

Military Funeral Honors at Arlington National Cemetery

Military funeral honors provided at Arlington National Cemetery differ from those provided in other national cemeteries. There are three types of burial honors rendered at Arlington – dependent honors, military funeral honors and military funeral honors with funeral escort.

Every uniformed service member or veteran of the armed forces is eligible for military funeral honors, which are provided by the decedent's branch of service.

Military Funeral Honors

Enlisted service members, WO-1 through CW-3, and O-1 through O-3, interred/inurned at Arlington National Cemetery will receive military funeral honors.

The elements of military funeral honors include:

- A casket team (body bearers/pallbearers)
- A firing party
- A bugler
- Folding of and presentation of our national colors



Military Funeral Honors with Funeral Escort

Those military members who attained the grade of E-9, CW-4 and CW-5, and O-4 and above, or service members, regardless of rank, who receive the Medal of Honor or who are killed in action, may receive military funeral honors with funeral escort.

The elements of military funeral honors with funeral escort include:

- A casket team (body bearers/pallbearers)
- A firing party
- Bugler
- Folding of and presentation of our national colors
- An escort element (size varies according to rank of deceased)
- A military band



Those eligible for a funeral escort at Arlington National Cemetery may request the caisson, if available.

Spouse and Dependent Honors

When a spouse or other eligible dependent of a current or former member of the armed forces is buried at Arlington, the military service in which the service member served will provide a casket team and a military chaplain, if requested. No other military funeral honors will be rendered unless the spouse also served in the military.

Military Chaplain Support

A military chaplain may be scheduled by the cemetery staff, if requested, unless a family minister is desired and provided by the Primary Next-of-Kin or the funeral home.

Additional Funeral Elements

- Army and Marine Corps colonels and general officers may be provided a caparisoned (riderless) horse, if available.
- Army general officers may receive a battery cannon salute (17 guns for a four-star general, 15 for a three-star, 13 for a two-star, 11 for a one-star), if available.
- Minute Guns may be used for general officers/flag officers of the Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy, if available.
- The President of the United States is entitled to a 21-gun salute, while other high state officials receive 19 guns.

Armed Forces Funeral Honor Services

Armed forces funeral honors are the same as military funeral honors with funeral escort, with the exception that escort platoons from each of the military services participate in armed forces funeral honors. These funerals are reserved for the President of the United States (as commander-in-chief), Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff or officers granted multiple-service command.

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