

The Department of Defense recognizes the important role that funeral directors perform in ensuring that our veterans receive military funeral honors. This brochure and the Military Funeral Honors website were designed to assist you in making these arrangements on behalf of the family. The DoD would like to thank you for your continued support and commitment to our nation's veterans.



The rendering of military funeral honors is one way we show the nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended and served our country. This ceremonial paying of respect is the final tribute provided to the veteran and the family who supported them during their service. The tradition of providing military funeral honors, in some form, began in ancient Greece and Rome. The funeral honors protocol of today traces its roots to these ancient ceremonies, as well as to historical American experiences.



The Military Funeral Honors website, <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh>, has current links to legislation, a Military Funeral Honors Directory by service, the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as other useful information for our veterans, families and funeral directors.

**Note:** It is important to the family that the service casualty office be notified of the veteran's death, as this office may be able to provide additional information or resources to the family.



The Department of Defense pledges to work with you to ensure that each request for military funeral honors is handled immediately so the family is treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect.



<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh>



# MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS



The Department of Defense is committed to recognizing the sacrifice and contributions of our nation's veterans by providing honors upon request by the family of an eligible veteran.

### How much does a Military Funeral Honors detail cost?

The DoD will provide military funeral honors at no cost to the family.

### What are the core elements of the Military Funeral Honors Program?

Military funeral honors have always been provided whenever possible. However, the law mandates that the service secretary render military funeral honors for an eligible veteran upon request by the family. As provided by law, an honor detail shall consist of not less than two members of the armed forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative from the service branch of the deceased veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presentation of the American flag and the playing of Taps. Taps will be played by a bugler, if available, or by ceremonial bugle or electronic recording. The veteran's service branch representative will present the flag.

### How much notice should be provided for the honors request?

The services request at least 48 hours notice in order to organize and transport the funeral honors detail.

### Who is eligible?

- Military members on active duty
- Military retirees
- Members and former members of the Selected Reserve
- Eligible U.S. veterans of any war
- Other U.S. veterans who served at least one term of enlistment and separated under conditions other than dishonorable

### Who is not eligible?

Some veterans are not eligible for military funeral honors. This includes, for example, those discharged from the armed forces under dishonorable conditions and individuals sentenced to death for a federal or state capital offense. There are other offenses that may make a veteran ineligible for military funeral honors. The service casualty office is responsible for determining eligibility for military funeral honors, so all requests for honors should be forwarded to them for verification. Further clarification on eligibility is available in Title 10 and Title 38, United States Code, which is available on our website (<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh>).

### How can a veteran service organization assist in performing military funeral honors for the funeral service?

The DoD recognizes the valuable role that members of veteran service organizations play in honoring our veterans. Many of these organizations have close working relationships with cemeteries and funeral homes in their regions and are often the first stop in arranging military funeral honors for our veterans.

However, the DoD requests that the funeral directors make contact with the service casualty office of the veteran to coordinate military funeral honors. The DoD has implemented an Authorized Provider Partnership Program, or AP<sup>3</sup>, which provides support and training to veteran service organizations. This program allows organizations to augment the legislated two-person uniformed member detail and provide additional elements for the veteran's funeral. The veteran's service branch representative will present the flag as required by law.

For more information on the AP<sup>3</sup>, please visit the DoD Military Funeral Honors website at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh>.

### How can the funeral director assist the DoD with improving the Military Funeral Honors Program?

The DoD appreciates your feedback on the Military Funeral Honors Program and the services provided by DoD funeral honors personnel. You can help improve the services offered to veterans and their families by sending your comments to the following address:

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Military Community & Family Policy)  
Attn: Military Funeral Honors  
4000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-4000

