



VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF WESTERN COLORADO

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INFORMATION

(December 2019)

Hours

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado is open for visitation from dawn until dusk, seven days a week. Cemetery staff is available from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Mondays through Fridays, except on State holidays.

Types of Interments

There are four types of interments normally available at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado: (1) columbarium (wall) niche for cremated remains; (2) in-ground niche for cremated remains; (3) single or double vault for casketed remains; and, (4) conventional gravesite for casketed remains. Additionally, there are Memorial Garden plots available for those whose remains are unavailable for interment. It is important to know the family's preference and if the veteran has a spouse and/or eligible dependent(s) so that an appropriate interment location can be assigned.

In-ground vaults are provided for single and double casket burials. Vaults *are not*, however, furnished for in-ground niches. If a vault *is* desired for an in-ground niche, it must be provided by the family *at the family's expense* and installation must be supervised by cemetery staff.

Direct Interments

A direct interment is an interment without services and/or military funeral honors. In these cases, an urn or casket is placed "directly" in the interment location. No one other than Cemetery personnel is allowed at direct interments unless the interment is in a columbarium niche. In those cases, family members are allowed at the columbarium when interment takes place. In all other cases, family members may visit the interment site after the site has been closed.



Interment Locations

An interment location cannot be reserved in advance. The only exceptions are: (1) if a veteran or eligible spouse or dependent is interred, he or she, in effect, "reserves" that location for the other(s); and, (2) if a husband and wife are *both* veterans *and* exercise their individual right to a gravesite, the adjacent site will be reserved for the survivor. Interment locations are assigned by the Cemetery Director based on operational considerations.

Scheduling Interments

Interments may be scheduled Mondays through Fridays by contacting the Cemetery. Times normally available for interment are as follows:

10:00 am - Urn or Casket 1:00 pm - Urn or Casket 3:00 pm - Urn only

Other times *may* be arranged by contacting Cemetery staff. Family members and/or funeral service providers should arrive at the Cemetery no earlier than 15 minutes before the scheduled time. Any delays before, during, or after a particular service may affect a following service and should, therefore, be avoided. Arrivals later than ½ hour after the scheduled time may result in the interment being rescheduled.

Colorado Residency

Because the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado is a State, not a National, Cemetery, the veteran upon whom eligibility is based must have been a resident of Colorado when he or she entered on active duty or upon his or her death or the death of his or her spouse or eligible dependent.

Determining Eligibility

In order for someone to be interred at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado, that person must be a veteran of the Armed Forces (as defined by the Department of Veterans Affairs) or the spouse of a veteran or the eligible dependent of a veteran. In addition, the veteran upon whom eligibility is based, must have been a resident of Colorado when he or she entered on active duty or upon his or her death (except as previously noted).

To determine eligibility, a veteran, or someone representing the veteran, must submit a VMC Form 01, with all applicable sections COMPLETELY filled out (instructions are on the VMC Form 01), along with a copy(ies) of discharge papers and proof of Colorado residency (e.g., driver's license, utility bill, etc.). In most cases, a determination can be made immediately upon receipt of this paperwork. It is, however, crucial to a timely decision that the Form 01 be completely filled out and that the discharge paper(s) show the details of military service, including: date and place of entry on active duty, date and place of separation, date and place of birth, character of service, etc. Additionally, if valor or non-valor medals and awards are claimed, there must be documentation for them. An "Honorable Discharge" certificate, in and of itself, is not sufficient for determining eligibility.

Immediate Need

In a case of immediate need, this paperwork must be submitted, TOGETHER WITH A DEATH CERTIFICATE, in person or by fax or U.S. Mail so that it reaches the Cemetery AT LEAST TWO WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE DESIRED DATE/TIME OF INTERMENT. In such cases, the "Immediate Need" block on VMC Form 01 must be checked. Upon receipt, the actual date and time of interment will be determined by the family or funeral service provider and Cemetery staff.

Early Registration

Those desiring to register early may do so by submitting the same paperwork as above to the Cemetery at the above address. The "Early Registration" block should be checked. The Cemetery will maintain this paperwork onsite so that, at the time of need, it is one less thing for the family to worry about.

Committal Services



There are no graveside services. All such services, religious or otherwise, take place at the Committal Shelter (*left*), which is located to the northeast of the Administration Building. Seating for 16 persons is provided as is a lectern and a table for an urn and flag. There is a pullout for parking for a hearse and for family members' vehicles.

It is up to the family or funeral service to arrange for any services. Committal services may be conducted by a clergy member and/or family members and should not exceed 20 minutes. Services may be in conjunction with or instead of military funeral honors. Family members or funeral service providers should ensure that the urn and the burial flag provided by the VA are brought to the Committal Shelter. It is up to the funeral service provider or other authorized transporter to ensure that the casket is brought to the Committal Shelter in enough time so that it can be placed before the service.

Afterwards, family members and other mourners should leave the area so as to allow removal of the casket or urn for in-ground interment. No one other than an employee or contractor of the Cemetery is allowed at any in-ground gravesites until they are closed. Generally, casket gravesites will be closed within 2 ½ hours after the conclusion of any service(s).

In-ground gravesites for urns containing ashes are normally closed within ½ hour of the conclusion of services. After closing, family members may then visit the gravesite.

If an urn is to be interred in an existing columbarium (wall) niche, the immediate family will be given the option of carrying it themselves to the niche and placing it or having cemetery staff place it in the wall niche after the service (s).

A visitors' room is available in the Administration Building for use by a family after services, e.g., to meet with family and friends. No refreshments or food are allowed in the visitors' room.

Military Funeral Honors

While the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado provides the facilities for interment, it is up to the family or funeral service provider to arrange for any services, including those to be presided over by a member of the clergy. It is also a family's or funeral service provider's responsibility to arrange for military honors. The following numbers, depending on the deceased veteran's branch of service, may be called to arrange military honors (information needed: DD214 or other discharge paperwork, deceased's name, rank, SSN, date of birth, date of death, location of death, flag recipient, date, time and location of funeral or service):

Army Veterans	720-250-2523
Navy Veterans	800-326-9631
Marine Corps Veterans	866-826-3628 or 703-432-9524
Coast Guard Veterans	314-606-6792
Air Force Veterans	719-556-3589 or 719-556-8228

A military honors ceremony is also provided by the Grand Valley Combined Honor Guard, PO Box 4438, Grand Junction, CO 81502-4438, Gary Parrott, Commander. Telephone: (970) 234-0980.

Military funeral honors and/or an honors ceremony takes place at the beginning of any committal service. Military honors may be in conjunction with or instead of committal services. This should be coordinated with the detachment commander beforehand.

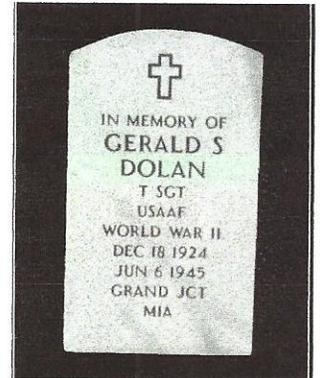
Additionally, the following is available (at private expense) to play the bagpipes at a service or as part of a military honors ceremony, Glenfinnan Highlanders (970-201-7757) or Rocky Mountain Scots (970-210-6642).



Headstones/Niche Markers

Cemetery staff will take care of ordering headstones and niche markers. The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado uses gray, granite, upright headstones and gray, granite niche covers. The headstone is 42

Inches long, 13 inches wide, and 4 inches thick and weights ~ 230 pounds. The DIMENSIONS OF THE COLUMBARIA (WALL) NICHE ARE: 10 ¼" WIDE X 14 ¾" HIGH X 18 3/8" DEEP. *These dimensions must be considered when planning for inurnment in a columbarium.* Niche covers are slightly larger and completely cover the niche. Variations may occur in stone color.



VAULTS ARE 30" WIDE X 86" LONG. DOUBLE VAULTS ARE 54" DEEP AND SINGLE VAULTS ARE 25" DEEP.

Mandatory Items of inscription are: Name, Branch of Service, Year of Birth, and Year of Death. Branches of Service are: U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, and by exception, U.S. Army Air Forces, and other parent organizations authorized for certain periods of time. *Deviations in data sequence are not permitted.* More than one branch of service is permitted, subject to space availability.

Optional Items which may be inscribed at Government expense are: military grade, rate or rank, war service, month and day of the dates of birth and death, an authorized religious emblem, valor awards (documentation is required).

Memorial Headstones (remains are not interred). The words "In Memory of" are mandatory and precede the authorized inscription data. They are *not* inscribed when remains are buried.

Additional Items may be inscribed, at Government expense, subject to approval, below the standard inscription and subject to space limitations. They may be terms of endearment, nicknames, representations of military and civilian participation or accomplishment, and titles such as Doctor, Reverend, etc. Except for the Medal of Honor or other, authorized emblems, no graphics, emblems or pictures are permitted on government monuments.

INCOMPLETE OR INACCURATE INFORMATION REGARDING HEADSTONES/NICHE MARKERS MAY RESULT IN DELAYS IN ORDERING AND RECEIPT OF THE HEADSTONE/NICHE MARKER, OR AN INCORRECT INSCRIPTION.

Flowers

Floral regulations are posted at each of the three watering stations in the Cemetery. Glass containers or objects of any kind, statues, vigil lights, and other types of commemorative items are not permitted. A supply of flower vases is provided at each watering station. These vases are for use by those wishing to decorate graves in accordance with floral regulations. There is no charge. Those using these vases are requested to clean and return them to a storage container after use. The Cemetery has niche vases available for a donation of \$50.00. They attach directly to the columbarium niche cover.



Normally, fresh flowers placed on a gravesite or at a columbarium wall are allowed to remain until they become unsightly or interfere with mowing operations. Artificial flowers, whenever their placement is permitted at gravesites, will be removed in accordance with existing floral regulations and held for two weeks. They will be disposed of if no one claims them during that period.

Placing Personal Items in/On Gravesites

Items placed on or in any gravesite are done so at personal risk. The Cemetery assumes no liability for anything placed in or on a gravesite. All such items become the property of the Cemetery and may be disposed of at the discretion of Cemetery staff.