

# VETERANS MEMORIAL HEADSTONE

EXHIBIT NO. 12  
DATE 01/09/2013  
BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

In the event that a deceased active duty service member or Veterans ashes were scattered at sea, placed at a special location, kept "close to home", or whose remains have not been recovered, they may still qualify for a plot and Memorial headstone at one of Montana's State Veterans Cemeteries.

Memorial headstones may also be furnished to eligible spouses whose remains are unavailable for internment, whether or not they predeceased the eligible Veteran.

These stones bear the "In Memory Of" inscription as the first line.

Memorial headstones are not available for placement in private cemeteries, or for veterans who have already received a federal VA headstone or marker.

The Memorial headstone set at one of Montana's State Veterans Cemeteries will forever provide family members a place to pay their respects.

## Applicable Documents and Fees -

1. DD-214 (discharge papers) showing eligibility.

### Eligibility Requirements.

- a. Service prior to 1980, veteran must have 180 days of consecutive service and an honorable discharge.
- b. Service after 1980, veteran must have 24 consecutive months of service or the full period of active duty, e.g. *Iraqi Freedom*, and an honorable discharge.

2. Death Certificate and proof of marital status (if a non-veteran spouse)

3. Headstone Setting Fee

Veteran - \$45.00                      Veteran's Spouse - \$115.00

4. Plot Fee

Veteran - No Fee                      Veterans Spouse - \$500.00

For more information please contact one of our Montana State Veterans Cemeteries:

Fort Harrison, MT  
(near Helena)  
(406) 324-3742

Missoula, MT  
(406) 721-2995

Miles City, MT  
(406) 951-1325

**MONTANA**  
**VETERANS AFFAIRS DIVISION**  
**WEBSITE**

<http://montanadma.org>

or

Just type in "Montana veterans services" or  
"Montana Veterans Affairs" and press  
"search". We are typically the first listed  
option.

Donations to the cemeteries can be sent to:

**MONTANA VETERANS AFFAIRS DIVISION**  
**P.O. BOX 5715**  
**HELENA, MT 59604**  
**(406) 324-3740**

*"No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation". Gen Douglas MacArthur*

**8/2012**

**State of Montana**  
**Veterans Cemetery**  
**Program**

*"The people declare that Montana servicemen, service-women, and veterans may be given special considerations determined by the legislature"*

Article II, Section 35, Montana Constitution



**AN INFORMATIONAL AID**

**FOR MONTANA'S  
VETERANS AND  
FAMILY MEMBERS**

## HISTORY OF MONTANA'S STATE VETERAN CEMETERIES

In 1985, the Montana State Legislature authorized the first state veterans cemetery to be located on Fort Harrison, near Helena.

Rule making authority was authorized, and funds were appropriated to support the cemetery.

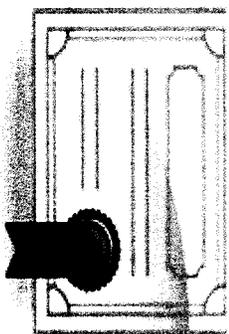
In 1986, the United States Congress authorized the transfer of 62.5 acres of Federal land to the State of Montana for this new cemetery. Applications were submitted to the federal Department of Veterans Affairs for federal matching funds, which would fund an irrigation system, a well, roads and design a Master Plan.

In 1987, the legislature passed a one time revenue check off in the state income tax return to raise funds. This enabled a part-time Cemetery Sexton to be hired. The first burial was a World War I veteran on September 8, 1987.

In 1991, legislation created the "Veteran" license plate. A motor vehicle owner and resident of Montana, who is a veteran or his/her surviving spouse (if not remarried), may be issued a "Veteran" license plate. National Guard and Reserve retirees or those with a "20 year letter", or surviving spouses (if not remarried), may also have the "Veteran" plate. The plate costs \$10 for original issue and all renewals. The entire \$10 supports the State Veterans Cemetery Program.

Legislation was passed for a second state veterans cemetery, which opened in 2002 at Miles City. A third state cemetery—to be located in Missoula County—was legislatively authorized in 2005. The Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery was constructed and became operational October 6, 2008.

Each year numerous businesses, organizations, and individuals donate material, labor, equipment, and funding to continue cemetery improvements, all are operated in accordance with National Shrine Standards—the same standard as Arlington National Cemetery.



### Presidential Memorial Certificate Program

A Presidential Memorial Certificate is inscribed with the veteran's name and bears the President's signature to honor the memory of honorably discharged, deceased veterans. Authorized recipients include next of kin and loved ones. Please send your written request to:

Presidential Memorial Certificates  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
5109 Russell Road  
Quantico, VA 22143-3909

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The Department of Veterans Affairs is making available a new medallion to be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a veteran. If requested, the medallion will be furnished in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or marker for veterans that died on or after November 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. The medallion is currently available in three sizes, 5 inches, 3 inches, and 1 ½ inches. Inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the Branch of Service and the Branch of Service appropriate affixing adhesive, the medallion will be provided with the medallion.

**Important:** This benefit is only applicable if the grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. In these instances, eligible veterans are entitled to either a traditional Government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both. **Note: These medallions are not applicable to headstones or markers located in a state veterans cemetery.**

For more information, call (406) 324-3743.

## MONTANA STATE VETERANS CEMETERY GUIDELINES

### Arranging Burial

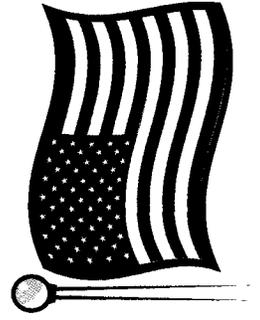
Any veteran with an "Honorable or "Under Honorable Conditions" discharge is eligible for interment in one of Montana's state veterans cemeteries. To confirm your eligibility for burial benefits, contact a veterans service officer (see back of pamphlet). A copy of the discharge form, (DD Form-214) is necessary to determine this eligibility.

Spouses and minor children under the age of 21 are also entitled to burial in the state veterans cemetery, as long as the veteran has been or will also be buried in the same cemetery. If the spouse is a veteran, he/she is entitled to his/her own plot and headstone. This is the only time plot reservations are made, and enable the veteran husband and wife to be side by side.



### Burial Flag Program

The VA provides a U.S. Flag to drape the casket. After the funeral service, the flag may be given to the next of kin. The flag is typically furnished by the mortuary.



Veterans are entitled to a government provided headstone for the gravesite, whether it is in the state veterans cemetery or in a private cemetery. Certain basic information will be inscribed on the headstone or marker at government expense, such as the name of the deceased, years of birth and death, and branch of service.

Optional items that may also be included at government expense are military service component, rank, period of war service, religious emblem, valor awards received, and the Purple Heart. The government also provides a headstone for the spouse if they are laid to rest in a state veterans cemetery where their spouse, the veteran, is already buried or will be buried upon demise. The government does not provide a headstone for the spouse in a private cemetery.

There is no charge for the plot in a state veterans cemetery; nor is there a charge for the opening and closing of the grave for the veteran. Should the spouse pass away before the veteran or after the veteran has been buried in the state cemetery, they may also be interred with the veteran, however, the family would be responsible for a \$500 opening and closing charge. The headstone will be updated when both veteran and spouse are deceased, it will include both names.

## Documents Required for Burial

### VETERAN:

- <> Copy of the death certificate.
- <> Discharge papers. (DD Form-214 or equivalent)
- <> Burial transit permit for full burial and cremation burial and a cremation certificate for cremation burial. These will be provided by the mortuary.

The headstone is furnished by the government as a benefit to the veteran, at no cost. A headstone application will be filled out by the Cemetery Sexton. There is a \$115.00 charge to set the headstone. The veteran's county of residence in Montana will pay \$70.00 of this amount. The family is responsible for the remaining \$45.00.

Out Of State residents and spouses must pay the full \$115.00.

### SPOUSE:

- <> Copy of death certificate.
- <> Veteran spouse's discharge papers. (DD-Form 214 or equivalent)
- <> \$500.00 fee for opening and closing the grave.
- <> Burial transit permit for full burial and cremation burial and a cremation certificate for cremation burial. These will be provided by the mortuary.

The headstone is furnished by the government as a benefit to the veteran/spouse, at no cost. However, the family will be responsible for the \$115.00 setting fee cost. The Cemetery Sexton will complete the headstone application.

