



ARLINGTON
NATIONAL CEMETERY
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FACT SHEET

APRIL 2024



U.S. ARMY

Extended Suspension of Caisson Platoon Funeral Operations at Arlington National Cemetery

The Army announced the extended suspension of caisson support to funerals services at Arlington National Cemetery. Though some families will be impacted by these changes, Arlington National Cemetery and the Army are working to minimize disruptions and ensure families can appropriately honor loved ones.

What will change without the caisson platoon?

Without the caisson platoon, veterans' remains will be transported to the gravesite by a hearse or cemetery representative vehicle. All other aspects of funeral honors with escort will remain in place, including the service band, escort platoon, firing party, body bearers, and bugler, as pictured on this page.

Why did the Army extend the suspension?

The initial suspension in caisson operations sought to provide the time necessary to allow horses with hoof, joint or muscle issues to have a more deliberate and adequate rest and rehabilitation cycle; however, veterinarians and the herd manager determined that additional time was required to provide the specialized care needed to rehabilitate the current herd adequately. This included the need to identify additional facilities and pastures, enhance training and modernize equipment and facilities to decrease future injuries.



Will any horses participate in funeral honors during this suspension?

Yes. As of late June 2023, a riderless horse is trailing the hearse in funerals for Army and Marine Corps officers who retired at O-6 and above if available.



Where can I obtain updates on the status of the caisson?

Arlington National Cemetery staff will inform families of the continued suspension during the funeral scheduling process.

As ANC has additional information to share on the availability of caisson funeral support, updates will be posted on the ANC website at: www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.