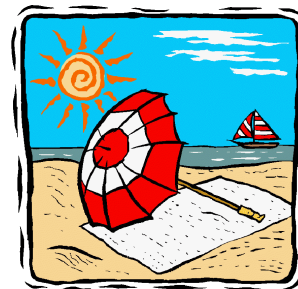


RETIREE OFFICE NEWS – 171st ARW



Retiree Office
300 Tanker Road #4210
Coraopolis, PA 15108-4210
Phone: 412-776-7587 or
412-776-7538, Fax: 7441
171retireeoffice@gmail.com
Office Hours: Thursdays 0800 – 1200



“Those who won our independence believed liberty to be the secret of happiness and courage to be the secret of liberty.” ~ Louis D. Brandeis

“New” Retiree Office Email Address:

A new email account has been created for the 171 Retiree Office at 171retireeoffice@gmail.com. Please use this email address for all correspondences, i.e., email changes, retiree news, luncheons, benefits, etc.

Retiree Lunch: **3rd Tuesday** in January, April, July, and October

When: CY 2017 - January 17th, April 18th, **July 18th**, and October 17th

Where: Golden Corral, 900 Park Manor Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(Near Mall at Robinson) (412) 788-1776

“Don’t forget to ask for your military or senior discount!!!”

Time: 1100 hours

*Come join the fun and catch up with old friends over a delicious lunch.
Hope to see you all at the next Retiree Luncheon on July 18th!*

DFAS Retiree Newsletter:

July 2017 - Visit <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter.html>

Retiree “AFTERBURNER”:

Spring-Summer 2017 – Visit <http://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Afterburner/>

Retirements:

Congratulations to our recent retirees who retired from April through June 2017. Please do not hesitate to contact the Retiree Office, if you need assistance.

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Retired
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APR 2017

CPT	CAW	TANEAL	01-APR-17
SMS	MARCYJANIK	BRIAN	15-APR-17
MSG	ELLIS	JAMES JR	02-APR-17
MSG	WALKER	HEATHER	28-APR-17

MAY 2017

MAJ	LOCKERMAN	SEAN	23-MAY-17
MSG	HAFFNEY	MATTHEW	12-MAY-17
MSG	WHALEN	JASON	09-MAY-17
SSG	LUBISH	SHANE	01-MAY-17
SSG	STEWART	ALLAN JR	31-MAY-17

JUN 2017

LTC	JABBOUR	VICTOR	30-JUN-17
LTC	KRAWCHYK	BRIAN	01-JUN-17
LTC	YOCKEY	ERIC	30-JUN-17
CMS	PERZ	JEFFREY	05-JUN-17
MSG	NANCE	MATTHEW	30-JUN-17
TSG	FRUSHELL	DANIEL	10-JUN-17
TSG	KRIZON	JASON	04-JUN-17

Sympathies: We extend 'Our Deepest Sympathy' to the families and relatives of the following retirees who passed away. Please inform our office if you hear of the passing of one of our fellow 171st, 112th, or 258TH members. Click on each name to view the obituary.

SMSgt Robert A. Henderson – 24 Nov 2016 – Age 81 – 171ARW/Operations-Boom Operator
<http://www.milliken-throckmortonfh.com/obituary/robert-allen-henderson>

CMSgt Ronald "Rocky" J. O'Hara – 22 Apr 2017 – Age 91 – 112TFG/Munitions Supervisor
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=185230750>

MSgt Donald B. Herbst – 20 May 2017 – Age 85 – 112TFG/171ARW Avionics
<http://www.kingfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Donald-B-Herbst?obId=1843692 - /obituaryInfo>

MSgt Thomas W. Householder – 8 Jun 2017 – Age 66 – 171ARW Maint-Hydraulic Shop
<http://wkbn.com/2017/06/08/thomas-w-householder-obituary/>

Col Joseph C. "Doc" Weimer – 12 Jun 2017 – Age 90 – 171ARW Clinic, Flight Surgeon
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/observer-reporter/obituary.aspx?n=joseph-clarence-weimer&pid=185806753&>

Burial and Memorial Benefits:

The most important thing you need to do if you wish to have Military Memorial Benefits is to make your spouse/family aware of your wishes and make sure they have the proper documentation to obtain Military Memorial Benefits for you in the event of your passing.

Families of eligible veterans request Memorial Benefits through their funeral director. The funeral director will assist in completing the required forms and contact the appropriate Military Service to arrange for the funeral honors detail. The following information is included to make you aware of your benefits and what is required.

> Documentation needed to verify Military Service to obtain benefits:

- DD Form 214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty" is the preferred.
- NGB Form 22, "Report of Separation and Record of Service" is accepted for guard retirements
- MPF by verbal verification
- Active Duty (AD) will require an AD Order or something to show their AD status
- Guard/Reserve on Active Duty may use DEERS/ID Card but is not necessarily the best choice

> Military Funeral Honors: <http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/military-funeral-honors.html>

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors for an eligible veteran, free of charge, is mandated by law. An honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the parent Service of the deceased veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps. When available, taps will be played by a bugler, however there are so few buglers available that the military services may choose to provide an electronic recording of taps. The veteran's parent Service representative will present the flag.

Funeral Honors Eligible:

- Military members on active duty or in the Selected Reserve.
- Former military members, who served on active duty and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former military members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former military members discharged from the Selected Reserve due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Requesting Military Funeral Honors

- Families of eligible veterans request funeral honors through their funeral director. The funeral director will contact the appropriate Military Service to arrange for the funeral honors detail.

> Burial Flags: <http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/burial-flags.html?comp=7000022835714&rank=1>

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his or her country.

Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin, as a keepsake, after its use during the funeral service. When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making request for it. For those VA national Cemeteries with an Avenue of Flags, families of veterans buried in these national cemeteries may donate the burial flags of their loved ones to be flown on patriotic holidays.

Who is Eligible for a Burial Flag?

VA will furnish a burial flag for memorialization for each other than dishonorable discharged:

- Veteran who served during wartime
- Veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941
- Veteran who served after January 31, 1955
- peacetime Veteran who was discharged or released before June 27, 1950
- certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951
- certain former members of the Selected Reserves

Application Process

You may apply for the flag by completing [VA Form 27-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes](#). U.S. Post Offices are the primary issuing point for burial flags.

Generally, the funeral director can help you obtain a flag. Call and confirm with the post office in advance. Not all local post offices have burial flags on hand but they should be able to direct you to the closest issuing post office. Regional VA Offices can also help identify local issuing points.

Replacement Flags

The law allows VA to issue one flag for a veteran's funeral. They cannot replace it if it is lost, destroyed, or stolen. However, some veterans' organizations or other community groups may be able to help you get another flag.

Displaying the Flag

The proper way to display the flag depends upon whether the casket is open or closed. VA Form 27-2008 provides the correct method for displaying and folding the flag. The burial flag is not suitable for outside display because of its size and fabric. It is made of cotton and can easily be damaged by weather.

Avenue of Flags - Flag Donation

Most of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) national cemeteries display an Avenue of Flags on patriotic holidays and during special events. The Avenues consist of burial flags donated by the families of deceased veterans and provide a unique visible tribute to all of our Nation's veterans.

A Certificate of Appreciation is presented to the donor for providing their loved ones' burial flag to a national cemetery.

Please contact the cemetery of your choice for information on how to donate a veteran's burial flag.

> **Headstone and Markers:** <http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/headstones-and-markers.html?comp=7000022774516&rank=3>

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

For eligible veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a Medallion to be affixed to a privately purchased headstone.

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. The style chosen must be permitted by the officials in charge of the private cemetery where it will be placed.

When burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state Veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative.

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state Veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense.

Eligibility

Eligibility for a VA headstone or marker is the same as for burial in a national cemetery. VA cannot issue a headstone or marker for a spouse or dependent buried in a private cemetery. Twenty-year reservists without active-duty service are eligible for a headstone or grave marker, if they are entitled to military retired pay at the time of death.

Types of Markers

There are several types of markers available:

- **Upright headstones** - These headstones are 42 inches long, 13 inches wide and 4 inches thick, and made of marble or granite. Weight is approximately 230 pounds.
- **Flat bronze marker** - The flat bronze grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, with 3/4 inch rise. Weight is approximately 18 pounds. Anchor bolts, nuts and washers for fastening to a base are furnished with the marker. The government does not furnish a base.
- **Flat marble or granite** - The flat granite and flat marble grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 130 pounds.
- **Bronze niche** - This niche marker is 8 1/2 inches long, 5 1/2 inches wide, with 7/16 inch rise. Weight is approximately 3 pounds; mounting bolts and washers are furnished with the marker.
- **Medallions** - The Department of Veterans Affairs provides a medallion, by request, to be affixed to an existing, privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a Veteran. This device is furnished in lieu of a traditional

Government headstone or grave marker for those Veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Each medallion is inscribed with the word "VETERAN" across the top and the branch of service at the bottom.

Who Can Apply

Only the following individuals may apply for a headstone, marker or medallion:

1. Decedent's next-of-kin (NOK)
2. Authorized representative on behalf of decedent
3. Authorized representative on behalf of next-of-kin

If someone other than the NOK is applying for the headstone, marker or medallion, the application package must include a written statement signed by the NOK or decedent authorizing that person (the applicant) to apply for this benefit. A notarized statement is not required for these purposes.

National, Post, or State Veterans' Cemetery

A headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin.

Private Cemetery

To receive a headstone, marker, or medallion, the eligible applicant must submit a [VA Form 40-1330, Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker](#) or [VA Form 40-1330M, Claim for Government Medallion](#) to the VA along with proof of military service, to request a Government-provided headstone or marker. Do not send original documents, as they will not be returned.

Emblems

The Department of Veterans Affairs has expanded the available Emblems of Belief for Placement on Government Headstones and Markers to include a greater number of options for veterans. Visit the VA's [Headstones and Markers](#) website to view the nearly forty optional emblems.

> National Cemeteries: <http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/national-cemeteries.html>

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of the 135 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a [Government headstone or marker](#), [a burial flag](#), and a [Presidential Memorial Certificate](#), at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for [Burial Allowances](#). Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

[For a listing of national cemeteries, visit the Department of Veterans Affairs Website.](#)

Eligibility for Burial in a National Cemetery

Veterans and armed forces members who die on active duty are eligible for burial in one of VA's 135 national cemeteries. An eligible veteran must have been discharged or separated from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and have completed the required

period of service. A U.S. citizen who served in the armed forces of a government allied with the United States in a war also may be eligible. Spouses and dependent, minor children of eligible veterans and of armed forces members also may be buried in a national cemetery.

A surviving spouse of an eligible veteran who married a nonveteran prior to Oct. 31, 1990, and whose remarriage was terminated by death or divorce prior to or on that date is eligible for burial in a national cemetery. A surviving spouse of an eligible veteran who married a nonveteran prior to Oct. 31, 1990, and whose remarriage was still intact on or after that date, however, is not eligible for burial in a national cemetery. A surviving spouse who marries a nonveteran after Oct. 31, 1990, is not eligible for burial in a national cemetery.

Requesting Burial In A National Cemetery

Burial in a national cemetery is based on military service. A copy of an official military discharge document bearing an official seal or other supporting documentation is usually sufficient to determine eligibility for burial.

The VA now allows veterans to find out their eligibility for burial in a VA National Cemetery prior to the time of need. The VA calls this "pre-need determination". To apply, complete and submit to the VA a [VA Form 40-10007](#). This greatly reduces stress on surviving family members. Applicants may indicate a *preference* for a VA national cemetery on the application form, but a pre-need determination of eligibility does not guarantee burial in a specific VA national cemetery or a specific gravesite. VA assigns gravesites in cemeteries with available space once death has occurred and the burial is scheduled.

At the time of need, the next-of-kin, funeral home or other representative responsible for making final arrangements should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117 to request burial.

If the veteran didn't complete a "pre-need determination" request prior to death, survivors or funeral directors can request burial in a National Cemetery by faxing eligibility documentation to 866-900-6417 or scanning and emailing the information to NCA.Scheduling@va.gov, survivors or funeral directors can also call the VA at 800-535-1117.

Arlington National Cemetery

[Arlington National Cemetery](#), which is under the jurisdiction of the Army, has a more limited eligibility than other national cemeteries. Eligibility for inurnment of cremated remains in Arlington's columbarium is the same as eligibility for burial in VA national cemeteries. For information on Arlington burials, write to Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA 22211, or telephone 877-907-8585.

Interior Department, State Veteran Cemeteries

Eligibility criteria similar to VA national cemetery eligibility apply to the two active national cemeteries administered by the Department of the Interior: Andersonville National Cemetery in Georgia and Andrew Johnson National Cemetery in Tennessee. Cemeteries for veterans are operated by many states. See our [State Veteran's Benefits page](#) for more information about specific state veteran's cemeteries.

> "Presidential Memorial Certificate:

<http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/presidential-memorial-certificates.html>

The Presidential Memorial Certificate is an engraved parchment certificate with a calligraphic inscription expressing the nation's grateful recognition of a veteran's service. The veteran's name is inscribed and the certificate bears the signature of the President.

Eligibility

Certificates are issued in the name of honorably discharged, deceased veterans. Eligible recipients include next of kin, other relatives and friends. The award of a certificate to one eligible recipient does not preclude certificates to other eligible recipients. The veteran may have died at any time in the past. The local VA regional office generally originates the application for a Presidential Memorial Certificate if a veteran's death is brought to official attention. The next of kin may request a certificate when a service member dies on active duty, or if the veteran was not receiving a VA benefit. Requests should be accompanied by a copy of a document such as a discharge to establish honorable service. VA regional offices can assist in applying for certificates. If you would like to request a Presidential Memorial Certificate, or if you requested one more than eight (8) weeks ago and have not received it yet, VA asks that you either:

Application Process

Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply for a Presidential Memorial Certificate in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail or toll-free fax. Requests cannot be sent via email. You should complete the [VA Form 40-0247 Application for Presidential Memorial Certificate](#) and enclose a copy of the Veteran's discharge and death certificate to verify eligibility, as the VA cannot process any request without proof of honorable military service. Please submit copies only, as documents will not be returned to you.

1. **Fax** your request and all supporting documents (copy of discharge and death certificate) to: **800-455-7143**, or
2. **Mail** your request and all supporting documents using either the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial mail service, such as one of the overnight or express mail delivery services, to:

Presidential Memorial Certificates (41B3)
National Cemetery Administration
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

> Burial Allowance: <http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/burial-allowance.html?comp=7000022774516&rank=1>

VA burial allowances are monetary allowances paid to eligible veteran's family to help defray burial and funeral costs. VA will pay a different amount depending on whether the death was considered service-connected or not, or if the veteran was hospitalized by the VA at the time of death

Reimbursements are generally described as two payments: (1) a burial (including cremation) and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot interment allowance.

Amounts Payable

Service-Related Death - The maximum service-connected burial allowance is \$2,000. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, VA may reimburse some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased Veteran's remains.

Nonservice-Related Death - VA will pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$749 for a plot.

VA Hospitalized Veteran - If the Veteran was hospitalized by VA when he or she died VA will pay a \$749 burial allowance and \$749 for a plot.

Indigent Veteran With No Next-of-Kin - The VA will furnish either a casket or cremation urn for interment in either a national, state, or tribal veterans cemetery.

Eligibility

The Veteran must also have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- the Veteran died as a result of a service-connected disability, OR
- the Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, OR
- the Veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided instead to receive his or her full military retirement or disability pay, OR
- the Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, OR
- the Veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment or care, OR
- the Veteran had an original or reopened claim for VA compensation or pension pending at the time of death and would have been entitled to benefits from a date prior to the date of death, OR
- the Veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA–approved state nursing home.

Who Can Receive the Benefit

- Veteran's surviving spouse; OR
- The survivor of a legal union* between the deceased Veteran and the survivor; OR
- The Veteran's children, regardless of age; OR
- The Veteran's parents or surviving parent; OR
- The executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased Veteran.

*Legal union means a formal relationship between the decedent and the survivor that existed on the date of the Veteran's death, which was recognized under the law of the State in which the couple formalized the relationship and evidenced by the State's issuance of documentation memorializing the relationship.

Application

Eligible surviving spouses of record are paid automatically upon notification of the Veteran's death, without the need to submit a claim. VA may grant additional benefits, including the plot or interment allowance and transportation allowance, if it receives a claim for these benefits.

If necessary, you can apply by filling out [VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits](#). You should attach a copy of the Veteran's military discharge document (DD 214 or equivalent) and a death certificate. If you are claiming transportation expenses, please attach a receipt for the expenses paid.

You can call VA toll-free within the U.S. by dialing 800-827-1000. If you are located in the local dialing area of a VA regional office, you can also call us by checking your local telephone directory. For the hearing impaired, our TDD number is 711. You should mail your application to the VA regional office located in your state.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND LINKS:

171st Air Refueling Wing: <http://www.171arw.ang.af.mil/>

911th AW Casualty Assistance Office: (412) 474-8558, Fax: (412) 474-8987

Address: 911th FSS/FSMPS, 2475 Defense Ave, Bldg 316, Rm 112, Coraopolis, PA 15108

Email contact: Melinda J. Arbogast, Melinda.arbogast.1@us.af.mil

Provides assistance to a retiree/spouse/dependent upon the passing of a retired military member or dependent in processing the required documentation and survivor benefits.

Air Force Retiree Services: <http://www.retirees.af.mil/>

AMC Space-A Travel: <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp>

Department of Veteran Affairs (VA): <http://www.va.gov/> or 1-800-827-1000

Express Scripts – TRICARE Pharmacy: <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/>

Toll-Free within the U.S.: 1-877-363-1303

Retired and Annuitant Pay:

For news updates, general information, and forms: visit the Retired Pay Site, **Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) – Retired Military & Annuitants** <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

- Questions about your retired or annuity pay account: 1-800-321-1080, Press 1 then 4, Press 0 (zero) for operator.
- Reporting a Death or Following-Up on a Claim: 1-800-321-1080, Press 1, then Press 1 again, Enter social security number.

For specific questions: Ask DFAS <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askRA.jsp>

For discussion on retired pay issues: Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/DefenseFinanceandAccountingService?ref=ts>

Military.com/Benefits: <http://www.military.com/benefits>

Military.com free membership sign-up:

http://www.military.com/Registration/Universal_Registration_Page?ESRC=TAF.bb

National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records: NPRC Customer Service Line 314-801-0800

myPay: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> or 1-888-332-7411 Option 5

PA Veteran Affairs: <http://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/default.aspx -.Vw-6qj81BJM>

Social Security: <http://www.ssa.gov/agency/contact/> or Call the toll-free number, 800-772-1213. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the toll-free "TTY" number, 711

TRICARE Health Insurance Coverage & Benefits Plans: <http://www.tricare.mil>

Tricare North Region – Health Net Federal Services: 1-877-874-2273

TRICARE For Life: 1-866-773-0404

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Retiree Assistance: 1-877-968-3778

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: <http://www.vets.gov/>