

ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES FOR PRE-PLACED CRYPTS

1. PURPOSE: This notice replaces NCA Notice 2006-02 - Assignment Procedures for Pre-Placed Crypts/Outer Burial Receptacles, dated January 24, 2006. The new notice updates policy and procedures for assigning full casket gravesites when pre-placed crypts are used in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries administered by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

2. BACKGROUND

a. A crypt is a graveliner, burial vault, outer burial receptacle (OBR), or other similar type of holder designed to contain a casket. Crypts are used to reduce the sinking of graves and maintain gravesites level with the surrounding terrain.

b. Title 38, United States Code, section 2306(e)(1), states that "the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide an outer burial receptacle for each new grave in an open cemetery under the control of the National Cemetery Administration in which remains are interred in a casket." NCA policy is that casketed remains in new gravesites will be placed in an outer container or pre-placed crypt/vault in order to prevent sunken graves.

c. In new VA national cemeteries, and new sections of existing cemeteries, pre-cast concrete crypts are generally pre-installed/pre-placed in large numbers.

3. POLICY

a. Pre-placed double-depth crypts will be used in accordance with the procedures specified in this notice, unless:

(1) The interment requires an oversize crypt (to be placed at time of need);

(2) A privately-furnished crypt is used instead; or

(3) The Cemetery Director has determined that the circumstances of an individual interment requires placement in a conventional burial section rather than one with pre-placed crypts.

NOTE: *There are times when it is appropriate to deviate from the procedures outlined for double-depth assignment procedures. Requests to deviate from the double-depth interment assignment procedures stated in this notice should be sent in writing through the appropriate Memorial Service Network Director to the Director, Office of Field Programs, for decision.*

b. VA national cemeteries with single-depth pre-placed crypts will use those as available when:

(1) No future burials are anticipated in that gravesite, or

(2) An adjacent gravesite is set-aside for the interment of two married eligible veterans with no eligible dependents.

4. PROCEDURES FOR CASKETED INTERMENTS IN PRE-PLACED CRYPT SECTIONS

a. If an eligible dependent predeceases an eligible veteran and spouse who plan to be interred together, the first decedent will be interred in the lower half of one crypt, with the adjoining crypt set aside for additional eligible decedents. The second decedent will be placed in the upper half of the original crypt, above the first decedent. The third decedent will be placed in the lower half of the set-aside crypt, and the last interment will be in the upper half of the second crypt:

SECTION A	Second interment	Fourth interment
	First interment	Third interment
	GRAVESITE 1	GRAVESITE 2 (adjacent)

b. If the eligible dependent of two married eligible veterans/service members is interred first, and it is planned that both parents will be interred at the same gravesite:

The dependent will be interred in the lower half of one crypt, with the adjoining crypt set aside for additional eligible decedents. The second decedent will be placed in the upper half of the original crypt, above the dependent. The third decedent will be placed in the lower half of the set-aside crypt. If the surviving veteran remarries, the fourth interment will be in the upper half of the second crypt.

SECTION A	Second interment	Fourth interment
	First interment	Third interment
	GRAVESITE 1	GRAVESITE 2 (adjacent)

c. If a divorced or single eligible parent and eligible dependent plan to be interred in the same gravesite:

The first decedent is placed in the lower half of the crypt, with the second interment placed in the top half.

SECTION A	Second interment
	First interment
	GRAVESITE 1

d. When a dependent predeceases a divorced or single eligible parent who plans to be interred in the same gravesite, and the veteran remarries, there are two options:

Option 1: The dependent is placed in the lower half of the crypt, the second decedent is placed in the top half of the same crypt and the third decedent is placed in a separate active burial section that has crypts in place. If there is no active crypt section, interment will be in a conventional active section.

SECTION A	Second interment	SECTION B	Fourth interment
	First interment		Third interment
	GRAVESITE 1		GRAVESITE 1

Option 2: The veteran may pay for disinterment required to relocate the first interment remains in a new gravesite. If the new site is in a VA national cemetery with pre-placed crypts, the adjoining crypt will be set-aside for the veteran or eligible spouse. (If the veteran is no longer living, disinterment/relocation within the cemetery may require contact with next of kin. The Memorial Service Network office can provide guidance.)

SECTION A	Second interment	Fourth interment
	First interment	Third interment
	GRAVESITE 1	GRAVESITE 2 (adjacent)

e. If a veteran and spouse with no dependents plan to be interred in the same gravesite:

The first decedent is placed in the lower half of the crypt, with the second interment placed in the top half.

SECTION A	Second interment
	First interment
	GRAVESITE 1

f. If a veteran and spouse with no dependents plan to be interred in the same gravesite, but the veteran remarries after the spouse's interment, there are two options:

Option 1: The first spouse is placed in the lower half of the crypt, the second decedent is placed in the top half of the same crypt, and the third decedent is placed in an active burial section.

SECTION A	Second interment	SECTION B	Fourth interment
	First interment		Third interment
	GRAVESITE 1		GRAVESITE 1

Option 2: The veteran pays for disinterment required to relocate remains of the first spouse in a new gravesite. If the new site is in a VA national cemetery with pre-placed crypts, the adjoining crypt will be set-aside for the veteran or eligible spouse. (If the veteran is no longer living, disinterment may require contact with next of kin. The Memorial Service Network office can provide guidance.)

SECTION A	Second interment	Fourth interment
	First interment	Third interment
	GRAVESITE 1	GRAVESITE 2 (adjacent)

g. If a veteran plans to be interred with a veteran spouse, there are two options:

Option 1: Both may be interred in one gravesite. The first decedent is placed in the lower half of the crypt, with the second interment placed in the top half.

SECTION A	Second interment
	First interment
	GRAVESITE 1

Option 2: They may be interred in separate, but adjoining, gravesites (preferably in a section with crypts in place, using a set-aside crypt).

SECTION A

First interment
GRAVESITE 1Second interment
GRAVESITE 2**5. PROCEDURES FOR INTERMENT OF CREMATED REMAINS IN PRE-PLACED CRYPT SECTIONS**

NOTE: The cremated remains of eligible decedents will be placed in a burial section devoted to cremains. Cemetery staff should keep on file a signed VA Form 40-4987 (Agreement for Burial of Cremated Remains).

a. If there is a burial of a second related decedent, the actions taken depend upon the type of remains:

Casketed – The second decedent will be placed in the lower half of a crypt, and the cremains of the already interred decedent will be disinterred and moved to the top half of the crypt.

Cremains – The burial container with the second decedent's cremains will be placed in the same gravesite as the first decedent.

b. If a first eligible decedent is interred in a casket, the interment will be in the lower half of a crypt (see previous examples). If the next eligible decedent is cremated, the burial container will be placed in the upper half of the same crypt. If there are subsequent decedents, action taken will depend upon the type of remains:

Casketed – The third decedent's casket will be placed in the upper half of the crypt with the second decedent's cremains. If there are subsequent casketed decedents, consult with Memorial Service Network office on appropriate action.

Cremains – The burial container with the third decedent's cremains will be placed in the same crypt as the second decedent.

6. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: NCA, Office of Field Programs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20420, is responsible for the contents of this notice.

7. RESCISSION: NCA Notice 2006-02 - Assignment Procedures for Pre-Placed Crypts/Outer Burial Receptacles, dated January 24, 2006, is rescinded in its entirety.

8. EXPIRATION: The information contained in this notice will remain in effect until updated, or incorporated into official directive or handbook.

/s/

Patrick K. Hallinan
Director, Office of Field Programs

Distribution: Electronic