

Burial in a Private Cemetery

You may want to ask the following questions when preparing for burial in a private cemetery:

- When responding to an offer of a “free” gravesite for veterans, ask if there is a requirement to purchase an additional gravesite.
- If an additional gravesite is required, where will it be located and what is the cost?
- What type of trust fund does the cemetery have to protect buyers?
- Are there restrictions on the type of headstone or marker that can be used to mark the grave?
- Does the cemetery require a special marker base to be purchased prior to ordering a free government marker for a veteran's grave?
- Is there an additional cost for the placement, setting or care of a free government headstone or marker? Is it more than if a private headstone or marker is purchased?
- Is an outside container (usually called a “vault” or “graveliner”) required and how much does it cost?
- What is being received and what is required by the company? Is it guaranteed in writing?

We suggest that if burial will be in a private cemetery and a government headstone or marker will be requested for the veteran’s grave, that the family complete, in advance, *VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker*, and place it with the veteran’s military discharge papers for use at the time of need.

Only an eligible veteran may receive a government-provided headstone or marker for placement in a private cemetery. Veterans’ spouses and dependent children are not eligible.