

**INTERIM POLICY UPDATE
ORGANIZATIONS PERFORMING MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS
AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NATIONAL CEMETERIES**

1. PURPOSE/REASON FOR ISSUE: This notice provides interim guidance to clarify National Cemetery Administration (NCA) policy regarding organizations that perform military funeral honors (“funeral honors”) at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries.

2. BACKGROUND: NCA is in the process of reviewing NCA Directive 3013, VA National Cemetery Support Committees; NCA Directive 3014, VA National Cemetery Agreements with Non-VA Entities; and the corresponding NCA Handbook, Procedures for VA National Cemetery Agreements with Non-VA Entities. Interim guidance is needed to address policies found in NCA Directives 3013 and 3014 that could be interpreted as limiting a personal representative’s choice of an organization to perform funeral honors for a decedent at a VA national cemetery.

3. POLICY:

a. All organizations performing funeral honors at VA national cemeteries, to include volunteer honors guards, will:

i. Comply with regulations codified in 38 CFR § 38.619, Requests for interment, committal services or memorial services, and funeral honors.

ii. Complete and maintain a valid VA Form 40-10190, Funeral Honors Providers Certification.

iii. No longer be required to comply with the provisions of NCA Directives 3013 and 3014, and the corresponding NCA Handbook 3014, effective the date of this Notice.

iv. No longer be required to register as volunteers with the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (formerly VA Voluntary Service, or “VAVS”).

b. This Notice has no effect on other volunteer organizations (e.g., cemetery support committees, Memorial Day planning committees, etc.) that NCA maintains a current agreement with to provide services to VA national cemeteries. These other organizations’ compliance with NCA Directives 3013 and 3014 and NCA Handbook 3014 remains unchanged.

c. This Notice is not intended to discourage members of organizations performing funeral honors from registering as volunteers with the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement if they choose to do so.

4. ACTION: NCA will consider policy updates affecting volunteer organizations that provide support services to VA national cemeteries.

5. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: NCA Policy and Regulatory Service (42E), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, is responsible for the contents of this notice.

6. EXPIRATION: This notice will remain in effect until incorporated into an NCA directive.

/s/
Matthew T. Quinn
Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs

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