



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Fort Logan National Cemetery
4400 West Kenyon Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80236

Dear Friends of Fort Logan National Cemetery,

Our partnership is extremely important to me, my staff and the Veterans and families who utilize both our services and our experience with grief and comfort services.

I am writing today to reconnect with you and your staff regarding the committal services provided by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) for burials at Fort Logan National Cemetery and all VA national cemeteries, and briefly elaborate on some of the exciting changes for Fort Logan. Committal services are made available upon request by funeral home directors and families, as part of the veteran's VA burial benefit. As the sixth busiest VA national cemetery in the Nation, our commitment to providing Veterans and families with 20 minute committal services to honor their service and sacrifice comes with limitations, specifically the time period we have at the committal shelter.

Committal services at NCA national cemeteries are held in permanent shelters, rather than at the gravesite. This ensures privacy for the family, a fitting location for military honors, and enhances the ability of our staff to continue burial operations without interruption. Although we have three such shelters on the grounds, demand for their use may be especially heavy at certain times. Committal services are intended to be brief, and can't exceed 20 minutes in length. Because of the number of families we serve, disregarding our time limitations takes away from other families and their experience. Those wishing to visit the gravesite are asked to wait until after 4 p.m. the same day of their loved one's committal service, in order to allow all burials in that area to be completed safely and timely. Requests for the blessing of a gravesite should be made prior to the date of burial.

Next of kin wishing to *only witness* the placement of their loved one's cremated or casketed remains (a witness only) may request this in lieu of a committal service. Please stress that this is not something that follows a committal service, and it is not a graveside service. Cemetery personnel will escort the family directly to the gravesite, where the remains will be placed immediately and covered. There will not be a committal service, military honors, or additional activities at the gravesite, because equipment can't operate when the family is standing nearby, therefore, our operations can not continue.

When working with Veterans and families regarding their loved one's committal service, please explain time limitations and committal service expectations prior to arriving at Fort Logan National Cemetery. Some of the newer procedures we have, or are implementing:

- Memorial Services only (no burial) at 3 pm and 3:15 pm.

- Families will not be allowed to have a Memorial service, followed by a no service witness at a later date.
- We are distributing templates to assist the family in understanding the options for headstone inscriptions and space. Please note the lines that are standard formatting.
- The cemetery representative will still provide an envelope with a map, rules for the grounds and floral regulations at each committal service. However, in an effort to streamline operations and reduce our environmental impact, **we will no longer provide “mock” headstone sheets as of October 1, 2018.** We are required to order the marker 7 days after the burial, regardless of additional information that was or wasn't added.
- We are increasing our efforts to communicate directly with the families prior to, and following the service. This will reduce your workload per family.
- We will continue to only allow subsequent caskets, and subsequent cremations going into a crypt, on the top of the hour timeslots. As a reminder, crypt sections are: 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 31-46, 48, 50, 52, 54, and 56.
- Please remember to check-in with Admin before pulling into our service yard for a No Service transfer.
- No Service witnesses will continue to be allowed between the hours of 9:00a to 2:30pm.
- We have standardized our Floral item pickup on the property. It now takes place on the 2nd Thursday of each month. There was no change to the dates or items.
- There have been a few additional emblems of belief added to the approved list.

Please remember that it is the responsibility of the Funeral Home or family to schedule military honors. Fort Logan can't schedule honors for the families. To assist you:

Army: (719) 526-3144/ Fax 719-526-8492

Navy: (800) 326-9631/ Fax 619-532-3941

Air Force: (720) 847-6668/ Fax 720-847-6105

Marines: (866) 826-3628/ Fax 703-432-9248

Coast Guard: (314) 606-6792/ Fax 314-269-2745

Thank you so much for your continued dedication and service to our Veterans and families. Please feel free to contact me personally at any time, (303) 761-0117.

Sincerely,



MAT S. WILLIAMS
Cemetery Director