

*"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."*

Abraham Lincoln  
Second Inaugural Address  
March 4, 1865



*For More Information:*

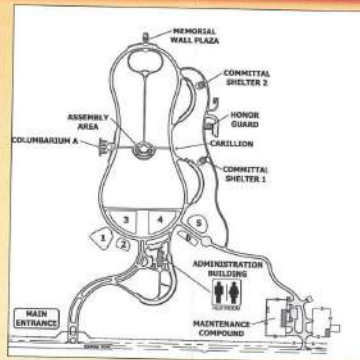
Omaha National Cemetery  
14250 Schram Road  
Omaha, NE 68138

Cemetery Administration Office  
Phone: (402)-253-3949

Burial Arrangements:  
Phone: (800) 535-1117  
Fax: (866) 900-6417

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

## Omaha National Cemetery



**Directions:**

From Lincoln take Interstate 80 East to Exit 439 (Hwy 370). Turn right/east on Hwy 370 for one mile, exit Hwy 50 (144th Street), turn right. Continue one mile to Schram Road, turn left. The main entrance to the cemetery is 1/8 mile on the left from 144th Street.

If traveling from Iowa take Interstate 80 West to S. 144th Street/Hwy 50 and turn south. Continue 2.1 miles to Schram Road and turn left.



## Visiting the Cemetery

Thousands of people will visit Omaha National Cemetery each year. Many will come for a committal service or to visit the gravesite of a loved one, others to attend special observances or to reflect in the serene setting. We welcome all visitors to this shrine for our nation's heroes.

The cemetery will be open for visitors daily from dawn until dusk. Visitors will be able to find specific gravesites by searching an automated gravesite locator kiosk in the public information center. A Nationwide Gravesite Locator for national cemeteries is available on the Internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

General cemetery information will be available in the public information center or the administration building. Visitors to specific gravesites may park along the curb near the gravesite they are visiting. Restrooms are located in the public information center.

Visitors attending committal services will gather near the administration building in the cortege lanes as directed by a cemetery representative. Roadway parking is available throughout the cemetery and near the committal shelter during services.

VA regulations 38 CFR 1.218 prohibit the carrying of firearms (either openly or concealed), explosives or other dangerous or deadly weapons while on VA property, except for official purposes, such as military funeral honors. Offenders may be subject to a fine, removal from the premises, or arrest.



Omaha National Cemetery will hold a Memorial Day ceremony annually. For the time and date of the ceremony, call the cemetery office at (402)253-3949. Special observances and ceremonies will be held at the flag assembly area.

Visitors are encouraged to visit Omaha National Cemetery, but should remember the cemetery's solemn purpose and act in a dignified manner while on the cemetery grounds. For this reason, public gatherings of a partisan nature are not permitted. In addition, sports or recreational activities are not permitted, including:

- Bicycle riding
- Jogging
- Picnicking
- Roller blading
- Walking pets
- Fishing or hunting

**OMAHA NATIONAL CEMETERY**

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
National Cemetery Administration

## Message from the Omaha National Cemetery Staff

Welcome to Omaha National Cemetery. We hope visitors find peace amid the quiet and well maintained grounds.

The cemetery staff is here to make the burial process as easy as possible. We encourage Veterans and their families to bring any and all issues to our attention in advance so that we may properly plan and coordinate with everyone involved.

At the time of need, next of kin should follow the instructions given on the "Making Burial Arrangements" section of this pamphlet. We pledge to honor the dignity and memory of each person and to provide excellent service to family, loved ones and friends during this most difficult time. Next of kin can take comfort in the fact that Omaha National Cemetery is a national shrine to our distinguished Veterans and will be maintained so that family, loved ones and friends can visit an honored final resting place in perpetuity.

### *Our Mission*

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

## Overview



- Omaha National Cemetery was purchased in December 2012.
- The cemetery dedication took place on August 5, 2016 and the first burials took place September 27, 2016.
- The cemetery will serve more than 112,000 Veterans, spouses and other eligible family members in the cemetery's service area. It is the second VA national cemetery in Nebraska.
- Situated on 236-acres of land, the cemetery accommodates casketed and cremated remains.



## Making Burial Arrangements

The funeral home or next-of-kin should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to make burial arrangements for Veterans, spouses and/or eligible dependents.

The funeral home can fax all available military discharge documents to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (866) 900-6417 or scan and email the documentation to [NCA.Scheduling@va.gov](mailto:NCA.Scheduling@va.gov) with the name of the decedent in the subject line. Follow up with a call to (800) 535-1117 in order to schedule the interment.

If military discharge documents are not available, a scheduling office representative can assist with the verification process. Requests for eligibility determination when no military discharge documents are available may require 48 hours or more for verification.

Contact the cemetery to:

- Reschedule or cancel interments.
- Schedule memorial services without interment.
- Change information initially provided to the scheduling office.
- Request disinterment or relocation of remains.

Burial benefits provided by the National Cemetery Administration, at no cost to the family, include: a burial plot; opening and closing of the gravesite; a government graveline; a headstone or marker with inscription; a burial flag; a Presidential Memorial Certificate and perpetual care of the gravesite.

Funeral director services are not covered. Gravesites are assigned by the cemetery and cannot be selected in advance. Assignments are made without regard to rank, ethnic or religious background, branch of service or other factors.

There is no waiting list for burial in a VA national cemetery. The Veteran and spouse are interred in the same grave. Spouses and eligible children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran. If both are Veterans, they may choose to be buried in adjacent graves.

Military honors are provided by the Department of Defense and are arranged by the funeral director. If there is no funeral director, cemetery staff will assist the family in arranging military honors.

Burials are scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except designated holidays.

Omaha National Cemetery has the following burial options site options:

- Casketed
- Cremations-in-ground
- Columbaria
- Ossuary

The administration office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and closed on designated holidays.

## Floral Policy

Our **cemetery floral policies** are posted on the floral storage receptacles located throughout the cemetery. We welcome fresh-cut flowers throughout the year and provide flower containers for gravesite displays as a courtesy. Once the flowers become unsightly, we will remove them. They also may be removed for routine mowing or other maintenance.

**Limited floral arrangements** accompanying the casket or urn at the time of burial can be placed on the completed grave.

**Artificial flowers and potted plants** will be allowed on graves for a period extending 10 days before through 10 days after Easter Sunday. As an exception to the rules, artificial flowers may be placed during the week of Memorial Day, but will be removed seven days after the holiday.

**Seasonal Holiday Adornments** such as Christmas wreaths, potted poinsettias and other seasonal items may be placed on graves from Dec. 1 through Jan. 20.

**To maintain the dignity** of the cemetery, permanent plants, statues, balloons, pinwheels, vigil lights, breakable objects and similar items are not permitted on the graves. The Department of Veterans Affairs does not permit adornments that are considered offensive, inconsistent with the dignity of the cemetery, or considered hazardous to cemetery personnel. For example, items incorporating wires may become entangled in mowers or other equipment and cause injury.

## History and Background

The establishment of Omaha National Cemetery is a result of the 2008 "Evaluation of the VA Burial Benefits Program." The independent study provided VA leadership the opportunity to review existing policies for building new national cemeteries to increase access to areas where significant numbers of unserved Veterans reside.

As a result, VA revised its policies for establishing new cemeteries. The changes included lowering the threshold for Veterans within a service area from 170,000 within a 75-mile radius to 80,000.

The revised policy allowed VA to establish five new national cemeteries to include Omaha. VA purchased the 236-acre parcel December 2012 for \$6 million.

Since 1862, more than 3.8 million burials have taken place in national cemeteries that are now overseen by NCA.

The existing 135 national cemeteries, 33 soldiers' and government lots, and Confederate lots contain more than 20,000 acres. Approximately 100,000 burials or 2% of the graves in NCA national cemeteries are categorized as unknowns - most are from the Civil War.

