

Ohio Western Reserve National/ OWRL Vocabulary Guide

Mission & Purpose

Honor: Showing deep respect for those who served.

Remembrance: Taking time to remember and reflect on their lives.

Legacy: The lasting impact a veteran leaves behind.

Service: The act of serving the country in the military.

Sacrifice: Giving up something important, sometimes life itself, for others.

Dignity: Treating every veteran and family with respect and care.

Commemoration: Officially recognizing and honoring someone's service.

Stewardship: Taking responsibility to care for the cemetery and its mission.

Heritage: The shared history and traditions of military service.

Gratitude: Thankfulness for the sacrifices made.

Outreach & Engagement

Community Engagement: Building relationships with the local community.

Public Outreach: Sharing information and services with the public.

Veteran Advocacy: Supporting and speaking up for veterans' needs.

Family Support: Helping families through the burial process and beyond.

Educational Programming: Teaching the public about veterans and services.

Awareness Campaign: Efforts to inform people about benefits or services.

Resource Coordination: Connecting people with the help they need.

Military & Veteran Terms

Active Duty: Currently serving in the military.

Veteran Community: All who have served and their families.

Next of Kin: Closest living family member responsible for decisions.

Gold Star Families: Families who lost a loved one in military service.

Service Member: Anyone serving in the military.

Military Funeral Honors: Two military personnel at a minimum flag folding and Taps.

Eligibility: Meeting requirements for burial in a national cemetery.

Final Resting Place: Where a veteran is laid to rest.

Cemetery Operations

Interment: Burial of a casket.

Inurnment: Placement of cremated remains.

Columbarium: Structure where urns are placed.

Gravesite: The physical burial location.

Memorialization: How a veteran is honored with markers or headstones.

Sacred Grounds: Land treated with deep respect.

Burial Scheduling: Planning and organizing service times.

Events & Ceremonies

Memorial Ceremony: Event to honor those who have passed.

Wreath-Laying: Placing a wreath in remembrance.

Honor Guard: Military members performing ceremonial duties.
Flag Presentation: Giving the folded flag to the family.
Taps Ceremony: Playing Taps to honor the fallen.
Moment of Silence: Quiet time for reflection.
Commemorative Event: Event recognizing service or sacrifice.
Dedication Ceremony: Event marking a special purpose or memorial.

Tone & Communication

Compassion: Showing genuine care and empathy.
Respect: Treating everyone with honor.
Care: Providing thoughtful assistance.
Support: Helping emotionally and practically.
Guidance: Leading families through the process.
Understanding: Being sensitive to grief.
Professionalism: Acting appropriately and respectfully.
Reverence: Deep honor in a sacred setting.

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) & OWRL Terms

Rifle Teams

Rifle teams are **not guaranteed** as part of Military Funeral Honors at a national cemetery. Families or representatives should coordinate directly with a local **Veterans Service Organization (VSO)** to request and arrange a rifle team when available.

Military Honors – How to Arrange

Military Funeral Honors (flag folding and the playing of Taps) are provided at a minimum by the military. Additional honors such as rifle teams or expanded ceremonies must be arranged separately. Recommended contacts include:

- Local Veterans Service Organizations (VFW, American Legion, DAV)
- Funeral Homes assisting with arrangements
- County Veterans Service Commissions

Ohio Western Reserve Ladies (OWRL)

Ohio Western Reserve Ladies is a volunteer organization dedicated to ensuring that **no veteran is buried alone**. Our members attend services at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery to stand in honor and support of veterans and their families. We provide presence, dignity, and community during services, but we do not replace or coordinate official military honors.

Rifle Team Volunteers

If your rifle team or organization is interested in volunteering at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, please coordinate through:

- Your local VSO leadership
 - Cemetery administration for approval and scheduling guidance
- All participating groups must meet reliability and ceremonial standards.

Reliability Form

The reliability form is required for participation in certain volunteer roles. This form may include both the **veteran and their spouse**, when applicable, to ensure consistent and dependable service support.

Benefits Beyond the NCA

While the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) provides burial and core honors, additional benefits may be available through:

- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- State and County Veteran Services
- Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)

Families are encouraged to explore these resources for full benefit access.

NCA (National Cemetery Administration)

The National Cemetery Administration is a division of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs responsible for maintaining national cemeteries and providing burial services and honors for eligible veterans and their families.

DD214

The DD214 is the official document issued upon a service member's separation from the military. It verifies military service and is required to determine eligibility for burial, honors, and veteran benefits.