

A HISTORY OF NEBRASKA'S STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES

The Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Alliance sits on land which used to be part of the Alliance Army Air Field. The air field existed from 1942 to 1945 and primarily



trained aircrews of C-47 and C-53 transports and CG-4 gliders, along with airborne troops they would carry into battle. Many of the troops who trained on this land participated in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day.

Sixty-three years later, the City of Alliance donated twenty acres of the former air field to the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish Nebraska's first state veterans cemetery. The Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Alliance was dedicated and presented to the public on August 13, 2010, and the first interment was held January 21, 2011.



The Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island, formerly the Soldiers & Sailors Cemetery, was established in 1888 as part of the Grand Island Veterans' Home. Civil War Veteran Leonard B. Thurlow was the first interment. The cemetery,

spanning 7 acres, provided a dignified resting place for members and spouses living at the home.

In 2021, NDVA applied for a grant through the National Cemetery Administration's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP) to create a state veterans cemetery that incorporated the original cemetery. Through community fundraising efforts by Hall County's Hero Flights Association and a loan from the Hall County Board, the Grand Island Community raised \$750,000 - the VCGP's required 10% match of the proposed cost of the \$7.5 million project. The cemetery was dedicated July 12, 2025.



NEBRASKA VETERANS CEMETERY AT ALLIANCE

2610 County Road 57
Alliance, NE 69301
(308) 763-2958

veterans.nebraska.gov/nvca

NEBRASKA VETERANS CEMETERY AT GRAND ISLAND

3270 West Capital Ave
Grand Island, NE 68803
(308) 661-1987
veterans.nebraska.gov/nvcgi

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Sacrifice.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

veterans.nebraska.gov



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NEBRASKA VETERANS CEMETERY SYSTEM

*Providing a dignified memorial for
Nebraska's veterans and their families.*

Alliance ★ Grand Island





SERVICES OFFERED

All services listed below are offered by both the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Alliance and the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island

*All services are provided at **no cost** to veterans or their families*

- ★ Casket or Cremation* Burial
- ★ Military Funeral Honors
- ★ Memorial Services
- ★ Pre-Needs Counseling
- ★ Memorial Graves
- ★ Civic and Volunteer Opportunities

**The Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island offers burial plots, columbarium niches, and a scattering garden for cremated remains. The Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Alliance offers burial plots and a scattering garden for cremated remains.*



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Individuals meeting one of the following criteria are eligible for burial in a state veterans cemetery

- ★ Active Duty service members whose death occurred while on active duty
- ★ Veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable who meet the following:
 - ☆ No minimum service requirements for persons entered as enlisted on or before September 7, 1980 or as an officer commissioned on or before October 16, 1981; or
 - ☆ Veterans who have completed at least 24 months of service or the full period for which they were called/ordered to active duty who entered as an enlisted person after September 7, 1980 or as an officer commissioned after October 16, 1981.
- ★ Reserve and National Guard veterans entitled to retired pay
- ★ Reserve and National Guard who receive “veteran” status as a result of being called to active duty by Executive Order and who served the full period for which called to active duty
- ★ Spouse of an eligible veteran
- ★ A minor child who is unmarried and under 21 years of age or under 23 years of age if pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution at the time of death

Other eligibility may apply. Please contact one of the cemetery's administrators with any questions.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do you have to be a resident of Nebraska to qualify for interment at a state veterans cemetery?

The State of Nebraska recognizes the contribution of all veterans and does not restrict services based on state residency.

What are the hours of operation?

Both cemeteries are open for visitation from dawn to dusk every day of the year. Administrative hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. local time. Cemetery employees are available during this time to assist visitors with questions and services.

How can I register for interment at the cemetery?

Eligibility Determination, Pre-Needs Counseling, and Requests for Interment can all be completed during administrative hours listed above. If you have questions, feel free to call the cemetery in Alliance at (308) 763-2958 or the cemetery in Grand Island at (308) 661-1987 and talk to a cemetery employee. Forms and additional information can be obtained by visiting our website at veterans.nebraska.gov/cemeteries.

I have a question that is not listed above.

Our cemetery staff are happy to help! If you are not finding answers on our website, please don't hesitate to call the cemetery of your choice to talk to our employees.