



**DOUGLAS A. DUCEY**  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF ARIZONA**  
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
3839 N THIRD STREET  
PHOENIX, AZ 85012  
Tel 602.255.3373 ♦ Fax 602.255.1038  
[www.azdvs.gov](http://www.azdvs.gov)



**WANDA A. WRIGHT**  
DIRECTOR

---

## Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries to Resume Committal and Memorial Services Halted by COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Funeral Directors:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries have resumed committal services in all but two VA national cemeteries. As a result, the Arizona Veteran's Memorial Cemeteries will start Phase 1 committal services on June 15, 2020.

The Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries (AVMC) will contact families who chose not to hold committal services due to the COVID-19 pandemic to arrange a memorial service for their loved ones beginning in July. Families with interments scheduled before July will be offered the option of a committal service after June 15<sup>th</sup>.

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has implemented a robust set of measures that will allow us to conduct committal and memorial services while protecting the health and safety of Veterans, their families and our team members who serve them. AVMC will follow these measures and will continue to adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Cemetery administrators have the authority and responsibility to maintain a safe environment at their cemetery for visitors and employees. **As such, if a family member or attendee refuses to follow safety measures at the committal shelter the cemetery will not conduct the committal service or allow the witnessing of the interment.**

---



**DOUGLAS A. DUCEY**  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF ARIZONA**  
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
3839 N THIRD STREET  
PHOENIX, AZ 85012  
Tel 602.255.3373 ♦ Fax 602.255.1038  
[www.azdvs.gov](http://www.azdvs.gov)



**WANDA A. WRIGHT**  
DIRECTOR

To ensure the safety of our visitors and employees, all attendees are **required** to follow these safety measures:

- **Limit the Number of Attendees:** Families must abide by cemetery limits on the number of individuals attending the committal service. The number of attendees permitted at committal service will vary based on state and local guidelines for gathering sizes and the ability of the cemetery to accommodate attendees while maintaining physical distancing, but nowhere will the number permitted to attend be more than 10. Cemetery team members, funeral home personnel, and military honors providers do not count toward the limited number of attendees.
- **Wear Face Masks:** All family members, attendees, funeral home personnel, military honor providers, and cemetery staff **must** wear a face mask. Family members and attendees must bring or provide their own face masks.
- **Maintain Physical Distancing:** At least 6 feet of distance must be maintained between individuals. People living together in the same household do not need to maintain a 6-foot distance from each other, but must identify as such if asked by cemetery staff.
- **Stay Home if you are Sick:** Individuals who are sick or not feeling well should not attend the service.

Funeral home directors and staff are asked to emphasize the cemetery's requirement that all attendees follow these required safety measures for the committal service to commence.

Families wishing to display floral arrangements on stands at the committal service may do so, however, all handling, placement and removal of the arrangements must be done by funeral home personnel or the family. Floral arrangements will not be transported by cemetery personnel to the gravesite at the time of interment. Families wishing to place a floral arrangement(s) (limit 2) after 3:00pm on the day of interment or any time thereafter. These changes will be in effect until further notice. As a reminder, cemeteries will not accept floral arrangements for direct interments.

Funeral home personnel, families and visitors should be aware that public buildings, such as Administrative and Maintenance Buildings, remain closed to the public during Phase 1. Contact the local cemeteries for specific information.

---

Military funeral honors, customarily provided by the Department of Defense and volunteer honor guards, will be based on local availability. Funeral home directors are encouraged to contact military funeral honors providers to determine services and availability. Military honors personnel will be required to wear a face mask and maintain physical distancing.

Families have the option of requesting a committal service or not. They may continue to choose direct interment and opt for a memorial service at a later date when all restrictions have been lifted.

**Conditions and restrictions at local cemeteries can and will change in response to state, local and federal guidelines and orders. You are encouraged to contact your local cemetery for specific information or details.**

Lastly, the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery would like to thank you for all that you have done for our nation's Veterans and their families during these unprecedented times. Your partnership and commitment to ensure Veterans receive the burial benefits they deserve is always appreciated and not forgotten.

**Nicole Contreras**

Cemetery Administrator

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services ([www.azdvs.gov](http://www.azdvs.gov))

Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Marana

15950 N. Lockett Rd., Marana, Arizona 85653

520-638-4869 / Fax: 520-638-4899

Email: [ncontreras@azdvs.gov](mailto:ncontreras@azdvs.gov)

**Judy Dillman**

*Cemetery Administrator*

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery-Camp Navajo

14317 Veterans Drive, Bellemont, AZ 86016

Tel: 928-214-3474 eFax: 928-752-2775

**Joe Larson**

*Cemetery Administrator*

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

1300 S. Buffalo Soldier Trail

Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635

520-458-7144 office

520-678-6928 Cell

520-458-7147 fax