

# VA



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

National Cemetery Administration

---

## **National Cemetery – Colorado Springs, Colorado Area**

Address (not yet available)

(202) 632-8035

- The new 374-acre cemetery in the southeast portion of Colorado Springs will serve the burial needs of more than 95,000 Veterans in the cemetery's service area for the next 100 years. This cemetery will be the third Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery in the State of Colorado.
- There are two other national cemeteries in Colorado: Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver and Fort Lyon National Cemetery in Las Animas. There are also two state-run Veterans cemeteries: Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado in Grand Junction and the Colorado State Veterans Cemetery at Homelake in Monte Vista.
- In January 2014, VA purchased the land, known as the Rolling Hills Ranch, located east of Marksheffel Road, between Bradley and Drennan Roads for \$4.49 million. The property is located in El Paso County.
- National cemeteries are named based on the geographic area in which the cemetery is located. VA relies on local Veterans and community leaders to submit name suggestions during the naming process. Suggestions are evaluated based on naming guidelines and the top three are submitted to the Secretary of VA for approval. During 2015, VA intends to solicit name suggestions and select a name for the new national cemetery in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- The initial phase of construction will develop approximately 65 acres and provide for approximately 13,300 gravesites, accommodating both casketed and cremated remains. In addition to gravesites, the cemetery will include other features such as a front entrance on Drennan Road, an administration building, a maintenance building, an honor guard building, a flag pole assembly area, a memorial walkway, committal shelters, and a public information center with electronic gravesite locator, and restrooms. Other cemetery infrastructure features will include roads, landscaping, utilities, and irrigation.
- In the spring of 2015, VA awarded AES Group, a service-disabled Veteran-owned small business architecture and engineering firm from Parker, Colorado, a contract to design the cemetery. The design process typically takes between 18 to 24 months to complete. The start date for construction will depend on construction funding being made available via future VA budget requests. The initial phase of the project is anticipated to take about three years to complete. Once cemetery construction gets underway, VA will hold a public dedication ceremony. The first burials are expected to begin approximately 12 months after the start of construction.

## **National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

- Burial in a VA national cemetery is open to all members of the United States Armed Forces and Veterans who have met the minimum active duty service requirements, and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Their spouse, widow or widower, minor children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities, may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran. Members of the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces who die while on active duty, or who die while on training duty, or were eligible for retired pay may also be eligible for burial.
- Burial in a VA national cemetery is a benefit. VA provides at no cost to the family, the gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate, and perpetual care of the gravesite.
- VA plans to operate a local, off-site cemetery office during construction to provide cemetery information and news updates as plans progress. For more information about the planned national cemetery for the Colorado Springs, Colorado area, call the National Cemetery Administration Office of Communications at 202-632-8035.
- More information about VA's National Cemetery Administration is available online at: [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

Updated October 2015

