

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA VETERANS CEMETERY

FAQs

Q: Am I eligible to be buried in a Veterans Cemetery?

A: One of the following must be true:

1. Any Veteran who was discharged under honorable conditions (conditions other than dishonorable). With certain exceptions, service beginning after September 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and service after October 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum of 24 continuous months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty (as in the case of a Reservist called to active duty for a limited duration). Undesirable, bad conduct, and any other type of discharge other than honorable may or may not qualify the individual for Veterans benefits, depending upon a determination made by a VA Regional Office. Cases presenting multiple discharges of varying character are also referred for adjudication to a VA Regional Office.
2. Reservists and National Guard members who, at time of death, were entitled to retired pay under Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60. Specific categories of individuals eligible for retired pay are delineated in section 12731 of Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code.
3. Members of reserve components who, during a period of active duty for training, were disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty or, during a period of inactive duty training, were disabled or died from an injury or certain cardiovascular disorders incurred or aggravated in line of duty.
4. For a complete list you can visit VA.GOV.

Q: If I am unsure about my eligibility how can I find out if I am eligible?

A: Each Veterans Cemetery can let you know if you are eligible for burial by filling out a Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility and returning that along with your discharge documents (DD-214 in most cases) and any additional information we may need to determine eligibility.

Q: What can I do now to prepare for my burial at a Veterans Cemetery?

A: Make sure your family is aware of your wishes to be buried at a Veterans Cemetery. Let them know where your discharge papers and other important documents are kept. You can make pre-need arrangements with a funeral home or crematory of your choosing, this will usually make things much easier on the family at the time of passing. At the time of need your family would contact the funeral home or crematory of your choosing, they can also assist with making burial arrangements at the Veterans Cemetery.

Q: Does the VA pay for cremation, casketing, funeral, or any other burial expenses?

A: The VA does not pay for cremation or casketing directly. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or crematory will be at the families' expense. If your loved one is eligible for burial in the Veterans Cemetery then the burial itself would be free of charge for the Veteran and cost a nominal fee for the non-Veteran spouse. If you have any questions regarding death or other monetary benefits please contact your nearest Veterans Assistance Counselor.

Q: What are my burial benefits at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery?

A: At the time of an eligible Veteran or non-Veteran spouse's passing the benefit would include a space available gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, and a grave marker.

Q: How can I reserve or pick my gravesite in a Veterans Cemetery?

A: You cannot reserve or pick a gravesite at a Veterans Cemetery. Each grave is assigned on an as needed basis in the order of burial. If a Veteran or non-Veteran spouse passes away and is buried in a Veterans Cemetery the spouse will be able to be buried in the same grave with their loved one. If both spouses are Veterans and the cemetery is given proper paperwork at the time of the original burial then a grave immediately next to the deceased Veteran will be reserved at the time of the initial burial.

Q: Do I need to pre-register or get my name on a list to be buried at the Veterans Cemetery?

A: No, actually you cannot register, reserve a space, or get on a list at a Veterans Cemetery. The Cemetery isn't scheduled to run out of space until around 2087.

Q: What happens if my non-Veteran spouse passes before me?

A: The non-Veteran spouse can be buried in the grave prior to the Veteran, the space would then be reserved for the Veteran at the time of passing.

Q: What are the costs at a Louisiana Veterans Cemetery?

A: There is no cost for an eligible Veteran to be buried at a Louisiana Veterans Cemetery. There is a fee for the non-Veteran spouse. That fee is currently \$745, due at the time of need and subject to change at any time. This does not include any expenses assessed by the funeral home.

Q: What happens at a service at a Veterans Cemetery?

A: For the service of a Veteran there can be a committal service held at the committal shelter with clergy of their faith and Military funeral honors that lasts about 20 minutes. No services take place at the gravesite at a Veterans Cemetery. The burial happens after the committal service.

Note: Please be aware that there are no viewing, memorial, or funeral services held at a Veterans Cemetery.

Military funeral honors include:

Uniformed service members from the deceased Veterans branch of service will play "Taps" fold and present the burial flag to the next of kin. Some veterans will receive a rifle detail in accordance with their term of service at the discretion of their branch of service. Each military branch of service follows certain guidelines for when to send a rifle detail, it is not the decision of the Cemetery.

Q: When do you schedule burials and how do I schedule a burial?

A: Currently our burial schedule is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9am, 10am, 11am, 12:30pm, and 1:30pm subject to availability. If there is a funeral home involved in the planning they will schedule with us directly. If this is for a cremated burial, without funeral home involvement, the next of kin should contact the Cemetery directly by phone at (985) 646-6458, by email at slvc@la.gov, or by fax at (985) 646-6481.