



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

Committal Services at Fort Logan National Cemetery

Fort Logan, like other National Cemeteries, has numerous differences from a private cemetery. A private cemetery might only have one or two burials scheduled for an entire day. Fort Logan, being the sixth busiest National Cemetery in the nation, averages around 18. The higher volume, combined with burials taking place side by side throughout the day, require a shift in operations to accommodate every family that wishes to utilize this earned benefit in a timely manner. The first major difference is that National Cemeteries utilize shelters for the committal services, instead of the more traditional graveside services. Upon arrival at the shelter, the service begins with military honors (if applicable). This order is out of necessity, as the honors team might have multiple services in a row. Honors typically take about 10 minutes, after which they depart the shelter and leave the remaining time for the family. Regardless of how the remaining time is spent by the family, after 20 minutes (including honors), it is unfortunately time to return to your vehicles and depart the shelter so the next family can be afforded the same respect of starting on time. After the family departs the shelter, Fort Logan staff transfer the remains to the burial site, where the placement will be completed and prepared for visitation by 4pm, the same day. Services at National Cemeteries do not include time spent at the gravesite to witness the burial. This, again, is due to the requirements inherent in National Cemetery operations. Fortunately, a family may decide to forego the option of having the brief committal service at a shelter, if desired, and instead “witness” the placement. For cremated remains, the immediate family may watch the urn placed in the gravesite, then remain while staff close the site. For casketed burials, the immediate family may watch the lowering of the casket, but then must depart the area for safety reasons before operations can resume.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mat Williams".

Mat Williams

Cemetery Director