



DEFIANCE COUNTY
VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION – VETERANS' AFFAIRS

1300 EAST SECOND STREET, SUITE 102, DEFIANCE, OHIO 43512
PHONE (419)782-6861 FAX (419)782-6713
MIKE WILLIAMS – SERVICE OFFICER TANYA BRUNNER – COUNSELOR MARIA SMITH – SECRETARY

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL SECTION OF RIVERSIDE CEMETERY
DEFIANCE, OHIO

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Veteran's Memorial Cemetery Section Perpetual Care Committee

The Defiance County Veterans Office will chair this committee and maintain the financial account. This committee, along with the City of Defiance determines the regulations of this section of the cemetery. The regulations in this letter pertain to Section 6 of the Cemetery.

Burial Regulations
Revised 2-2-2010

1. The American flag, the flag of the State of Ohio, and the POW/MIA flag will be the only flags allowed on the flagstaff in this section.
2. The veteran must have military discharge papers or some indication of military service and character of discharge before burial can be approved in the Veteran's Section.
3. There will be one grave space provided for the burial of an honorably discharged veteran or a veteran who was discharged with a character of General Under Honorable Conditions. Veterans of the National Guard of any State and Reservists of any Branch of Service can be buried in the Veteran's Section.
4. There will be no lot fees charged for the internment of the veteran or their spouse.
5. The veteran must die first and be interred in the Veteran's Section before a non-veteran spouse can be interred in the Section. If the veteran is interred in the Veteran's Section; an adjoining lot can be reserved for the spouse. The lot must be reserved, in writing, within ninety days of the death of the veteran. In the event the spouse does not utilize the reserved lot, it will go to the next eligible veteran.
6. Veterans may have their non-veteran spouse cremated and may bury those remains with the veteran's remains in the same lot or they may have the remains interred in an adjoining lot.
7. The non-veteran spouse is responsible for purchasing their own marble headstone to match the veteran's headstone or they can have the spouse's information engraved on the veteran's headstone. Please see Rule 21 concerning adding inscriptions.
8. Lots are provided on a first come-first served basis. A veteran cannot reserve a lot in advance of their death.
9. All parties must pay opening and closing costs as established by the City of Defiance.
10. All headstones must be government issued upright white marble. In the case of non-veteran



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Burial Regulations Continued

11. The headstones will be installed by the City of Defiance, or an approved memorial stone vendor. There will be no charge to install the headstone of the veteran. The non-veteran spouse will pay any fees involved in installing their headstone.
12. There will be no personal plantings.
13. There will be no urns, containers, benches, decorations, flowers, wreathes, or any other personal items allowed.
14. The only decoration allowed on the gravesites will be the American Flag and the grave flag holder. There will be no decorations or items of any kind attached to the flag or the grave flag holder. There will be no decorations or items attached to the headstones.
15. Concerning grave flag holders; branch insignias and professional or organization markers are allowed but they must be attached to the same rod of the grave flag holder. Only one grave flag holder will be allowed per grave. Multiple eras of service will necessitate a universal grave flag holder be used or that the eras of service are all attached to the same rod. A universal grave flag holder will be provided at no charge, any modifications to flag holders will be done at the expense of the deceased family.
16. Flags will be put on individual grave sites from approximately May until November.
17. There will no raised graves.
18. Any person wishing to disinter a person buried in the Veteran's Section must reimburse the City of Defiance for lot fees, footer fees, and any costs associated with the disinterment. Those fees and costs must be paid in full before the disinterment will be allowed.
19. There will be no reburial of persons disinterred from another cemetery, unless it is first approved by the Veteran's Memorial Section Cemetery Perpetual Care Committee.



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Burial Regulations Continued

20. Not eligible for burial in this Section are the following veterans, regardless of character of discharge:
- A person found guilty of a Capital Crime and sentenced to death or life imprisonment without parole.
 - A person found guilty of a State Crime and sentenced to death or life imprisonment without parole.
 - A person who was to stand trial for a Capital or State Crime but was not convicted because of flight to avoid prosecution.
 - A person convicted of a Subversive Activity against the United States of America or a person who was to stand trial for a Subversive Activity but was not convicted because of flight to avoid prosecution.
21. **INSCRIPTIONS. Any engraving done on markers that are placed in this section must be approved by the Defiance County Veterans Office in writing. Their decision is final.**
- The office will abide by regulations set forth by the Department of Veterans Affairs. No graphics, emblems or pictures are permitted except VA approved emblems of belief, the Medal of Honor, and the Southern Cross of Honor for Civil War Confederate veterans. Additional inscriptions might include terms of endearment, nicknames, military or civilian credentials or accomplishments such as Reverend or Doctor, etc. Special military unit designations such as Seabees or Women's Air Corps etc. Adding the names of spouse, dependent or significant other to the marker is allowed. Due to the unique consideration of the soil type and frost line; only one line of comment can be allowed on the front of the marker due to space considerations. Any other lines of inscription must be engraved on the back of the marker, space permitting. When a disagreement arises between family members on adding inscriptions to the marker; consideration of the Defiance County Veterans Office will be weighted in favor of the request of the surviving spouse: then natural born or adopted children in birth order, oldest to youngest; then father (adopted, step, foster): then mother (adopted, step, foster) then eldest surviving brother; eldest surviving sister. Concerning adding inscriptions and using abbreviations or punctuation; the additional inscriptions must match the style, font and grammar used by the VA. For example, if the VA has used the three letter abbreviation instead of spelling out the month: then the added