



FLOTILLA

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HONORING THE MEN WHO SERVED ON THE LANDING CRAFT OF THE U.S. AMPHIBIOUS FORCES

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VETERAN'S BURIAL BENEFITS

While not the most pleasant topic, how many of you are familiar with the burial benefits that WWII Navy vets are entitled to? Surprisingly, many vets are unaware of some basic benefits obtainable through the Veteran's Administration (VA). While not claiming to be an authority on the subject, I have summarized these basic benefits as well as other programs you may be eligible for.

BURIAL BENEFITS

To oversimplify, most WWII vets are eligible for a flag, a headstone or marker, and reimbursement of burial expenses. Exactly what you get depends on where you choose to be buried--in a national cemetery or private cemetery. The specifics can be a bit complicated and I would *strongly* recommend that you contact the VA yourself for details and forms. I will highlight some basic information from the VA website on the internet. For those of you with a computer their site is: www.va.gov/

All applications, forms and questions dealing with VA death benefits *must* go through your local VA office. Call toll free 1-800-827-1000 to find the Veteran's Administration office nearest you.

National Cemetery Administration

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of the 119 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a grave liner for casketed remains, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, all at no cost to your family.



Private Cemeteries

When a veteran is buried in a private cemetery, there are forms to be filled out for flags, headstones or markers and possible reimbursement of burial expenses. Also ask yourself these questions:

- 1--When responding to an offer of a "free" gravesite for vets, ask if there is a requirement to purchase an additional gravesite, and where would this additional site be located and at what cost?
- 2--What type of trust fund does the cemetery have to protect buyers?
- 3--Are there restrictions on the type of headstone or marker that can be used on the grave?
- 4--Does the cemetery require a special marker base to be purchased prior to ordering a free government marker for the veteran's grave? Any extra costs for placement or care of the government marker? Is it more than a standard headstone?
- 5--Is an outside container ("vault" or "grave-liner") required and what is the cost?

Know what you are receiving and what is required by the company and have them put it in writing prior to the burial.

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