

WHO MAY BE BURIED AT ARLINGTON?

TECHNICALLY, Arlington National Cemetery, in Virginia, is on exactly the same footing as the 96 other federally supported cemeteries in the United States and its possessions. All are reserved for men and women who have been on active duty with the armed forces of the United States or of a wartime ally, their wives or husbands, and their dependent children, and all operate under the same rules. There are no geographical restrictions; a qualified person may be buried in *any* national cemetery.

But Arlington, for a number of reasons, has become an unofficial national shrine. It's located directly across the Potomac from the nation's capital. The three Unknown Soldiers, of World War I and of World War II and of Korea, are buried there. So are General John J. Pershing, Admiral Richard E. Byrd, and thousands of other servicemen from every war since the Revolution. It is also the largest of the na-

tional cemeteries (408 acres) and one of the most beautiful.

It's not possible to make an application for Arlington in advance. When a serviceman or veteran for whom burial there is desired dies, a member of the family or the funeral director wires the superintendent of the cemetery, requesting burial for the deceased and giving details of his military record. (His last service must have terminated honorably, and he must have been a U.S. citizen at the time.) The superintendent makes all arrangements, a process that usually takes up to two working days.

THE WIDOW of a man buried at Arlington may also be buried there, provided she has not remarried. So may a dependent child—one who was under 18 and unmarried at the time of death or who, though over 18, was unmarried and incapable of self-support.

A wife or child who precedes

a service member in death may also be buried at Arlington, if the husband or father signs a statement that he eventually intends to be buried in the same or an adjoining grave.

No family may have more than two grave sites. Children are buried in the same grave with either parent. (The first casket is lowered; subsequent ones are placed on top of it.) A site adjoining her husband's may be reserved, at the time of his death, by his widow; she must renew her request every two years. But even if she fails to do this, she may still be buried in an adjoining site, if it's available, or in the grave with her husband.

As at other national cemeteries, burial at Arlington is free. There is no charge for the plot or for the simple, uniform headstone placed on the grave. The family, however, pays funeral expenses up to the time the casket reaches the cemetery.

Servicemen and veterans are buried with military honors. The funeral cortege is escorted from the gates of the cemetery to the

grave site, where it is met by a military guard of honor, who act as pallbearers. During the brief committal service, conducted by a chaplain of the dead person's faith, the pallbearers hold an American flag over the casket; at the close, they fold it and give it to the chaplain, who presents it to the next of kin. A rifle squad then fires a farewell salute, and a bugler plays Taps. Officers of high rank or officers or men who have performed especially meritorious service are often awarded further honors, such as a caisson, drawn by matched horses, to bear the casket to the grave, a band with muffled drums, and an 11- to 17-gun salute, depending on rank.

NOT EVERYONE entitled to burial at Arlington exercises his privilege—fortunately, or the cemetery would soon be overcrowded. Many prefer private burial. Others prefer a national cemetery nearer home, where the grave can be visited frequently. The expense of providing transportation to Arlington is another factor that keeps burials within bounds.—*Good Housekeeping*.

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Drag Him In

"Does Sullivan live here?" they asked.

"Sure and he do," she replied. "Just carry him in."

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