



Maryland State Veteran Cemeteries

- DVMF's Veteran Cemetery Program is supported by the National Cemetery Administration, but is separate from the Federal program and Arlington National Cemetery
- There are five state-run cemeteries open to veterans, National Guard members & Reservists, and their eligible dependents: One on the Eastern Shore, one in Western Maryland, and three in Central Maryland
- All five can accommodate both casketed and cremated persons
- Maryland residency and a nominal burial fee is required for National Guard members & Reservists who aren't otherwise eligible for a plot allowance reimbursement benefit from the Federal VA

Cheltenham Veteran Cemetery

- Established 7 July 1978
- Footprint: 122 acres
- Conducts up to 6 burials a day
Monday – Friday
- Conducted over 33,000 burials
- Over 5,400 plots available



Crownsville Veteran Cemetery

- Established 7 July 1978
- Footprint: 120 acres
- Conducts up to 6 burials a day Monday – Friday
- Conducted over 28,000 burials
- Over 2,500 plots available





Eastern Shore Veteran Cemetery

- Established 10 June 1976
- Footprint: 51 acres
- Conducts up to 6 burials a day Monday – Friday
- Conducted over 8,800 burials
- Over 2,100 plots available



Garrison Forest Veteran Cemetery

- Established 8 November 1983
- Footprint: 107 acres
- Conducts up to 6 burials a day
Monday – Friday
- Conducted over 48,000 burials
- Over 4,200 plots available

Rocky Gap Veteran Cemetery

- Established 1 June 1981
- Footprint: 27 acres
- Conducts up to 6 burials a day Monday – Friday
- Conducted over 6,000 burials
- Over 1000 plots available





Preparing For Burial in a Maryland State Veteran Cemetery

- Ensure you have military discharge documentation
 - In most cases, you can obtain documents from the National Personnel Records Center through the National Archives.
<https://www.archives.gov/veterans>
- Consider filing a pre-application
 - A pre-application will allow cemetery staff to establish initial eligibility with your documentation, and will authorize them to keep your documentation on file until your time of need
 - It doesn't reserve a particular space – grave assignment occurs at the time of need
 - Pre-application forms and instructions are available online at <https://veterans.maryland.gov>
 - Pre-applications can take time to process, and are not recommended if the time of need is expected to be imminent. In that case, you may reach out to cemetery staff for an initial eligibility check if desired
- Prepare for potential costs
 - Veterans who are eligible for Federal burial plot allowance and their dependents are interred at no cost – this includes opening/closing, concrete liner (if casketed), government marker, and perpetual care, but **does not** include funeral home costs
 - Members of the National Guard or Reserves and their dependents pay a burial fee equal to the amount of that year's Federal burial plot allowance (\$1,002 through September 30, 2026)



At the Time of Need

- When a death occurs, a family's first step is to contact the funeral home or crematory of choice
 - The funeral home will prepare the decedent for burial and assist with funeral arrangements
- A funeral home is required to schedule casketed burials. For cremated persons, the family can schedule through their funeral home, or work directly with cemetery personnel
 - If the veteran does not have a pre-application on file, the funeral director or family should provide a copy of the veteran's military discharge and residency documentation to the cemetery along with the decedent's personal information
 - If military documentation is not available, it can be requested from the National Personnel Records Center at the National Archives
- Families can use the cemetery's committal shelter on the day of interment
 - The committal service is limited to 20 minutes or less to accommodate all families who need our services
 - Funeral Directors and families are responsible for arranging military honors and clergy/speakers
- Cemetery personnel at all locations can be reached at 410-923-6981
 - We may refer you back to your funeral director for some things such as scheduling - this ensures that that the cemetery arrangements fit into all other funerary plans



Resources

DVMF Cemetery & Memorial Programs

Director, Russell Ware
410-923-6981

<https://veterans.maryland.gov>

Requesting Military Discharges

Pre-need:

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans>

At Time of Need:

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/emergencies>

Military Funeral Honors

Department of Defense:

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/transition-retirement/veterans/frequently-asked-questions-about-military-funeral-honors/>

Maryland National Guard Honor Guard:

<https://military.maryland.gov/mdng/Pages/default.aspx>

Burial Plot Allowance Eligibility

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/eligibility/>