

Visiting the Cemetery

Thousands of people will visit Great Lakes National Cemetery each year. Many will come for a committal service or to visit the gravesite of a loved one, others to attend special observances or to reflect in the serene setting. We welcome all visitors to this shrine for our nation's heroes.

The cemetery will be open for visitors daily from dawn until dusk. Visitors will be able to find specific gravesites by searching an automated gravesite locator kiosk in the public information center near the cemetery entrance. A Nationwide Gravesite Locator for national cemeteries is available on the Internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

General cemetery information will be available in the public information center or the administration building. Visitors to specific gravesites may park along the curb near the gravesite they are visiting. Restrooms and a water fountain are located in the public information center.

Visitors attending committal services will gather near the front entrance in the cortege lanes as directed by a cemetery representative. Roadway parking is available throughout the cemetery and near the committal shelter during services.

VA regulations 38 CFR 1.218 prohibit the carrying of firearms (either openly or concealed), explosives or other dangerous or deadly weapons while on VA property, except for official purposes, such as military funeral



honors. Offenders may be subject to a fine, removal from the premises, or arrest.

Great Lakes National Cemetery will hold a Memorial Day ceremony annually. For the time and date of the ceremony, call the cemetery office at (866) 348-8603. Special observances and ceremonies will be held at the flag assembly area.

Visitors are encouraged to visit Great Lakes National Cemetery, but should remember the cemetery's solemn purpose and act in a dignified manner while on the cemetery grounds. For this reason, public gatherings of a partisan nature are not permitted. In addition, sports or recreational activities are not permitted, including:

- Bicycle riding
- Jogging
- Picnicking
- Roller blading
- Walking of pets
- Fishing or hunting

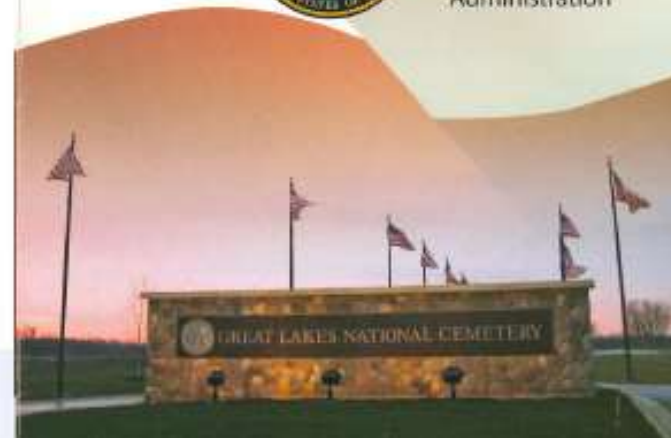
GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery
Administration



*"To care for
him who shall
have borne the
battle and for his
widow, and his
orphan."*

*Abraham Lincoln
Second Inaugural Address
March 4, 1865*



For More Information:

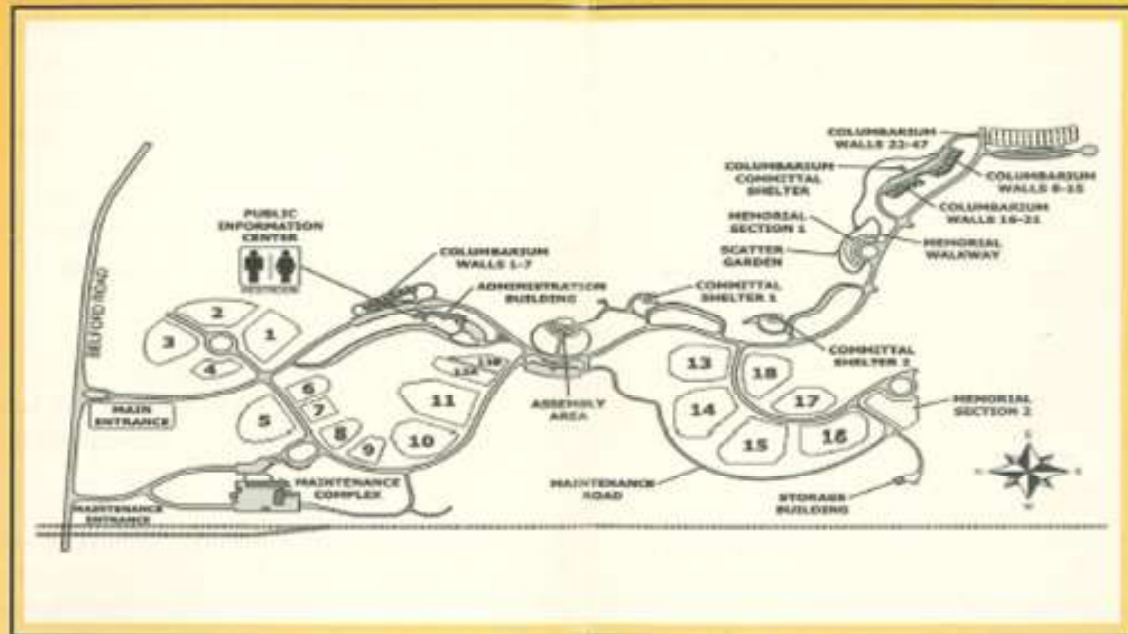
Great Lakes National Cemetery
4200 Belford Road
Holly, MI 48442

Cemetery Administration Office
Toll-Free: (866) 348-8603

Burial Arrangements:
Phone: (800) 535-1117
Fax: (866) 900-6417

NCA website: <http://www.cem.va.gov/>

Great Lakes National Cemetery



From Detroit Metro Airport and south of Detroit, take I-94 west to I-275 north about 18 miles to I-96 west toward Lansing and drive about 18 miles. Take US 23 north to Flint. Take Thompson Road (Exit 84), turn right and continue to Fenton Road. Turn left on Fenton to Baldwin Road. Turn right on Baldwin to Holly Road. Turn right on Holly to Belford Road. Turn left on Belford. The cemetery is on the right.

From Detroit, take I-75 north about 46 miles to Holly Road (exit 108). Turn left onto Holly Road, then turn left onto Belford Road.

From Bishop Airport in Flint, merge onto I-75 South (exit 133) toward Ann Arbor/Detroit. Take Holly Road (exit 108) toward Grand Blanc. Turn right onto Holly Road, then left on Belford Road.



Message from the Great Lakes National Cemetery Staff

Welcome to the Great Lakes National Cemetery. We hope you find peace here and visit us again.

Families often contact us during a difficult time – after the loss of a loved one.

We're here to make the burial process as comfortable as possible. We encourage veterans and their families to talk with us in advance for information or about any questions or concerns.

When the time comes, we will ensure the committal service and any other requests are handled respectfully. We pledge to honor the dignity and memory of each person and to provide excellent service to family and friends during this difficult time.

Our Mission

The National Cemetery Administration honors Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our nation.

Overview



- Currently, about 121 acres of land are being developed.
- Situated on 544.3 acres, the cemetery accommodates casketed and cremated remains.
- The cemetery has a scatter garden and a memorial area.



Making Burial Arran

For eligibility information in a VA national cemetery visit www.vets.gov/burials-and-memorials/eligibility/. To schedule a burial a funeral home or next-of-kin should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to make burial arrangements for Veterans, spouses and/or eligible dependents.

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 to schedule the interment.

If military discharge documents are not available, a scheduling office representative can assist with the verification process. Requests for eligibility determination when no military discharge documents are available may require 48 hours or more for verification.

Contact the cemetery directly to reschedule or cancel interments, schedule memorial services without interment or request disinterment or relocation of remains.

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.

gements

Gravesites are assigned by the cemetery and cannot be selected in advance. Assignments are made without regard to rank, ethnic or religious background, branch of service or other factors.

There is no waiting list for burial in a VA national cemetery. The Veteran and spouse are interred in the same grave. Spouses and eligible children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran. If both are Veterans, they may choose to be buried in adjacent graves.

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.

Burials are scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except designated holidays.

Great Lakes National Cemetery has the following burial site options:

- Casket: in-ground only.
- Cremation: in-ground.
- Cremation: above-ground columbarium.
- Scattering garden.

The administration office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on designated holidays.

Floral Policy

Our **cemetery floral policies** are posted on the floral storage receptacles located throughout the cemetery. We welcome fresh-cut flowers throughout the year and provide flower containers for gravesite displays as a courtesy. Once the flowers become unsightly, we will remove them. They also may be removed for routine mowing or other maintenance.

Limited floral arrangements accompanying the casket or urn at the time of burial can be placed on the completed grave.

Artificial flowers and potted plants will be allowed on graves for a period extending 10 days before through 10 days after Easter Sunday and Memorial Day.

Seasonal Holiday Adornments such as Christmas wreaths, potted poinsettias and other seasonal items may be placed on graves from Dec. 1 through Jan. 20.

To maintain the dignity of the cemetery, permanent plants, statues, balloons, pinwheels, vigil lights, breakable objects and similar items are not permitted on the graves. The Department of Veterans Affairs does not permit adornments that are considered offensive, inconsistent with the dignity of the cemetery, or considered hazardous to cemetery personnel. For example, items incorporating wires may become entangled in mowers or other equipment and cause injury.

History and Background

The property was purchased on November 21, 2002 for \$6.2 million. The property had been owned by the Horton Family for over 160 years.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held on October 14, 2004 and was attended by over 1,400 people. The first phase of construction began in October 2004.

The 544.3 acre site will be developed in phases over the next several decades. The cemetery will be able to accommodate hundreds of thousands of veterans and their family members.

The cemetery began burial operations October 17, 2005 and currently averages 17 burials per day.

On November 11, 2005, the Great Lakes National Cemetery Advisory Council hosted the first annual Veteran's Day Ceremony. As part of the program, the Avenue of Flags was established by raising the first 34 flags on poles donated by various Veterans Service Organizations and community groups. The cemetery now has 100 flagpoles on the Avenue of flags thanks to additional donations from the community. A formal dedication was held June 3, 2006.