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Subject: [gassar_bom] instrns for NATIONAL CEMETERY BURIAL
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Many of our SAR compatriots, and/or their spouses, served in our nation's armed forces and both are thus entitled to be buried in a national cemetery. One of my OCS classmates recently went through the process of qualifying for burial- hopefully in the far distant future, and he sent me the following information, with some minor editorial changes made by me, which you might want to pass along to your chapter members who are veterans and might desire burial in a national cemetery.. Here goes:

You will need to complete an application, (VA Form 40-10007), which can be accessed and printed from the VA website. VA.GOV, for burial in a national cemetery. It doesn't take long. To help you prepare, there is certain information you will need to have available, or send with the completed VA Form 40-10007:

- A copy of your DD-214. (the "member 4" copy is what the VA always wants). It's indicated in the lower right corner. Don't send them your original member 4 copy, but a notarized copy of it will suffice. Be sure to keep all member copies of your DD214 in your file/notebook, especially the member 4 copy.
- Your Social Security #
- Date of birth
- Your VA claim number - - if you have one.
- Your Place of Birth
- Marital status
- Branch of Service
- Each service period Dates (from – to) Active Duty and Reserves

Character of Discharge (honorable, obviously)

- Highest Rank achieved during each period of service. It might help to include your DD214 for each period of service. I have two - - one for the time I was an enlisted member up to when I was made a commissioned officer after completing OCS. My second one is for the time I was an officer.
- If you are married you can also send in a copy of your marriage license so your wife can be buried in the same grave site.
- You need to select the National Cemetery that you want to be buried in and put that on the application. You should know that some cemeteries are full and are not accepting new burials (Arlington and Marietta National).. Call the cemetery you're interested in to be sure of its present status. The National Cemetery at Canton has plenty of available space at this time. If the cemetery you select has space, you can get it when needed. Please be aware that going through this procedure does not reserve a burial plot for you, nor can you specify where within the cemetery you want to be buried. The cemetery will make that determination when the time comes.
- It is suggested that you start a file or notebook that contains everything your survivors will need: -your will, DD-214(s), list of checking & savings accounts "(copies of recent statements will help), and safety deposit box information, and key/combination), investment advisors and current status of each investment, power-of attorney (whomever you want to handle your affairs), insurance policies and contacts, copy of your obituary(written by you - - saying what & how you want it said.) and wishes for your funeral. Be sure your file/notebook is in a secure place and your survivor knows where it is.
- I was told by the local National Cemetery I selected that I do not need to fill out a form for my wife especially since I sent a copy of our marriage certificate.
- If there isn't a National Cemetery near you, you can use a State one and I believe it explains how to accomplish that process. Check with a VA counselor if you have any questions

VA counselor if you have any questions.

One other thing you need to include in your file/notebook is the password to your computer if you keep any private information on it that your survivor might need. There was an SAR National Chairman who passed, and the SAR is still trying to access information he had under password protection on his computer. Your deepest secrets won't matter when you're no longer accountable or answerable for them, but you might want to purge those things now you don't want your survivor to see..

Good luck with your application if you choose this route which makes a lot of sense since the only cost will be your casket and a service other than the one at the National Cemetery.

Again, you should note that completing the above procedure DOES NOT guarantee or reserve a space for you in a National Cemetery, but it does prequalify you so that when the Inevitable happens your family won't have to take the time and effort to do it. You will be notified by the VA when your application is approved. Be sure to keep the approval notification in your file/notebook.

I realize some of you might be concerned about giving such private and confidential information to the VA, but as a retiree of the VA who handled literally thousands of documents containing such information, I can assure you that the VA goes beyond every step imaginable to maintain confidentiality and safeguard your information. I, personally, would have no hesitation in providing the information. Furthermore, you'd be surprised how much the VA already knows about you.

Many Thanks to COL Carey Cole, USAR, ret. for sharing this information.

Yours in Patriotism,

Bill Kabel,

Past Chairman, GA Veterans Committee

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