



National Cemetery Administration

OFFICE OF ENGAGEMENT AND MEMORIAL INNOVATIONS
(OEMI)



Our Mission


To honor veterans, service members and their eligible family members with final resting places in national shrines, with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our nation.



Congress Takes Action as NCA Develops a Toolkit

In December 2022, congress authorized funding to black cemeteries across the nation for preservation and restoration.

The toolkit will be shared with private cemetery owners, volunteer organizations, state and local government officials, historical preservation societies, non-profit and faith-based organizations and historically black colleges and universities.



National Cemetery Administration Private Cemetery Restoration

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) partners with local communities to ensure that every eligible Veteran is given the memorial benefits that they earned and deserve.

This effort is a part of NCA's Private Cemetery Restoration Outreach that focuses on outreach to organizations on how to improve private cemeteries in their local communities, most specifically historic cemeteries in underserved communities. The purpose is to mark gravesites for Veterans who were not properly recognized for their service and to encourage local communities to volunteer and restore historic cemeteries.

These events focused on cleaning the existing historic headstones and markers of Veterans and is a partnership with cemeteries, county officials, and local faith leaders

ILLUSTRATIONS OF STANDARD GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

UPRIGHT HEADSTONE
WHITE MARBLE (U) OR
LIGHT GRAY GRANITE (V)



This headstone is 42 inches long, 13 inches wide and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 230 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color, and the marble may contain light to moderate veining. Additional inscription is limited to 15 characters (including spaces) up to four lines maximum.



Spousal inscription information (i.e., name, date of birth, and date of death) is authorized on a Government-furnished headstone or marker if the Veteran's date of death is on or after October 1, 2019. For flat markers, the spousal information is inscribed at the bottom. For upright headstones, the spousal information is inscribed on the back.

BRONZE NICHE (Z)



This niche marker is 8-1/2 inches long, 5-1/2 inches wide, with 7/16 inch rise. Weight is approximately 3 pounds; mounting bolts and washers are furnished with the marker. Used for columbarium or mausoleum interment. Also provided to supplement a privately-purchased, permanent and durable headstone or marker for eligible Veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990 and are buried in a private cemetery. Additional inscription is limited to 27 characters (including spaces) up to two lines maximum.



VA will include a Prisoner of War (POW) or Former Prisoner of War (FPOW) inscription, upon request and with confirmation. Character and space limitations apply based on marker type.

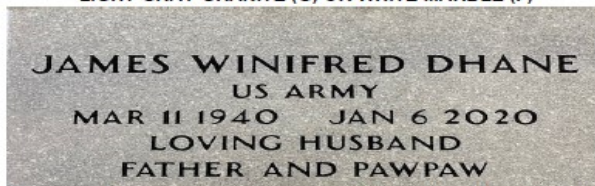
FLAT MARKERS

BRONZE (B)



This grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, with 3/4 inch rise. Weight is approximately 18 pounds. Anchor bolts, nuts and washers for fastening to a base are furnished with the marker. The base is not furnished by the Government. Additional inscription is limited to 27 characters (including spaces) up to two lines maximum.

LIGHT GRAY GRANITE (G) OR WHITE MARBLE (F)



This grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 130 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color; the marble may contain light to moderate veining. Additional inscription is limited to 27 characters (including spaces) up to two lines maximum.

SMALL FLAT GRANITE (L)



This grave marker is 18 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 3 inches thick. Weight is approximately 70 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color. Additional inscription is limited to 27 characters (including spaces) up to two lines maximum.

Clean-Up and Restoration

VA FORM 40-1330 CLAIM FOR STANDARD GOVERNMENT HEADSTONE OR MARKER CAN BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY, VIA E-MAIL OR FAX

NOTE: Historic headstones (Prior to World War I) - In addition to the headstone and markers pictured, two special styles of upright headstones are available for those who served with Union Forces during the Civil War or for those who served in the Spanish-American War. Another style headstone is available for those who served with the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. The applicant must submit detailed documentation to VA that supports eligibility for a historic headstone. Inscriptions on these headstone types are intentionally limited to assure historic accuracy. For example, only ranks above 'Private' were historically authorized, emblems of belief and the words 'Civil War' are not authorized.



Clean-Up and Restoration

The national cemetery administration (NCA) provides headstones/markers to eligible veterans in private and municipal cemeteries. These government-furnished headstones/markers remain federal property.

The goal of cleaning is to remove air pollution soiling, lichen, bird droppings, dirt, salts, and sap — it is **NOT** to make the headstone/marker look “like new.” Improper or unnecessary cleaning can accelerate the deterioration of marble and granite; pre-1970s bronze was not sealed and will have a blue-green patina that will not be removed by cleaning.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

Restoring/Replacing Headstones for Veterans in Private Cemeteries

Memorializing our nation's heroes



Clean-Up and Restoration

VOLUNTEERS ACROSS THE NATION ARE
ENCOURAGED TO COME TOGETHER TO HONOR
AND MEMORIALIZE OUR AMERICAN HEROES BY
CARING FOR VETERAN GRAVE SITES AND
HEADSTONES IN PRIVATE CEMETERIES



Clean-Up and Restoration

CEMETERIES IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

HISTORIC RANDOLPH AND THE PALMETTO





Partnerships and Community Engagement

VA Internal Partners

Community outreach organizations and non-profits – Carry The Load CTL Fundraiser

Veteran organizations

Churches

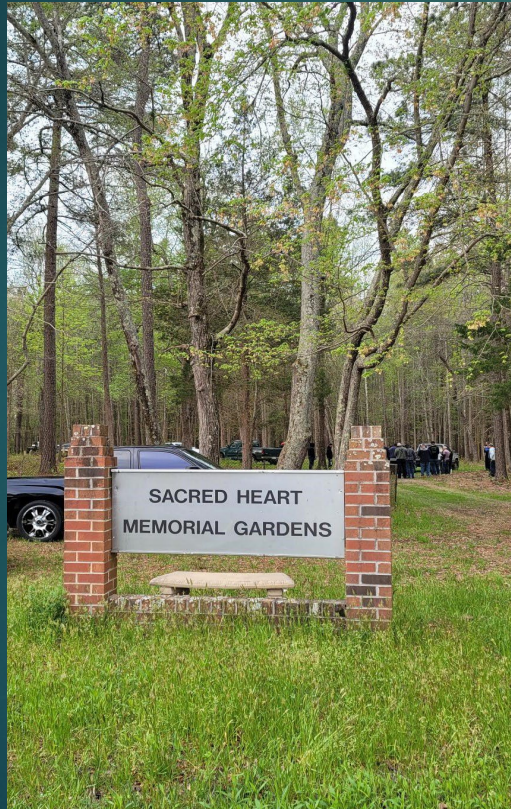
Military organizations

Schools

Colleges and universities (HBCU's)

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Sacred Heart Memorial Gardens



Veterans Legacy Memorial

The Veterans legacy memorial (VLM) is the nation's first digital platform dedicated entirely to the memory of more than 10 million veterans interred in VA national cemeteries; launched in 2019, individual Veteran profile pages are populated with military service and cemetery information.

Interactive features allow family, friends and others to preserve a veteran's legacy by posting tributes (comments), uploading images, sharing a veteran's military service timeline and achievements, biographical information, historical documents and more.

[JANIE LOU ADAMSON'S MEMORIAL PAGE - HONOR VETERANS LEGACIES AT VLM \(VA.GOV\)](#)

[NATHANIEL AARON AGUIRRE'S MEMORIAL PAGE - HONOR VETERANS LEGACIES AT VLM \(VA.GOV\)](#)



Benefits Beyond Our National Cemeteries

Tributes to service:

Burial Flag

Veterans Legacy Memorial

Headstone, Markers and Medallions

Presidential Memorial Certificates

QUESTIONS

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