

Private Markers

Effective December 2017 Arlington National Cemetery will no longer be able to accept requests for new Private Markers for funerals which are scheduled to be conducted after December 31, 2017. It is imperative that families do not create, order from a vendor, or coordinate to install a Private Marker prior to approval by Arlington National Cemetery.

ANC no longer has appropriate space available for placement of new Private Markers in the 13 authorized sections due to the extremely limited space as well as several interment challenges created in older sections, such as growth of trees, landscape and maintenance provisions, and safety concerns for families and staff working in and around these markers.

Families who currently have a Private Marker or foresee a secondary interment or inscription at Arlington National Cemetery are reminded the perpetual care of these headstones are the family's responsibility. Private Markers are not government issued, therefore accurate commemoration of individuals buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Private Markers is the immediate responsibility of the family.

Perpetual Care for Existing Private Markers

- Private Markers are to be maintained by the family into perpetuity, to include updating inscriptions for subsequent interments and replacing the private marker should it become unsightly or unsafe.
- The estate or family must be willing and able to assume this long-term responsibility.
- Failure to meet Private Marker timelines or to maintain Private Markers may result in the removal of an existing marker and the replacement of that Private Marker with a government marker.
- The template to update an existing marker must meet the specifications provided in the Arlington National Cemetery Memorialization Policy.
- Ledgers, markers of freestanding cross design, narrow shafts, mausoleums, or over-ground vaults are prohibited.

Guidelines for Private Marker Inscriptions for Gravesite Accountability

Private Marker Inscription <u>must</u> Include:	<u>Prohibited</u> Inscriptions Include:
• Name of Eligible Service Member • Full names for all decedents interred in the location • Dates of Birth and Death for all decedents interred in the location • Service information (Rank, Branch of Service, and qualifying awards) for all interred Service Members	• Information for surviving spouses (markers may include space for a planned engraving for a surviving spouse) • Names of persons, organizations, fraternities, or societies responsible for the purchase and erection of the Private Marker • Names of persons not interred in the location (with the exception of the Eligible Service Member) • Text or images deemed to be disrespectful or not in accordance with National Shrine standards • Inscriptions utilizing a script other than the Latin alphabet

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 PL 111-339, strict timelines for the update of existing Private Markers are included in the Arlington National Cemetery Memorialization Policy.

The 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 estate or Next-of-Kin fails to update, or maintain the Private Marker in accordance with 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.

Private Marker Maintenance

The Department of the Army is not responsible for Private Marker maintenance. **The estate or Next-of-Kin is responsible for maintaining the Private Marker into perpetuity.** In addition, it is the estate or Next-of-Kin's responsibility to replace damaged Private Markers. Arlington National Cemetery may remove or replace a Private Marker with a government marker in the event it becomes unsightly, unsafe or is not maintained, to include updating inscriptions for subsequent decedents, to ensure the veteran and any interred family members are properly commemorated.