



# CEMETERY INFORMATION

## IDAHO STATE VETERANS CEMETERY - BLACKFOOT

2651 Cromwell Lane Blackfoot, ID 83221 [www.veterans.idaho.gov/ceimetaries](http://www.veterans.idaho.gov/ceimetaries)  
Phone: (208) 701-7161 Fax: (208) 785-8083 [BlackfootCemetery@veterans.idaho.gov](mailto:BlackfootCemetery@veterans.idaho.gov)



### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility for interment in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery follows National Cemetery Administration eligibility requirements and Idaho law. Those terms include a prohibition of interment for an individual who has been convicted of or, in certain cases, committed a State or Federal Capital Crime or sexual offense, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 2411. There is no requirement to be a resident of Idaho.

#### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

**Veteran's Military Service Record (DD – 214) Member-4 and Spouse's Marriage License (if applicable)** are required.

The DD-214, or equivalent service record(s), must include all the following information:

- 1) **Active Duty Service (other than training) or Retirement Status**
- 2) **Character of Service**
- 3) **Dates of Entry into and Exit from Service**
- 4) **Highest Rank Achieved**

A Veteran's minor child, or disabled dependent under certain conditions, may also be interred, contact cemetery for details.

*Please submit only COPIES of records (not originals) as documents will not be returned.*

As a state agency, ISVC does not have access to VA databases, veteran's military service records, etc. **It is the responsibility of the Veteran or Next-of-Kin to acquire all necessary documentation.** Any missing information, such as the veteran's highest rank, retirement status, awards received, etc. will not be included for interment purposes until proof is provided. The absence of these documents will delay services until eligibility is confirmed.

Obtaining Military Service Records (National Archives)  
Information on Eligibility Requirements  
Find a VA Regional Office near you  
Office of Veterans Advocacy

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans>  
<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/eligibility/>  
1-800-827-1000 or <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>  
208-780-1380 or <http://veterans.idaho.gov/advocacy>

### PRE-REGISTRATION

Pre-Registration is a means to **verify eligibility in advance** for those veterans and their spouses/ dependents who are interested in interment in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery. With the proof of eligibility on file, a family no longer has the burden of acquiring these records at the time of death. There is no cost for pre-registration, and it does not obligate you to be laid to rest at this cemetery, **nor does it reserve a specific plot.** Pre-Registration is not transferrable.

Individuals who submit a Pre-Registration Application will be contacted by mail regarding the status of their eligibility. If the family is unsure if the Veteran or Spouse is pre-registered, please call the cemetery office. **Please allow 4-6 weeks to process applications. If you think you may need to schedule an interment sooner, please contact the office directly.**

*Pre-Registration does NOT constitute a "pre-needs arrangement contract" with this cemetery.*

*If you have specific wishes, you would like your family to follow, we recommend that you create a will or burial plan.*

### REQUESTING INTERMENT AT THE TIME OF NEED

Refer to the "**Checklist for Next-of-Kin**," available on our website, for details.

1. **Contact a Funeral Director** to make funeral arrangements. He/ She can coordinate with the Veterans Cemetery on your behalf. If the Deceased was not pre-registered, bring the required eligibility documents with you to this meeting.
  - a. If you would prefer not to use a Funeral Director for the cemetery arrangements, the Next-of-Kin can meet with the cemetery staff in person to make arrangements (after your initial meeting with the Funeral Director).
2. **Submit the "Request for Burial/ Inurnment"** and any required documentation needed to establish eligibility.
3. **Schedule a Committal Service or Direct Interment** with cemetery staff. (**Eligibility must be verified first.**)
  - a. Please have a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice for date/time in mind when scheduling, as the cemetery calendar fills quickly.
4. **A confirmation & details will be emailed to the Primary Contact.** (*Primary Contact must provide an email address.*) Please ensure that you bring all necessary paperwork & items on the day of the interment.

## **BURIAL BENEFITS & FEES**

The interment fee is equal to the current "VA Burial Plot Allowance" and is subject to change each fiscal year. The Veterans Cemetery will bill the VA directly for the **Eligible Veteran's burial plot allowance**, which includes: Veteran's interment fee, grave marker, use of the committal shelter, and perpetual care of the site.

### **Burial Plot Allowance does not include the following:**

- **Funeral Home expenses/** preparation costs (must be arranged through a funeral home of your choice)
- **Interment fees for spouses/ dependents** (equal to the current plot allowance price set by the VA, see below)

All cemetery fees are due on the day of interment. **The cemetery is unable to accept pre-payments.**

### **Current Plot Allowance/ Interment Fee: \$948 (Fiscal Year 2024)**

Check, Cash or Money Order accepted; prices subject to change each October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **PLOT TYPES & GRAVE MARKERS**

**Casket Interments** are provided a traditional gravesite that includes an inscribed granite headstone & have pre-placed concrete vault liners.

**Cremation Inurnments** are provided a site from the following options as part of the Veteran's burial benefit:

- **Columbarium Wall**, an above-ground concrete niche that includes an inscribed granite niche cover.
- **Urn Burial Garden**, an in-ground, unlined plot that includes an inscribed flat granite marker.
- **Cremation Scatter Garden**, a designated area for scattering cremains & an inscribed memorial marker.

**Veteran and Spouse will always share a plot and grave marker, as all sites are double plots.** If both spouses were eligible veterans, they may request side-by-side plots if they prefer. Though families may choose the plot type, gravesite selection is at the discretion of the Cemetery Staff and **cannot be pre-selected**. For first interments, the gravesite will be in the next available plot of the type selected by the Next-of-Kin, and for subsequent interments the Deceased will share the plot with his/her spouse who is already laid to rest here. Any fees will be due for each person at the time of need.

The Cemetery Staff is responsible for ordering a **grave marker for you or your loved one** according to the Inscription Request form submitted on the day of interment. Memorial Markers are available for veterans whose final disposition did not allow for a grave marker and who do not have a memorial marker at any other location (see Memorial Marker Application for details). The Idaho State Veterans Cemetery cannot order grave markers for someone interred in a different cemetery; the requestor must work directly with the VA and the relevant cemetery to make those arrangements.

## **COMMITTAL SERVICES & DIRECT INTERMENTS**

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. Every committal service is organized by Cemetery Staff, who assist the family with anything they may need before or during the service.

Committal services are available **Monday - Friday 10 am - 3pm**. Services are conducted on the hour and are **limited to approx. 20 minutes, including Military Honors**. Please ensure that family and guests are prompt, as shelter use is often scheduled back-to-back, requiring that each service begin and end on time.

### **The committal service differs from a funeral or a graveside service in that:**

- a) The main purpose of a committal service is to render military honors, and
- b) The final, brief good-byes are conducted in the committal shelter

It is not intended to take the place of a funeral, memorial service, celebration of life, etc. if you choose to arrange that elsewhere. Details & scheduling for a committal service are coordinated through the cemetery office.

For families who prefer not to have a committal service at the Veterans Cemetery, they may choose a direct interment (or simple placement for the Columbarium Wall or Scatter Garden). The Next-of-Kin or Funeral Director will coordinate to deliver the casket or urn directly to the Cemetery Office for interment. With any option, your loved one will be laid to rest on the same day they arrive at the cemetery, and family/ friends may visit the gravesite any time after 5:00 pm. The cemetery is open to visitors every day 8:00 am - sunset.

## MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

The Cemetery Office coordinates all military honors for committal services taking place in our cemetery. Honors include the sounding of “Taps” and the folding and presentation of the Veteran’s burial flag to the Next-of-Kin. An Honor Guard detail of at least two uniformed members of the armed services is provided for the committal service of the eligible veteran. For retired veterans and active-duty deaths, a 3-round rifle volley or pallbearers may also be provided, at the Honor Guard's discretion. It is important to note that Military Funeral Honors can only be rendered once per veteran. Families may request to have the Military Honors rendered during the committal service at the cemetery, or they may choose to include them as part of the funeral, church, or memorial service instead.

The VA will provide one burial flag for presentation to the Next-of-Kin. The Veteran’s burial flag can be obtained from the funeral home, as the cemetery does not have a supply of flags. Flags can also be acquired from most US post offices if the applicant supplies a copy of the Veteran’s DD-214 and Death Certificate.

## FINDING A GRAVESITE

All interments are entered in the “Nationwide Gravesite Locator” within a few days after the service. Families and friends can search for their loved one laid to rest in any Veterans Cemetery across the nation online at [www.gravelocator.cem.va.gov](http://www.gravelocator.cem.va.gov) or on their mobile device at [www.m.va.gov/gravelocator](http://www.m.va.gov/gravelocator).

Each section of the cemetery is marked with curb markers. All gravesites are annotated by the Section, Row, and Site. For example, Plot # 1-B-13 is located in Section 1, Row B, Site 13. In the same way, Columbarium Wall Niches are annotated by the Wall, Row and Niche number. Therefore, Plot # E-A-59 is located at Wall E, Row A, Niche 59.

Refer to the Cemetery Map for details on gravesite locations.  
If you are unable to find the gravesite of your loved one, cemetery staff can assist you.

## PUBLIC BEHAVIOR IN THE CEMETERY

To preserve the dignity, beauty, and serenity of the cemetery, we ask you to observe our cemetery restrictions.

The following are prohibited:

- Recreational activities, such as jogging, skating, picnicking, or biking (except as a form of transportation)
- **Pets** are not allowed anywhere on cemetery property (easily identifiable, trained service animals are welcome)
- **Smoking**; Alcohol; Littering; Boisterous or Disruptive Behavior. Do not allow children to climb on walls.
- Damage/ Alterations to any grave markers, buildings, vegetation, or other cemetery property
- Partisan Activities, Public Events, or Gatherings that are not part of a committal service or gravesite visitation (unless pre-approved in writing by the Cemetery Bureau Chief)
- Commercial Videos / Photography (unless pre-approved in writing by the Cemetery Bureau Chief)

## SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

The cemetery observes these veteran-focused special events throughout the year:

**Memorial Day** ceremony on the last Monday in May

**"Wreaths across America"** from mid-December to mid-January (donations accepted year-round)

In addition, the **Avenue of Flags** will be on display during special events.

Contact the Cemetery Office or visit Website for more information.

## CEMETERY HOURS

<b>Office Hours:</b>	MON – FRI	8 am – 5 pm	(Closed on Federal Holidays)
<b>Committal Services:</b>	MON – FRI	10 am – 3 pm	
<b>Cemetery Gates open to Visitors:</b>	EVERY DAY	8 am – Sunset	(Open weekends & holidays)