



ARLINGTON
NATIONAL CEMETERY
HONOR • REMEMBER • EXPLORE

FACT SHEET

APRIL 8, 2025



U.S. ARMY

Reintegration of Limited Caisson Support for Funerals at Arlington National Cemetery

On April 8, 2025, the U.S. Army announced the limited reintegration of the caisson into funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery. The limited reintegration was necessary to ensure the safe and sustainable reintegration of the caisson horses into the unique and dynamic environment of an active cemetery.

The initial phase provides the use of the caisson as a conveyance for two funerals per day, up to 10 per week, beginning the week of June 2.

Background

Based on guidance from veterinary care professionals, the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (MDW) suspended caisson support to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) on May 1, 2023, for an interim 45-day period to support military working equid health management. Additional health assessments further extended the suspension until April 8, 2025.

During the suspension, the Army remained committed to resuming full and sustainable caisson operations at ANC by focusing on five critical areas: facility renovation, horse procurement, horse health and fitness, training and assessment, and talent management. Great progress has been made in these five areas. An initial limited reintegration will allow the Army to maintain the dignity and solemnity of services, while prioritizing the well-being of horses and soldiers.

Eligibility for Caisson Support During the Initial Phase

Those eligible for caisson support during the initial reintegration phase include:

- Service members killed in action, regardless of rank;
- Recipients of the Medal of Honor or the Prisoner of War Medal (POW), regardless of rank;
- Senior noncommissioned officers (E-9);
- Senior warrant officers (CW-5);
- Senior commissioned officers (O-6 and above);
- The fewer than 25 service members whose family members elected to wait for the return of the caisson conveyance over the past two years.

No changes will be made for those eligible for full military funeral honors with escort using alternative conveyance, including warrant officers (CW-4) and commissioned officers (O-4, O-5). There is no impact to other full military funeral honors with escort elements, including the service band, escort platoon, firing party, body bearers and bugler.

As additional information on the reintegration is released, updates regarding the availability of caisson funeral support will be posted on the ANC website: www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.