

National Cemetery Field Trip

Introduction, Etiquette, & Memorialization

VA



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

National Cemetery
Administration



UCF

**Department
of History**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



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](#).



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.

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