



Wait Times at Arlington National Cemetery

Caring for our nation's heroes and their families during their time of need is a sacred duty entrusted to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). Veterans and eligible dependents are laid to rest with dignity and honor by a compassionate and dedicated work force.

The process to schedule a burial at Arlington National Cemetery can be complex. ANC handles each family's request with the utmost care and professionalism.

Scheduling military funeral services at ANC is primarily influenced by three factors: the type of remains, military resources available and preferences of the individual family. Given the availability of military personnel for funeral honors support, coupled with an operational tempo of up to 30 funeral services per day, the wait time to schedule the most resource-intensive services at ANC has increased. The only exception is for those current-conflict active duty service members killed in action or who died of wounds. Those burials can be accommodated within two weeks of the date of death.

Services are scheduled as they come into our case management system via our Call Center; however, services for active duty service members are given priority. Generally, services for active duty service members who die of hostile wounds are scheduled first. Services for active duty service members, regardless of manner of death, are handled next.

Veterans and family members with casketed remains are subsequently scheduled, followed by services with cremated remains. ANC understands the health and safety factors involved in storing casketed remains, as well as the cost to families; therefore, these services are generally scheduled in a separate queue and before services for cremated remains which were requested at the same time. ANC schedules casketed burials within three weeks of receiving the request for burial. The service takes place when the military funeral honors for which the veteran is eligible are available.

For cremated remains, wait times are as long as nine to eleven months for a service requiring military funeral honors with funeral escort, and up to seven to eight months for a military funeral honors service without funeral escort, or for a dependent honors service.

If an immediate burial is required, the National Cemetery Administration's 137 cemeteries are wonderful alternatives which allow families to be closer for visitation and offer the same iconic look as ANC.

For more information on how to schedule a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery, please see www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Funerals/Scheduling-a-Funeral.