

VISITOR RULES FOR ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

A. Purpose. The rules of this section define the standards of conduct required of all visitors to the Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

B. Scope. Pursuant to Title 32, Part 553, Code of Federal Regulations, and based upon delegations of authority from the Administrator, General Services Administration, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Army, this section applies to all Federal property within the charge and control of the Executive Director, Arlington National Cemetery, to all persons entering in or on such property.

C. Visitors Hours. Visitors' hours shall be established by the Executive Director and posted in conspicuous places. Unless otherwise posted or announced by the Executive Director, visitors will be admitted during the following hours: 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. No visitor shall enter or remain in the Cemetery beyond the time established by the applicable visitors' hours.

D. Destruction or Removal of Property. No person shall willfully destroy, damage, mutilate or remove any monument, gravestone, structure, tree, shrub, plant or other property located within the Cemetery ground.

E. Conduct within the Cemetery. Because Arlington National Cemetery is a shrine to the honored dead of the Armed Forces of the United States and because certain acts appropriate elsewhere, are not appropriate in the Cemetery, all visitors, including persons attending or taking part in memorial services and ceremonies, shall observe proper standards of decorum and decency while within the Cemetery grounds. Specifically, no person shall:

(1.) Conduct any memorial service or ceremony within the Cemetery, except private memorial services, without prior approval of the Executive Director. All memorial services and ceremonies shall be conducted in accordance with the rules established in paragraph G. Official ceremonies shall be conducted in accordance with guidance and procedures established by the Executive Director;

(2.) Engage in any picketing, demonstration or similar conduct within the Cemetery grounds;

(3.) Engage in any orations, speeches, or similar conduct to assembled groups of people, unless the oration is part of a memorial service or ceremony authorized by the Executive Director;

(4.) Display any placards, banners, flags, or similar devices within an Army National Military Cemetery, unless first approved by the Executive Director for use in an authorized memorial service or ceremony. This rule does not apply to clothing worn by visitors. Visitors may hand carry or display on a vehicle, flags that are 7"x12" or smaller;

(5.) Distribute any handbill, pamphlet, leaflet, or other written or printed matter within the Cemetery grounds except that a program may be distributed if approved by the Executive Director and such distribution is a part of a memorial service or ceremony authorized by this section;

(6.) Bring a dog, cat, or other animal (other than a service animal or military working dog) within an Army National Military Cemetery. This prohibition does not apply to persons living in quarters located on the grounds of the Army National Military Cemeteries;

(7.) Use the Cemetery grounds for recreational activities such as sports, athletics, or picnics;

(8.) Ride a bicycle or similar conveyance in an Army National Military Cemetery, except with a proper pass issued by the Executive Director to visit a gravesite or niche. An individual visiting a relative's gravesite or niche may be issued a temporary pass by the Executive Director to proceed directly to and from the gravesite or niche on a bicycle or similar vehicle or conveyance.

(9.) Deposit or throw litter on Cemetery grounds;

(10.) Play any radio, tape recorder, or musical instrument, or use any loudspeaker within the Cemetery grounds unless use of the same is approved by the Executive Director and is part of a memorial service or ceremony authorized by this section;

(11.) Park any motor vehicle in any area on the Cemetery grounds designated by the Executive Director as a no parking area; or leave any vehicle in the Visitors' Center Parking Lot at the Cemetery more than 30 minutes outside of established visiting hours, or anywhere else within an Army National Military Cemetery outside of established visiting hours;

(12.) Engage in any disorderly conduct within the Cemetery grounds. For purposes of this section, a person shall be guilty of disorderly conduct if, with purpose to cause, or knowledge that he is likely to cause, pause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm be:

- a. Engages in, promotes, instigates, encourages, or aids and abets fighting, threatening, violent or tumultuous behavior;
- b. Yells, utters loud and boisterous language or makes other unreasonable loud noise;
- c. Interrupts or disturbs a memorial service or ceremony;
- d. Utters to any person present abusive, insulting, profane, indecent or otherwise provocative language or gesture that by its very utterance tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace;
- e. Obstructs movement on the streets, sidewalks, or pathways of the Cemetery grounds without prior authorization by competent authority;
- f. Disobeys a proper request or order by the Executive Director, Cemetery special police, park police, or other competent authority to disperse or to leave the Cemetery grounds; or
- g. Otherwise creates a hazardous or physically offense condition by any not authorized by competent authority.

F. Soliciting or Vending. No person shall display or distribute commercial advertising or solicit business from the public while within an Army National Military Cemetery, except as authorized by the Executive Director.

G. Conduct of Memorial Services and Ceremonies. All memorial services and ceremonies within Arlington National Cemetery, other than official Ceremonies, shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules:

(1.) Memorial services and ceremonies shall be purely memorial purpose and dedicated only to the memory of all those interred in the cemetery, to all those dying in the military service of the United States, to all those dying in the military service of the United States while serving during a particular conflict or while serving in a particular

military unit or units, or to the memory of the individual or individuals interred or to be interred at the particular gravesite at which the service ceremony is held.

(2.) Partisan activities are inappropriate in Arlington National Cemetery, due to its role as a shrine to all the honored dead of the Armed Forces of the United States and out of respect for the men and women buried there and for their families. Services or any activities inside the Cemetery connected therewith shall not be partisan in nature. A service is partisan and therefore inappropriate if it includes commentary support of, or in opposition to, or attempts to influence any current policy of the Armed Forces, the Government of the United States or any state of the United States; if it endorses the cause of a political party or if it has a primary purpose to gain publicity or engender support for any cause. If a service is closely related, both time and location, to partisan activities or demonstrations being conducted outside the Cemetery, it will be determined partisan and therefore inappropriate. If a service is determined to be partisan by the Executive Director, permission to conduct memorial services or ceremonies at the Cemetery will be denied.

(3.) Participants in public wreath laying ceremonies shall remain silent during the ceremony.

(4.) Participants in public memorial services at the John F. Kennedy Grave shall remain silent during the service.

(5.) Public memorial services and public wreath laying ceremonies shall be open to all members of the public to observe.

(6.) Participants in public wreath laying ceremonies shall follow all instructions of the Tomb Guards, and Executive Director relating to their conduct of the ceremony.