

Decedent Affairs

COMDTINST M1770.1C.

The Coast Guard Decedent Affairs Program provides specific guidance on benefits available to survivors of active duty members who die while on active duty, reserve members, military retired members, and their dependents. Information concerning funeral expenses including preparation and transportation of remains along with individual points of contact (POC) for Casualty Assistance Calls Officers (CACOs) are available in the Decedent Affairs Guide. Death benefits include but are not limited to, Primary (\$1,750.00) and Secondary (\$3,100.00) funeral expenses, Death Gratuity Pay (\$6,000.00), Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC), continued Health Care Coverage (TRICARE), treatment in military treatment facilities (MTFs), exchange, commissary, and morale recreation and welfare facilities, burial allowances, internment in National Cemeteries, and other Veterans Benefits found in VA Pamphlet 80-98-1.

Casualty Assistance Calls Officers' locations and phone numbers:

[HSC WASHINGTON DC - 202 267-2085](#)

[ISC ALAMEDA - 510 437-3792](#)

[ISC BOSTON - 617 223-3248](#)

[ISC CLEVELAND - 216 902-6350](#)

[ISC HONOLULU - 808 541-1535](#)

[ISC KETCHIKAN - 907 463-2169](#)

[ISC KODIAK - 907 228-0299](#)

[ISC MIAMI - 305 535-4591](#)

[ISC NEW ORLEANS - 504 942-4059](#)

[ISC PORTSMOUTH - 757 686-4032](#)

[ISC SAN PEDRO - 310 732-7570](#)

[ISC SEATTLE - 206 217-6617](#)

[ISC ST LOUIS - 314 771-6044 ext 102](#)

LINK TO - [Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents](#)

POLICY ON MILITARY HONORS (Official Message)

CH T USCGC CHOCK
PB T USCGC POINT BONITA
EU T COGARD ESU PORTSMOUTH VA
ED T COGARD ESU DET PORTSMOUTH VA
IP T COGARD INTSUPRTCOM PORTSMOUTH VA
SP T COGARD STA PORTSMOUTH VA
SM T COGARD STA MILFORD HAVEN VA
LC T COGARD STA LITTLE CREEK VA
CP T COGARD STA CAPE CHARLES VA
NS T COGARD NESU PORTSMOUTH VA
CC T COGARD CCENGCEN PORTSMOUTH VA
SA T COGARD ANT MILFORD HAVEN VA
AB T USCGC ALBACORE
AK T COGARD ANT KENNEBEC PORTSMOUTH VA
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SUBJ: POLICY ON MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

A. NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FY2000

B. DECEDENT AFFAIRS GUIDE, COMIDTINST M1770.1C

C. RESERVE POLICY MANUAL, COMDTINST M1001.28

1. REF A REQUIRES THE SERVICES TO PROVIDE MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS TO ALL ELIGIBLE VETERANS, UPON REQUEST, BEGINNING 01 JAN 00. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN BY CONGRESS TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF PAYING FINAL TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL NATION.

2. CG POLICY FOR MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS IS PROVIDED BELOW:

A. ALL REQUESTS FROM FUNERAL DIRECTORS FOR FUNERAL HONORS FOR QUALIFIED DECEASED COAST GUARD VETERANS SHALL BE PROCESSED JAW PARAGRAPHS 2B THROUGH 2E BELOW. REQUESTS FOR FUNERAL HONORS MADE DIRECTLY TO COAST GUARD UNITS SHALL BE PROCESSED JAW SECTION 1-F.10 OF REF B. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT FROM OTHER MILITARY SERVICES' FUNERAL COORDINATORS SHALL BE APPROVED WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

B. EACH ISC COMMANDER MUST DESIGNATE A MEMBER TO SERVE AS THE REGIONAL HONORS COORDINATOR. EACH MLC COMMANDER SHALL MANAGE THIS PROGRAM IN THEIR AOR. UPON THE REQUEST OF THE NEXT-OF-KIN, AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE, OR FUNERAL DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF THE NEXT-OF-KIN, THE REGIONAL HONORS COORDINATOR WILL CONTACT THE LOCAL CG COMMAND TO ARRANGE FUNERAL HONORS. THEY WILL SERVE AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR, THE NEAREST LOCAL CG UNIT, AND OTHER MILITARY SERVICES AS NECESSARY.

C. THE FUNERAL HONORS CEREMONY SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, INCLUDE THE FOLDING AND PRESENTATION OF THE AMERICAN FLAG AND THE PLAYING OF TAPS. AT LEAST TWO UNIFORMED MILITARY PERSONS, IN ADDITION TO THE BUGLER, IF AVAILABLE, SHALL PERFORM THE CEREMONY. ONE OF THE UNIFORMED MILITARY PERSONS SHALL BE OF THE PARENT SERVICE OF THE DECEASED VETERAN AND SHALL PRESENT THE FLAG TO THE FAMILY OR OTHER APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUAL.

D. THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR, WORKING IN CONCERT WITH THE LOCAL COAST GUARD UNIT, MAY DIRECT ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUNERAL IF OPERATIONS PERMIT.

E. THE REGIONAL HONORS COORDINATOR SHALL ALSO ENSURE LOCAL CG COMMANDS ARE APPROPRIATELY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED TO CONDUCT THE FUNERAL HONORS IN ADIGNIFIED MANNER.

3. ALL MEMBERS OF THE READY RESERVE MAY VOLUNTEER TO PERFORM FUNERAL HONORS. THE POLICY FOR RESERVE PARTICIPATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. READY RESERVE MEMBERS PERFORMING AT LEAST TWO HOURS OF DUTY IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY FUNERALS WILL EARN ONE RETIREMENT POINT AND WILL RECEIVE A 50 DOLLAR STIPEND FOR EACH DAY FUNERAL DUTY IS PERFORMED. ALL TRAINING AND TRAVEL ASSOCIATED WITH MILITARY FUNERALS CAN BE CREDITED TOWARDS THE DUTY PERIOD. THE PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING FUNERAL DUTY WILL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE HUMAN RESOURCE AND SERVICE INFORMATION CENTER (HRSIC) AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

B. RESERVISTS PERFORMING FUNERAL DUTY GREATER THAN 50 MILES FROM THEIR RESIDENCE WILL BE REIMBURSED FOR TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES AS PER THE JOINT FEDERAL TRAVEL REGULATIONS (WTR).

C. RESERVE MEMBERS WHO INCUR OR AGGRAVATE AN INJURY, ILLNESS, OR DISEASE WHILE PERFORMING FUNERAL DUTY WILL BE ENTITLED TO BENEFITS AS OUTLINED IN SECTION 7E OF REF C.

D. FUNERAL DUTY MAY NOT BE PERFORMED AS PART OF ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING (ADT) OR ON INACTIVE DUTY DRILLS (IDT). A SINGLE DRILL MAY BE SCHEDULED THE SAME DAY AS FUNERAL DUTY, BUT MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO OR COMMENCED AFTER FUNERAL DUTY IS PERFORMED.

4. ALL CG UNITS WILL RECEIVE FUNERAL HONORS SUPPORT KITS FROM DOD SHORTLY AFTER 01 JAN 00. THESE KITS WILL CONTAIN GUIDANCE ON THE CONDUCT OF FUNERAL HONORS, PROCEDURES FOR FLAG FOLDING AND PRESENTATION TO FAMILY MEMBERS AT FUNERALS, A1\~T) AN AUDIO COMPACT DISC (CD) OF TAPS TO PLAY AT THE FUNERAL. UNITS PROVIDING PERSONNEL FOR FUNERAL HONORS MUST ENSURE THESE PERSONNEL ARE EQUIPPED WITH PROPERLY FUNCTIONING PORTABLE CD PLAYERS THAT CAN PRODUCE CLEARLY AMPLIFIED SOUND.

5. FUNERAL DIRECTORS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND TERRITORIES/POSSESSIONS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH A TOLL-FREE PHONE NUMBER TO COORDINATE FUNERAL HONORS SUPPORT: 1-877-MIL-HONE. (645-4667). THIS NUMBER WILL DIRECT THEM, FOR COAST GUARD HONORS, TO THE CLOSEST MLCIISC FOR FURTHER REFERRAL TO THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL HONORS COORDINATOR. AFTER HOURS CALLS WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE CLOSEST AREA/DISTRICT COMMAND CENTER FOR APPROPRIATE REFERRAL.

6. PRIVATE CITIZENS DESIRING INFORMATION OR HELP IN ARRANGING FUNERAL HONORS FOR ELIGIBLE DECEASED VETERANS SHALL BE DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING DOD FUNERAL HONORS WEBSITE:

H'ITP://WWW.MILITARYFUNERALHONORS.OSD.MIL (ALL LOWER CASE). 7. POC IS CWO DORIS HULL (G-WPM-2) (202) 267-22571E-MAIL DHULL@COMDT.USCG.MIL. FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING RESERVE ISSUES, CONTACT LCDR KEVIN PRATT (G-WTR-1) AT (202) 267-13301E-MAIL KPRATT@COMDT.USCG.MIL.

8. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.

9. RELEASED BY RADM R.C. OLSEN JR., DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.

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FUNERAL HONORS INFORMATION SHEET

• WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FUNERAL HONORS?

• Coast Guard Veterans under these Conditions:

- Coast Guard Military Members on Active Duty or in Selected Reserve.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members who served on Active Duty and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members discharged from the Selected Reserve and due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

• Coast Guard Veterans Coast Guard Military Members on Active Duty or in Selected Reserve.

- Former Coast Guard Military Members who served on Active Duty and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members discharged from the Selected Reserve and due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

• Coast Guard Veterans under these Conditions:

- Coast Guard Military Members on Active Duty or in Selected Reserve.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members who served on Active Duty and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members discharged from the Selected Reserve and due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

• Coast Guard Veterans under these Conditions:

- Coast Guard Military Members on Active Duty or in Selected Reserve.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members who served on Active Duty and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members discharged from the Selected Reserve and due to a disability incurred or
- Coast Guard Military Members on Active Duty or in Selected Reserve.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members who served on Active Duty and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former Coast Guard Military Members discharged from the Selected Reserve and due to a disability

• WHO ADMINISTERS THE PROGRAM?

- Regional Honors Coordinator appointed by the Integrated Support Command (ISC) Commander.
- Each Maintenance and Logistic Command (MLC) Commander manages the program in their Area of Operation (AOR)
- Currently, most Commands have a Decedent Affairs Officer (which was used under the old system)

• WHAT ARE THE OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REGIONAL HONORS COORDINATOR?

• REGIONAL HONORS COORDINATORS:

- Act as a Liaison between the nearest Coast Guard Command, other Military Services as necessary, Funeral Director, and Next of Kin.
- Contacts nearest Coast Guard Command.
- Ensures local Coast Guard Commands are appropriately trained and equipped to conduct Funeral Honors in a Dignified Manner.
- Works in conjunction with local Coast Guard Units and may direct additional members to participate if operations permit.

- **WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF FUNERAL HONORS?**

- Ceremony Itself Includes:
 - Folding and Presentation of the American Flag
 - Playing of Taps
- Participants/Responsibilities Include:
 - The Bugler (If available)
 - Two (2) other Uniformed Military Personnel, one of whom must be of the Parent Service of the Deceased.
 - The Uniformed Military Person of the Parent Service will present the American Flag to the next of Kin or other appropriate individual.

- **WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE FOR FUNERAL HONORS**

- Guidance on Conduct of Funeral Honors (Kit)
- Procedures for Flag Folding and Presentation to the Family Members
- An audio compact disc (CD) of Taps to play at Funeral Honors
- Units must provide properly functioning portable CD player which can produce clear amplified sound

- **WHAT ADDITIONAL HELP IS AVAILABLE?**

- All Funeral Directors in the U. S.
 - have a telephone number to call
 - to make arrangements:
 - **Number is 1-877-645-4667**
 - **OR**
 - (1-877-MIL-HOME)
- Point of Contact for questions is:
 - LCDR Jim Brewster - Decedent Affairs
 - Number is 202-267-1648
 - E-mail is: jbrewster@COMDT.USCG.mil

THE SHIP (Anonymous)

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch her until at length she is only a ribbon of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says, "There! She's gone!"

Gone where? Gone from my sight - that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of designation. Her diminished side is in me, not in her, and just the moment when someone at my side says "There! She's gone!" There are other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "There! She comes!"

CROSSING THE BAR (Alfred Lord Tennyson)

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call to me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell!
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark.

For tho' from out our bourne of time and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

ALMA MATER
Composed by A. R. Bryer, Class of 1933

Yes, We are Kaydets,
Proud of our Corps,
Proud of our heroes brace
Who guard every shore. Yes, ours is courage,
Service our fame.
SO, hearts stout and minds alert
As we sing,
Honor to thy name.

Chorus:
Coast Guard for'er
Aye! Coast Guard for'er

Always we'll honor thee,
Pride of our nation
Academy and Corps,
Feel the might lore.
We, the Corps, uphold thee.
Our Coast Guard for'er.

"Eternal Father"

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep,
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For Those in peril on the sea.

Eternal Father, Lord of Hosts,
Watch over those who guard our coasts.
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from Thy great throne above,
The shield and shelter of Thy love. Amen.