

# Mini-Themed Tour Introduction

Field Trip to St. Augustine National Cemetery (SANC)

**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

National Cemetery  
Administration



**UCF**

**Department  
of History**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



# Meet at the Flag -- Cemetery Etiquette

- Remember, cemeteries are sacred spaces. We honor, remember, and memorialize men and women who served our nation through military service. Be respectful at all times.
  - Please walk on the walkways and the grass areas around the graves. It is okay to walk on the grass between the headstones.
  - Use quiet voices as you learn during the tour.
  - Do not sit, stand, or climb on the monuments or headstones.
  - You may touch headstones and monuments, but do so in a respectful manner. You may even sit by a headstone.
- Each grave represents a person(s) who helped to build the community and nation in which you live.

# Purpose

Our purpose today is:

- To memorialize and honor the lives of individuals buried in this cemetery.
- To learn about US history through Veterans History.
- To learn about how Veterans, during and after their service, helped to build their communities.



# What is a National Cemetery?

- In the US, Veterans and their families are eligible for burial in National Cemeteries. The US has made the decision create these cemeteries as places to honor and memorialize their sacrifices.
- There are currently 155 National Cemeteries.
  - Almost 5.3 million individuals received the recognition and honor of being buried in a National Cemetery.



# Who can be buried in a National Cemetery?

- Requirements to be buried in a National Cemetery (according to the VA)
  - Veteran who did not receive a dishonorable discharge
  - Service member who died during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training
  - Spouse or surviving spouse of a Veteran
  - Minor child of a Veteran, or, in select cases, unmarried adult dependent of a Veteran
  - For more information visit the [NCA website](#).



# St. Augustine National Cemetery

- Designated as a National Cemetery in 1881; the earliest known burials date to 1828.
- Site is within the original walled city of St. Augustine (1710s).
- Part of the military complex established at nearby St. Francis Barracks during Florida British Period (1763-1783).
- US Army occupied 1821-1900. Florida National Guard headquarters nearby since 1907.



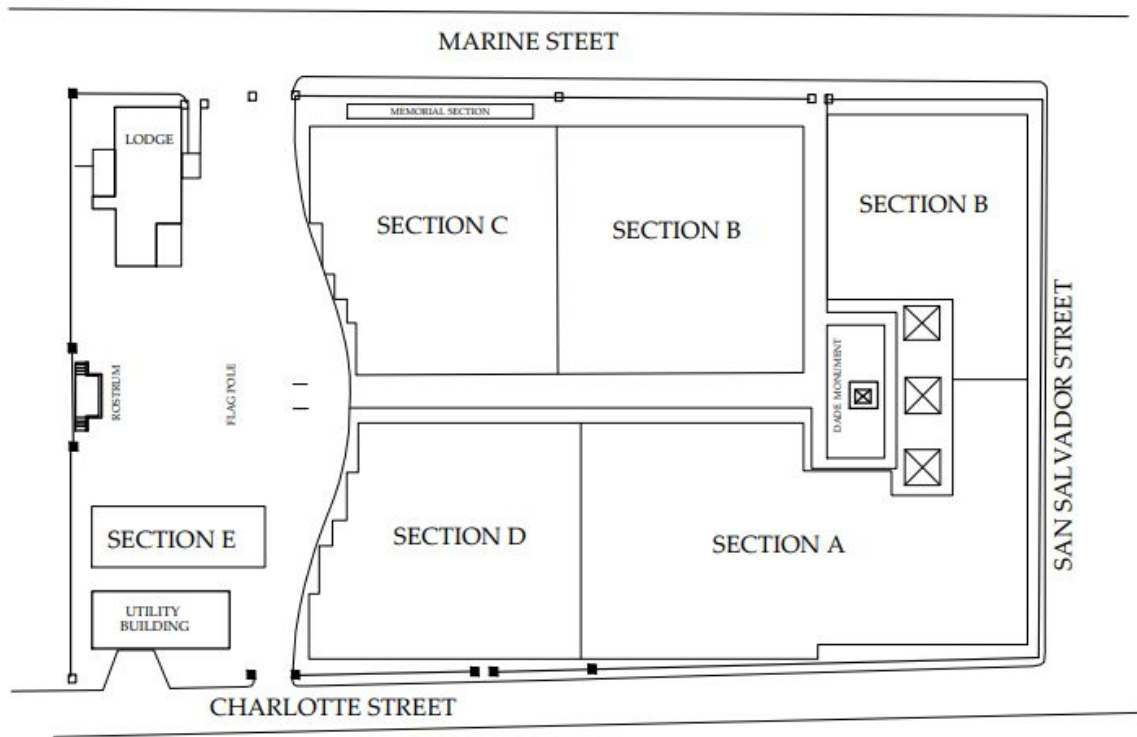
# St. Augustine National Cemetery

- Dade Pyramids (1842) believed to be oldest memorial in any national cemetery. Approx. 145 Soldiers interred within.
- Burials represent War 1812 to Global War on Terrorism.
- Officially closed to new burials 1997. Cremated remains and families with prearranged burials continue to be interred in cemetery. Most recent burial 2019.
- Total number interments estimated at 1,379 plus pyramids. 1,230 headstones of which 20 are memorial stones (cenotaphs).



# How to Navigate SANC

Use the Section Letter and Grave Plot Number (located on the back of the headstones) to find the Veterans on your tour.



[Map](#) of St. Augustine National Cemetery courtesy of NCA



# Navigating SANC- Sections

- The St. Augustine National Cemetery is divided into 5 sections.
- You will notice, on your map, that the sections are labeled as A, B, C, D, and E.
- These 4 markers, in the center of the cemetery, along the sidewalk, signify the split between the sections A, B, C, and D of the cemetery.
- Section E is located next to the utility building, behind the flagstaff.



# Aerial Map of SANC with streets and sections labeled



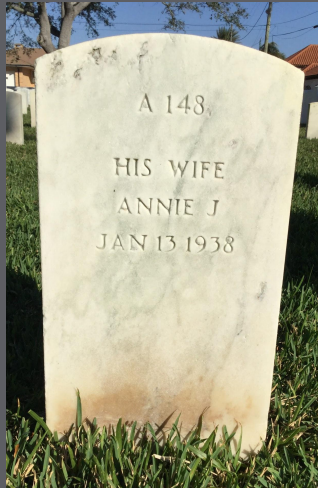
# Navigating SANC- Finding Veterans

Interment Cards indicate the location of each person buried in SANC.

- Example: Michael (Miguel) A. Freije is buried in plot D-100

Use the numbers on the back of the headstones to guide you.

- Example: Annie J., wife of John G. Rake, buried in A-148



Freije, Michael A. INTERMENT IN THE St. Augustine National CEMETERY

TO: THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, WASHINGTON 25, D. C. ORIGINAL MAY 11 1949

STATE: Fla. RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check One)  LATIN CROSS  STAR OF DAVID

Freije, Michael A. RANK: Private Co. L, 101st Inf. Regt. 28th Inf. Div. (Inf) WW II

SERIAL NO. 34 975 022

DATE OF BIRTH			DATE OF DEATH			GRAVE LOCATION		DATES OF SERVICE			
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	SEC. OR PLOT	GRAVE OR LOT NO.	ENLISTMENT	DIED ON A. D.	DISCHARGE	RETIREMENT
7	22	13	12	24	44	D	100				

REMARKS (Authority for interment, pension or claim number, disinterment, etc.)  
Grave site previously reserved QMNG 293. WW II Dead returned from 35-47 Limoy-Toul Cem. France, Plot \_\_\_\_\_, Row \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. # \_\_\_\_\_. White, Married, WOK Helen S. Freije (Wife) Route #1, Shelbyville, Mich. Undertaker Craig Funeral Home. QMC Form 316 furnished. Running No. ~~2443~~ 2471

DATE HEADSTONE ORDERED AND B/L NUMBER  
TATE, GA. 3 JUN 1949  
5930704

SHIPPING POINT FOR HEADSTONES  
RAILROAD STATION FOR FREIGHT  
FEC RR St. Augustine, Fla.  
POST OFFICE ADDRESS  
St. Augustine, Fla.

SIGNATURE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERY OR CH OF POST OR POW CEMETERY  
Leon P. Leonard  
Superintendent.

QMC FORM 14 Previous editions may be used  
REV 19 NOV 48 (See instructions on reverse side) 16-40009-2

# How to read a Government Issued Headstone

It Includes:

- Emblem of Belief ([Full list of the NCA website](#))
- Name
- State
- Rank
- Unit or Service
- Date of Birth-Date of Death
- Personal Inscription



# The Armed Forces

## Who Served:

- Men and Women
- Black and white
- Immigrants, Native Born and Native Americans
- Family members, Husbands, Wives, Sons, Daughters, Brother, Sisters,

## How they Served:

- Army
- Navy
- Army Air Force
- Marines
- Coast Guard
- Merchant Marine

# Wrap-Up & Reflection

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CHDR**



# Meet at the Flag -- Reflect & Discuss

1. Why do you think National Cemeteries are important?
2. Which Veteran's story affected you the most and why?
3. What is one word you would use to describe the Veterans you learned about today? Why?
4. Name one thing you learned about US history from hearing about Veterans' experiences.



# Leave a Penny

Choose one person and leave a penny on their headstone. Set it carefully on top and say their name out loud as a way to remember them. This is part of an old tradition in which coins are used as markers to show who visited those buried in the cemetery.



Penny = You visited the Veteran



Dime = You served with the Veteran



Nickel = You trained with the Veteran in Boot Camp



Quarter = You were there when the Veteran died