

# NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION



## ***152 Years of Keeping the Promise*** ***National Cemetery Overview***

### **Massachusetts National Cemetery**

January 5, 2015

[www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

# 152nd Anniversary of National Cemeteries

- First national cemeteries established in 1862
- Prior, soldiers buried where they fell
- “To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan.”



**July 17, 2012 ceremony commemorating  
the 1862 enactment of legislation  
authorizing national cemeteries**



# NCA Mission

The National Cemetery Administration honors Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation.



# NCA Vision

- To be the model of excellence for burial and memorials for our Nation's Veterans and their families.
- *American Customer Satisfaction Index:* Achieved the highest ranking of any public or private organization...for the 5th consecutive time in 10 years!



# NCA Responsibilities

- Provide burial space for Veterans and eligible family members and maintain national cemeteries as national shrines
- Administer the Federal grants program for construction of State and Tribal Veterans cemeteries
- Furnish headstones, markers and medallions for the graves of Veterans around the world
- Administer the Presidential Memorial Certificate program
- Administer the First Notice of Death program



# Burial Benefits

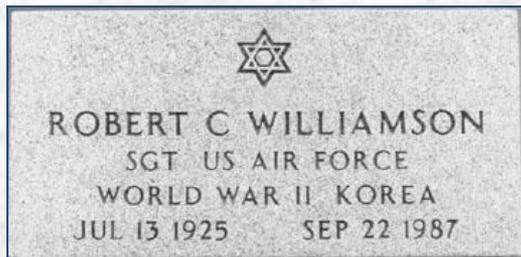
- Gravesite
- Opening and closing of the grave
- Grave liner
- Perpetual care of the gravesite
- Headstone, marker or medallion
- U.S. Flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificate



# Eligibility Criteria

- Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who dies on active duty
- Any Veteran who was discharged under conditions *other than dishonorable*
- National Guard members and Reservists with 20 years of qualifying service, who are entitled to retired pay
- Spouses and minor children
- Certain eligible parents (Corey Shea Act)

# Headstones, Markers and Medallions



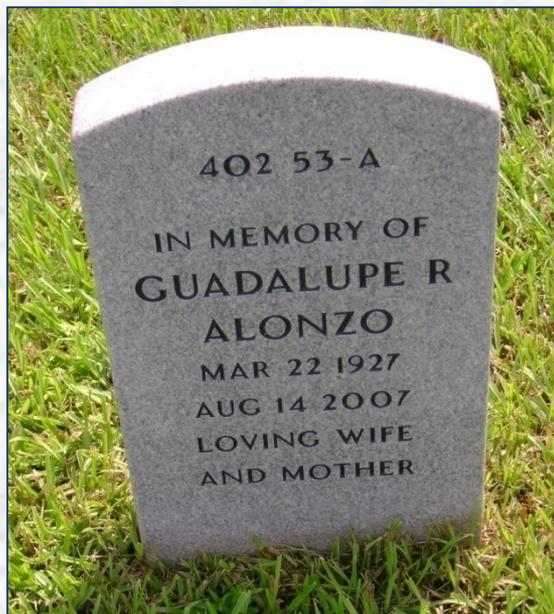
**Flat Marker**



**Upright Headstone**



**Medallion**



**“In Memory of...”**



**Niche Covers**

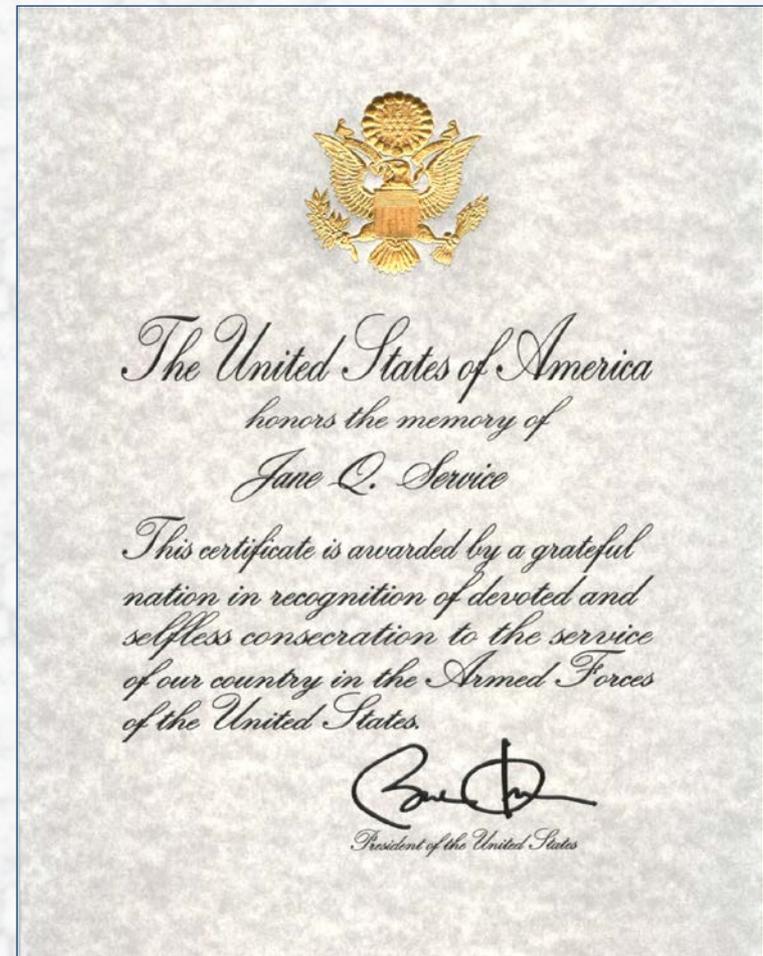
# Bronze Veteran Medallion



- In lieu of headstone or marker
- Death on or after November 1, 1990
- Features branch of service

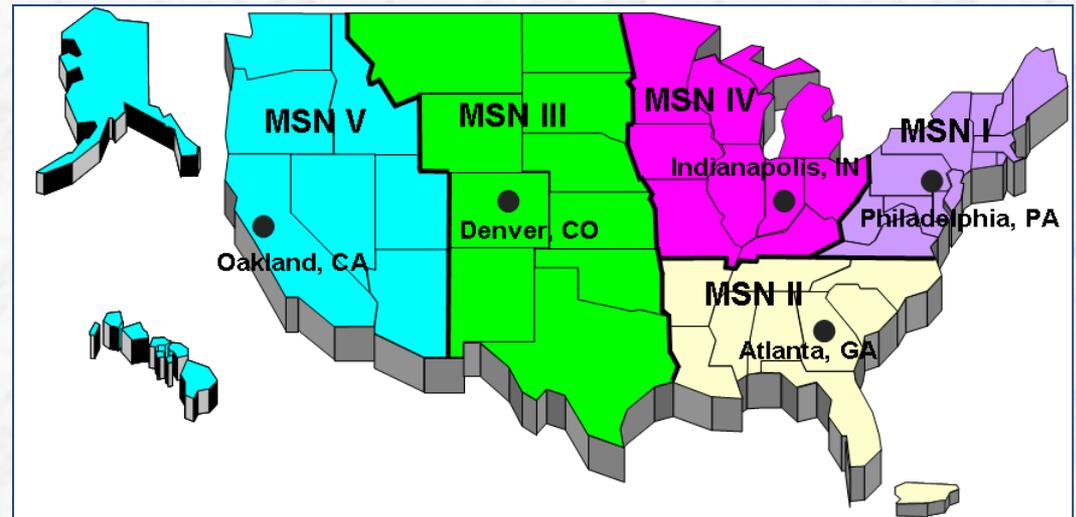
# Presidential Memorial Certificate

- For active duty and *honorably* discharged Veterans
- Inscribed with the deceased's name
- Bears the President's signature



# NCA Organization

- **1,700** employees;  
**73.5%** are Veterans (**11.3%** are women Vets);  
**300** OEF/OIF hires since 2009
- **131** cemeteries
- **20,000** acres
- **8.3** mil visitors/yr
- **3.8** mil Veterans, service members, Reservists and family members in **3.3** mil gravesites



# Strategy to Meet Burial Needs of Veterans

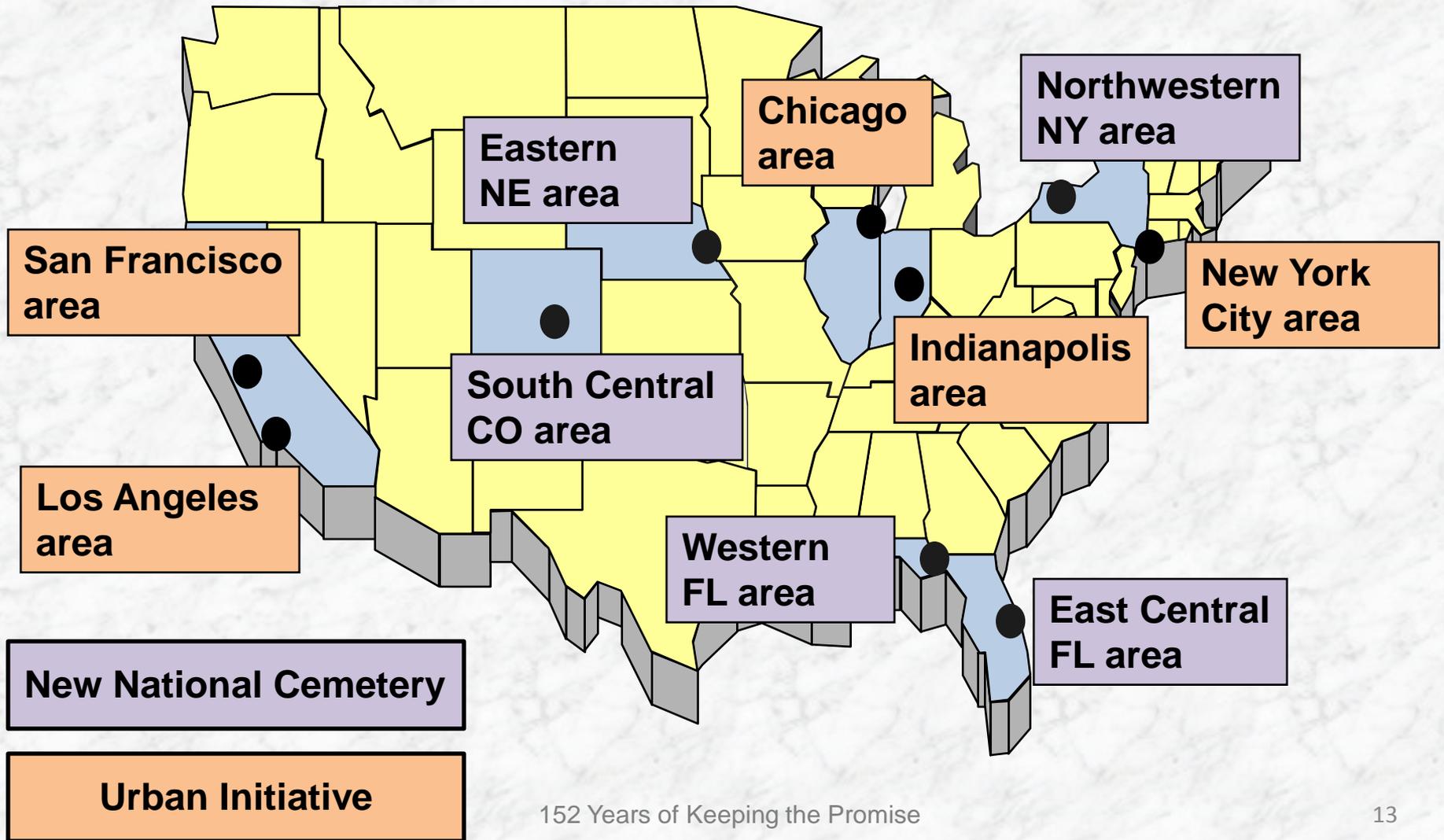


**New Columbarium  
Massachusetts National Cemetery  
Bourne, MA**

Extend the  
service life of  
existing  
cemeteries



# Future National Cemetery Construction





# Pre-Need Burial Planning

- Allows Veterans, service members, and families to submit copies of military records and discharge documents, via eBenefits, to streamline eligibility determination at time of need

# National Cemetery Scheduling Office

## 1-800-535-1117

Now serving all  
cemeteries *except*  
Puerto Rico



# Committal Shelters



**Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI**

Brief Memorial  
services and  
military honors



**Massachusetts National Cemetery**

# Full Casket Burial Area



**Massachusetts National Cemetery  
Bourne, MA**



# Memorial Wall



**Massachusetts National Cemetery**



# Burial of Unclaimed and Homeless Veterans



**Burial Ceremony for Unclaimed Veterans  
Massachusetts National Cemetery  
Bourne, MA**

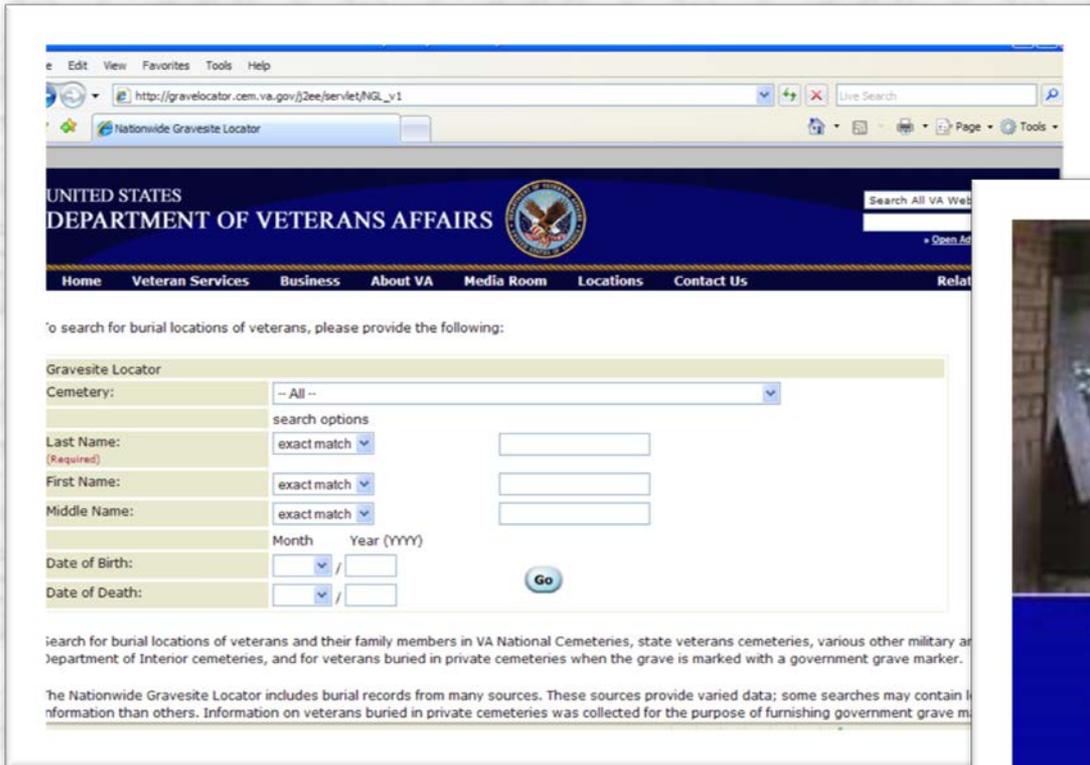
# Our Wonderful Volunteers

- Donated 304,000 hours of service to national cemeteries in FY13
- Valued at \$7.4 million
- Also contributed in many other ways



**Volunteers from the VA  
Massachusetts National Cemetery  
Bourne, MA**

# National Gravesite Locator



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the National Gravesite Locator website. The browser's address bar shows the URL [http://gravelocator.com.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL\\_v1](http://gravelocator.com.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1). The website header features the United States Department of Veterans Affairs logo and navigation links: Home, Veteran Services, Business, About VA, Media Room, Locations, Contact Us, and Related. Below the header, a search prompt reads: "to search for burial locations of veterans, please provide the following:". The search form includes a "Gravesite Locator" dropdown menu set to "-- All --", a "Cemetery:" dropdown, and "search options" for "Last Name:", "First Name:", and "Middle Name:", each with a dropdown menu set to "exact match" and an adjacent text input field. There are also fields for "Date of Birth:" (with "Month" and "Year (YYYY)" dropdowns) and "Date of Death:". A "Go" button is located at the bottom right of the form. Below the form, a paragraph of text states: "Search for burial locations of veterans and their family members in VA National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries, various other military Department of Interior cemeteries, and for veterans buried in private cemeteries when the grave is marked with a government grave marker." A second paragraph notes: "The Nationwide Gravesite Locator includes burial records from many sources. These sources provide varied data; some searches may contain more information than others. Information on veterans buried in private cemeteries was collected for the purpose of furnishing government grave markers."

**Available at cemetery kiosks  
and on the Web and handheld devices**





# Please keep in touch!

- To stay current with NCA:

Visit our Website [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

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