

service person even though he/she is dependent upon the service member for support and/or is a member of his/her household.

(b) A person whose last separation from one of the Armed Forces was under other-than-honorable conditions is not eligible for burial even though he may have received veterans benefits, treatment at a Veterans Administration hospital or died in such a hospital.

(c) A person who has volunteered for service with the Armed Forces but has not actually entered on active duty.

(d) Nonservice-connected spouses who have been divorced from the service-connected members or who have remarried after the interment of the service-connected spouse and whose remarriage is still valid are not eligible because of the decedent's service.

(e) Dependents are not eligible for burial in Arlington National Cemetery unless the Service-connected family member has been or will be interred in that cemetery. This does not apply to widows or widowers of members of the Armed Forces lost or buried at sea or officially determined to be permanently absent in a status of missing or missing in action.

**§ 553.18 Assignment of gravesites.**

(a) Under present policy of the Department of the Army, only one gravesite is authorized for the burial of a service member and eligible family members.

(b) Gravesites will not be reserved.

(c) Gravesite reservations made in writing before the one-gravesite-per-family unit policy was established will remain in effect as long as the reservee remains eligible for burial in Arlington.

**§ 553.19 Disinterments.**

(a) Interments in Arlington National Cemetery of eligible decedents are considered permanent and final, and disinterments will be permitted only for cogent reasons. Disinterments and removal of remains will be approved only when all living close relatives of the decedent give their written consent or when a court order directs the disinterment.

(b) All requests for authority to disinter remains will include the following information:

(1) A full statement of reasons for the proposed disinterment.

(2) Notarized statements by all close living relatives of the decedent that they interpose no objection to the proposed disinterment. "Close relatives" are widow or widower, parents, adult brothers and sisters, and adult children of the decedent and will include the person who directed the initial interment, if living, even though the legal relationship of that person to the decedent may have changed.

(3) A sworn statement by a person who knows that those who supplied affidavits comprise all the living close relatives of the deceased, including the person who directed the initial interment.

(c) In lieu of the documents required, an order of a court of competent jurisdiction will be recognized. The Department of the Army or officials of the cemetery should not be made a party or parties to the court action since this is a matter that concerns the family members involved.

(d) Any disinterment that may be authorized under this paragraph must be accomplished without expense to the Government.

**§ 553.20 Headstones and markers.**

All graves in Army national cemeteries will be appropriately marked in accordance with 24 U.S.C. 279. Government headstones and markers are provided by the Veterans Administration in accordance with the provisions of the National Cemeteries Act of 1973. When requested by the next of kin, an appropriate memorial headstone or marker will be furnished by the Veterans Administration and erected by cemetery personnel in a memorial section of the cemetery which has been set aside for this purpose. Headstones will be of white marble, upright slab design.

**§ 553.21 Monuments and inscriptions at private expense.**

(a) The erection of markers and monuments at private expense to mark graves in lieu of Government headstones and markers is permitted

only in sections of Arlington National Cemetery in which private monuments and markers were authorized as of 1 January 1947. These monuments will be of simple design, dignified, and appropriate to a military cemetery. The name of the person(s) or the name of an organization, fraternity, or society responsible for the purchase and erection of the marker will not be permitted on the marker or anywhere else in the cemetery. Approval for the erection of a private monument will be given with the understanding that the purchaser will make provision for its future maintenance in the event repairs are necessary. The Department of the Army will not be liable for maintenance of or damage of the monument.

(b) Where a monument has been erected to an individual interred in Arlington National Cemetery and the next of kin desires to have inscribed on it the name and appropriate data pertaining to a deceased spouse, parent, son, daughter, brother, or sister whose remains have not been recovered and who would have been eligible in their own right for burial in Arlington, such inscriptions may be incised on the monument at no expense to the Government. The words "In Memoriam" or "In Memory Of" are mandatory elements of these inscriptions.

(c) Except as may be authorized for marking group burials, ledger monuments of freestanding cross design, narrow shafts, mausoleums, or over-ground vaults are prohibited. Underground vaults may be placed at private expense, if desired, at the time of interment.

(d) Specific instructions concerning private monuments and markers are contained in TM 10-287.

**§ 553.22 Visitors' rules for the Arlington National Cemetery.**

(a) *Purpose.* The rules of this section define the standards of conduct required of all visitors to the Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. Applicable Army regulations and directives should be consulted for all other matters not within the scope of these rules.

(b) *Scope.* Pursuant to title 40 United States Code, sections 318a and 486, and based upon delegations of authority

from the Administrator, General Services Administration, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Army, this section applies to all Federal property within the charge and control of the Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery, and to all persons entering in or on such property. At the discretion of the Secretary of the Army, any person or organization that violates any of the provisions of paragraphs (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h), or (i) of this section may be barred from conducting memorial services and ceremonies within the Cemetery for two years from the date of such violation. Any such person shall also be subject to the penalties set out in title 40, United States Code section 318c.

(c) *Definitions.* When used in this section;

(1) The term *memorial service or ceremony* means any formal group activity conducted within the Arlington National Cemetery grounds intended to honor the memory of a person or persons interred in the Cemetery or those dying in the military service of the United States or its allies. "Memorial service or ceremony" includes a "private memorial service," "public memorial service," "public wreath laying ceremony" and "official ceremony" as defined in this section.

(2) The term *official ceremony* means a memorial service or ceremony approved by the Commanding General, Military District of Washington, in which the primary participants are authorized representatives of the United States Government, a state government, a foreign country, or an international organization who are participating in an official capacity.

(3) The term *private memorial service* means a memorial service or ceremony, other than an official ceremony, conducted at a private gravesite within Arlington National Cemetery by a group of relatives and/or friends of the person interred or to be interred at that gravesite. Private memorial services may be closed to members of the public.

(4) The term *public memorial service* means a ceremony, other than an official ceremony, conducted by members of the public at the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, the Confederate