

Guide to *Sacramento Valley National Cemetery*



"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*

For More Information:

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery
5810 Midway Road
Dixon, CA 95620

Cemetery Administration Office
Phone: (707) 693-2460
Fax: (707) 693-2479

Burial Arrangements:
Phone: (800) 535-1117
Fax: (866) 900-6417

NCA website: <http://www.cem.va.gov/>

Sacramento Valley
National Cemetery
Opened 2006



National Cemetery Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

Things to Remember:

TAKE WITH YOU:

*Take the U.S. Flag if applicable (the Honor Guard will not supply one)

***WHEN TAKING A CREMATION URN:** Be SURE to take the cremation permit that the funeral home provides you with, or the cemetery will not accept your loved one's urn

***Arrive 30 mins. prior to your scheduled service time**

*Stop at the Administration Building and give them your completed headstone or niche inscription form

*The cemetery staff will show you where to line up your cars and will personally lead you out to the committal shelter where the services will be held (they will stay with you throughout the service and guide you through the ceremonial processes)

*All ceremonies begin and conclude in the committal shelter—ceremonies are not conducted at the grave or columbarium niche

*When taking a cremation urn, the urn might not be placed in the ground or in the columbarium niche the same day

*When having a casket burial service, you can visit the closed grave after 4 p.m. that day

*If military honors are rendered, be sure the person to receive the U.S. Flag is introduced to the Honor Guard so they know who to present it to

*The gun volley ("gun salute") is only rendered for military career-retirees and in certain other circumstances—for most veterans, military honors consist of folding and presenting of the U.S. Flag and playing of "Taps"

*Remember that the primary purpose for services at the cemetery is to render military honors—several ceremonies are scheduled throughout the day and the services must each be brief to allow for prompt and timely services for each family served that day

Message from the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery Staff

Welcome to the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery. We hope you find peace here and visit us again.

Families often contact us during a difficult time – after the loss of a loved one.

We're here to make the burial process as comfortable as possible. We encourage Veterans and their families to talk with us in advance for information or about any questions or concerns.

When the time comes, we will ensure the committal service and any other requests are handled respectfully. We pledge to honor the dignity and memory of each person and to provide excellent service to family and friends during this difficult time.

Our Mission

The National Cemetery Administration honors Veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our nation.

Overview



- Sacramento Valley National Cemetery became VA's 124th national cemetery in 2006.
- Currently, about 60 acres of land have been developed.
- Sacramento Valley National Cemetery is one of eight national cemeteries in California.
- Situated on 561 acres, the cemetery accommodates casketed and cremated remains.
- About 346,000 Veterans live within the service area of the cemetery.



Making Burial Arrangements

The funeral home or next-of-kin should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to make burial arrangements for Veterans and/or their eligible dependents.

The funeral home should fax all available military discharge documents to the scheduling office at (866) 900-6417 and follow up with a call to (800) 535-1117. If military discharge documents are not available, scheduling office representatives will assist the funeral home or next-of-kin with the verification process. This process may require 48 hours or more to determine eligibility for burial in a national cemetery.

The scheduling office will be open seven (7) days a week, from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Central time, except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Please contact the cemetery directly to:

- Schedule active duty interments
- Schedule memorial services without interment
- Cancel or reschedule interments
- Change information initially provided to the scheduling office
- Request disinterment or relocation of remains

Burial benefits provided by the National Cemetery Administration, at no cost to the Veteran, include: burial plot; opening and closing of the gravesite; a government liner; headstone or marker with inscription; interment flag; perpetual care of the gravesite; and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Funeral director's services are not covered.

Gravesites are assigned by the cemetery and cannot be selected in advance. Assignments are made without regard to rank, ethnic or religious background, branch of service or other factors.

The Veteran and spouse are interred in the same grave. If both were Veterans, they may choose to be buried side-by-side in separate graves.

Military honors are provided by the Department of Defense and are to be arranged by the funeral director. If there is no funeral director, cemetery staff will assist the family in arranging for military honors.

Burials and interments are scheduled between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except designated holidays. Out of respect for all persons buried at the cemetery the main flag is lowered to half-staff 30 minutes before the first service, where it remains until 30 minutes following the last service of the day.

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery has the following burial site options:

- Casket: in-ground only
- Cremation: in-ground
- Cremation: above-ground columbaria

The administration office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on designated holidays.

Visiting the Cemetery

Thousands of people visit Sacramento Valley National Cemetery each year. Many come for a committal service or to visit the gravesite of a loved one. Others attend special observances or to enjoy the peaceful setting. We welcome all visitors to this shrine for our nation's heroes.

The cemetery is open to the public daily from dawn until dusk for visitation of cemetery grounds. Specific gravesites can be found by visiting the office or by using the automated gravesite locator kiosk. A Nationwide Gravesite Locator for national cemeteries is also available on the Internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

General cemetery information is available in the office. Visitors to specific gravesites may park along the roadside near the gravesite they are visiting. Restrooms are located near the office.

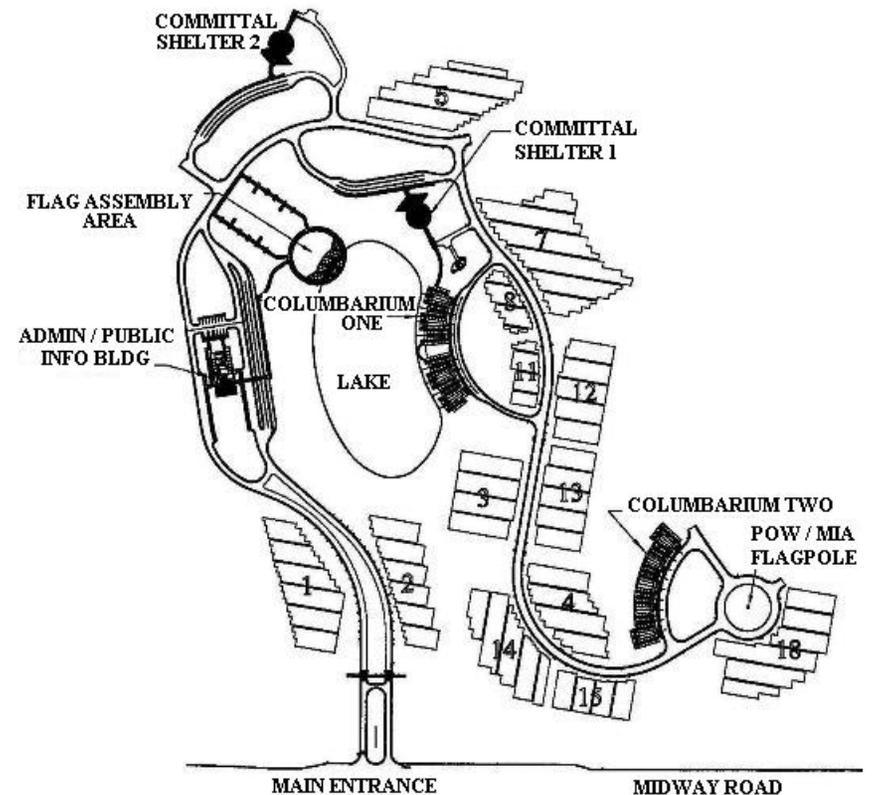
Visitors attending committal services should gather at the designated funeral formation area near the administration office. Roadway parking is available throughout the cemetery and near the committal shelter during services. Special observances and ceremonies are held at the assembly area.



Patriotic ceremonies are held throughout the year including a Memorial Day ceremony on the last Monday in May and a Wreaths Across America ceremony on the second Saturday in December. For the times of ceremonies, call the cemetery office at: (707) 693-2460.

While we invite visitors to Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, we remind them of its solemn purpose and ask that they act in a dignified manner while on the cemetery grounds. For this reason, public gatherings of a partisan nature are not permitted. Weapons and firearms are not permitted. In addition, sports or recreational activities are not permitted, including:

- Bicycle riding
- Jogging
- Picnicking
- Roller blading
- Walking of pets
- Fishing or hunting



DIRECTIONS:

Take I-80 East. Exit 60 for Midway Road/Lewis Road. Merge onto Midway Road. Cemetery will be on the right side of the road.

Front Entrance

The sign will be on the right as you approach on Midway Road.



Administration Office

Stop here and go into office upon arrival to submit engraving form and to line up in driveway. You will be led to committal shelter...



Committal Shelter

All ceremonies begin and conclude in the committal shelter. Ceremonies ARE NOT held at the grave or columbarium (urn) niche...



All casket burials are in ground.



You can visit the closed grave after 4 p.m. the day of casket burial.

Urn placements can be in ground OR niche.



The cremation urn might not be placed the day of the ceremonies.