what ifs” scenarios and what form you would use to resolve the issue.
		<p><b>B</b> Request Records</p>	This link provided instructions on how to request military personnel records.
		<p><b>C</b> Find a Form</p>	If you <b>cannot</b> find a VA Form listed on 5A or any VA form, use this link to search and download forms.
6	<p>Fort Snelling</p> 	<p><b>A</b> MRS Honors</p>	The Memorial Rifle Squad has been at Fort Snelling since 1979 exceeding 80,000+ Honors for our departed Vets. This is a video of the Honors.
		<p><b>B</b> Map</p>	A map of Fort Snelling, the administration offices, maintenance buildings and burial locations. You can find the location of a grave using 8C.
		<p><b>C</b> Ft. Snelling Story</p>	Boyd Huppert a photojournalist from KARE-11 TV, provides this moving video. Boyd looks at the history behind Minnesota's Fort Snelling National Cemetery.
7	<p>Preserve a</p> 	<p><b>A</b> Free Urn</p>	For any Minnesota Veteran, you can request a <b>FREE URN</b> from a local family that will build you a solid OAK urn. A death certificate and DD214 are required for the request.
		<p><b>B</b> Flag Boxes</p>	The Hastings Veteran Home has a wood shop equipped to build beautiful flag boxes operated using resident veterans. You can pick up a box in person or order it online.
		<p><b>C</b> Add Your Comments</p>	If you know a veteran buried at any National Cemetery, you can check details of his/her service, locate the headstone with a picture, and <b>add your comments complementing their legacy.</b>
8	<p>FYI/Notes</p> 	<p><b>A</b> NOT a 21 Gun Salute</p>	A “21 Gun Salute” is a common phrase used to describe the “Rifle Volley”; the firing of rifles at a military funeral. Here is more on the history.
		<p><b>B</b> Current Schedules</p>	To find the time of any scheduled service at a National Cemetery, use this link to attain the specifics of any burial schedule.
		<p><b>C</b> Find a Grave</p>	Use this link to find the location coordinates of any National Cemetery gravesite. If at Ft. Snelling, use the Map in 6B. Gravesite location services may also be available at the cemetery.