Accountability at Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery

SVMC interment processes are designed to ensure that those we have the honor to inter are accurately accounted for at all times. Interments within SVMC will be marked with a permanent, correctly inscribed (using VA formatting), upright marble headstone.

Eligibility is determined upon request after a person's death, and must be confirmed by the cemetery director before an interment is scheduled.

Decedent remains are accompanied from the moment funeral attendees are greeted until final interment action takes place.

When a committal service is scheduled, cemetery personnel **will confirm the decedent**'s identity; compare the provided paperwork to the burial schedule, temporary grave marker, and casket/container label to confirm gravesite assignment.

Cemetery Personnel will escort the funeral attendees to the appropriate committal shelter.

Prior to the committal service, the next of kin or representative is provided with a Certificate of Interment and a map showing gravesite location for visitation following the interment.

Following the committal service, the decedent's remains are escorted by cemetery personnel to the assigned gravesite, where decedent identity, gravesite assignment, and casket/container labeling are again verified.

After interment the gravesite is immediately marked with a temporary grave marker, which is checked regularly until the permanent headstone is set in place.

The permanent headstone **is ordered through the VA's Memorial Program Service Office for** veterans, and a local monument dealer for dependents.

Headstone data is confirmed with the family prior to or the day of the interment.

Headstones are inspected upon receipt for quality and inscription accuracy. Decedent information and gravesite assignment are verified again at final setting of the headstone, which normally occurs within 60 - 90 days of ordering.

In addition to daily procedures that ensure accountability of interments, the Cemetery Director completes regular verifications to validate cemetery-reported data.