

VA National Cemetery Administration

Danville has been blessed with the Danville National Cemetery of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration since 1901, with 13,000 veterans and their spouses buried here. At a recent Danville Lions Club meeting Jake Serd, Cemetery Manager/Contracting Officer Representative, explained facts about the NCA and specifically about our Danville National Cemetery.

- Danville National Cemetery serves an estimated 147,000 Veterans in Illinois and Indiana.
- Situated on 64 acres, the cemetery accommodates casketed and cremated remains.
- Approximately 150 burials are conducted each year.
- Medal of Honor recipient Morton A. Read is interred here.
- The cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.
- In 2019, NCA created the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM). This online site honors more than 10 million Veterans interred in VA National Cemeteries, VA grant-funded tribal, state/territory Veteran cemeteries and in private cemeteries. You may write a tribute to or post a photo of a loved one on VLM at **www.va.gov/remember**.

Specific gravesites can be found using an automated gravesite locator kiosk near the VA Administration Building at 1900 E. Main St. A nationwide Gravesite Locator for national cemeteries is also available on the internet at www.cem.va.gov. Gravesite Locator allows veterans to find the exact location of a loved one's grave, rather than having to search the cemetery for it. The cemetery is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk for visitation of the cemetery grounds. The cemetery is approximately 10 miles from Vermilion County Airport on Bowman Avenue Road.

NCA honors eligible Veterans, active-duty Service Members and eligible family members with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our nation. The Danville National Cemetery Staff welcomes people to visit the Danville National Cemetery with a message of finding peace amid the quiet and beautiful grounds and visit whenever you wish.

Family members often contact their office during a difficult time after the loss of a loved one and they pledge to make the burial process as comfortable as possible. They encourage veterans and their families to talk with them in advance for information or about any questions or concerns.

Burial benefits provided by the National Cemetery Administration, at no cost to the family, include: a burial plot; opening and closing of the gravesite; a government graveliner; a

headstone or marker with inscription; a burial flag; a Presidential Memorial Certificate and perpetual care of the gravesite. Funeral director services are not covered. When the time comes, the Danville Cemetery staff will ensure the committal service and any other requests are handled respectfully. They pledge to honor the dignity and memory of each person and to provide excellent service to family and friends during this difficult time, respectfully.

Veterans, service members, spouses and dependents may be eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery if they meet certain requirements. Visit va.gov/burials-memorials/eligibility to review the latest eligibility criteria.

If eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, to make burial arrangements, a funeral home or next-of-kin should fax all available military discharge documents to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (866) 900-6417 or scan and email the documentation to NCA.Scheduling@va.gov with the name of the decedent in the subject line and follow up with a call to (800) 535-1117, option 1.

Military honors are provided by the Department of Defense and are arranged by the funeral director. If there is no funeral director, cemetery staff will assist the family in arranging military honors.

At Danville National Cemetery Burials and Interments are scheduled between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except designated holidays. Out of respect for all buried at the cemetery the main flag is lowered to half-staff 30 minutes before the first service, where it remains until 30 minutes following the last service of the day. When asked about the future capacity for new burials at the Danville Cemetery, Serd explained that they own land where additional graves can be accommodated – the Danville National cemetery will be here serving veterans for years to come.

Danville National Cemetery has the following options:

- Casket: in-ground only
- Cremation in-ground
- The Administration Office in Danville is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and closed on designated holidays.

Danville National Cemetery celebrates two special events annually:

- Memorial Day Ceremony scheduled for May 25, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Speakers will be present, and volunteers are sought and welcomed to place flags on each individual grave prior to the ceremony.

- Wreaths Across America on December 13, 2026, where volunteers are needed and welcomed to place wreaths at designated graves. Tammy Williams is in charge of Wreaths Across America @ 217-516-2354 should anyone wish to purchase wreaths for the ceremony. To contact the Danville National Cemetery office at 1900 E. Main Street, Danville, IL 61832, Office: 217-554-4550, Fax: 217-554-4803 - Jacob.serd@va.gov,
Website for CNA <https://m.va.gov/gravelocator>