



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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NEWS RELEASE

MAY 27, 2021

Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Day Weekend Activities

ARLINGTON, VA -- Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) announces its visitor and family pass holder Memorial Day weekend events schedule beginning on Thursday, May 27 and ending on Memorial Day, May 31, 2021.

Memorial Day, which officially began at Arlington National Cemetery in 1868 as “Decoration Day,” is a time to honor our nation’s heroes in solemn remembrance. The National Memorial Day Observance is a sacred occasion for the American people to reflect on the sacrifice of fallen service members.

In years past, more than 135,000 people have typically visited Arlington National Cemetery over Memorial Day weekend. The high volume of visitors is known to create traffic congestion, movement freezes (for both vehicles and pedestrians) and delays on nearby streets and at the cemetery’s entrances.

If you are planning to visit the cemetery over Memorial Day weekend, please review the following access instructions and tips, and listing of scheduled events.

GENERAL PUBLIC INFORMATION

- There are three gates open for the general public to enter Arlington National Cemetery during Memorial Day weekend:
- ANC Main Entrance (1 Memorial Avenue, Arlington, Virginia): The main entrance is open daily, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Ord & Weitzel Gate (OWG), for pedestrian traffic only, will be open on May 27-30 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. This gate will also be open on May 31 from noon until 5 p.m. The OWG is near the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and is a 15-20 minute walk from the Rosslyn Metro station.
- Old Post Chapel Gate (from Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall) will be open daily from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. For vehicular traffic, a Department of Defense (DoD) Common Access Card (CAC) and an ANC family pass placard is required. Pedestrians are required to have a DoD CAC to enter ANC through Old Post Chapel Gate and Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.
- Arlington Cemetery Metro Station is now open for public use.

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FAMILY PASS HOLDER INFORMATION

In addition to the above gates, and in an effort to reduce wait times, family pass holders only, with placards arriving by personal vehicles, may use the Service Complex Gate (Columbia Pike), which will be open over Memorial Day weekend during the following hours:

- Thursday through Saturday, May 26-29: 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Sunday, May 30: The Service Complex Gate will be closed.
- Memorial Day, Monday, May 31: 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Some sections around the cemetery will be closed to vehicular traffic during the National Memorial Day Observance. Please pay attention to ANC security for changes in traffic patterns, traffic congestion, movement freezes (for both vehicles and pedestrians) and delays on nearby streets and at the cemetery's entrances. For real-time announcements and updates, please visit our social media platforms @ArlingtonNatl.

There will be some morning road closures, and family pass holders will be asked to park in other locations and walk to their loved ones' graves. Please ask ANC staff for assistance.

For guests with mobility issues, we recommend arriving at the cemetery after 1 p.m. on Memorial Day.

NEW COVID OPERATIONS PROTOCOLS

- **On the Grounds of ANC:**
 - ANC's normal operating hours are: 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
 - The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and President John F. Kennedy's Gravesite are both fully opened, with freely moving pedestrian traffic patterns.
 - The Memorial Amphitheater Display Room and Welcome Center exhibits are open. Face masks are required for indoor venues.
 - At this time, the Memorial Amphitheater "bowl" —the outdoor portion of the Amphitheater—remains closed for restoration.
 - **Guests who visit any indoor facility are required to wear a face covering and are asked not to linger in order to maintain ongoing COVID-related capacity regulations.**
 - Masks are no longer required when guests are outdoors.
 - The Welcome Center bookstore is now open.
 - ANC would like to remind visitors to please respect all barriers and fences, which must be avoided to prevent public access to off-limits areas.

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- **Visitor Screening:**
 - Visitor screening is conducted either inside or outside the Welcome Center or the Ord and Weitzel Gate. ANC would like to remind visitors entering the cemetery through *other than official access points* is considered trespassing and is a federal offense.
 - An ADA-accessible visitor screening lane, which may also be used by families with strollers, will be at the Welcome Center East Entrance.

- **Outreach:**
 - Public wreath ceremonies have resumed.

- **Restroom Locations:**
 - Masks must be worn in all restroom facilities.
 - Restrooms are available at the Welcome Center, Memorial Amphitheater, and the Columbarium Courts. Several port-a-potties will also be available throughout the weekend.

- **Access Upon Arrival to ANC:**
 - **Please review the important gate entrance information at the top of this release.**
 - Visitors arriving by vehicle may enter the cemetery on Memorial Avenue and park in the parking garage. Pedestrians may go directly to the screening lanes at the Welcome Center.
 - The ANC parking garage is available to passenger cars and buses, and is first come-first serve.

- **Tram and Shuttle Services:**
 - Arlington National Cemetery Tours operates daily from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. However, on Memorial Day, the tram will begin operations in the afternoon.
 - The ANC free gravesite shuttle operates daily from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. On Memorial Day, the gravesite shuttle will begin at 9 a.m. and will operate on a limited basis in the morning. Full service will begin in the afternoon.

Visitors are urged to take public transportation over the Memorial Day weekend. The high volume of visitors at the cemetery has been known to create traffic congestion, movement freezes and delays on nearby streets and at the cemetery's entrances.

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Visitors to **Sections 3, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, and 44** of the cemetery will be impacted by construction on McPherson Drive. Visitors may access these sections on foot by following the signs placed near the construction areas and marked parking locations. Upon arrival to the affected sections, those who need assistance during the construction period may call 703-614-1111.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND EVENTS

A partial listing of official ANC events in support of the National Memorial Day Observance are below. All events are open to the public, with the exception of the National Memorial Day Wreath Ceremony.

If you are a member of the media and are interested in covering an event, please contact Arlington National Cemetery's Public Affairs Office at arlingtoncemetery.pao@mail.mil. All media must be escorted on cemetery grounds at all times. There are no interviews or stand-ups authorized inside the cemetery.

Please note: all links below are provided for information only. No endorsement is implied.

Thursday, May 27

In what is known as "Flags In," Soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) will place U.S. flags at the final resting places of all those interred or inurned at Arlington National Cemetery, beginning at 2 p.m. This year's Flags In is particularly special, as elements from the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard are participating. The public is invited to watch as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen complete this annual traditional ceremony but only service members will be able to place flags.

Please note: Flags In will begin with placement in sections west of Eisenhower Drive. Service members will not place flags below Eisenhower Drive until after all funerals have concluded (typically around 4 p.m.). If you are coming to the cemetery to watch Flags In, please be mindful of any funerals and provide families with privacy.

Saturday, May 29

At 9:50 a.m., Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director, Office of Army Cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery will host an Armed Forces Full Honors Wreath-Laying Ceremony in honor of President John F. Kennedy at the Kennedy gravesite in Section 45. This ceremony is open to the public.

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Sunday, May 30

At 9 a.m., The Japanese American Citizens League of Washington, D.C., and the Japanese American Veterans Association will conduct its annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Pavilion in the Columbarium Courts in Section 63. For more information, visit <https://jacl-dc.org/calendar/>.

At 10 a.m., volunteers interested in helping Memorial Day Flowers Foundation lay roses at headstones will be meeting. For more information, visit <https://memorialdayflowers.org>.

Monday, May 31

At 8 a.m., volunteers interested in helping Memorial Day Flowers Foundation lay roses at headstones will be meeting. For more information, visit <https://memorialdayflowers.org>.

At 10 a.m., the U.S. Army Military District of Washington will conduct a Presidential Armed Forces Full Honor Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This ceremony will be followed by an observance program in Memorial Amphitheater, hosted by the Department of Defense. **THIS EVENT IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.**

MEMORIAL DAY EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

If you are unable to come to Arlington National Cemetery, and would like to learn more about the history of Memorial Day, Arlington National Cemetery's historians and educators have created rich guides and resources for students of all grade levels, as well as for lifelong learners (anyone interested in learning more about this national shrine). As part of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier centennial commemoration, ANC's Education Program is featuring a module on the history and meaning of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This module includes lesson plans and children's activity guides on the history and meanings of Memorial Day. These and many other educational materials—including self-guided walking tours, recommended readings and other lesson plans—can be found at: <https://education.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Themes/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier>.

At the cemetery, the Welcome Center hosts two brand-new exhibitions. One features the history of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, showcasing one hundred years of honor, service and sacrifice. The second exhibition, featuring the work of ANC's official photographer, is a series of 36 black-and-white mounted images that offer a “behind the scenes look” into ANC's mission and those who accomplish this work on a daily basis.

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Our onsite partners hours of operation are: The Women in Military Service for America Memorial is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and on Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. Please visit <https://womensmemorial.org/> for more information.

The Arlington House is under renovation and currently closed to the public. Please visit <https://www.nps.gov/arho/index.htm> for more information.

Questions

For more information on any of the Memorial Day weekend events or access procedures, please call 877-907-8585. That line is staffed Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. All times are Eastern Standard Time. During off-duty hours, please leave a voicemail and someone will return your call during business hours.

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