

End of Life Preparation



Every member should have paperwork squared away for “End of Life”

These are some of the suggested steps to take:

- Ensure you **have a file** or folder in a safe place that contains your files and instructions
- Ensure your executor (the person who will handle your arrangements) **knows where to find the file**
- Ensure your **DD-214** is in the file.
- Make certain the DD-214 shows your character of discharge (NOT Dishonorable)
- Consider **Durable Power of Attorneys** (POA) with your spouse.
- Determine if you wish to be **buried or cremated**.
- Decide whether burial will be in a VA National Cemetery, state or tribal Veterans’ cemetery or private cemetery
- Determine desired **memorial products**

Marine Corps League Website Veteran Service tab:

<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/veterans-service-officer/>

Requesting Military Records:

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

VA Burial & Memorial Benefits:

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/>

U.S. Marine Corps Funeral Honors Request:

<https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Agencies/Casualty-MFPC/Funeral-Honors/>

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These are some of the suggested steps to take:

- **Advanced Care Plan (ACP)** allows Veteran to make health care wishes known
- ACP **assigns someone the Veteran trusts** to make medical decisions if Veteran is unable to
- **Pre-Need Eligibility Application** – Veteran and spouse apply in advance to be buried in a VA National Cemetery.
- **Eligible spouses and dependents** may be buried in a VA National Cemetery even if they predecease the Veteran
- The name, date of birth, and date of death are inscribed on the Veteran’s headstone **at no cost** to family
- **When the Veteran and spouse receive the Pre-Need Approval letter, place it in the special folder.**

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Memorial Benefits in a National Cemetery:

- Grave liner (vault)
- Perpetual care and maintenance
- Government headstone, marker or medallion
- Presidential Memorial Certificate
- Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) page
- Burial Flag and military honors at no cost to the Veteran or family

What will a funeral director do?

- Assist family by gathering and providing documents needed by VA
- Calling National Cemetery Scheduling Office to schedule burial
- Acquire burial flag
- Request Military Funeral Honors from DOD
- Serves as Liaison between the family and the VA for burial matters.

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Cannot find the DD-214 – DO THIS:

- Most important – it is free
- Search the internet for National Archives DD-214
- Request is made online by Veteran or Next of Kin
- An Emergency Request can be submitted
- DD-214 can be emailed

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