

Military Funeral Honors

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides military funeral honors at the burials of veterans on request from family members. Funeral honors can be given at private or government-operated cemeteries. As provided by law, an honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the parent Service of the deceased veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps.

Military families of eligible veterans request funeral honors through their funeral home director. Funeral home directors can request funeral honors from DOD, whether burial is in a national cemetery or another cemetery. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) staff at national cemeteries also can assist to arrange funeral honors at VA national cemeteries. Your funeral home director will assist you in obtaining a flag. More information on burial flags is available at <http://www.cem.va.gov/bbene/bflags.asp>.

A Presidential Memorial Certificate will be provided upon request. This is a parchment certificate with an inscription expressing the nation's grateful recognition of an honorably discharged, deceased veteran's service in the Armed Forces. The veteran's name is inscribed and the certificate bears the signature of the President. For information about requesting a Presidential Memorial Certificate and additional information refer to <http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp>. DOD maintains a military funeral honors web site at www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil. Our office can also assist with making these arrangements along with ordering flags, headstones and grave markers.

As a reminder – The next Kings County Military and Veterans Coalition meeting will be on Tuesday, 13 July, at 2:00 pm at the Kings County Government Center Multi-Purpose Room in the Administration Building. Anyone interested in our military and veteran's community is invited to attend.

Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office website at www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230; call 582-3211, ext. 2662 or email at joe.wright@co.kiings.ca.us.