

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION



Ukrainian-American Veterans **Les' Melnyk, NCA-OEMI** **Nov. 6, 2020**

www.cem.va.gov



Choose VA



History, Mission, and Vision

History

- The Omnibus bill of 1862, signed into law on July 17, authorized President Lincoln to purchase grounds for use as national cemeteries
- Fourteen national cemeteries were established in 1862
- Previously soldiers were buried where they fell

Mission

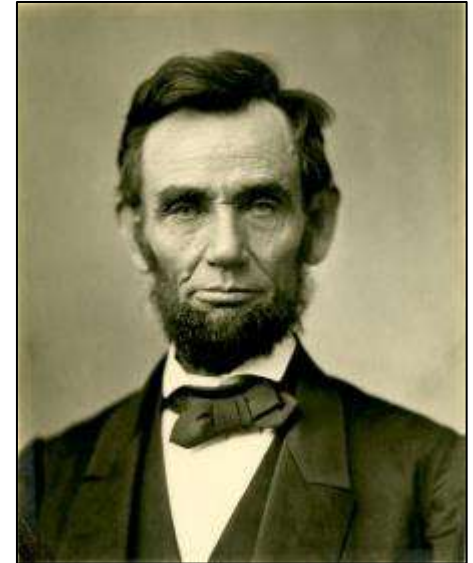
- The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation

Vision

- To be the **model of excellence** for burial and memorials for our Nation's Veterans and their families, NCA ensures that ***No Veteran Ever Dies.***

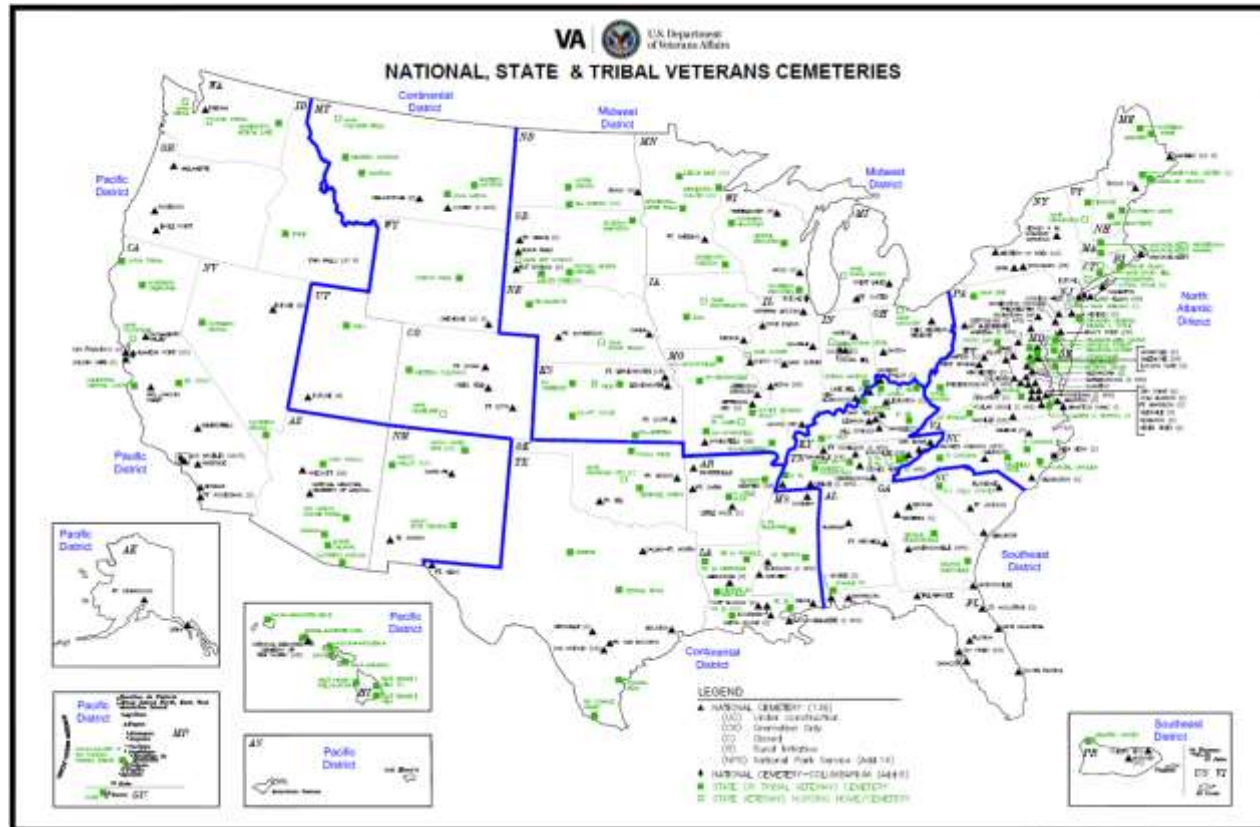
USMA Priorities:

- Preserving their Legacy; Providing Access; Partnering to serve





National, State, and Tribal Cemeteries



- 151 + National Cemeteries within 5 Districts
- Perpetual care provided for 4.84 million Veterans, service members, and family members in over 3.82 million gravesites
- Manage 9,245 developed acres



Partnering to Serve Veterans

Managing Military and Veterans Cemeteries

- VA: 151 national cemeteries
- VA grant-funded cemeteries: 115
- Army: 22 cemeteries
 - Including:
 - Arlington National Cemetery, SAHNC
 - Various post cemeteries
 - USAF and USN also have several military cemeteries
- Interior: 14 cemeteries
 - Including:
 - Gettysburg National Cemetery, PA (closed)
 - Andersonville National Cemetery, GA (open)
- American Battle Monuments Commission: 26
 - Cemeteries located overseas



Santa Fe National Cemetery
in New Mexico





NCA Team Members

- 2,009 Team Members
 - 1,703 at Cemeteries and field offices outside of DC
 - 77% are Veterans (highest in federal government)
 - Highest percentage of any federal agency
 - 49.1 are disabled veterans, 38% are service connected
 - 38% are service-connected disabled Veterans
 - 9% are female Veterans



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Customer Satisfaction

In 2019, for the 7th consecutive time, NCA achieved the highest ranking of any participating organization public or private!

This is measured every three years





Most Active Cemeteries

Annual Number of Interments Conducted (FY 2019)

VA National Cemeteries

Total

Cremains

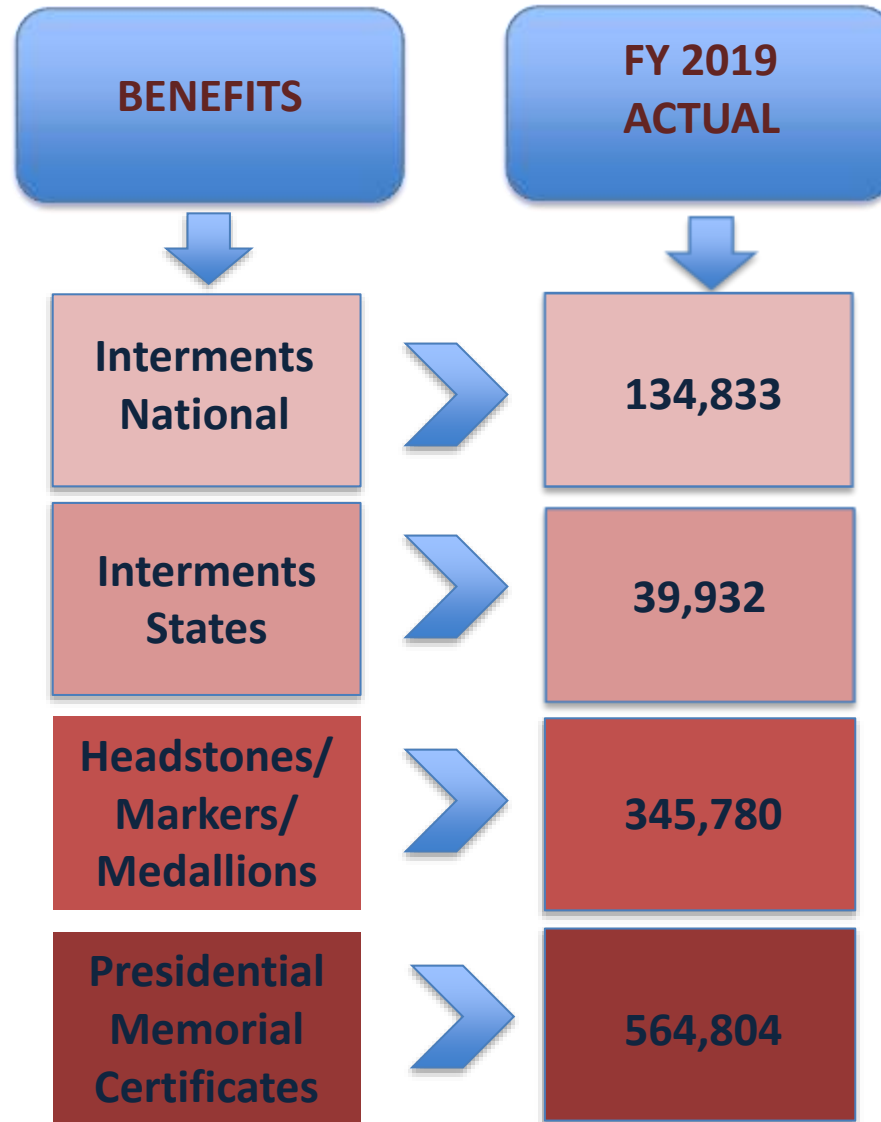
Riverside, CA	8,096	4,688
Florida, FL	6,185	4,210
Calverton, NY	5,202	1,028
Ft. Snelling, MN	4,956	3,624
Jefferson Barracks, MO	4,853	1,816
Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX	4,626	2,163
Great Lakes, MI	4,353	2,832
Ft. Sam Houston, TX	4,138	1,708
Abraham Lincoln, IL	3,895	2,105
Miramar/Ft. Rosecrans, CA	3,862	3,027

Total FY19 Interments at VA National Veteran Cemeteries: **134,833**

(Total FY19 Cremain Interments at VA National Veteran Cemeteries: **77,084**)



Workload Data





Eligibility Criteria and Scheduling

- Any Veteran who dies on active duty or was discharged under qualifying conditions (*any discharge other than dishonorable*)
- National Guard members and Reservists with 20 years of qualifying service, who are entitled to retired pay
- Spouses, dependent children and certain parents



The National Cemetery Scheduling Office serves all national cemeteries, seven days a week, 362 days a year

Toll Free Number



1-800-535-1117

https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/need.asp



Pre-Need Eligibility

- Assists Veteran with funeral decisions in advance of need
- Subject to a final eligibility verification at time of need
- Does not guarantee burial in a specific cemetery or reserve a gravesite until time of need
- If Veteran is not eligible during the Pre-Need determination, the Veteran will be entitled to VA Appeals Rights



Toll Free Number	
1-800-535-1117 PRESS OPTION 3	

<https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/pre-need/index.asp>





Burial and Memorial Benefits



**Upright
Headstone**



Niche Covers



**Presidential
Memorial
Certificate**



Burial Flag



Flat Marker



**“In Memory
of...”**



**Medal of Honor
Medallion**



Bronze Medallion

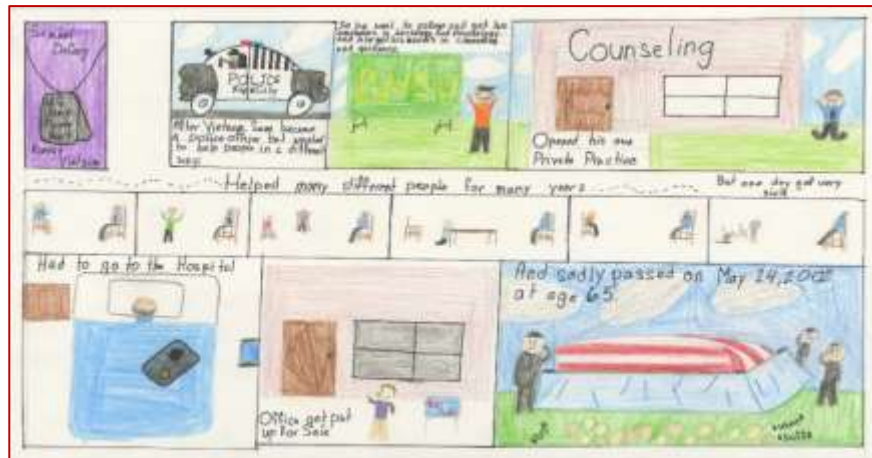


NCA and COVID

- NCA has continued to inter Veterans without pause – cemeteries were never closed
- Due to COVID, we conducted “direct interments” (without a committal service) from March 23-June 8)
- Committal Services now allowed everywhere, with attendance limited based on federal, state, local health guidelines
- Masks, social distancing requirements



Veterans Legacy Program




Creates partnerships to engage students, educators, and the American public with their local history through the diversity of the Veteran experience enshrined in our 151 national cemeteries.






Veterans Legacy Memorial

- Online memorial space launched in 2019 to honor Veterans in NCA cemeteries and extend the cemetery experience
- Nearly 3.7 Million Veterans have their own VLM profile page
- Nov. 2020 – “Find A Veteran, Post a Tribute”
- More interactive features coming next year




The screenshot shows a profile page for Harold J Asher. At the top left is the Marine Corps emblem. The name "HAROLD J ASHER" is displayed prominently, with social media icons for Facebook and Twitter to the right. Below the name are icons for "Profile", "Memorial", and "Contact". The main content area features the Marine Corps emblem, the name "HAROLD J ASHER", and the dates "Dec 21st, 1943 - Oct 25th, 2019".


About

	Name	HAROLD J ASHER
	Date of Birth	Dec 21st, 1943
	Date of Death	Oct 25th, 2019

Service

	War Period	VIETNAM
	Last Rank/Rate	OPL
	Service Branch(es)	US MARINE CORPUS

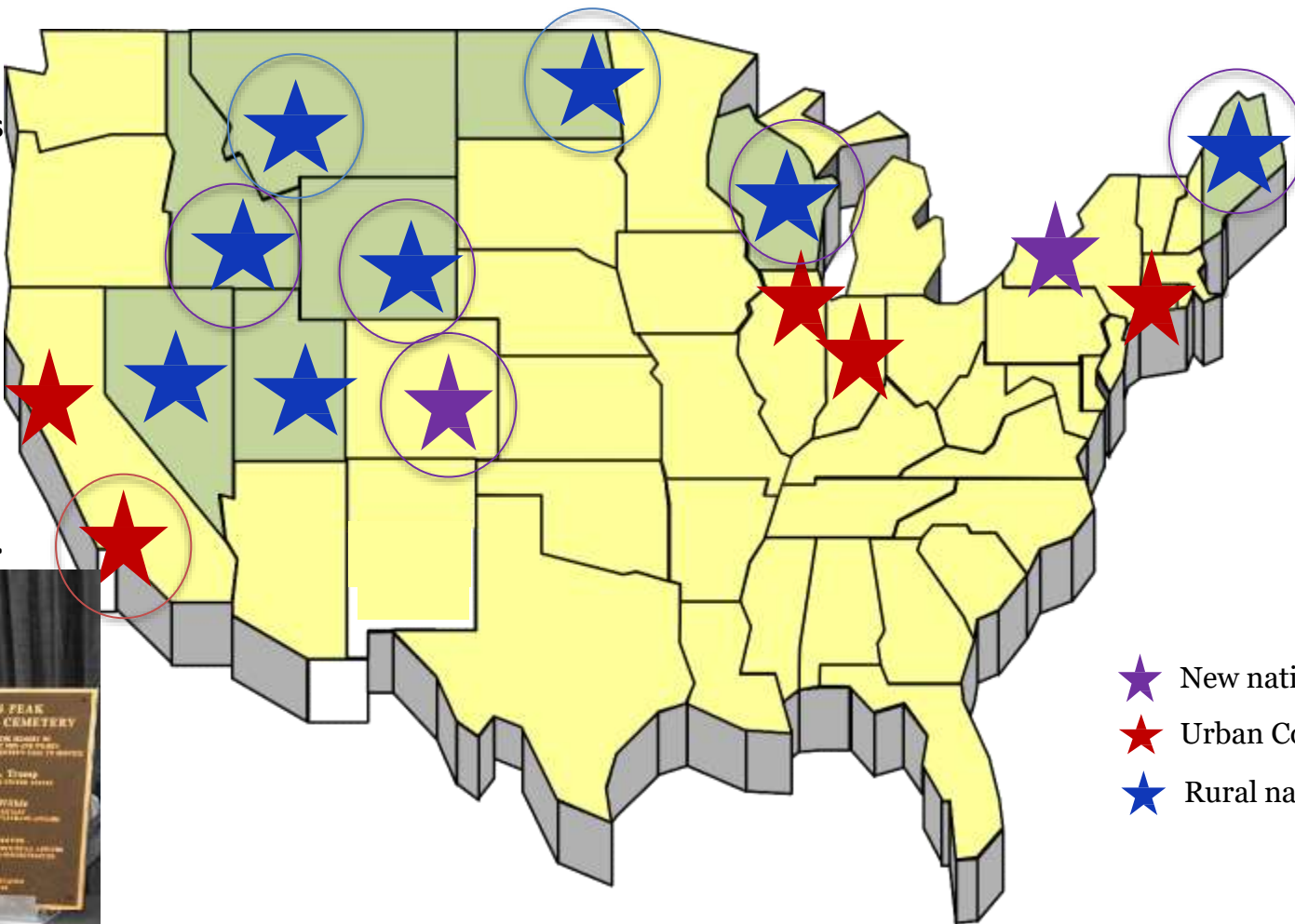
Memorial

	Cemetery	NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF ARIZONA
	Address	23029 NORTH DAVE CHLER ROAD PHOENIX, AZ 85024
	Contact	480-613-3800
	Location	SECTION J1 ROW A SITE 7
	Date of Inauguration	2019-12-13



Providing Access and Choosing VA

Below: USMA at the dedication ceremony for Pikes Peak National Cemetery, a new 374-acre VA national cemetery that will serve more than 95,000 Veterans and their families in the service area for the next 100 years.



- ★ New national cemetery
- ★ Urban Columbaria only
- ★ Rural national cemetery

Circle denotes open or dedicated national cemetery

★ Morovis (PR) – not shown





Partnering to Serve Veterans Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP)

- 2019 was the 41st Anniversary of the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP)
- Since 1978, VA has provided over \$861 million in grants
- 116 state, tribal, and territory Veteran Cemeteries throughout the country
- 13 tribal Veteran cemeteries in operation
- FY 2019, state, territory and tribal Veteran Cemeteries conducted over 39,000 interments



*San Carlos Apache
Tribal Veterans Cemetery
Arizona
Oct. 22, 2019*

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Thank You

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