



Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services
Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries

1390 Main Street
Agawam, MA 01001

(413) 821-9500 (413) 821-9839 (FAX)

111 Glenallen Street
Winchendon, MA 01475

(978) 297-9501 (978) 297-4271 (FAX)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm

Grounds: 7:00am-Dusk*, Daily

*from November 12th to February 1st, gates may close at 4:00pm. Gates may be closed in any inclement weather.



The Military Committal Service Order

Tradition, honor, and dignity are the hallmarks of the military committal service. All service members that have met the eligibility requirements for a military burial receive the same service, in keeping with military tradition, whether he or she attained the rank of a senior officer, or was a newly enlisted airmen, marine, sailor, or soldier.

Please note that calling hours, gatherings, funeral service or mass, or any other memorial ceremonies should be conducted before arriving at Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries. The committal service should not be considered a replacement for the above and, in keeping with military tradition, is a standardized maximum of 15-20 minutes in length, which includes the time for military honors. The committal service is intended as the final act before an eligible veteran or any eligible spouse or dependent child is interred.

Below is the order of service conducted for veteran interments at Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries.

- The flag-draped casket or urn with a triangularly folded flag of the veteran arrives at the cemetery and is escorted into our committal chapel.
- After the committal chapel is ready for services to commence, family and friends will enter and be seated.
- Services begin promptly on the hour.
- Services are a maximum of 20 minutes in length.
- A cemetery representative will provide the next-of-kin with the deceased's burial documents.
- A cemetery representative will open the service, and offer condolences.
- Clergy, or one family member, may offer 5-7 minutes of prayer or remarks of remembrance.
- Family and friends are asked to please rise while military honors are rendered.
- If available, the volunteer firing detail fires a three round volley and "Taps" is sounded.
- Family and friends are asked to be seated while the Honor Guard ceremonially prepares our nation's flag for presentation.
- The hymn of the veteran's respective service is played.
- The highest ranking member of the Honor Guard presents the folded flag to the family, or designated recipient, accompanied by a brief statement of gratitude and a salute.
- Services are closed with final remarks of the cemetery representative. Family members and friends are then encouraged to come forward, beginning from the rear of the chapel to pay their final respects, and then proceed to their vehicles.
- These services are held in our indoor chapel located away from the gravesite. Burial will take place following the committal service, but may not begin until family and friends have left the chapel area and grounds for safety reasons. We ask that family and friends pay their final respects at the conclusion of the committal service, and are encouraged to return at a later time to visit the site of interment.

Services for spouses or dependent children follow a similar order and length, with the exception of military honors. For more information, please contact a cemetery representative.