

INDIANTOWN GAP NATIONAL CEMETERY



Overview

Message from the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery Staff

Welcome to Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. We hope you find peace amid these quiet and beautiful grounds and visit us again.

Families often contact us during a difficult time - after the loss of a loved one.

We're here to make the burial process as comfortable as possible. We encourage veterans and their families to talk with us in advance for information or about any questions or concerns.

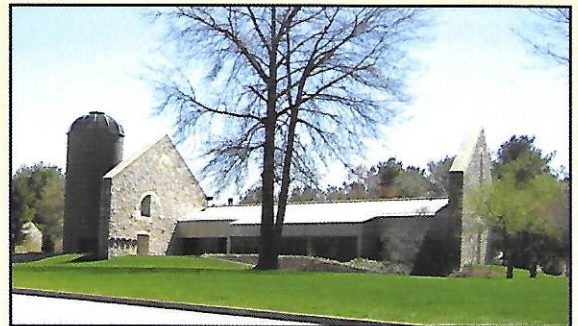
When the time comes, we will ensure the committal service and any other requests are handled respectfully. We pledge to honor the dignity and memory of each person and to provide excellent service to family and friends during this difficult time.

Our Mission

The National Cemetery Administration honors veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our nation.



- Indiantown Gap National Cemetery was established in 1982.
- The cemetery serves an estimated 1.5 million veterans in Pennsylvania and surrounding states.
- Situated on 677 acres, the cemetery accommodates casketed and cremated remains.
- More than 1,800 burials are conducted each year.
- One veteran from the Spanish-American War is buried at the cemetery, as well as veterans from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars. A majority of those buried at the cemetery served during WWII.



Making Burial Arrangements

The funeral home or next-of-kin should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to make burial arrangements for Veterans and/or their eligible dependents.

The funeral home should fax all available military discharge documents to the scheduling office at (866) 900-6417 and follow up with a call to (800) 535-1117. If military discharge documents are not available, scheduling office representatives will assist the funeral home or next-of-kin with the verification process. This process may require 48 hours or more to determine eligibility for burial in a national cemetery.

The scheduling office will be open seven (7) days a week, from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Central time, except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Please contact the cemetery directly to:

- Schedule active duty interments
- Schedule memorial services without interment
- Cancel or reschedule interments
- Change information initially provided to the scheduling office
- Request disinterment or relocation of remains

Burial benefits provided by the National Cemetery Administration, at no cost to the veteran, include: burial plot; opening and closing of the gravesite; a government liner; headstone or marker with inscription; interment flag; perpetual care of the gravesite; and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Funeral director's services are not covered.

Gravesites are assigned by the cemetery and cannot be selected in advance. Assignments are made without regard to rank, ethnic or religious background, branch of service or other factors.

The Veteran and spouse are interred in the same grave. If both were Veterans, they may choose to be buried side-by-side in separate graves.

Military honors are provided by the Department of Defense and are to be arranged by the funeral director. If there is no funeral director, cemetery staff will assist the family in arranging for military honors.

Burials and interments are scheduled between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except designated holidays. Out of respect for all persons buried at the cemetery the main flag is lowered to half-staff 30 minutes before the first service, where it remains until 30 minutes following the last service of the day.

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery has the following burial site options:

- Casket: in-ground only
- Cremation: in-ground

The administration office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on designated holidays.

Floral Policy

We welcome and encourage fresh-cut flowers throughout the year and provide flower containers for gravesite display. Cemetery visitors are free to use the containers located in receptacles placed throughout the grounds. Once the blooms are spent or damaged by weather, they are removed. They also may be removed for routine mowing or other maintenance.

Artificial flowers are only allowed after the end of mowing operations in the fall on November 15th and must be removed when mowing operations resume in the spring on March 1st.

On Easter, potted plants and artificial flowers may be placed on gravesites 10 days before through 10 days after the holiday. During the holiday season, from December 1st through January 10th, wreaths less than 18 inches in diameter and not higher than the granite headstone, gravesite blankets no larger than two by three feet, and other seasonal decorations may be placed on gravesites.

To maintain the dignity of the cemetery, commemorative items, balloons, pinwheels, glass items, votive lights, statues, shepherd's hooks and permanent plantings, among other items, are not allowed.

No item or object may be attached to a headstone or marker in a national cemetery. Animals may eat fresh flowers and arrangements.

History and Background

Indiantown Gap derives its name from the various Native American communities that resided in this region of Pennsylvania. The first inhabitants were Susquehannocks, an Iroquois tribe first encountered by Europeans in the 17th century. In the mid-1700s, Scotch-Irish, English and German pioneers settled the region and managed to live peacefully with the neighboring Lenape Indians. During the French and Indian Wars, however, tribes who were allied with French colonists raided many English frontier settlements. As Indiantown Gap increasingly became the site of frequent battles, pioneers built forts as a defense measure.

In the 1930s, when the Pennsylvania National Guard needed a larger area for training maneuvers and firing ranges, the government bought 12,047 acres in Dauphin and Lebanon counties. The site at Indiantown Gap became a federal base for many military camps.

After World War II, Indiantown Gap became a separation center for officers and enlisted men returning from overseas, and eventually home to the 32,000 troops of the 5th Infantry Division and a training center during the Korean War. From 1962 to 1973, Indiantown Gap was the host installation for the largest Reserve Officers Training Corps advanced summer camp nationwide.

In 1976, a section of Fort Indiantown Gap was selected as the site for a national cemetery for the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia and West Virginia.

Visiting the Cemetery

Thousands of people visit Indiantown Gap National Cemetery each year. Many come for a committal service or to visit the gravesite of a loved one, others to attend special observances or to enjoy the peaceful setting. We welcome all visitors to this shrine for our nation's heroes.

The cemetery is open to the public daily from sunrise to sunset for visitation of cemetery grounds. Specific gravesites can be found using a kiosk grave locator at the administration building. A Nationwide Gravesite Locator for national cemeteries is also available on the Internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

General cemetery information is available in the administration building. Visitors to specific gravesites may park along the curb near the gravesite they are visiting. Restrooms and a water fountain are located in the public restroom building which is next to the administration building.

Visitors attending committal services should gather at the administration building. Roadway parking is available throughout the cemetery and near the committal shelter during services. Special observances and ceremonies are held at the Veterans Memorial located within the national cemetery.

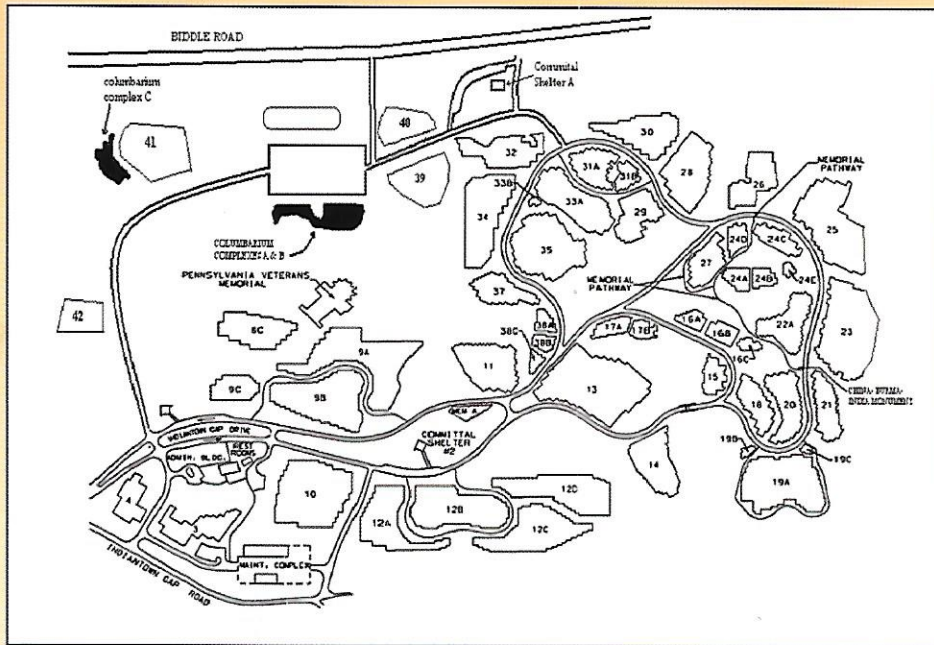


A Memorial Day ceremony is held annually the Sunday before Memorial Day at 2 p.m. and a Veterans Day ceremony is held the Sunday before Veterans Day at 2 p.m. Both ceremonies are held rain or shine. For additional information, call the cemetery office at (717) 865-5254.

While we invite visitors to Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, we remind them of its solemn purpose and ask that they act in a dignified manner while on the cemetery grounds. For this reason, public gatherings of a partisan nature are not permitted. In addition, sports or recreational activities are not permitted, including:

- Bicycle riding
- Jogging
- Picnicking
- Roller blading
- Walking of pets
- Fishing or hunting

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

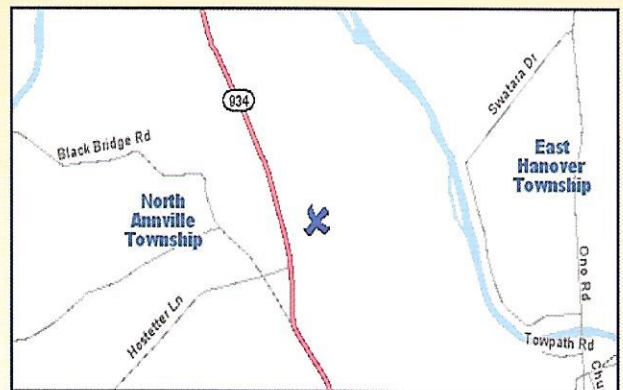


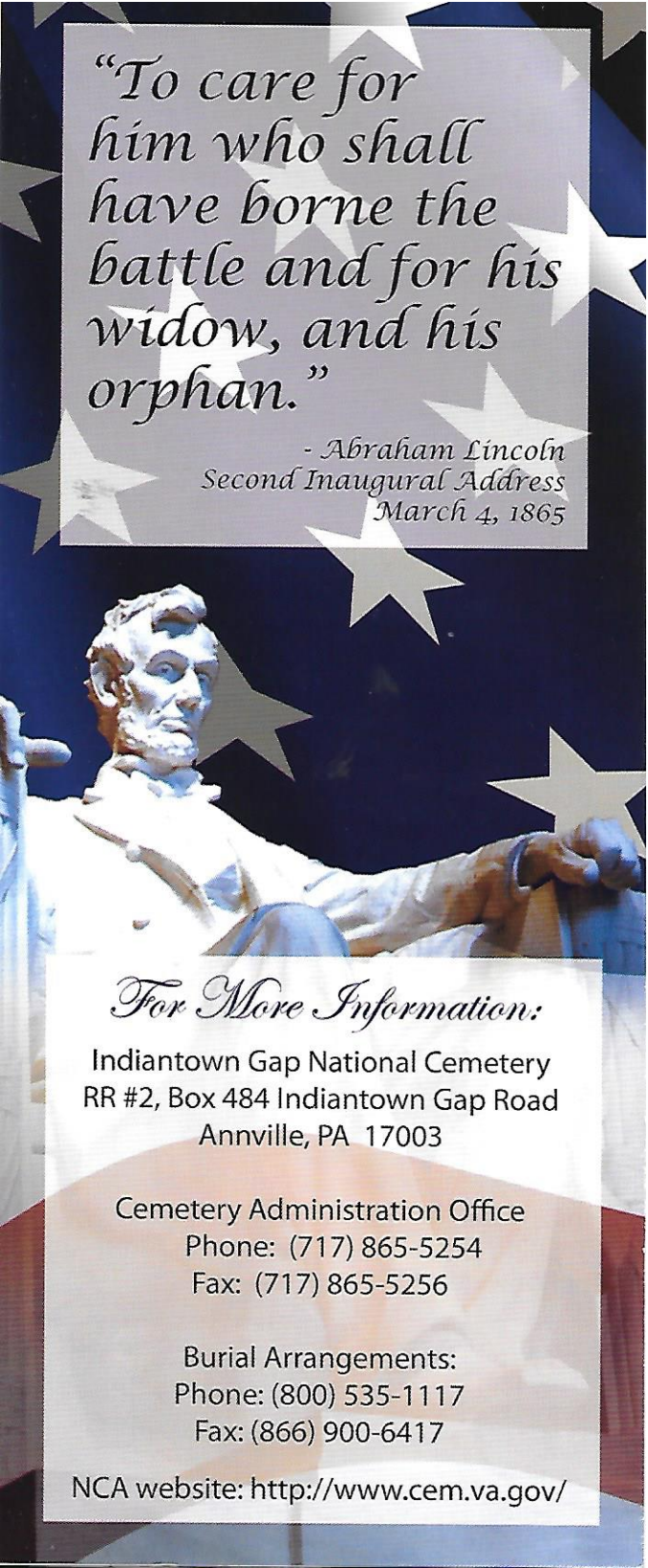
Directions:

The cemetery is located 25 miles northeast of Harrisburg International Airport.

From the airport, travel Interstate 283 north to Interstate 83 north. Then take Interstate 81 north and exit at 85B.

Bear right off the exit and the cemetery entrance is one quarter mile on the right.





*“To care for
him who shall
have borne the
battle and for his
widow, and his
orphan.”*

*- Abraham Lincoln
Second Inaugural Address
March 4, 1865*

For More Information:

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery
RR #2, Box 484 Indiantown Gap Road
Annville, PA 17003

Cemetery Administration Office

Phone: (717) 865-5254

Fax: (717) 865-5256

Burial Arrangements:

Phone: (800) 535-1117

Fax: (866) 900-6417

NCA website: <http://www.cem.va.gov/>