



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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KEITH L. JACKSON
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March 20, 2020

Subject: Suspension of Committal Services

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs will suspend all committal services in our five State Veteran Cemeteries, and conduct direct interments only, starting Monday March 23, 2020. Our cemeteries will remain open to visitors, but we strongly urge all guests to obey local travel restrictions and avoid unnecessary travel. Visitors should expect that certain portions of a cemetery typically open to the public may be closed (for example, Administration offices, Committal Shelters). Please contact the local cemetery for more information.

A Direct interment consist of the funeral home transporting the remains to the cemetery. Our staff will receive the remains and transport directly to the burial site, There will be no service at the committal shelter, no military honors, no gathering of family at all. (If the Next of Kin wishes to observe the Direct Interment, they may do so from the safety of their own automobile). Once the direct interment is complete, the family can visit the gravesite at any time. Cremations will be conducted in the same manner. These steps are in place to stop the gathering of people at our cemeteries, and control the spread of COVID 19.

The Next of Kin may then contact the Cemetery office to arrange a Committal Service and rendering of military honors when the ban is lifted. It is our intent to conduct a committal service with military honors for every Kentucky Veteran in a dignified manner.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in these difficult times.

As Duncan

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