



Middletown State Veterans Cemetery **Rules and Code of Conduct**

(Updated May 22, 2024)

Please comply with the following Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) rules and code of conduct and all posted cemetery signs in respect for the Veterans and spouses laid to rest in this place of honor.

A. Hours of Operation:

1. The cemetery is open to visitors from sunrise to dusk, seven days per week, year-round.

B. Visitor Conduct:

1. All persons in the cemetery shall conduct themselves in a manner befitting a sacred place and demonstrate respect to other visitors and the Veterans and spouses laid to rest in the cemetery.

2. No pets or domestic animals are permitted except for personal service animals and animals approved by the DVA or its authorized agents for participation in funeral, memorial and other DVA authorized ceremonies. All service animals and other DVA approved animals must remain leashed at all times.

3. The posted speed limit of 15 mph shall not be exceeded, and drivers must follow the posted directions of the roadways.

4. No driving or parking on the lawn areas or on the Columbarium concrete area.

5. No double parking in the cemetery at any time.

6. Public gatherings that are not part of a funeral service or burial are prohibited without prior approval by the DVA.

7. The cemetery property is not to be used for recreational or exercise activities, including but not limited to, use of the cemetery as a picnic area or trail for walking, jogging or biking. This does not prohibit those persons walking around the cemetery in a respectful manner. Only those persons walking around in a respectful manner and those visiting gravesites, attending a funeral, memorial or other DVA ceremonies are permitted.

8. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are prohibited on cemetery grounds.

9. No smoking is permitted within 50 ft. of administration building or cemetery maintenance equipment.

C. Flags, Flowers, Plants, Decorations and Medallions:

1. Potted plants no more than 8" in diameter are permitted at gravesites five days prior to and five days after the following holidays:

- a. Easter
- b. Mother's Day
- c. Memorial Day
- d. Father's Day

2. Plastic cone vases are available throughout the cemetery to be used to place cut flowers with plastic wrapping removed. No soil shall be placed in these plastic vases. These vases are property of the state and are not to be removed by visitors from the cemetery.

3. Florists may deliver flowers to grave location for funerals and other occasions consistent with the requirements of this section provided all boxes and packaging material are removed prior to placement.

4. The following are prohibited to be affixed to or placed next to a headstone or niche cover except when part of a funeral or burial service or other ceremony approved by the DVA, and must be removed at the conclusion of the funeral or burial service or other ceremony:

- a. Permanent plantings (prohibited at all times)
- b. All open flames and flammable items, including but not limited to, incense, candles, vigil lights, etc.
- c. Artificial flowers, balloons, statues, glass or breakable objects of any kind, rosary beads, medallions (including flag holder medallions) or other commemorative or personal items.
- d. Decorative pinecones, branches, berries, cemetery logs
- e. Palms
- f. Grave blankets
- g. Window boxes
- h. Other decorative items
- i. Flags except those placed pursuant to Section D herein

5. No objects of any kind are to be attached to a headstone or niche cover, and at no time can any item interfere with or cover the identifying name on a headstone. No altering of headstones is permitted at any time.

6. Cemetery staff may remove any item that detracts from the aesthetics and dignified setting of a Veterans cemetery or poses risk of damage to a headstone or to cemetery maintenance equipment.

7. All items left at a gravesite will be discarded in order to maintain cemetery standards. Temporary permissible items left behind will be removed and discarded after the allowable period has ended.

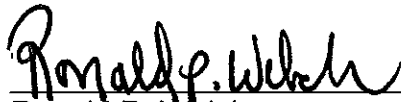
C. Additional Provisions:

1. Wreaths Across America is an annual event held in December which includes a ceremony and placing of wreaths on gravesites as religiously appropriate by family, friends, volunteers and DVA staff. The wreaths and all other holiday accouterments are removed on the 3rd Saturday in January, weather permitting.

2. The cemetery staff and volunteers will place American flags on each gravesite the Saturday before Memorial Day and before Veterans Day each year and will remove the flags the following Saturday. No other flags are permitted.

3. No person except cemetery staff or authorized personnel may cut, break, or otherwise alter any cemetery trees, shrubs, grass or other plantings.

Issued by:


Ronald P. Welch
Commissioner

Date: May 22, 2024