

Plan ahead for burial in a VA national cemetery

In 2025, the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) launched its first nationwide ad campaign promoting pre-need burial eligibility at VA national cemeteries (cem.va.gov) and all burial and memorial benefits available for eligible veterans and their families.

The Plan Today, Honor Forever campaign has exceeded expectations, with a record number of pre-need applications for eight consecutive months. In January, nearly 12,000 applications were received. Applying online takes fewer than 10 minutes and saves families from having to look for a veteran's DD-214 at time of death.

Upon approval, veterans will receive a link to their own personal Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) page, giving them the opportunity to tell their stories in their own words before they die through autobiographies, photos, and military and life milestones. VA keeps the content hidden until the veteran's death and approves a request for a burial or memorial benefit. Following approval, the content becomes public.



VLM is the nation's largest online memorial space dedicated to veterans, with more than 10 million interactive pages already searchable on the site (vlm.cem.va.gov) in memory of those interred in VA national cemeteries, Department of Defense-managed cemeteries, National Park Service cemeteries, VA grant-funded state, tribal and territory cemeteries, and private cemeteries around the world.