

Thank you for using Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries for your loved one's interment. We have established a sheet of protocol for scheduling and burial that will hopefully answer some questions and help make the process a little easier.



About

The East Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries are located in Knoxville, Tennessee at 2200 E. Gov. John Sevier Hwy and at 5901 Lyons View Pike. The Administration Building is open 5 days a week M-F from 8:00 am-4:30 pm, excluding holidays.

Please note that Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries do not make funeral arrangements, provide mortuary services, or perform cremations. Please contact your local County Veterans Service Office with questions about burial allowance or survivor benefits.

Scheduling & Services

Cemetery staff may schedule a service once the burial application is received along with supporting documentation. New applications will be processed for eligibility in the order received. All graves are assigned based on a first come, first serve basis, and cannot be selected in advance. Eligible dependents (spouse/child) are placed in the same burial space (in-ground/niche/crypt). In the event both spouses are eligible veterans; each would be entitled to their own space; however, no reservations of spaces are accepted.

Service times are generally Monday – Thursday at 8:30 am / 10:00 am / 12:30 pm / 2:00 pm; and Friday at 8:30 am / 10:00 am / 12:30 pm. However, service times may vary based on holiday scheduling.

Chapel

The chapel is used for all services and events at the cemetery. A small table is available for use by the families, and are responsible for providing items, stands props, etc. that they may wish to use or display during the service.

On the Day of the Service

The Next of Kin or the responsible person will stop at the Administration Building approximately 30 minutes prior to scheduled interment time. An emblem of faith and an optional inscription will be selected at that time. Please note that each party has 15 minutes maximum for each service. *Please be considerate of the other veteran families that may be waiting.*

Also, be aware no opening of containers or caskets is allowed on state property. All viewings or removal of ashes should be done prior to the arrival of the remains.

1. Please make sure to bring a copy of the cremation permit (if applicable).
2. Your selection for the monument order (emblem of faith & optional additional inscription).



All interments take place immediately following the service. The cemetery representative/honor guard member/family member will place the urn or ashes in the columbarium and the staff will secure the niche cover; family members and friends are welcome to observe the process. All in-ground burials are completed by staff members. Families are welcome to observe; however, we ask that the family remain in an area designated as a "safe" area. The safe area at John Sevier would be designated at the center of the cemetery at the base of the American Flag, or at Lyons View the "safe" areas designated by the cemetery staff.

Honor Guard

Each eligible, deceased veteran is entitled to a military Honor Guard. Military Honors may consist of playing of Taps and flag-folding ceremony and presentation of the flag to the veteran's next of kin or another designated person. The mortuary or family will request services. A sample list is provided below. Exact ceremonial requirements are to be discussed with the honor guard selected. Chaplains may be requested from the honor guard.

Volunteer State Honor Guard: 865-659-4811
US Air Force: 615-660-8237
US Coast Guard Com Ctr: 502-779-5422
US Army/TN National Guard: 866-368-6338

East TN Honor Guard: 865-223-3825
Pigeon Forge Honor Guard: 865-314-3915
US Marines: 866-826-3628
US Navy: 904-542-6357

Cremation Placement Options

With the dedication of cremation ashes, 2 options are available.

- The first is an in-ground burial.
- The second is an above ground interment in our columbarium wall.

Niche Dimensions: 18" D x 7" W x 12" H

Flowers

The family or funeral home is responsible for providing flowers at the service. You can have them delivered on the same day as the service no more than 30 prior to service time. A copy of the floral requirements for the cemetery is posted on the sign at the entrance, available in the lobby area and a copy will be provided to you on the day of interment.

Grave Monument Placement

Cemetery staff will submit the request for inscription of the monument on the day of interment. It normally takes 4-6 weeks for the headstone to be received and set. Cemetery staff will notify the family via email when the monument of their loved one has been set pursuant to the request of the family.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our cemetery staff at 865-577-3228.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Eligibility for Interment

Prior Active Duty Veterans

Any person who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard) who was discharged or released there from before September 7, 1980, under conditions other than dishonorable.

Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who died while on active duty. Any person who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States who entered active duty as an enlisted person after September 7, 1980, and officers commissioned who entered active duty after October 17, 1981, and whose discharge or separation from active military service was under "other than dishonorable" conditions. A person whose first tour of duty began on or after the dates listed above is eligible if he or she completed a continuous period of active duty of at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty, whichever is shorter or was released because of a hardship discharge, or has a compensable service-connected disability or was released because of a service-connected disability.

Verification Information Required: Full name of veteran. Date of birth, service and social security numbers. Service Dates: entry and discharge from active duty. (This information can be found in veteran's discharge papers or DD Form 214.)

Reserve & National Guard Members

- Reserve & National Guard members who are in receipt of compensation or pension from the VA are eligible for burial.
- Reserve & National Guard members who completed twenty or more years of reserve or guard service and are entitled to retirement pay.
- Reserve & National Guard members are also eligible for burial under the following five (5) categories.
 - Dies under honorable conditions while undergoing active duty for training.
 - If called to active duty, completes the full period for which called up.
 - Dies under honorable conditions while performing full-time Active Guard Reserve (AGR) service.
 - Completed at least 24 months of active service.
 - Discharged due to service-connected disability while on active duty.

Pre-Registration Information

Pre-registration allows a veteran to establish, in advance, their eligibility for interment at a Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery. There is no cost for pre-registration, and it does not obligate to be interred at the cemetery, nor does it reserve a specific plot or location within the cemetery. Pre-registration is intended to simplify and assist the veteran's next-of-kin at the time of death.

Supporting documentation must accompany application. Please note the application is not in lieu of providing the veteran's cemetery with a copy of DD Form 214 or equivalent discharge documentation.

Also, please include if you have documentation for a service-connected disability (decision letter), hardship discharge, and/or retirement. If the eligible spouse wishes to be interred in the veteran's cemetery, then a copy of the marriage certificate must be included when submitting the application. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS.**

In certain circumstances, dependent children may also be eligible for interment. Please contact the veteran's cemetery office for more information regarding dependent children.

Upon determination of eligibility, a copy of the decision letter will be either mailed to the address listed on the application, or email if one was included with the application. Retain a copy of the decision letter for your records.

For questions, please contact the appropriate office listed on the front side of this brochure.

Benefits Included At No Cost

- In-ground burial for casketed or cremated remains
- Above ground interment for cremated remains in a columbarium wall
- Headstone for in-ground burials, and a niche cover for an above ground interment
- Concrete crypt for casketed burials
- Free on-site committal service
- Perpetual care 365 days of the year

Directions: Submit this application along with the supporting documents to the cemetery of your choice and allow 4-6 weeks for processing.

Veteran Information

Name _____

SSN _____

DOB _____

Spouse Information

Name _____

SSN _____

DOB _____

Marital Status

Mailing Address

County of Residence

Phone Number

Email Address

About Us

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Please note that Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries do not make funeral arrangements, provide mortuary services, or perform cremations. Please contact your local County Veterans Service Office with questions about burial allowance or survivor benefits.

Types of Interment

We offer several types of interment options.

Casket/Crypt
(Plot size 30" W x 86" L)

With the dedication of cremation ashes, multiple options are available.

The first is an in-ground burial.
(Plot size 36" W x 48" L)

The second is an above ground interment in our columbarium wall.
(Niche Dimensions: 18" D x 7" W x 12" H)

All interments take place immediately following the service. The cemetery representative/honor guard member/family member will place the urn or ashes in the columbarium and the staff will secure the niche cover; family members and friends are welcome to observe the process. All in-ground burials are completed by staff members.

Thank you for your interest in Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our cemetery staff at 865-577-3228.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Cost

There is no cost if eligibility requirements are met except under the following conditions:

There is no fee for the interment of a veteran's spouse or eligible dependent children.

Cremations

Columbarium services are now offered at the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Highway, Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery and the Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery at Parkers Crossroads. Please call your cemetery of interest for more information.

Outer Containers

The Tennessee Department of Veterans Services does not require outer containers for burials.

Headstones

All veterans are entitled to a white, upright marble headstone at government expense when buried in a Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery. A temporary grave marker is used to identify grave site until the permanent headstone is delivered in approximately three to four months.

Online Pre-Registration Instructions:

- Go to website: **www.tn.gov/veteran**
- Click on 'Cemeteries'
- Select East TN State Veterans Cemetery
- Fill out pre-registration form
 - Upload a copy of the veterans DD-214 or equivalent discharge documentation. Also, please include if you have documentation for:
 1. Service-connected disability (decision letter)
 2. Hardship discharge
 3. Retirement
 - If applicable, fill out spouse information and upload a copy of the marriage certificate at the bottom of the form.
 - If needed, you can also e-mail additional documentation to **ETSV.Cemetery@tn.gov**
- At the conclusion of the application, sign with your mouse or finger and answer the two security questions.
- Click on submit.
- Upon determination of eligibility, a decision letter will be mailed to the address provided on the application or e-mailed if an e-mail address is listed.

Please retain a copy of the decision letter for your records.