

L.I.N.C.M.O., Inc.
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Published Monthly

LINCMO Member Organizations

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 - AMERICAN EX- PRISONERS OF WAR
 - AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETS
 - 1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSN.



DATES TO REMEMBER

2008		
May	25	LINCMO Memorial Day 2 PM
Jun	8	LINCMO Meeting 11:30 AM.
Sept	7	LINCMO Meeting - Nomination & Election of Officers 11:30 AM.
Oct	12	Installation of Officers AMVETS Post, Massapequa 1 PM
Nov	2	LINCMO Veterans Day Svcs 2 PM

National Cemeteries (cont)

. VA estimates that more than 686,000 veterans died in 2007. About 13% of veterans choose to be buried in VA national and state cemeteries.

. In 2007, volunteers donated approximately 366,000 hours at national cemeteries and more than 8.1 million people visited them.
 [Source: VA Fact sheet Feb 08 ++]

VET CEMETERY FLORIDA UPDATE :

Jacksonville VA National Cemetery will be the name of the 569-acre burial site to be built north of Jacksonville International Airport and about five miles from Interstate 295. The first 50-acre phase of the cemetery, which will eventually hold 189,000 veterans from the northeastern Florida and southeastern Georgia area, will begin this summer and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

VET CEMETERY ALABAMA UPDATE 01:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has named the national cemetery to be built near Birmingham the "Alabama VA National Cemetery." The new national cemetery will be located in the town of Montevallo, approximately five miles west of Interstate 65.



*Long Island National Cemetery
 Memorial Organization, Inc*

*The Field of Valor
 Newsletter*



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We have been having meetings with the new acting Assistant Director of L.I. National and his staff in regards to the Memorial Garden. Much has been accomplished but we are still awaiting the final approval from the higher ups.

All the plans have been set in motion for our Memorial Day service at the cemetery. Lineup will be at 1:30 PM and services will start at 2 PM sharp. Please try to have some of your members present and possibly a color guard. We need your support.

The next meeting of the LINCMO members after Memorial Day will be June 8th at 11:30 PM.

Remember that we do not have any meetings in July or August unless something arises that requires any action by the members. Then we would call a special meeting.

MILITARY FUNERAL DISORDERLY CONDUCT UPDATE 09:

A federal judge in Maryland on 3 APR ordered liens on the Westboro Baptist Church building and the Phelps-Chartered Law office. If the case presided over by U.S. District Court Judge Richard D. Bennett is upheld by an appeals court, the church, at 3701 S.W. 12th, and the office building, at 1414 S.W. Topeka Blvd., could be obtained by the court and sold, with the proceeds being applied toward \$5 million in damages Bennett imposed on church members for picketing a military funeral. A lien is a legal hold on property, making it collateral against money owed to a person or entity. It can keep the owner from selling the property or transferring title to the property. The \$5 million penalty is the result of a lawsuit filed against three of the church's principals by Albert Snyder, the father of Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Snyder, whose funeral was picketed by church members. The senior

Snyder contended the picketing caused emotional distress and invasion of privacy. Westboro Baptist members regularly picket funerals of members of the U.S. armed forces, contending the deaths are God's punishment for the country's support of homosexuals

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

UPDATE 02: An enlisted service member killed in battle and posthumously awarded the Silver Star for heroism is rendered lesser honors at Arlington National Cemetery than an officer who dies in a car crash the day after being commissioned. That statement took officials at several veterans' organizations by surprise. But it is true: Burial honors at Arlington, the nation's most storied military cemetery and home of the Tomb of the Unknowns, are accorded strictly by rank, not by the circumstances of death. "That is the custom that has been prescribed," said Jack Metzler, the superintendent at Arlington for the past 17 years. Most enlisted troops receive "standard honors" - military pallbearers, a firing party led by a noncommissioned officer, a bugler and, on request, a chaplain. All others receive variations on "full honors," which also include a horse-drawn caisson, a band and, if requested, escort troops. The only enlisted troops who may receive full honors are those in the highest enlisted grade, E-9. Medal of Honor recipients, regardless of rank, also rate the caisson in addition to standard honors. The two types of funerals are dramatically different. The issue has been raised that Honors rendered should be rendered fairly, based on actions, not rank and the present custom is due for a change.

Metzler said there are two reasons why this cannot or should not be done. The biggest roadblock, he said, is the limited availability of assets for full-honors funerals. Each service provides its own troops for funerals at Arlington. But these ceremonial troops also must support presidential and other official functions in the Washington area. Arlington has two caisson units; each can do four of the stately funerals

per day. It takes time to do the "turnaround" from one funeral to the next, Metzler said. For example, the horses must be watered and inspected after each ceremony. Also, the band isn't always available, as other official functions beckon - although, Metzler said, "only a handful" of people opt to wait until the band is available. The average wait for a funeral at Arlington is five weeks; cemetery workers work to limit the wait to two weeks for Iraq and Afghanistan war dead, Metzler said. Arlington averages about 27 funerals a day, five days a week, he said; none are held on Saturdays or Sundays. There has been an increase of about one funeral per day since the start of the Iraq war, but most of the burials involve the World War II generation. "The ability to have more full-honors funerals for everyone, all day long, isn't there," Metzler said. "It's the caissons. It's the chapel. It's the traffic."

An equally important, and more contentious, reason for not rendering honors based on the circumstances of death rather than rank is having to decide who rates full honors and who does not, Metzler said. "Where do you draw the line? Someone will come back and say, 'My loved one had a Bronze Star with a "V" device, and it was awarded three times. Is that the equivalent of a Silver Star?' I would think that it would be difficult to implement." As of 18 MAR, only 473 of the 4,443 service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan through 1 MAR (i.e. 10.6%) had been buried at Arlington, with highs of 117 burials in 2005 and 2007, and a low of 48 in 2003, Metzler said. Most were enlisted members, most were killed in action, and the highest decoration most received was the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor, Metzler said, adding that he has no way to check the precise number of awards

earned by individuals buried at Arlington. The Army is responsible for operations at Arlington. Army Secretary Pete Geren and Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey did not respond through a spokesman to a request for comment. Several veterans' groups also declined comment. But Joe Barnes, executive secretary of the Fleet Reserve Association and a co-chairman of the Military Coalition, an umbrella group of more than 30 military associations, said "rendering burial honors based on rank "s not a slight against anyone. This decision is out of respect for the few who were accorded the opportunity and responsibility to lead". [Source: Marine Corps Times William H. McMichael article 26 Mar 08

VA VETERAN SUPPORT UPDATE

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our Nation. In support of the nation's veteran community the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) reported the following Memorial Affairs statistics as of FEB 08:

. NCA maintains more than 2.8 million gravesites at 125 cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldier's lots and monument sites.

. The nation's 125th national cemetery, South Florida VA National Cemetery, began operation in April 2007. VA is planning six additional cemeteries to serve the areas of Bakersfield, CA; Birmingham, AL;

Columbia, SC; Jacksonville, FL; Sarasota, FL; and Southeastern PA.

. Of the 125 national cemeteries in operation, 65 are open to all interments; 21 can accommodate cremated remains and family members of those already interred; and 39 are closed to new interments but accommodate family members in occupied gravesites.

. Annual interments in VA national cemeteries have increased from 36,400 in 1973, when VA took responsibility for national cemeteries, to 101,200 in 2007, including dependents. More than 67,500 veterans were laid to rest in a VA national cemetery in 2007.

. Since 1973, NCA has provided nearly 9.9 million headstones and markers. In 2007, NCA furnished more than 361,000 headstones and markers.

. In 2007, NCA provided more than 423,000 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved ones of deceased veterans.

. Since 1980, the State Cemetery Grants Program has obligated more than \$312 million to 36 states, plus Guam and Saipan, for the establishment, expansion or improvement of 69 state veterans cemeteries. In fiscal year 2007, VA supported state veterans cemeteries by providing more than 22,000 interments.