

Veterans' Medallion available

New option for marking veterans' graves

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki announced June 20 that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is offering bronze medallions to attach to existing, privately purchased headstones or markers, signifying a deceased's status as a veteran.

conflict — from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan — are buried in the VA's national cemeteries.

"For veterans not buried in a national or state veterans cemetery, or those without a government grave marker, the VA is pleased to offer this option that highlights their service and sacrifices for our country," said Secretary Shinseki.



The new item can be furnished instead of a traditional government headstone or marker for

veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Under federal law, eligible veterans buried in a private cemetery are entitled to either a government-furnished grave marker or the new medallion, but not both. Veterans buried in a national or state veterans cemetery will receive a government headstone or marker of the standard design authorized at that cemetery.

The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches, and 1½ inches in width. Each bronze medallion features the image of a folded flag adorned with laurels and is inscribed with the word 'Veteran' at the top and the branch of service at the bottom. Next of kin will receive the medallion, along with a kit which will allow the family or staff of a private cemetery to affix the medallion to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum, or columbarium niche cover.

More information about VA-furnished headstones, markers, and medallions can be found at www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hm-type.asp.

The VA is currently developing an application form for ordering the medallion. Until it is available, applicants may use the form for ordering government headstones and markers, VA form 40-1030. Instructions on how to apply for a medallion are found on the VA web site at www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp.


The VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than 3 million Americans are, including veterans of every war and



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NH plan to end homelessness

The Associated Press reports that New Hampshire officials say they can end homelessness among veterans by 2014 with a plan that emphasizes that there is 'no wrong door' for veterans seeking help. Last year, the state created a committee to improve collaboration among the state health and human services department, community groups, and the VA medical centers in Manchester and White River Junction, VT. It released a plan June 28 outlining nearly a dozen goals, including increasing awareness of existing resources, improving subsidized abuse treatment options, and giving veterans preferences when applying for subsidized housing.

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