

Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office

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Funeral Honors

Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the Nation's deep gratitude to those who have faithfully defended our country in times of war and peace. It is the final demonstration that a grateful Nation can provide to the veterans' families. Military Funeral Honors have always been provided whenever possible. However, effective October 5, 1999, Public Law 105-261, § 578, implements a provision so that all eligible veterans can receive basic Military Funeral Honors, if requested by the deceased veteran's family.

An honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of **two** or more uniformed members with at least one from the service in which the deceased veteran served. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin, and the playing of Taps. Taps will be played by a bugler, if available, or by electronic recording.

Military Funeral Honors In addition to the Department of Defense military funeral honors program, "Honoring Those Who Served", the Riverside National Cemetery Memorial Honor Detail (MHD) is generally available Monday through Friday to provide military funeral honors for veterans. MHD teams are strictly volunteers and vary in size and scope, from folding and presenting the flag only, to full honors with a rifle salute and bugler. All military funeral honors performed by the MHD are provided at NO COST to the family. Scheduling for the MHD is accomplished by cemetery personnel on a first request basis until all available slots for the day are taken. If the MHD is unavailable for the requested time of service, the family or funeral director is responsible for making other arrangements.

Funeral Directors have the responsibility of assisting loved ones in requesting military honors. A toll-free telephone number has been established for funeral directors requesting military honors. The Department of Defense (DOD) has provided registered funeral home directors with a military funeral honors kit and information on how to contact the appropriate military organization to perform the honors ceremony. DOD recorded and distributed a "Military Honors" video to highlight an appropriate honors ceremony. A video is available on how veterans' service organizations and military representatives can provide joint honors ceremonies.

Website: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/>

The following service members are eligible for Military Funeral Honors:

- Military members on active duty or in the Selected Reserve at the time of death.
- Former military members who served on active duty and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former military members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve, and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former military members discharged from the Selected Reserve due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Questions about the Military Funeral Honors program should be sent to:
Military Funeral Honors
9504 IH-35 North, Suite 320
San Antonio,