

§ 12.1 Applicability and scope.

The regulations in this part apply to the national cemeteries administered by the National Park Service. These regulations supplement regulations found in parts 1–5 and 7 of this chapter and provide procedural guidance for the administration, operation and maintenance of these cemeteries.

§ 12.2 Purpose of National Cemeteries.

National cemeteries are established as national shrines in tribute to the gallant dead who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Such areas are protected, managed and administered as suitable and dignified burial grounds and as significant cultural resources. As such, the authorization of activities that take place in national cemeteries is limited to those that are consistent with applicable legislation and that are compatible with maintaining the solemn commemorative and historic character of these areas.

§ 12.3 Definitions.

The following definitions apply only to the regulations in this part:

Burial section means a plot of land within a national cemetery specifically designated to receive casketed or cremated human remains.

Close relative means a surviving spouse, parent, adult brother or sister, or adult child.

Commemorative monument means a monument, tablet, structure, or other commemorative installation of permanent materials to honor more than one veteran.

Demonstration means a demonstration, picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding a vigil or religious service or any other like form of conduct that involves the communication or expression of views or grievances, whether engaged in by one or more persons, that has the intent, effect or likelihood to attract a crowd or onlookers. This term does not include casual park use by persons that does not have an intent or likelihood to attract a crowd or onlookers.

Eligible person means an individual authorized by Federal statute and VA Policy to be interred or memorialized in a national cemetery.

Government headstone means a standard upright stone, provided by the Veterans Administration, of the same design currently in use in a national cemetery to identify the interred remains.

Gravesite reservation means a written agreement executed between a person and the National Park Service to secure a gravesite prior to the death of an eligible person.

Headstone means a permanent stone placed vertically on a grave to identify the interred remains.

Historic enclosure means a permanent fence, wall, hedge, or other structure that surrounds the burial sections and defines the unique historic boundary of a national cemetery.

Marker means a permanent device placed horizontally on a grave to identify the interred remains.

Memorial headstone means a private or government headstone placed in a memorial section of a national cemetery with the words “In Memory Of” inscribed to honor a deceased eligible person whose remains could not be interred in the national cemetery.

NPS Policy means the National Park Service’s *Guidelines for National Cemeteries, NPS-61*.

Private headstone means an upright stone provided by a person at no expense to the government and in lieu of a government headstone.

Recreational activity means any form of athletics, sport or other leisure pursuit or event, whether organized or spontaneous, that is engaged in by one or more persons for the primary purpose of exercise, relaxation or enjoyment, including but not limited to the following: jogging, racing, skating, skateboarding, ball playing, kite flying, model airplane flying, throwing objects through the air, sunbathing, bicycling and picnicking. This term does not include walking, hiking or casual strolling.

Special event means a sports event, pageant, celebration, historical reenactment, entertainment, exhibition, parade, fair, festival or similar activity that is not a demonstration, whether engaged in by one or more persons, that has the intent, effect or likelihood to attract a crowd or onlookers. This term does not include casual park use by persons that does not have an intent