



Military Funeral Honors at State Veterans Cemeteries

Every veteran eligible for placement at a California State Veterans Cemetery is entitled to Military Funeral Honors.¹ The Department of Defense is responsible for providing this service, which involves two or more uniformed service members folding and presenting a U.S. burial flag to the family, and playing of Taps. A gun salute by a rifle squad is reserved for veterans who retired from military service, service members killed on active duty, and Medal of Honor recipients.

Department of Defense policy allows for Military Honors to be performed one time for each veteran.² Military Honor Guards *will not* perform Funeral Honors a second time.

The family or funeral home is responsible for requesting Military Funeral Honors.³ To request this service, and to request a military chaplain, contact the appropriate branch of service:

Army Veteran

1.877.847.8830

Marine Corps Veteran

1.866.826.3628

Navy Veteran

1.800.326.9631

Air Force Veteran

1.800.586.8402

Coast Guard Veteran

1.510.437.6650

Veterans groups can also perform Military Funeral Honors, but do such on a voluntary basis, so there is no guarantee they can provide this service.

¹ 10 U.S.C. §1419(a); see <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/10/1491>. Except in certain circumstances, such as conviction for a capital crime; 10 U.S.C. §985(a)

² <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/getLinks.do?tab=FAQ#q4>.

³ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, "Interments in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemeteries," VA-NCA-IS-1, January 2011, §II(5).