

## Headstones & Markers

When burial is in a VA national, state, or tribal Veterans' cemetery, the type of headstone or marker will depend on the cemetery and the section. Cemetery officials will assist with applying for the headstone or marker. When burial is in a private cemetery or local government cemetery, the type of headstone or marker will depend on the family's wishes and any cemetery restrictions on type. The types of headstones and markers available for private cemeteries are:

- Upright granite or marble headstone;
- Flat bronze marker or bronze niche marker; or
- Flat granite or marble marker.



### Upright Granite or Marble

42" x 13" x 4"

Approx. 24"-26" above ground

Weight approx. 230 lbs.

### Flat Granite or Marble

24" x 12" x 4"

Weight approx.

130 lbs.



### Flat Bronze

24" x 12"

Weight approx.

18 lbs.

### Bronze Niche

8 1/2" x 5 1/2"

Weight approx. 3 lbs.

*"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."*

*- Abraham Lincoln  
Second Inaugural Address  
March 4, 1865*

## VETERAN HEADSTONES, MARKERS AND MEDALLIONS



For More Information Contact  
Memorial Products Service

Phone: 1-800-697-6947

[www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

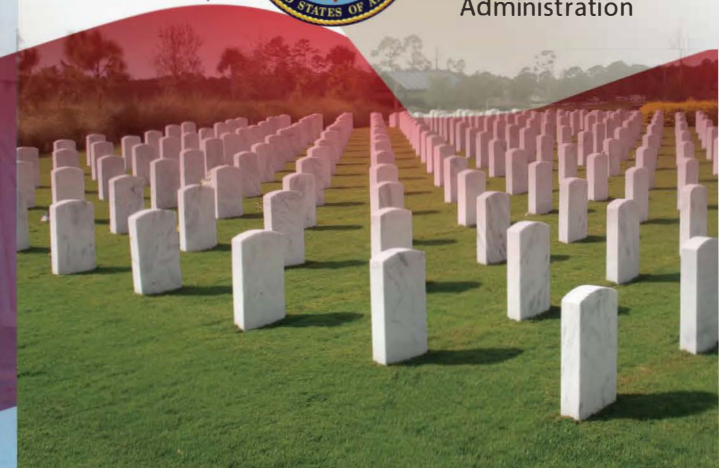
National Cemetery  
Administration



NCA IS 4

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## About

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 his or her date of death. Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state Veterans' cemetery, or military post/base or tribal cemetery. There is no charge for the headstone or marker; however, arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense. VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the marked graves of Veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990.

## Forms

If choosing burial in a VA national or state or tribal Veterans cemetery, the cemetery official will assist with applying for the headstone or marker. Use VA Form 40-1330, Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker to apply for a headstone or marker for installation in a private cemetery. This form must be signed by the applicant, the consignee and the cemetery official: [www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/va40-1330.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/va40-1330.pdf). Use VA Form 40-1330M, Claim for Government Medallion for Placement in a Private Cemetery to apply for a medallion. Only the signature of the applicant is required on this form: [www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/va40-1330m.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/va40-1330m.pdf). Please send copies of military discharge documents or award citations to verify receipt of any awards requested for inscription on the marker. Do not send original documents, as they cannot be returned. Photocopies or photographs of actual medals will not be accepted as verification of the award.

## Eligibility

Most Veterans with a discharge other than dishonorable are eligible to receive a headstone, marker or medallion. Headstones and markers are furnished for eligible spouses and dependents who are buried in a VA national, state or tribal Veterans' cemetery. Headstones and markers are not furnished for spouses and dependents for Veterans buried in a private cemetery.



## Inscriptions

Government-furnished headstones and markers consist of Mandatory, Optional, and Additional inscription items. Below are the inscription items by order of precedence:

- VA approved emblem(s) of belief (Optional);
- The Veteran's name (legal name or the diminutive of a legal name such as Bob for Robert or Bill for William), years of birth and death, and branch of service (mandatory)
- Highest rank attained; (Optional)
- War service active duty dates must align with the period of war or conflict; (Optional) and
- Nicknames, military units, professional titles, terms of endearment, etc., are authorized to be inscribed at the bottom of the headstone or marker and must be requested at the time the application is submitted. Some restrictions apply.

## Shipment

Medallions, headstones and markers must be shipped to a cemetery's business address. Medallions can be shipped to private residences for placement on the Veteran's privately purchased headstone or marker by the next-of-kin. VA cannot ship headstones or markers to Post Office boxes. Rural route box addresses are acceptable, and a telephone number must be provided for delivery directions.

## Medallions

VA provides a medallion, by request, to be affixed to an existing, privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased status as a Veteran. This device is furnished in lieu of a traditional government headstone or grave marker for those Veterans who served on or after April 6, 1917, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Medallions come in three sizes:

- Small (2" W x 1-1/2" H x 1/3" D)
- Medium (3-3/4" W x 2-7/8" H x 1/4" D)
- Large (6-3/8" W x 4-3/4" H x 1/2" D)

Use VA Form 40-1330M. An installation video is available at <https://youtu.be/qA5eaD6ndwc>.

