

VA**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**
Veterans Benefits Administration

Burial- Flag

Why Does VA Provide a Burial Flag?

A United States flag is provided to drape the casket of a deceased Veteran. The flag is provided at no cost. It is intended to honor the memory of a Veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. VA furnishes a burial flag for the following Veterans who received other than dishonorable discharge:

- Veterans who served during wartime
- Veterans who died on active duty after May 27, 1941
- Veterans who served after January 31, 1955
- Peacetime Veterans who were discharged or released before June 27, 1950
- Veterans who died on or after April 25, 1951, and served in the Philippine military forces while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Certain members or former members of the Selected Reserves

Who Is Eligible to Receive the Burial Flag?

After the funeral service, the flag is given to the next-of-kin as a keepsake. VA may provide the flag to a friend who requests it when there is no next-of-kin. For VA national cemeteries with an Avenue of Flags, you can donate the flag to be flown on patriotic holidays.

How Can You Apply?

To apply, complete VA Form 27-2008, "Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes." You can find the form at <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-27-2008-ARE.pdf>. VA regional benefit offices and some post offices are the primary issuing points for burial flags. You can find your closest regional benefit office by visiting <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>.

Please note: Not all local post offices have burial flags on hand. Call and confirm with your local post office in advance.

Can a Burial Flag Be Replaced?

According to law, VA can issue only one flag for a Veteran's funeral. It cannot be replaced if lost, destroyed or stolen. However, some organizations or community groups may be able to help you get another flag.

How Should the Burial Flag Be Displayed?

This depends on whether the casket is open or closed. VA Form 27-2009 (<https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-27-2008-ARE.pdf>) provides the correct method for displaying and folding. Due to the size and fabric, which is cotton, the burial flag is unsuitable for outside display as it can easily be damaged by weather.