



OFFICE OF ARMY CEMETERIES

PRESS RELEASE

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Army Transfer of 11 Cemeteries to Veterans Administration Complete

Arlington, VA — The Office of Army Cemeteries (OAC) and Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration (NCA) concluded a multiyear, interagency initiative to transfer ten Army post cemeteries and one prisoner of war (POW) cemetery located on former active Army installations with a ceremony today at Arlington National Cemetery.

Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director of Army National Military Cemeteries and the Office of Army Cemeteries, and Glenn Powers, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA), conducted a ceremonial transfer attended by a virtual audience of cemetery transfer participants from across the country.

“Today is a culmination of the hard work by many people from the Army, the Department of Veterans Affairs and other federal government agencies,” said Renea Yates, Director, Office of Army Cemeteries. “This eliminates duplication of effort and ensures that the final resting place for these veterans will continue to be treated with dignity and respect.”

This reform plan was built upon Executive Order 13781, signed by President Trump in March 2017, to increase efficiency, limit mission overlap and maintain veterans' cemeteries at national shrine standards. The plan recommended the transfer of operations and maintenance of select military cemeteries to the NCA. The consolidation alleviates duplicative mission requirements and increases burial options for veterans and their dependents.

Over the past 18 months, the following Army post cemeteries were transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Fort Lawton, Washington; Fort Missoula, Montana; Fort Sheridan, Illinois; Fort Douglas, Utah; Vancouver Barracks, Washington; Fort Warden, Washington; Fort Stephens, Oregon; Benicia Arsenal, California; Fort Devens, Massachusetts; and Ft. McClellan Post and Ft. McClellan POW cemeteries, Alabama.

The Office of Army Cemeteries (OAC), a direct reporting unit to the Secretary of the Army, is responsible for the policy, maintenance and management of 22 Army cemeteries across the United States, to include Arlington National Cemetery. Recently, OAC updated the Army Regulation 290-5, “Army National Cemeteries,” as the governing publication which ensures that veterans across the Army enterprise receive the same standard of perpetual care at all Army cemeteries.

For more information about the transfer of the former Army cemeteries, contact NCA Public Affairs at (202) 632-8035. To make burial arrangements at a VA national cemetery, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (800) 535-1117.

To learn more about the Office of Army Cemeteries, please visit our website at: <https://armycemeteries.army.mil/>

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