



# ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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## FACT SHEET

### Private Markers

Since December 2017, Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) no longer accepts requests for new private markers. It is imperative that families do not create, order from a vendor or coordinate to install a private marker.

ANC no longer has appropriate space available for placement of new private markers due to extremely limited space in the thirteen authorized sections, and due to interment challenges—growth of trees, landscape provisions and safety concerns for families and staff—in older sections.

Families that currently have private markers, or foresee a secondary interment or inscription, are reminded that the perpetual care of these headstones is the family's responsibility.

#### PERPETUAL CARE FOR EXISTING PRIVATE MARKERS

- Private markers are to be maintained by the estate or next-of-kin into perpetuity. This includes updating inscriptions for subsequent interments and replacing the private marker if it becomes unsightly or unsafe.
- The estate or next-of-kin must be willing and able to assume this long-term responsibility.
- Arlington National Cemetery may remove or replace a private marker with a government marker in the event that it becomes unsightly, unsafe or is not maintained. This includes updating inscriptions for subsequent decedents to ensure that the veteran and any interred family members are properly commemorated.
- The template for updated or replacement private markers must meet the specifications provided in the Arlington National Cemetery Memorialization Policy.
- Ledgers, markers of freestanding cross design, narrow shafts, mausoleums and over-ground vaults are prohibited.
- Any replacement of an existing private marker may not exceed four feet in width and four feet in height, including both the base and the die.



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### GUIDELINES FOR PRIVATE MARKER INSCRIPTIONS

INSCRIPTION <u>MUST</u> INCLUDE:	<u>PROHIBITED</u> INSCRIPTIONS INCLUDE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name of eligible service member</li><li>• Full names for all decedents interred in the location</li><li>• Dates of birth and death for all decedents interred in the location</li><li>• Service information (rank, branch of service and qualifying awards) for all interred service members</li><li>• Relationship to the veteran (spouse, child, etc.) for all interred non-service members</li><li>• Section and grave number in the bottom left corner on the back of the marker</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information for surviving spouses (markers may include space for a planned engraving for a surviving spouse)</li><li>• Names of persons, organizations, fraternities or societies responsible for the purchase and erection of the private marker</li><li>• Names of persons not interred in the location (with the exception of the eligible service member)</li><li>• Text or images deemed to be disrespectful or not in accordance with National Shrine standards</li><li>• Inscriptions utilizing a script other than the Latin alphabet</li></ul>

The estate or next-of-kin will be asked to approve the design of a government marker template, which will be used to order a government marker if the private marker is not maintained in accordance with the Arlington National Cemetery Memorialization Policy.

### SECONDARY PRIVATE MARKER TEMPLATE REVIEW AND APPROVAL TIMELINES

To ensure that all decedents interred at Arlington National Cemetery are fully and properly commemorated in accordance with PL111-339, strict timelines for the update of private markers are included in the Arlington National Cemetery Memorialization Policy.

- Templates for inscription update requests must be provided to Arlington National Cemetery within 60 days of the subsequent interment.
- Inscription updates must be completed within 60 days of notification of approval.

Failure to meet these deadlines will result in the retraction of approval for the update and the setting of a government marker that fully commemorates all decedents interred in that location.