

Order of Services at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery

Upon arrival at the cemetery, the next of kin or an immediate family member must check in at the office 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time and provide the following items:

- The *urn* and *burial permits* unless the funeral home delivers the urn or casket.
- *Burial flag* for the veteran's military honors. We will provide a burial flag if the funeral home does not.
- *Monument inscription form*.
- *Death certificate photocopy*.
- *If applicable, payment of the dependent burial fee*.

Please respect the cemetery representative's guidance and the 30-minute service time allotment. The service will begin promptly as scheduled.

Services are held in either the chapel or the outdoor committal shelter. The cemetery representative will meet with the next of kin at the venue 10 to 15 minutes prior to the start of the service. If military honors are to be rendered, the cemetery representative will ensure proper set up and coordination of all components of the military honors ceremony and the flag recipient will be seated in the proper location.

For the veteran's military honors, the first 10 minutes of the half-hour service time will consist of:

- Taps and the flag-folding ceremony with presentation of the burial flag to the next of kin. The ceremony is performed by the honor guard of the veteran's branch of service.
- Other support groups may participate in honoring the veteran, including rifle volleys, if a local support group is available.
- The 20 minutes remaining after the honors ceremony may be utilized however the family desires.

Dependent services do not have a military component; therefore, the full 30 minutes are available for the family to plan as they desire. Please note that the cemetery does not provide clergy; the family or next of kin is responsible for inviting a pastor.

At the conclusion of the service, the cemetery representative will invite family and guests to observe the interment. Invited clergy may say a graveside blessing.

For an in-ground cremation inurnment, the representative will ask that everyone remain at curbside until the cemetery personnel steps away, at which point, access to the gravesite is welcome. Casket burials require several hours to complete, so the family may return later in the afternoon or the following day to visit their loved one's gravesite. Floral arrangements may be laid on the gravesite at the completion of burial either by cemetery personnel or by the family.

For an above-ground placement in a columbaria niche, the family is invited to gather around and be a part of the placement of the urn.

The burial is the conclusion of the service.