



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Best known of more than one hundred national cemeteries in the United States, Arlington's green slopes shelter veterans from every war that has involved the nation. Over 245,000 servicemen and their family members rest on the 612 acres of Virginia land across the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial. About 20 burials are conducted every weekday.

All who are remembered here have this in common: service to their country. To each one, no matter what rank or station, whether decorated hero or unknown, belongs a place of honor. Though the majority of those buried here have been servicemen, many women who have contributed to our Armed Forces are also interred within these hallowed grounds.

The granite and marble markers and memorials reflect the tides of American history, beginning in the Civil War and cresting since in times of armed conflict. The sinking of the USS *Maine* at Havana harbor, Cuba, in 1898 touched off the Spanish-American War and added graves of sailors near the salvaged mast of the ship. Like that of the troops who served under his command, the headstone for John J. Pershing, World War I's General of the Armies, is a simple standard-issue marker. World War II is represented by such distinguished persons as Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy and General George C. Marshall. From Korea and the Vietnam jungles came the remains of other veterans to this sacred spot. Cape Cod stones frame the eternal flame at the grave of President John F. Kennedy, where the words "with history the final judge of our deeds . . ." are quoted from his inaugural address.

By tradition, American military cemeteries developed from the duty of command-

ers on the frontier and in battle to care for their casualties. When Civil War casualties overflowed hospitals and burial grounds near Washington, D.C., Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs proposed in 1864 that 200 acres of the Robert E. Lee family property at Arlington be taken for a cemetery. "The grounds about the mansion," Meigs wrote, "are admirably adapted to such a use."

Burials had in fact begun at Arlington before the ink was even blotted on Meigs's proposal. By war's end, 16,000 graves filled the spaces close to the house. Heir to the property Custis Lee sued the government for disputing his claim to ownership. After the Supreme Court ruled in Lee's favor, Congress paid him \$150,000 for title to the land.

From the portico of Arlington House, known today as the Robert E. Lee Memorial, an official national day of remembrance was proclaimed in 1868 as a day to decorate the graves of the fallen. The Memorial Amphitheater, one of the most visited sections in Arlington

National Cemetery, is now the setting for these observances. Flags bedeck the circle of arches around marble benches and the podium where leaders pay tribute to those who served. Presidential wreaths are presented each Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Just east of the amphitheater, visitors attend the timeless rituals of honor at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Here a sentinel of the Third U.S. Infantry maintains the vigil around the clock. The sentinel paces 21 steps down the mat before the tomb, pauses 21 seconds, and returns. The changing of the guard takes place every hour (or half-hour from April through September). "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God" reads the inscription on the sarcophagus of the World War I soldier entombed here in 1921. Joining their comrade, unknown servicemen from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam lie in crypts beneath slabs flush with the terrace paving.

A funeral with full military honors is a dignified and moving occasion. An honor guard accompanies the American flag-draped coffin drawn by matched horses. A band plays solemn marches while muffled drums beat the slow cadence for the procession. Before the remains are lowered, a squad fires three rifle volleys and a bugler blows the long notes of "Taps." Finally the guard folds the flag and presents it to the next of kin.

Symbols of human struggle and sacrifice, the stones and monuments of Arlington National Cemetery are steeped in history. In their time, all buried here, taken from many walks of life, creeds, and races, answered their country's call. Their stories will be remembered.



Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., October through March
8 a.m. to 7 p.m., April through September

Getting Around

Signs direct visitors arriving by car to parking (fee) at the visitors center. From Metro Blue Line, the visitors center is a 5-minute walk along Memorial Drive. A tourmobile (fee) provides guided tours. Handicapped visitors and persons wishing to visit a private gravesite may obtain a temporary pass to drive into the cemetery.

Information

- Gravesite locations and general information may be obtained at the visitors center seven days a week.
- Fresh cut flowers may be placed on graves at any time. Flags decorate each gravesite on Memorial Day weekend but are not permitted on graves at any other time.
- A bookshop is in the visitors center.

For information about burial at Arlington:

Office of the Superintendent
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA 22211
(703) 695-3250

Points of Interest

The grounds of Arlington National Cemetery are divided into numbered and lettered sections as indicated on the map. Personnel at the visitors center can provide the grid coordinates for a particular gravesite and help you locate the spot on this map. This map also highlights frequently visited sites. The shaded portion suggests a loop tour of sites within walking distance of the visitors center.

Visitors to Arlington should know that the cemetery is a shrine, not a place for recreation, picnics, or child's play.

Thank you for respecting the feelings of those attending a burial.

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- 1 President John F. Kennedy
- 2 Robert F. Kennedy, the President's brother, Attorney General, and Senator
- 3 Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Civil War veteran and Supreme Court Justice
- 4 Equestrian statue of Sir John Dill, British Field Marshal, WWII
- 5 Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., first black American four-star general, USAF
- 6 Richard E. Byrd, Jr., Admiral and polar explorer, Medal of Honor
- 7 Joe Louis (Barrow), world heavyweight champion boxer, WWII veteran
- 8 Tomb of the Unknowns
- 9 Nurses Memorial, Spanish-American War to the present
- 10 Audie Murphy, most decorated WWII soldier
- 11 Mast of USS *Maine*, sunk in Havana harbor
- 12 Memorial to the crew of the space shuttle *Challenger*
- 13 Iran Rescue Mission Memorial for servicemen killed in hostage rescue attempt
- 14 Tomb of Unknown Civil War Dead, remains of 2,111 Union soldiers
- 15 Arlington House, restored memorial to Confederate General Robert E. Lee
- 16 Pierre Charles L'Enfant, designer of the capital city, reinterred here in 1909
- 17 William Howard Taft, President and Chief Justice
- 18 Confederate Monument, marking a section for burial of Confederate soldiers
- 19 Section 27, dedicated to U.S. Colored Troops and residents of Freedman's Village
- 20 Iwo Jima, the United States Marine Corps Memorial
- 21 Anita Newcomb McGee, organizer of Army Nurse Corps

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