

# VA



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

National Cemetery Administration

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## **NCA OPERATIONAL STATUS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

- All Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemeteries are open and will continue to provide interments for Veterans and eligible individuals.
- Effective March 23, 2020, committal services and the rendering of military funeral honors, whether by military personnel or volunteer organizations, have been discontinued until further notice.
- These changes have been made to protect the health and safety of families, volunteers and our employees. VA national cemeteries will return to normal operations once the current health emergency passes.
- Immediate family members (limited to 10 individuals) of the deceased may choose to witness the interment if desired. This is not an opportunity for a service, and families will be kept a safe distance from interment operations.
- Those families choosing to continue with interment may schedule a committal service at the cemetery at a later date. Those families wishing to postpone an already scheduled interment to a later date should contact the cemetery as soon as possible to convey their wishes.
- The National Cemetery Scheduling Office in St. Louis will continue to provide scheduling services for the duration of the current emergency. To schedule a burial, please call 800-535-1117.
- Our cemeteries remain open to visitors, but we strongly urge all guests to obey local travel restrictions and avoid unnecessary travel.
- Visitors should expect that certain portions of a cemetery typically open to the public may be closed (for example, public information centers, administration buildings). Visitors should contact the local cemetery for more information.
- For more information, visit the National Cemetery Administration at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov).

**As of March 2020**