

## Most frequently asked questions

### **Is a Veteran's spouse allowed to be buried at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery?**

A qualified Veteran's legal spouse (or widow or widower) is eligible for burial in a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery. A legal spouse may also be buried at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery if the husband is not buried there, in the case of a MIA or other factor that prevented the veteran from being buried at the same location, provided we receive proper documentation of the veteran's eligibility and proof of marriage at the time of the veteran's death.

### **Can a Veteran's children also be buried at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery?**

An unmarried minor child who is dependent upon the qualified Veteran at time of death is eligible for burial in a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery. Unmarried adult children are also eligible for burial if they become permanently incapable of self-support because of physical or mental disability before the age of 21. An adult child under 23 years of age and pursuing a course of instruction at an approved educational institution is also eligible for burial.

### **How much does it cost to be buried at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery?**

All services and benefits within the gates of each Kansas Veterans' Cemetery are free of charge to the qualified Veteran and/or dependents. This includes: burial space, grave liner, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, placement of cremation remains in either the columbarium wall or in-ground, scattering garden and marker.

### **Do I have to live in the State of Kansas to be buried at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery?**

There is not a residency requirement in the State of Kansas for interment in a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery.

### **Who is eligible for burial at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery?**

- Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies in active duty
- 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
- Person entitled to retired pay as a result of 20 years creditable service with the National Guard is also eligible for burial in Kansas Veterans' Cemeteries
- A U.S. citizen who served in the armed forces of a government allied with the United States may also be eligible for burial
- A Veteran who is convicted of a Federal or State Capital Crime is not eligible for burial in a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery.
- Please contact one of the Kansas Veteran's Cemeteries with further questions about eligibility.

### **Why is it suggested that a Veteran pre-certify for interment at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery?**

Establishing eligibility for burial in a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery is the responsibility of the Veteran, his/hers survivors, or legal representative. The Cemetery Staff is available to offer assistance in verifying eligibility at the time of need. However, the verification process may take up to three business days if the family does not have necessary documentation. While pre-certification does not guarantee a pre-designated gravesite, it can help avoid confusion and possible delays at the time of need.

### **How do I pre-certify for burial at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery?**

Veterans' are encouraged to pre-certify for interment at one of the Kansas Veteran's Cemeteries. Veterans' may also visit our website at [www.kcva.org](http://www.kcva.org) to download KCVA 200 Form (pre-certification form). Documents that will be needed for pre-certification and/or interment include: completed KCVA 200 form, certified copy of discharge or DD 214, copy of marriage certificate and copies of birth certificates or adoption papers for eligible child dependents. Once required documents have been verified and eligibility has been established, the Veteran will receive an "Acceptance Letter". This letter should be kept with important papers. It is also suggested that a copy of this letter be given to the funeral home if pre-arrangement burial plans are made and/or to a designated representative who will be in charge of your funeral preparations at the time of need. If a Veteran needs assistance in obtaining the necessary documents, the Cemetery Staff is available to help obtain them.

### **Are we allowed to choose our burial plot?**

As per Federal regulations, all plots are assigned on a "first come, first serve basis". Assignment of a grave will only occur, once an interment has been scheduled. The only exceptions to this policy would be in the case of a married couple who are both Veterans, in which both Veterans' are entitled to their own burial plot. Once one of the legally married

Veterans is interred, the plot adjacent to that plot will be reserved for the spouse. The other exception would be in the case of a child dependent who is interred at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery. The plot adjacent to the plot of the child would be reserved for his/her parents.

**My spouse would like to be cremated, but I want to have a casket burial. Is this possible?**

Yes, this is possible. However, this is important information that will need to be placed in your file so that a casket plot will be used for burial at the time of need. The cremains will be placed in the double concrete grave liner with the spouse's casket. If the cremated individual passes away first, the cremains will be placed in the double grave liner. At a later date, once the spouse passes who has chosen a casket burial, the urn will be placed on top of the casket within the double concrete grave liner.

**What if I pre-certify at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery and at a later date change my mind or want to change my pre-certification to another Veterans' Cemetery?**

Pre-certification is not a binding contract. Pre-certification is only meant to lessen the burden at the time of need for Veterans' and their families. A file is maintained on each Veteran that is pre-certified and/or interred at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery. In the event that a Veteran would like to withdraw a pre-certification, he/she may have the documents returned to them. If a Veteran would decide to change locations to another Kansas Veterans' Cemetery for interment, the Cemetery Staff can assist them in transferring the Veteran's file to the preferred Cemetery.

**What are my options for interment if I choose to be cremated?**

There are three options for interment/inurnment within a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery. The first option is the Columbarium Wall. This includes a Columbarium niche in which the urn is placed and a gray granite niche cover is provided for the marker. The second option is in-ground interment. The Veteran and/or spouse's remains are placed in the ground and an upright gray granite headstone marker is placed at the gravesite. The third option is the scattering garden. The remains are scattered in a specified garden and a bronze memorial niche marker is placed on the scattering garden wall.

**What is a Government provided concrete grave liner?**

Kansas Veterans' Cemeteries provide a double concrete grave liner (with a lid) for casket burials. Whichever is interred first, the Veteran or the spouse, he/she is placed on the bottom half of the concrete grave liner. Eventually, the other Veteran/spouse will be placed on the top half of the concrete liner. A plastic liner is placed in between the two caskets. Single Veterans will be placed in the double concrete grave liners by themselves.

**Is it required to use a Government provided concrete grave liner?**

Kansas Veterans' Cemeteries do provide a double concrete grave liner for casket burials free of charge. However, a Veteran may choose to purchase their own grave liner or vault, at their own expense, and have it placed in a designated garden. In the case of an "over-sized" casket, the family will be responsible for purchasing a grave liner or vault that will accommodate the casket, as the Government provided grave liners will only fit a standard size casket.

**What kind of grave markers are used at a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery?**

Kansas Veterans' Cemeteries are required to use a gray granite upright headstone for casket and in-ground cremation burials. A gray granite niche cover is used for Columbarium Wall cremation inurnments. A 7 ½" x 15 ½" bronze memorial niche marker is used on the Scattering Garden Wall. Optional Emblems of Belief and Additional Inscriptions are available. Please contact the Cemetery Staff for more details.

**Where will the Burial Service be conducted?**

All Burial Services will be conducted under the shelter, near the Columbarium Walls. Due to Federal laws, Family and Friends will not be allowed at the grave site until after the Maintenance Staff have completed the burial and all heavy equipment has been removed.

**If I make a donation to a specific Kansas Veterans' Cemetery, will it be used for special projects within that specified Kansas Veterans' Cemetery?**

Donations and Memorials that are contributed to a specific Kansas Veterans' Cemetery will be used for special projects within that designated Cemetery. The Donations Program was established to defer the cost of special projects that add to the beautification of the Cemeteries and for families, friends and organizations to honor their loved ones. For more information about donations, contact one of the Kansas Veterans' Cemeteries.