

Department of the Army, DoD

§ 553.20

§ 553.17 Persons ineligible for burial in an Army national cemetery.

(a) A father, mother, brother, sister, and in-law is not eligible for interment by reason of relationship to an eligible service person even though he/she is dependent upon the service member for support and/or is a member of his/her household.

(b) A person whose last separation from one of the Armed Forces was under other-than-honorable conditions is not eligible for burial even though he may have received veterans benefits, treatment at a Veterans Administration hospital or died in such a hospital.

(c) A person who has volunteered for service with the Armed Forces but has not actually entered on active duty.

(d) Nonservice-connected spouses who have been divorced from the service-connected members or who have remarried after the interment of the service-connected spouse and whose remarriage is still valid are not eligible because of the decedent's service.

(e) Dependents are not eligible for burial in Arlington National Cemetery unless the Service-connected family member has been or will be interred in that cemetery. This does not apply to widows or widowers of members of the Armed Forces lost or buried at sea or officially determined to be permanently absent in a status of missing or missing in action.

§ 553.18 Assignment of gravesites.

(a) Under present policy of the Department of the Army, only one gravesite is authorized for the burial of a service member and eligible family members.

(b) Gravesites will not be reserved.

(c) Gravesite reservations made in writing before the one-gravesite-per-family unit policy was established will remain in effect as long as the reservee remains eligible for burial in Arlington.

§ 553.19 Disinterments.

(a) Interments in Arlington National Cemetery of eligible decedents are considered permanent and final, and disinterments will be permitted only for cogent reasons. Disinterments and removal of remains will be approved only when all living close relatives of the

decedent give their written consent or when a court order directs the disinterment.

(b) All requests for authority to disinter remains will include the following information:

(1) A full statement of reasons for the proposed disinterment.

(2) Notarized statements by all close living relatives of the decedent that they interpose no objection to the proposed disinterment. "Close relatives" are widow or widower, parents, adult brothers and sisters, and adult children of the decedent and will include the person who directed the initial interment, if living, even though the legal relationship of that person to the decedent may have changed.

(3) A sworn statement by a person who knows that those who supplied affidavits comprise all the living close relatives of the deceased, including the person who directed the initial interment.

(c) In lieu of the documents required, an order of a court of competent jurisdiction will be recognized. The Department of the Army or officials of the cemetery should not be made a party or parties to the court action since this is a matter that concerns the family members involved.

(d) Any disinterment that may be authorized under this paragraph must be accomplished without expense to the Government.

§ 553.20 Headstones and markers.

All graves in Army national cemeteries will be appropriately marked in accordance with 24 U.S.C. 279. Government headstones and markers are provided by the Veterans Administration in accordance with the provisions of the National Cemeteries Act of 1973. When requested by the next of kin, an appropriate memorial headstone or marker will be furnished by the Veterans Administration and erected by cemetery personnel in a memorial section of the cemetery which has been set aside for this purpose. Headstones will be of white marble, upright slab design.