



**Arizona  
Department of  
Veterans' Services**

**Southern Arizona Veterans'  
Memorial Cemetery  
in  
Sierra Vista**

**1300 S. Buffalo Soldier Trail, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635**

**Phone: (520)458-7144, Fax: (520)458-4700**

**Email: [avmc-sv@azdvs.gov](mailto:avmc-sv@azdvs.gov)**



# Welcome to the Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery



We are located at 1300 Buffalo Soldier Trail in Sierra Vista, Arizona. Take Exit 302 and drive south from I-10 approx. 30 miles. We are located 1 mile south of the main gate of Ft. Huachuca

Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery is located on 145 acres of high desert landscaped property at the base of the Huachuca Mountains.

The cemetery was made possible by a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs to the State of Arizona, authorizing the State to operate and maintain the Veterans' Cemetery.

Our first interment occurred December 3, 2002. Reservations are not accepted. Interment is on a first come, first served basis.

Beautification projects at SAVMC are funded by the Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Foundation. Donations to beautification projects can be made [www.savmcf.org](http://www.savmcf.org).

## **BURIAL BENEFITS**

Burial is open to all members of the Armed Forces including National Guard and reservists, and Veterans discharged from active duty under Honorable conditions (with certain exceptions).

Their spouses, un-remarried widow or widower, minor children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult dependent children may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran. Also eligible for burial are members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, National Guard, and Reserve Officer Training Corps who die while on active duty for training or performing service, or who have 20 years of service in reserve components of the Armed Forces creditable for retired pay.

Burial in the cemetery includes a gravesite, opening and closing of the gravesite, a concrete liner (casket burials only), government marker, and perpetual care at no cost. Spaces are assigned at the time of need and may not be reserved. SAVMC provides two gravesite options: in-ground casket burial and columbarium urn burial.

## **COMMITTAL SERVICES**

All services are held at the committal shelter rather than at the gravesite. This insures the family's safety and provides a suitable location for military honors, along with the ability of our staff to continue burial operations. The date and time of committal services are scheduled once eligibility has been determined.

## **BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The next of kin or the family's funeral director of choice may make arrangements directly with SAVMC staff. Before burial can take place, cemetery staff must verify the Veteran's eligibility. To do this, the cemetery staff must be provided a copy of the Veteran's properly signed discharge papers, or the Veteran's service, Social Security, and VA claim numbers. There is no charge for interment for Veterans, and a nominal fee eligible spouses and dependents. National Guard and Reservist service members are eligible for interment, but must pay a \$948 fee plus the cost of a marker.

## **HONOR GUARD AND CLERGY**

The engaging of clergy, buglers, and military honor guards is done by the family or the funeral home of the family's choosing. The cemetery does not provide these services.

## **MARKERS AND INSCRIPTIONS**

Immediately after the interment, each gravesite is marked with a temporary grave marker. Within five days, the permanent marker is electronically ordered based on information provided by the family on the interment application. Delivery and installation of the marker is normally completed within 90 days.

## **CEMETERY PROCEDURES**

The cemetery serves as a national shrine and therefore, its procedures have been designed to ensure that its beauty, dignity and reverent atmosphere are preserved. Please adhere to the following while on cemetery grounds:

- Do not bring pets
- No picnicking
- Place all litter in refuse containers
- Place all flowers according to the floral policy

Please discuss any specific questions with the cemetery staff or your funeral director.



## **FLORAL POLICY**

Fresh cut, artificial flowers and small flags are permitted. The arrangement may not be more than 24 inches high.

Permanent plantings, potted plants, statues, pin wheels, vigil lights, balloons, food items, breakable objects of any nature, grave blankets, and similar commemorative items are not permitted on graves at any time.

Floral items and/or other types of decorations attached to the headstone or marker will not be permitted. All flowers will be removed on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month for ground maintenance operations. If the Monday falls on a state holiday, they will be removed on the following work day.

All flowers will be removed on the 1st Monday in May at the columbaria for annual cleaning. All withered flowers will be removed upon discovery.

Any floral arrangements or items that cause turf damage to include turf stressing will be removed from gravesites at time of discovery.

Glass vases or containers are not permitted. Only temporary metal or plastic floral cones are allowed. Temporary cone containers are available and are located in bins throughout the cemetery.

Only 2 floral arrangements per site are permitted on the grave year-round. Items that are removed from the gravesite will be stored for a period of 1 month. Small US flags will be placed on gravesites by designated personnel before Memorial Day and removed thereafter.

Holiday wreaths may be permitted from December 1st through January 5th.

Florists are not permitted to deliver flowers to a grave without taking away all boxes, wrapping paper or other packaging material.

The cemetery is not responsible for lost or damaged items left on gravesites.

If you have any questions regarding the Floral Regulations please contact the cemetery.

