



WHAT TO DO BEFORE AND AFTER A VETERAN DIES



Pre-planning for a funeral with a funeral director is **highly recommended**. This does not mean **pre-paying** for the funeral. Also, veterans are strongly recommended to speak with the Macomb County Department of Veteran Services (586) 469-5315 and/or a funeral director in advance to determine what veteran benefits they are entitled to receive. Make a copy of discharge papers in advance and enclose it with the paperwork given to Macomb County Veteran Services and/or the funeral director. This information is helpful for reimbursement of some funeral costs from the Macomb County Veterans Department and Veterans Administration (VA).

Below is vital information needed when a person dies to assure that the information is recorded correctly with the State of Michigan. If the veteran owns cemetery property, include that in the "Place of Disposition" box near the bottom of the form. A copy of the cemetery contract or receipt should also be attached.

VITAL INFORMATION TO HAVE ON FILE IN CASE OF DEATH

Name:		Date of Birth:	Sex:	
Name at Birth or other Name for Personal Business (include AKA, if used):		Age:	Name and contact information of legal Funeral Representative:	
Current Residence		County:		
Birthplace (City, State or Country):		Social Security Number	Education - What is the highest degree or level of school completed?	
Race (American Indian, White, Black, etc.: (If Asian, give nationality i.e., Chinese, Filipino, Indian, etc.) Enter all that apply.		Ancestry (Mexican, Cuban, Arab, English, French, Dutch, etc. (Enter all that apply). If American Indian, enter principal tribe:	Hispanic Origin (Yes or No):	Was person ever in the U.S. Armed Forces? (Yes or No) and discharge status:
Usual Occupation (Give kind of work done during most of working life. Do not use "retired".):		Kind of business or industry:	Marital Status (Married, Never married, Widowed, Divorced) Specify:	Name of Surviving Spouse (if wife, give her name before first married:
Father's Name (First, Middle, Last):		Mother's Name Before First Married (First, Middle, Last):		
Names and contact information of children, if any:				
Method of Disposition (Burial, Cremation, Entombment, Donation, Removal, Storage (Specify):		Place of Disposition (Name of Cemetery, or other location):		Location (City or Village, State):
Other family members buried in the same cemetery:				Thumbprint



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FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVE

The State of Michigan recently passed a new law which became effective June 27, 2016 that allows a person to name a Funeral Representative, who is a person with the authority to make decisions regarding the person's final arrangements and resting place after death.

Free civil legal assistance is available low or moderate income, U.S. citizens or legal residents by calling Legal Aid and Defender Association's client intake line at (877) 964-4700 (Toll-free).

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE/CREMATION

Funeral - A funeral is a service with a body present - one may still choose burial, cremation, or entombment.

Memorial Service - A memorial is a service without a body present - usually direct cremation, but could also be a direct burial with a memorial service later.

Cremation - Visitation may occur prior to cremation. A family can select a traditional viewing, a church service, and procession to a cemetery for a committal service and then end in cremation. (A committal service is a brief ritual involving prayer at the graveside following the funeral. Members of the immediate family and close friends of the deceased gather as the closed casket is lowered into the ground.) If a family wants cremation they need to use a licensed funeral professional.

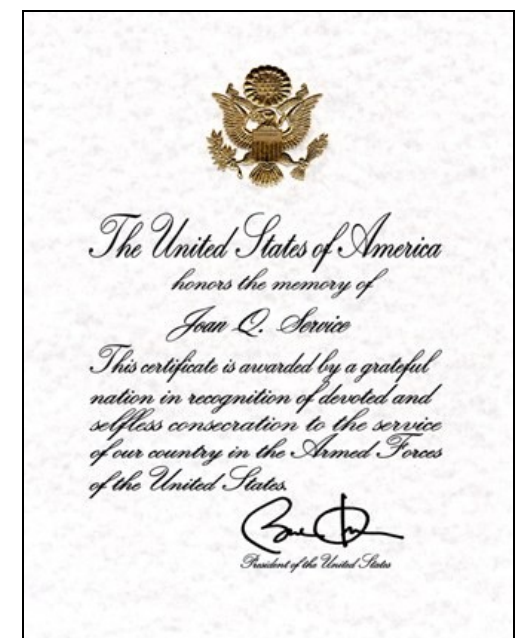
The family of the veteran is responsible for the funeral home portion of the expenses (the services and the casket). If the family needs financial help with funeral expenses, contact the Macomb County Veterans Services office at (586) 469-6507. Help available: some funeral expenses, headstone, plot, flag case, a duplicate of all medals bestowed on the veteran (this may take up to one year to receive), etc.

BURIAL

The arrangements for the burial at a VA National Cemetery is usually made by the funeral home.

Burial in a Veteran National Cemetery is available for all veterans (except those dishonorably discharged), their spouses and certain dependents (minor children and adult dependent children) - at no cost to the family and includes the grave site, grave liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. Benefits also include a burial flag (if honorably discharged) and military funeral honors.

Family members and other loved ones of deceased veterans may request Presidential Memorial Certificates. A Presidential Memorial Certificate is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans.



Presidential Memorial Certificate



DECEASED VETERAN



VET DIES UNEXPECTEDLY IN THE HOME

CALL 9-1-1

Police, Fire, EMS will respond

These flow charts were developed by the Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative (MVAC) with the assistance of Vick Funeral Home and the Macomb Medical Examiner's office and posted at: mvac.macombgov.org

For hard copies of this flow chart, contact the Macomb Department of Veteran Services, (586) 469-6507 or laura.rios@macombgov.org

OBVIOUS DEATH

Medical Examiner will be called

May release from scene

May take to the Medical Examiner's office or further investigation

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

FAMILY/FUNERAL REP. REQUESTS MILITARY HONORS*

WITHOUT MILITARY HONORS

BURIAL AT GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETARY

PRIVATE CEREMONY OR PRIVATE COMMITTAL SHELTER CEREMONY AT NATIONAL CEMETARY

BURIAL AT GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETARY

PRIVATE CEREMONY OR PRIVATE GRAVESITE CEREMONY

If the family needs financial help for funeral expenses, contact the Macomb County Veterans Services office at (586) 469-6507. Help available: some funeral expenses, headstone, plot, etc. Documentation required: death certificate, an itemized statement of funeral expenses paid, discharge separation documents. The family may apply for reimbursement up to two years past the date of the funeral.

RECENT DEATH

May transfer to local hospital ER

Medical Examiner (ME) contacted for review

May release from hospital

May take to the Medical Examiner's office or further investigation

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*Upon the family's request, the funeral home will contact Great Lakes National Cemetery. Many families that opt for cremation will take the cremated remains home with them for months/years before they go to the national cemetery. Usually the family will do then contact the cemetery when they are ready.

Most funeral homes can also make arrangements to schedule the Military Honors Ceremony. This Ceremony may be held at any time or place but is only performed once: at the funeral home, cemetery, luncheon after the funeral, etc. If the family wishes to make arrangements for military honors themselves, the numbers to call are: Army (502) 624-6051; Navy (877) 478-3988; Air Force (937) 257-8964; Marine Corps (703) 432-9524; Coast Guard (216) 902-6269. Every honorably discharged veteran may receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps.



DECEASED VETERAN



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VET DIES IN IN-HOME HOSPICE

CALL HOSPICE

Hospice will come out, record the death, make the pronouncement and contact the funeral home.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

FAMILY/FUNERAL REP. REQUESTS MILITARY HONORS*

WITHOUT MILITARY HONORS

BURIAL AT GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETARY

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BURIAL AT GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETARY

PRIVATE CEREMONY OR PRIVATE COMMITTAL SHELTER CEREMONY AT NATIONAL CEMETARY

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VET DIES IN A HOSPITAL OR HOSPICE CARE IN A HOSPITAL

CONTACT HOSPICE NURSE

Hospice will come out, record the death, make the pronouncement and contact the funeral home.

Family Contacts Funeral Home

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

FAMILY/FUNERAL REP. REQUESTS MILITARY HONORS*

WITHOUT MILITARY HONORS

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VET DIES IN THE STREET, HOMELESS SHELTER, ETC.

CALL 9-1-1

Police, Fire, EMS will respond

OBVIOUS DEATH

Medical Examiner will be called

Medical Examiner may release from scene

Medical Examiner may take to office for further investigation

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

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RECENT DEATH

May transfer to local hospital ER

At ER - Medical Examiner contacted for review

May release from hospital

May take to office for further investigation

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VET DIES IN A NURSING HOME

Nursing homes will usually ask the family to select a funeral home in advance of the death to avoid delay. The Medical Examiner is rarely involved unless the death was the result of an accident i.e., slip and fall.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

**FAMILY/FUNERAL
REP. REQUESTS
MILITARY HONORS***

**BURIAL AT
GREAT LAKES
NATIONAL CEMETARY**

**PRIVATE CEREMONY OR
PRIVATE COMMITTAL
SHELTER CEREMONY AT
NATIONAL CEMETARY**

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**WITHOUT MILITARY
HONORS**

**BURIAL AT
GREAT LAKES
NATIONAL CEMETARY**

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