

Honoring Service & Sacrifice NH State Veterans Cemetery

Seacoast Veterans Conference

September 21, 2024

Agenda

- Veteran Burial Entitlements
- Military Burials
- Veterans Cemeteries
- NHSVC
 - Eligibility
 - Overview
 - NHSVC Community Outreach and Programs
- Information Resources

Veteran Burial Entitlements

- Flag
- Military Honors
 - Differs by branch of service and state
- Headstone, marker, or medallion
- Death Benefit (to help defray burial costs)
 - Apply AFTER *death of veteran*
- Plot allowance
 - Apply AFTER death of veteran
- All information located at www.va.gov/burials-memorials

Military Burial

- Each state and branch of service do things a little different
- Eligibility for honors *may* differ from eligibility for VA benefits
- At a minimum, eligible veterans should receive:
 - TAPS played at service
 - 2-person military flag-fold detail
- Firing details are NOT typically provided
 - Retired senior officers and NCOs *may* get firing detail *if* resources are available
 - Veteran Service Organizations (American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, etc. often perform firing details upon request)
 - Firing detail consists of three volleys
 - Rounds from firing detail are usually presented to the next-of-kin

Veterans Cemeteries

- Initiative started to solve issue of properly honoring WWII vets
- Standards are similar; execution and processes vary
- Typically offer three types of burials
 - Full-casket in a pre-placed outer burial container with upright or flat headstone
 - In-ground cremated remains with upright or flat headstone
 - Columbarium niche inurnment with plaque or niche cover marker
 - Some veteran cemeteries offer scatter gardens for cremated remains
 - A few offer green burials—VA is supportive of adding more green burial areas
- Most only offer a brief committal service. Many require using a committal shelter or chapel. Some allow graveside services
- No cost for veteran burials. Dependents may have a fee for burial.

NHSVC Overview & Eligibility

- State facility staffed by state employees
- Follow National Cemetery Administration (NCA) guidelines (part of the Veterans Administration (VA)). NCA compliance reviews done every three years.
- Eligibility:
 - No state residency requirement
 - Service Requirement:
 - Active-duty
 - Any person who entered as an enlisted person on or before 9/7/1980 or as an officer commissioned or entered active-duty on or before 10/16/1981
 - Any person who enlisted after 9/8/1980 or commissioned as an officer or entered active-duty after 10/16/1981 AND completed 24 consecutive months of service or the full period for which called/ordered to active federal duty.
 - Selected Reserve
 - Served at least one term of enlistment or, in the case of an officer, the period of initial obligation, or were discharged for disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty or died while a member of the Selected Reserve.
 - Honorable or general discharge; other discharges are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Dishonorable or Bad Conduct discharges are disqualifying.
- All military veterans are encouraged to apply and let the NHSVC make an eligibility determination

NHSVC Overview & Eligibility (cont.)

- Burial is a VA benefit for eligible veterans—there is typically NO CHARGE for a veteran burial
 - VA provides NHSVC a “plot allowance” for veteran interments (amount is updated each October)
 - Selected Reserve veterans who are non-residents of NH at the time of death will be charged an interment fee that is equal to the VA plot allowance rounded up to the nearest \$50 increment.
 - Benefit includes 20-minute committal service, interment, and headstone or niche marker
 - Spouse of veteran is eligible for burial, even if the veteran is not interred at the NHSVC (or any veteran cemetery)
 - Dependent children, including adult children not able to live independently, are also eligible for burial in the NHSVC
 - NHSVC charges a \$350 for dependent burial fee—due on the date of burial
- VA plot allowances and dependent burial fees cover approximately 75% of the annual operating expenses
- Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP) funds cemetery expansions or upgrades
 - We are approved for an expansion this year – 3,280 columbarium niches and 4,225 in-ground cremation plots.
- Offer full casket, in-ground cremains (granite headstone), and columbarium niche burials (bronze plaque)
 - Added pre-placed Outer Burial Containers for full-casket burials in 2019
 - Estimated land usage ratio (measured in plots): 1 FC = 3 IGC = 240 Niches

New Hampshire National Guard

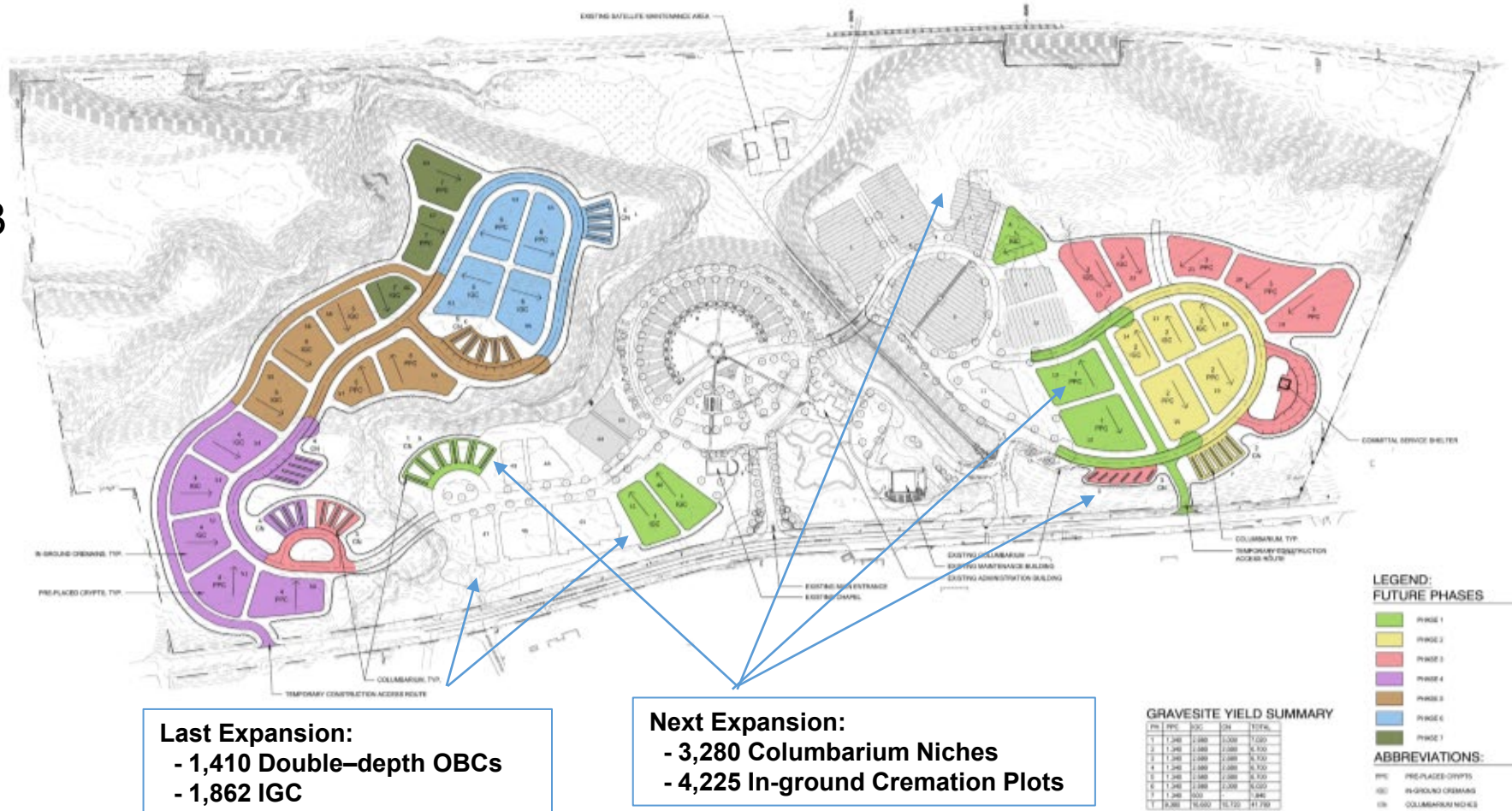
Always Ready Always There

Overview

- 104 Acres Total
- 19 acres developed
- 58 acres “usable”
- Space until at least FY93
- Opened in 1997

Staff

- Director (1)
- Maintenance Foreman (1)
- Grounds Maintenance (4)
- Cemetery Rep (1)
- Admin (2)
- Seasonal PT Grds Maint (2)
- PT Admin (1)



Last Expansion:
 - 1,410 Double–depth OBCs
 - 1,862 IGC

Next Expansion:
 - 3,280 Columbarium Niches
 - 4,225 In-ground Cremation Plots

New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery
 110 Daniel Webster Hwy, Boscawen, NH

PHASING PLAN



Programs that Support and Enhance the NHSVC

- NH Veterans Cemetery Association
 - Veterans Heritage Learning Center
 - Memorial Walkway
 - Trees for Boscawen
 - Noise Reduction Berm
- 100 Nights of Remembrance
- Wreaths for Boscawen
- Standing With Fallen Comrades
- Adopt-a-Garden
- Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves (signed into law March 2022)
- Headstone Cleaning and Memorial Walkway Clean-up Events
- Communication – Rally Point, email updates, social media, website

Department of Military Affairs & Veterans Services

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va.gov

The screenshot shows the va.gov website interface. At the top left is the VA logo and the text "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs". To the right are links for "Search", "Contact us", and a "Sign in" button. Below this is a navigation bar with "VA Benefits and Health Care", "About VA", and "Find a VA Location", along with a "My VA" link. A yellow arrow points to the "VA Benefits and Health Care" link. Below the navigation bar is a notification banner titled "VA facility and status updates" with information about natural disasters and coronavirus. The main content area is titled "Access and manage your VA benefits and health care" and features four categories: "Health care" (with links for prescriptions, messages, appointments, lab results, and applying for care), "Disability" (with links for claim status, payment history, evidence upload, disability increase, and compensation), "Education", and "Records".

Department of Military Affairs & Veterans Services

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The screenshot shows the VA website interface. At the top left is the VA logo and the text 'U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs'. To the right are search and contact options. The main navigation bar includes 'VA Benefits and Health Care', 'About VA', 'Find a VA Location', and 'My VA'. A dropdown menu is open under 'VA Benefits and Health Care', with 'Burials and memorials' highlighted by a yellow arrow. The 'Burials and memorials' dropdown contains: Health care, Disability, Education and training, Careers and employment, Pension, Housing assistance, Life insurance, Burials and memorials (highlighted), Records, Service member benefits, and Family member benefits. The main content area features a 'View all in burials and memorials' link, a 'Get burial benefits' section with links for Eligibility, Pre-need burial eligibility determination, Veteran burial allowance, Memorial items, and Survivor and dependent compensation (DIC), and a 'Plan a burial' section with links for scheduling a burial for a family member, scheduling a burial in a VA national cemetery, finding a cemetery, and requesting military records (DD214). A 'Find National Cemetery Administration Information' box includes a star icon and text about locating graves and searching for cemeteries. At the bottom, there are links for sending secure messages, scheduling appointments, viewing lab results, applying for health care, viewing payment history, uploading evidence, and filing claims.

New Hampshire National Guard

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www.nhsvc.com email: info@nhsvc.com

www.nhvca.org (NH Veterans Cemetery Association)
email: info@nhvca.org

www.vhlc.org (Veterans Heritage Learning Center)

Facebook: NH State Veterans Cemetery
NH Veterans Cemetery Association

Twitter: @cemeteryNH

Instagram: nhvlc

Department of Military Affairs & Veterans Services

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A Living Memorial – NH State Veterans Cemetery

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nh state veterans cemetery



A Living Memorial - NH State Veterans Cemetery



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