



# Biography

Department of the Army



## Mr. John G. Knapp Superintendent Army National Military Cemeteries



John G. Knapp was appointed as the Superintendent of Army National Military Cemeteries, consisting of Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) and the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, effective July 13, 2025. In this key role, he reports directly to the Executive Director of Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC) and oversees the comprehensive management and administration of these distinguished facilities. This includes making critical, independent decisions that significantly influence the total management and daily operations of these highly visible and historic cemeteries.

Knapp leads a workforce of more than 200 Department of the Army civilians and active-duty Army commissioned and non-commissioned officers. He manages an annual operating budget of \$100 million. His responsibilities include collaborating with interagency and intra-government entities to achieve sustainable solutions in accordance with governing laws, policies and regulations. His duties also include regular interaction with Congressional committees, Army senior leadership and the media, as well as representing the Army at national events.

Knapp brings over a decade of cemetery operational experience, having led at several of the nation's largest and busiest national cemeteries. He has been responsible for more than 50,000 veteran and eligible family member burials at these national shrines.

Knapp's military service spanned 32 years, from 1980 to 2012. He served in both active and reserve components of the U.S. Army Reserve and the U.S. Marine Corps. He rose through the ranks from an enlisted soldier to a commissioned officer and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Marine Corps.

Mr. Knapp is married to the former Heather Wiltanger of Oil City, Pennsylvania. They have three children, Blu, Oak and Raspberry.

## **CAREER CHRONOLOGY:**

### **2014-2025: Cemetery Administrator**

- Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, MN
  - Fargo National Cemetery, Harwood, ND
  - Northwoods National Cemetery, Harshaw, WI
- Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL
  - Bay Pines National Cemetery, St. Petersburg, FL
- Acting Director / Oversight:
  - Tallahassee National Cemetery, Tallahassee, FL
  - South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth, FL
  - Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo, AL
  - Fort Mitchell National Cemetery, Fort Mitchell, AL
  - Fort McClelland Post and EPW Cemeteries, Anniston, AL

### **2006-2014: Supervisory—Deputy Chief of Plans**

- U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, G-5 Plans Branch, Camp H.M. Smith, HI

### **1980-2012: Service in the U.S. Armed Forces**

- U.S. Marine Corps (1985-2012): Active and Reserve Service, Retired Lieutenant Colonel, AV-8B Harrier Pilot (7509), Military Police Officer (5803)
- U.S. Army Reserve (1980-1985): Reserve Service, Sergeant, Military Police Officer (31B)

## **EDUCATION:**

- Oklahoma University, M.A., International Relations
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, MBA, Aviation
- Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, B.S., Secondary Education

## **SIGNIFICANT TRAINING AND LICENSES:**

- Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Leadership VA (LVA), Washington, D.C.

## **CERTIFICATIONS:**

- Naval Aviator Designation, Fixed Wing (“Wings of Gold”)
- Federal Aviation Administration Commercial Pilot Certificate, Airplane Single Engine Land, Instrument
- Pennsylvania Teaching License, Secondary Education

## **SIGNIFICANT AWARDS AND HONORS:**

- Department of Veterans Affairs ICARE Medal, awarded directly by the Secretary, Veterans Affairs

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS:**

- Marine Corps Association
- Marine Corps League
- American Legion

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