



Tips for a Successful Ceremony Experience at Arlington National Cemetery

PURPOSE OF CEREMONIES

All ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) must solely honor the memory of those interred, inurned or memorialized at ANC; individuals who died while serving in the U.S. military during a specific conflict; or those who died while serving in a particular military unit.

CEREMONY GUIDELINES

- Changes can be made to your ceremony—such as selecting a new date and time—up to two weeks before your event date.
Please click the link in the confirmation email you received with this document. You may **change or cancel** your request by scrolling to the bottom and clicking the link. **All changes will be subject to final review and approval by Arlington National Cemetery.**
- All participants and spectators must familiarize themselves with the visitor rules for Arlington National Cemetery: www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Visit/Visitor-Tips. For more detailed information about visitor rules, scroll to the bottom of the webpage and read the Code of Federal Regulations: 32 CFR § 553.33.
- Participants in Public Wreath Ceremonies must follow all instructions provided by Tomb Guards and/or cemetery officials.
- Ceremonies must not include any partisan political activities. Partisan political activities include, but are not limited to:
 - Ceremonies that include commentary in support of, or in opposition to, or attempts to influence any current policy of the armed forces, the government of the United States of America or any U.S. state.
 - Ceremonies that endorse a political party's cause or has a primary purpose to gain publicity or engender support for any cause.
 - Ceremonies that are closely related by time, intent or location to partisan activities conducted outside the cemetery.
- Disorderly conduct is strictly prohibited. Disorderly conduct may be defined as, but is not limited to, the following behaviors:
 - Engaging, promoting, encouraging, aiding or abetting threatening, violent or tumultuous behavior.



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- Yelling, uttering loud and boisterous language, or making other unreasonably loud noise.
 - Interrupting or disturbing a memorial service or ceremony.
 - Voicing abusive, profane, indecent or provocative language or gestures meant to incite an immediate breach of peace.
 - Obstructing movement on the streets, sidewalks or pathways of the cemetery grounds.
 - Disobeying a request by a cemetery official to disperse or to leave the cemetery grounds.
 - Creating a hazardous environment that impacts the safety and well-being of visitors or staff members.
- For a list of items prohibited to bring into the cemetery, please visit www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Visit/Security.
 - For customers with disabilities, please visit <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Visit/Visitors-with-Disabilities>.
 - For parking guidelines, please visit www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Visit/Parking.
 - You must contact Arlington National Cemetery's Public Affairs Office if you plan to invite external media or professional photographers to your ceremony. Note: Media requests are **NOT** approved until you have received authorization from this office. They can be reached at: 703-614-0024.
 - All ceremonies are scheduled at the discretion of Arlington National Cemetery. **Ceremonies are subject to cancellation or rescheduling** due to official U.S. government ceremonies, inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
 - Public Wreath Ceremonies shall be open to all members of the public to observe.

ORDERING A WREATH

- The individual or group laying the wreath is responsible for supplying the wreath and ensuring the wreath is present on the day of the ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Arlington National Cemetery cannot recommend specific florists.



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- The wreath must be delivered **no earlier than 24 hours before** the scheduled Public Wreath Laying ceremony, and **no later than three hours before** the ceremony. You are responsible for ensuring that your local florist can access Arlington National Cemetery to deliver the wreath.
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- Decorations, banners, or ribbons adhered to wreaths may include names of organizations or individuals dedicating the wreath. However, commercial logos may not be displayed on the wreath. Standard lettering spelling the name of the company may be displayed. **Wreaths may not give the appearance of endorsing a particular organization, cause, movement, non-profit organization, commercial entity or political campaign.** Wreaths are considered gifts to The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and will not be returned.
- **Recommended dimensions for wreaths are 24-36 inches wide.** The wreath may not be wider than 36 inches at its widest point. The wreath height from the ground, including the stand, may not exceed 54 inches. The wreath must be circular in nature with a hollow center (not including any banners/ribbons). Handmade wreaths are allowed; however, they must present a professional and neat appearance.