



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Veterans Services

John Maxwell
Commissioner

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June 17, 2020

Dear Funeral Home Directors,

Thank you for your patience these past few months while we've needed to limit certain services due to the recent public health emergency. Our goal is to always safely provide the services and support our veterans and their families need and deserve.

The Virginia Veterans Cemetery at Amelia, Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery at Suffolk, and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin remain open for visitation and our administrative offices will reopen to the public **by appointment only**, effective June 17, 2020. Further, all of our cemeteries will resume committal services on June 22, 2020. Appointments and services may be scheduled by calling the following numbers: 804-561-1475 (Amelia); 757-255-7217 (Suffolk); 540-674-6893 (Dublin).

Our cemeteries will continue to adhere to the Governor's directives and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to prevent the spread of coronavirus. In our administrative offices, all visitors are required to wear a mask or face covering. VDVS will provide visitors with one as needed. Our staff are also required to wear face coverings at all times while inside our offices. Note that those visitors who elect not to wear a mask in our facilities will be assisted via telephone and email only. We strongly recommend only the client (next of kin) enter our facilities for their appointment, as conferences are limited to no more than 4 attendees, including staff. Social distancing must be practiced at all times and the use of hand sanitizer is encouraged and will be provided.

All committal services are limited to no more than fifty participants. Attendees and funeral home staff are encouraged to wear a mask at all times. The frequent use of hand sanitizer is encouraged and will be available at the committal shelters. Funeral Directors are encouraged to recommend any visitors who may be sick to stay at home. Families who were unable to hold a committal service due to the COVID-19 pandemic from March 23 to June 21 may call to arrange a memorial service for their loved ones. Military funeral honors, customarily provided by the Department of Defense or local Veteran Service Organizations, is based on availability. Families with interments scheduled on or after June 22 will be able to schedule a committal service at the time of interment. Committal shelter restrooms are available to all visitors during conferences and committal services.

Again, thank you for your patience and cooperation. For more information, visit the VDVS website at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/cemeteries>.