

**L.I.N.C.M.O.**

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*Published Monthly*

**LINCMO Member Organizations**

- GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
- UNITED SPANISH WAR VETERANS
- VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.
- THE AMERICAN LEGION
- JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.
- MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
- RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS ASSN.
- MASONIC WAR VETERANS
- VETERANS OF W.W. I
- POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETS
- DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
- CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS
- U.S. SUBMARINE VETS OF WW II
- U.S. FLEET RESERVE
- GOLD STAR MOTHERS
- WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS.
- AMVETS 88
- VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
- VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR
- KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSN.
- U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.
- MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART
- FORTY & EIGHT - VOITURE #803
- AMERICAN EX- PRISONERS OF WAR
- AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETS
- 1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSN.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>2007</b>		
Feb	11, 2007	LINCMO Meeting 11:30 Hours
Mar	11	LINCMO Meeting 11:30 Hours
Apr	15	LINCMO Meeting 11:30 Hours
May	6	LINCMO Meeting 11:30 Hours
	27	Memorial Day Services 2PM
June	10	LINCMO Meeting 11:30 Hours
Sept	9	Nomination & Election of Officers for 2007 - 2008
Oct	14	Installation of Officers
Nov	4	Veterans Day Services 2 PM

**Cemetery Shortage Cont)**

snapped into a crisp triangle. Indiantown Gap was too far from her home in Ottsville Pa. So following her husband's humorous last wishes she loaded part of his ashes into shotgun shells that a dozen of his buddies fired over favorite duck blinds or fishing holes. The remaining ashes are stored in an old shotgun shell box beside her bed. When Mrs. Leckie heard from local Veterans Affairs officials that a cemetery was in the works, she briefly considered a full soldier's burial for the shell box, thinking her husband would have liked the military pomp. She even discussed it with her mother, herself an Army widow, who lives nearby, also with her husband's remains at home. After all this time, they decided to leave well enough alone. Mrs. Leckie said, "We did what we did when there were no other choices and we are good with that." [Source: N.Y. Times Jane Gross article 9 Nov 06 ++]



*Long Island National Cemetery  
Memorial Organization*

*The Field of Valor  
Newsletter*



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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Tony Arico**

As we close another year and get ready for a new one, I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season .

On behalf of the LINCMO officers and staff, we wish you and your family and organizations a great holiday season.

Please remember our troops that are in foreign lands and let them know that you support them in your prayers.

The next meeting of the LINCMO Board will be on Sunday, February, 11th at 11:30 am.

**MILITARY AIRFARE DISCOUNT:**



Blue Star Moms, a chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America, is circulating a petition that asks for a congressional resolution requesting 11 major airlines to provide discounted airfares for active duty troops. Blue Star Moms wants the carriers (Alaska, America West, American, Continental, Delta, Hawaiian, Jet Blue, Northwest, Southwest, United and US Airways) to reinstate the Military Standby airfare that was offered to active duty military personnel during the Vietnam War. They also want the airlines to provide military travelers on leave with their lowest fares, regardless of short notice, and to waive fees or penalties for refunds if military travelers receive a change of orders. The petition can be signed online at <http://www.petitiononline.com/bsmmil/>. [Source: Armed Forces News

## VET CEMETERY FOR SOUTHERN CA:

The new Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, the nation's 124th VA-managed national cemetery, began burials in mid-OCT 06. The 561-acre site is located at 5810 Midway Road, Dixon, CA 95620 in Solano County, approximately 27 miles southwest of Sacramento along Interstate 80, between Dixon and Vacaville CA. It is intended to meet veteran needs for the next 50 years. About 346,000 veterans live within the service area of the cemetery. The cremated remains of Alvin Hayman and those of his wife were placed in the Cemetery, fulfilling Hayman's wish and consecrating land that he once owned. Hayman, who served in occupied Japan and later in the Reserves, was the first of eight veterans to be buried on the cemetery's opening day. The native San Franciscan died in July 2004 a few days after he sold his land to the VA. His family kept his cremated remains at home, so that they could honor his wish to be placed in the new cemetery when it opened.

Although the cemetery has opened for burials, construction will continue at the cemetery until July 2009. The construction contract calls for the development of an initial area of 14 acres, which will provide 8,466 gravesites consisting of 4,712 full casket and 3,754 in-ground burial sites for cremated remains. Initial operations will be conducted utilizing a temporary office, committal service shelter and equipment shed. . For information on the Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery, call the cemetery office at (707) 693-2460. To schedule burials call 1(800) 535-1117. Sacramento was one of 10 areas VA identified in a report to Congress in 1994 as having a large veteran population not served by either a national or state veterans cemetery within a reasonable distance. In 1999 and 2003, with the passage of two laws, Congress directed VA to establish 12 new national cemeteries. Five have opened in the areas of Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Atlanta, and Sacramento. The rest - one in Alabama and California, three in Florida, one near Philadelphia and one in South Carolina - will be located near

large populations of veterans who currently do not have access to a burial option.

Including the new Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery, there are seven national cemeteries in California. Three of these national cemeteries, Riverside, San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery are open. Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery currently has space for the burial of cremated remains. The other three, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Golden Gate National Cemeteries can offer burial only to family members of those already interred. In addition to the Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery, VA is planning another new national cemetery in the Bakersfield area. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the Internet at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov) or by calling VA regional offices at 1(800) 827-1000. [Source: DVA National Cemetery Administration Press Release Oct 06

**VET CEMETERY SHORTAGE:** The federal government is racing to keep pace with the deaths of America's warriors. Half of the country's 124 veteran's cemeteries are closed to burials. More than 1,800 veterans die each day, 12% choosing a soldier's burial. Deaths are expected to peak this year, at 688,000, and continue near that level for a long time, as 9.5 million of the nation's living veterans are over the age of 65. The VA says it will take at least until 2009 to catch up with demand. The problem can be traced to a long lull in building cemeteries, between 1940 and 1970. The few built were on sites the government already owned or got free, often far from the veterans who needed them. This was cheaper and easier in the short term than venturing into the private marketplace, but the path chosen by the VA merely delayed the inevitable. With a push from Congress, the department in 1999 began the largest expansion of the national cemetery system since the Civil War. Twelve regions of the country were identified as needing new cemeteries, those with at least 170,000 veterans and no available burial

sites within 75 miles, the distance that families said they were willing to travel. Five of the 12 have been built. But there is pent-up demand of long-dead soldiers in urns, mausoleums or civilian plots, resting in temporary peace until a new cemetery opens. That can happen in two years under the best of circumstances. More common is a five- or six-year process, which includes Congressional oversight and separate appropriations bills at every step of the way.

When the nation's newest veterans cemetery opened near Sacramento on 16 OCT, the first to be buried were Alvin Hayman, a second lieutenant in the Marines during the post-World War II occupation of Japan, and his wife, Irene. He had died in 2004, his remains kept in an urn for two years. His wife died in 2000 about the time that Mr. Hayman, a home builder, decided to sell 550 acres to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Her ashes sat for six years waiting for the new cemetery. The real estate deal that Mr. Hayman embraced took four years to close, just five days before he succumbed to cancer. Jon Hayman, the couple's son and formerly a partner in his father's real estate business, said the pace of government bureaucracy was slow. He had hoped to see the first burial, not be the first burial. The cemetery director Sandy Beckley said, "303 of its first 530 funerals were for veterans who had died as long as three years ago, with 120 still on the calendar. usually caught up in", said Bill Tuerk, the under secretary of memorial affairs. It's a torturous process".

The department looks for ways to squeeze in more people where burial grounds are at capacity, sometimes buying adjacent land or building columbaria for cremated remains."

Six months after opening the cemetery in Atlanta continues to hold delayed burials. At a Civil War graveyard in Marietta, Ga., three people killed in the Iraq war have been accommodated by removing a grove of dead trees and using space

relinquished by veterans' spouses who had remarried. But southeastern Pennsylvania needs more than nooks and crannies. The Philadelphia National Cemetery closed to most burials in 1962 and stopped in-ground cremations last year. Beverly National Cemetery across the river in Burlington, N.J., is also full. There is still room at Indiantown Gap, near Harrisburg, but that is 120 miles from some parts of Bucks County. Even farther is a new cemetery near Pittsburgh. The preferred site in the region was next to Valley Forge National Historic Park, popular with veterans and politicians but opposed by historians. Once that fell through, the department had to scramble for land.

After years of looking, and heavy pressure from the chairman of the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee when the long process began, the department settled on the current site, a vast field of spent corn owned by Toll Brothers, the country's largest builder of luxury homes. It is appealingly flat, free of contamination and close to the scene of a major Revolutionary War battle. But the local politics is tricky and Toll is driving a hard bargain. This month three townships that jointly make land use decisions each approved a necessary zoning change. Yet hurdles remain before the government can write Toll Brothers a \$7 million check. Toll Brothers has pared its plan to 170 homes on the 311-acre site. With \$41 million for six cemeteries nationwide, the department can afford only 200 of Toll Brothers' acres. The developer is determined to build the same number of houses, so now the V.A. must expedite a deal for Toll to buy an adjoining parcel. "We are caught up in stuff we are not usually caught up in."

Catherine Leckie, a Vietnam-era widow, decided the wait was too long. Her late husband, Arthur, a marine, died a year and a half ago of a cancer caused by Agent Orange. Mr. Leckie had been awed, years ago, by his parents' funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. A full veteran's burial appealed to her, with a 21-gun salute, taps played by a lone bugler and the American flag