

# Department of Veterans Affairs



## National Cemetery Administration

# Our Mission

The National Cemetery Administration honors Veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our Nation.



# History

In 1862 Congress enacted legislation that authorized the President to purchase “cemetery grounds” to be used as national cemeteries “for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country”



# History



Marietta National Cemetery

- In 1873 all honorably discharged soldiers become eligible for burial in a national cemetery.
- In 1998 the National Cemetery System become known as the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

# National Cemetery Administration

- 131 National Cemetery (include Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico)
  - ✓ 71 Open to all interments (casket, in ground cremation, above ground cremation);
  - ✓ 19 Open to cremation interments, and interments in same gravesite as previously deceased family members;
  - ✓ 41 Open to interments of family members in the same gravesite as previously deceased family member.



# Who is Eligible ?



- Veterans

- Any member of the Armed Forces of the US who dies on active duty.

- Any Veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

- ❖ With the exception of service beginning after September 7, 1980, the service must be a minimum of 24 continuous months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty.



# Who is Eligible ?

- Reservist and National Guard Members
  - Who at the time of death were entitled to retired pay or would have been but for being under the age of 60;
  - Who have been called to active duty by Presidential Order and served the full period for which the person was called to active duty;
  - Who dies or were disabled under honorable conditions while on active duty for training.



# Who Can Be Buried With Veteran

## Spouse

- Spouse or surviving spouse of an eligible veteran;
- Surviving spouse who remarried to a non-veteran and whose death occurred on or after January 1, 2000



## Dependents

- Minor child of a Veteran
  - Unmarried
  - Under the Age of 21 or 23 if pursuing a full-time education
- Unmarried Adult child of Veteran
  - Any age but became permanently physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before age 21 or 23 if full-time student,



# Benefits Available

- Casket Interment
  - Opening & Closing
  - Concrete Grave Liner
  - Headstone or Marker
  - Perpetual Care

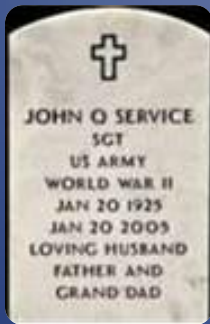
Little Rock National Cemetery



# Cremation Interment

## In-Ground Cremation Burial

- Opening & Closing
- Headstone or Marker
- Perpetual Care



## Columbarium Niche

- Opening & Closing
- Niche Cover
- Perpetual Care



# At The Cemetery

- Committal Services in Committal Shelters
  - ❖ Last Goodbyes
    - ❖ 15 – 20 minutes in length
  - ❖ Final Words and Prayers
    - ❖ Clergy
    - ❖ Family
  - ❖ Military Honors Rendered



A committal shelter at Great Lakes National Cemetery

# Military Honors

- ❖ Military Honors for eligible veterans if requested by the family.
  - ❖ Detail shall consist of no less than two members of the Armed Forces one member of detail shall be a representative of the parent service of deceased veteran.



# Military Honors

- Military Funeral Honors may be rendered by volunteer veterans organizations. ( American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League etc.)



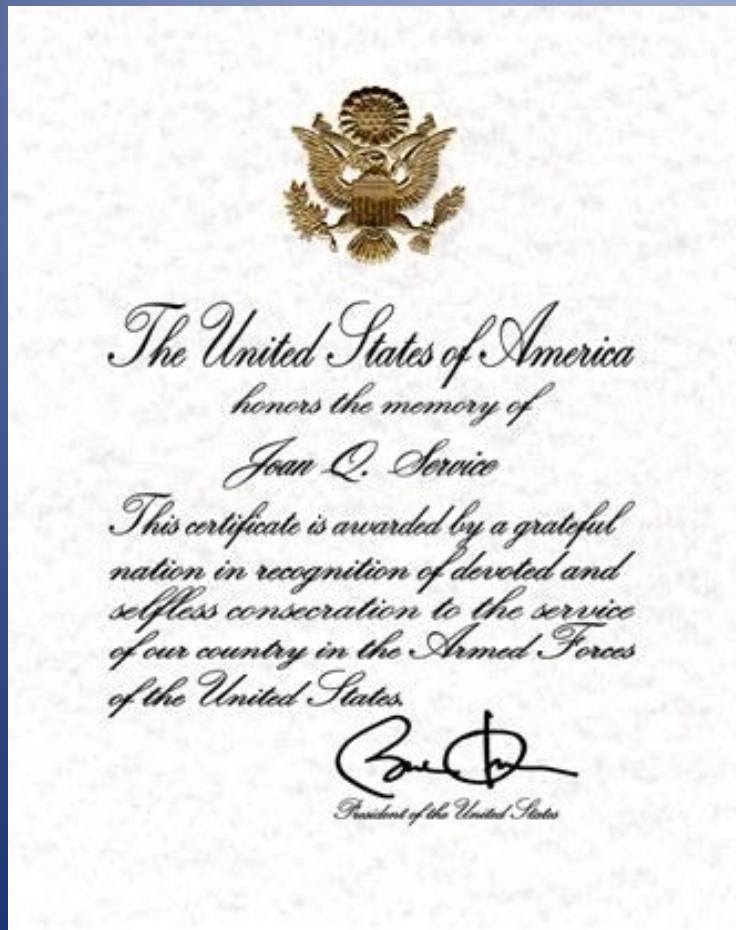
Volunteer Honor Group  
Ft. Snelling National Cemetery



## Burial Flag

At No Cost to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces

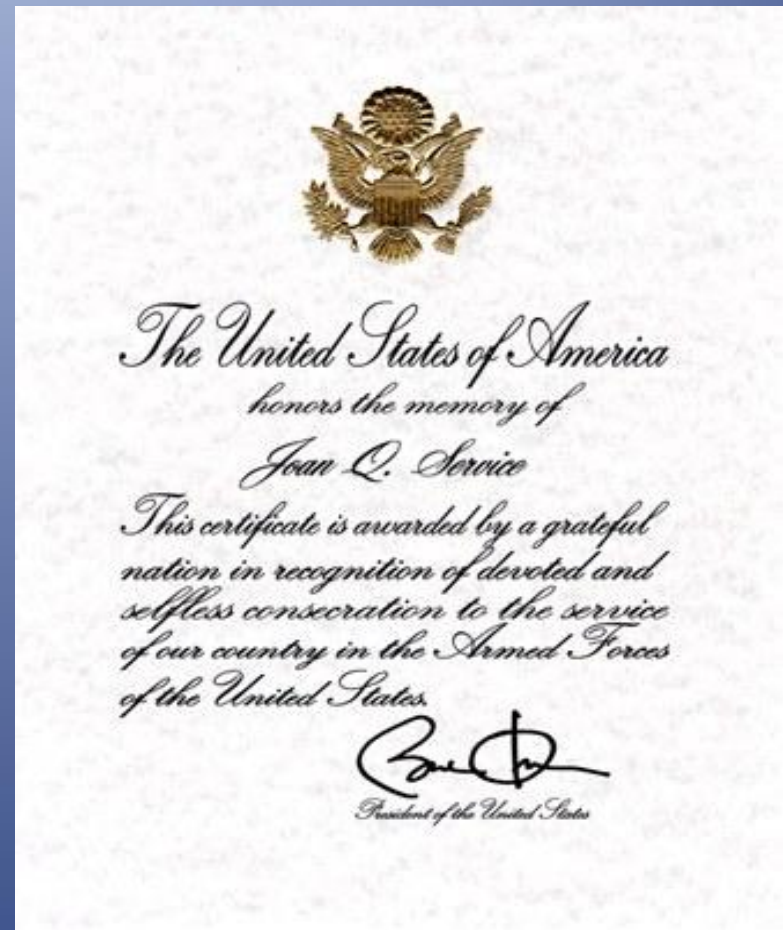
# Presidential Memorial Certificates



- A Presidential Memorial Certificate bears the official signature of the President of the United States.
- Eligible Recipients include Veterans Next of Kin, relatives and friends

# Presidential Memorial Certificates

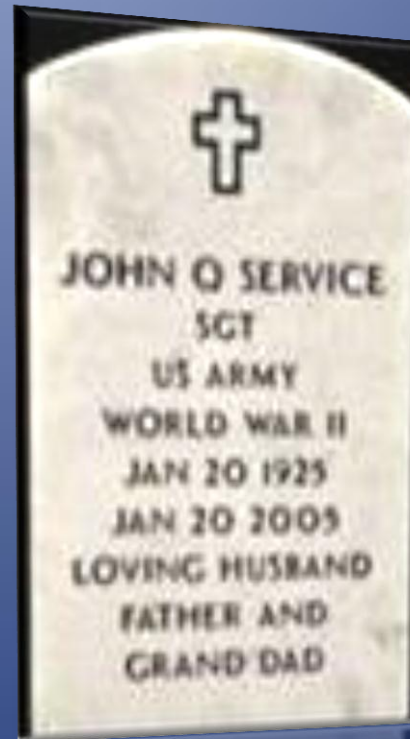
- If Veteran interred in National Cemetery – Certificate automatically sent to next of kin





# Headstone & Markers

- The Department of Veterans Affairs will furnish at no charge a headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery regardless of date of death.



CEVND DYO  
LVHKE YND

# Medallion

Eligible Veterans that died on or after November 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, Department of Veterans Affairs may also furnish a Medallion to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone.



**Three different sizes**  
**1½" wide or 3" wide or 5" wide**

# Making Burial Arrangements

- No Pre-Arrangements
- Arrangements made at time of need (death of Veteran, spouse or dependant)
- Honorable discharge of Veteran
  - DD Form 214
  - Notice of Separation
  - WD AGO 53-55
  - NAV PERS or NAV MC 70PD

# Making Burial Arrangements

- National Cemetery Scheduling Office (St. Louise, MO)
- Fax Discharge – **1-866-900-6417**
- Follow up with telephone call to
- Toll Free: **1-800-535-1117**





**Questions**

Eugenia Simmons  
Cemetery Representative  
Minority Veterans Program Coordinator  
Florida National Cemetery  
(352) 793-7740 ext. 12

[Eugenia.Simmons@va.gov](mailto:Eugenia.Simmons@va.gov)

[www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)