

# VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM CURRICULAR MATERIALS

[vlp.cah.ucf.edu](http://vlp.cah.ucf.edu)

**VA**



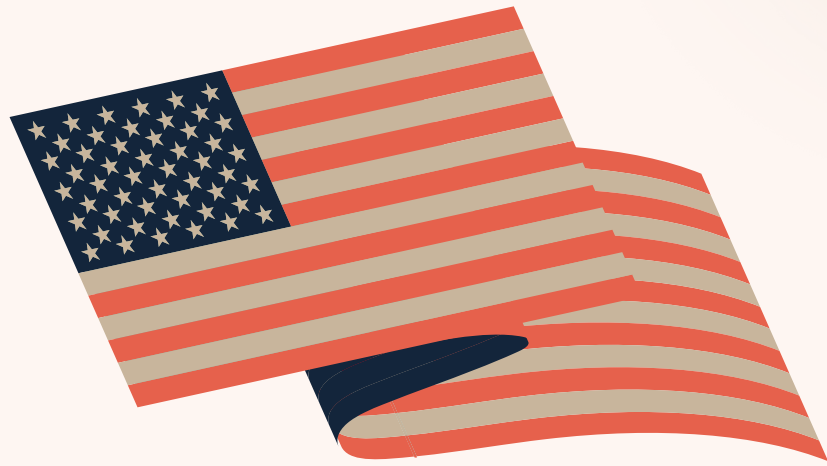
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration



**Department  
of History**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA





# United States National Cemeteries

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# History of National Cemeteries



## Revolution & War of 1812

- Veterans buried in churchyards or family cemeteries
- Army created “post cemeteries”
- Cities created “rural cemeteries”

## Civil War [1861-1865]

- High amount of casualties couldn't fit in regular cemeteries
- Hard to identify fallen soldiers (dog tags didn't exist yet)
- Buried where fallen, maintaining records grew difficult
- By 1870, 73 national cemeteries created
  - First, reserved only for veterans that died in conflict
  - Later, opened to all veterans



# History of National Cemeteries



## First National Cemeteries

- 1862: Congress authorized
  - President established
- First cemeteries came from: battlefields, hospitals, “other troop concentration points”
- 1867 Act to Establish and Protect National Cemeteries
  - Gave standards for fences, headstones, superintendents
- Separate cemeteries or segregated sections for African American troops
  - Confederate soldiers were not included at first
  - By 1914, Confederates could be buried in national cemeteries in the South with specific headstones

# ★ History of National Cemeteries

Who was in charge of veteran burials before Civil War?

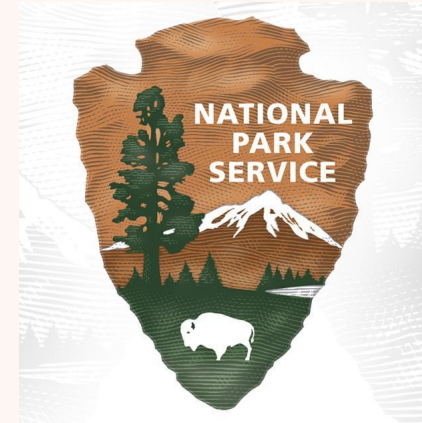
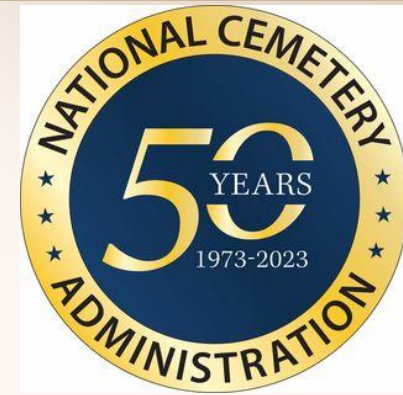
- Army's Office of the Quartermaster General

Who Runs the National Cemeteries now?

- Federal Agencies
  - National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
  - Department of the Army of the Department of Defense
  - National Park Service of the Department of the Interior

Open vs. Closed Cemeteries?

- Open: still taking burials of veterans
- Closed: no longer taking new burials of veterans (except for spouses of veterans)



# American Battle Monuments Commission

- National Cemeteries grew worldwide due to multiple foreign conflicts
  - World Wars, proxy wars
- American dead overseas could be buried overseas or brought home
- Foreign countries created American military cemeteries to bury & honor fallen veterans
- Cemeteries and memorials in 17 countries
  - 26 cemeteries, 31 memorials/markers/monuments
  - Most honor World War I & World War II



# Next Steps

- Individual or Partner
- Grab a computer
- ArcGIS Story Map: <https://arcg.is/ODG191>
- Follow along and answer questions/reviews



# National Cemetery Creation

- Use the QR code or click this link
  - <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/national-cemeteries-design.htm>
- Read the article to help gauge the standards & structure of your National Cemetery
  - Where is it located? Historical or geographical relevance?
  - Which war veterans are being buried? Why?
- Must haves:
  - Flagstaff
  - Marble headstones & layout pattern
  - Memorials
  - Shrubberies, trees, plants, flowers, etc.
  - Organized sections
    - Could be based off wars, state of birth/death, etc.
  - Accommodations for burials and cremations
- Answer Essential Questions
  - Why do national cemeteries hold importance in our society?
  - Why do other countries honor our veterans overseas?
- Appropriate Materials—paper, Legos, computer program

