



Idaho Division of Veterans Services

Idaho State Veterans Cemetery

10100 Horseshoe Bend Road, Boise, Idaho 83714

General Information

Eligibility

Eligibility for interment in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery mirrors National Cemetery Administration eligibility requirements and state laws. Eligible spouses and disabled/minor children may also be interred in the Cemetery. Eligibility must be confirmed before a veteran, spouse or dependent may be buried here.

Eligibility requirements can be accessed online at: http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/eligible.asp. The Veteran or Next-of-Kin may also contact a Benefits Counselor directly at 1-800-827-1000.

Required Documentation

A Form DD-214 or equivalent NCA-approved discharge document(s) must accompany submitted forms. The **discharge document** must include the following information:

- Proof of active duty service or retirement from the National Guard or Reserves;
- Proof that the character of discharge was not dishonorable;
- Dates the veteran entered and separated from service;
- Highest rank achieved

For Spousal Interments, a copy of a valid **marriage license** must be included as well.

The absence of these documents will delay the pre-registration process, and in the case of requesting interment without pre-registration, will delay the committal service until eligibility is confirmed.

Pre-Registration

Pre-registration allows a Veteran to establish in advance, his/her eligibility for placement in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, and is intended to simplify and assist the Next-of-Kin at the time of death.

It is the responsibility of the Veteran, their family or estate to provide the Cemetery with appropriate documentation in order to be interred. A Form DD-214 or equivalent discharge document must be submitted during the pre-registration process or at the time of a request for interment. When pre-registering a Spouse, a copy of the Marriage License must also be provided. Pre-registration of a Dependent requires proof of dependency, including proof that the child passed away before adulthood or that he/she was an unmarried, disabled adult whose disability occurred before the age of 21.

When reviewing the pre-registration form, please note that this form is not a contractual agreement obligating the Veteran to be placed in the Cemetery, nor does it reserve a particular plot. It is not intended to override decisions made as a result of estate planning, Next-of-Kin authorization, or contractual agreements with Funeral Homes.

Individuals who submit a pre-registration application are subsequently provided a letter confirming their eligibility and are advised to file it with their other important documents. A confirmation number is referenced on the letter and allows the Cemetery Office to easily access the Veteran's eligibility file and enables the Office to immediately start the interment process. If the family is unsure if the Veteran or eligible spouse has been pre-registered, please call Cemetery office.

Requesting Placement at the Time of Death

Please inform your Funeral Director of your loved one's wishes to be placed at the Veterans Cemetery and allow him/her to serve as the main point-of-contact to make arrangements for committal services.

The "Interment Request" form is used when the decedent (Veteran or eligible Spouse/Dependent) is to be placed in the Veterans Cemetery. This form provides the Cemetery with the necessary information required to schedule interment. If not already pre-registered, the required documents listed above must be included with the Interment Request. **Please be aware that the Cemetery cannot proceed with interment scheduling without proof of eligibility.**

Fees

The general rule of thumb is: **veteran interments are free to the family, spousal interments are not.** The basic interment fee is equal to the current national plot allowance established by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Upper tier casket interments are available upon request for a fee of \$500 per person. The Cemetery Office requests payment through the VA for the veteran plot allowance to cover the basic interment fee for eligible veterans. Associated funeral expenses and preparation, as well as interment fees for spouses or dependents, are not included and are incurred by the Veteran's family or estate. If the Veteran is eligible for additional benefits other than the plot allowance, a VA Form 21-530 should be completed; indicating in Part II the burial was in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, and by not completing Part III (draw an "x" through this section). This is done at the funeral home.

All fees are due to the Cemetery at the time of interment. The cemetery is unable to accept fees at the time of pre-registration. Some funeral homes may incorporate this fee into the overall cost of the Veteran's plan during the pre-planning process. The Cemetery does not recommend nor discourage funeral homes from collecting cemetery fees in advance. At the time of interment, the Cemetery will accept payment from either source.

Burial Sites and Markers

Casket interments are provided an in-ground site that includes an upright, gray granite marker.

- The lower tier sites are located near the Visitor Center and have pre-placed vault liners;
- The upper tier, located atop the hill, requires that vault liners be added at an additional per-person cost.

For **cremation interments** the following options are available:

- A columbarium niche that includes an inscribed, granite marker;
- An in-ground cremation interment that includes a flush-to-the-ground inscribed, granite marker;
- A scattering garden, with an inscribed marker in memory of the deceased.

Interment of the Spouse is in the same site as the Veteran, as all burial sites are double plots. If both spouses were eligible veterans they will have plots side-by-side. Though families may choose their interment type, grave site selection is at the discretion of the Cemetery. Normally, the gravesite is in the next available plot. Again, as sites cannot be pre-selected, determination of the individual's final resting place will be made at the time of interment and all applicable fees will be collected at that time.

The Veterans Cemetery is responsible for securing headstones and markers for individuals making the Veterans Cemetery their final resting place. "In Memory" markers are also available in most instances to Veterans whose ashes have been scattered elsewhere and have yet to be memorialized in a cemetery. For individuals interred in private cemeteries, it is the responsibility of the funeral homes to assist with the ordering of the government headstones and markers using VA Form 40-1330.

Committal Services

Committal services are conducted Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and are limited to 20 minutes. All services are held in the Committal Shelter, as graveside services are not permitted. The Committal Shelter has been beautifully designed to provide a place of respectful remembrance. The Shelter provides limited protection from inclement weather, seating for the immediate family and ample standing room for others. All interments and committal shelter use must be scheduled through the Cemetery Office.

Military Honors

The Cemetery Office coordinates all military honors for veterans placed in the cemetery. Honors include: sounding "Taps," folding the flag and its presentation to the Next-of-Kin. An Honor Guard detail of at least two members of the armed services is provided for the committal service of the eligible veteran. For veterans who retired from the military, a 3-round rifle volley is also provided.

Flags for presentation to the Next-of-Kin are provided by the funeral home, as the cemetery does not have a supply of flags. Flags can also be acquired from designated US post offices.