

SERVICES

The New York State Veterans Cemetery – Finger Lakes provides an opportunity for families to conduct a 30-minute Final Committal service. For the comfort and safety of families, services are held at a Committal Shelter. (Gravesite services are normally not conducted.)

Upon completion of services at the Committal Shelter, cemetery/funeral personnel will escort the remains to the gravesite and complete the burial.

Clergy, family, and friends are welcome to pay final respects at the gravesite once the burial is complete, and burial personnel and equipment have left the site.

Funeral Directors /NOK are responsible for the scheduling of any Clergy, Honor Guards, etc. that will be part of the Committal Service. Cemetery personnel can assist NOK with contact information for these services if requested.

Marble Headstones will be ordered by the cemetery once the burial is complete. We request your understanding that cold weather months can delay some monument maintenance activity.

HISTORY

The New York State Veterans Cemetery – Finger Lakes formerly known as the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery occupies 162 acres along Seneca Lake in Romulus, Seneca County, and is adjacent to Sampson State Park.

The Cemetery is located at the site of the former Sampson Naval Training Station and Sampson Air Force Base, where hundreds of thousands of service members trained during World War II and the Korean War. The site later functioned as a temporary college and a separation center for service members being discharged, and officially closed in 2000.

The Cemetery is located near Waterloo, the community recognized as the birthplace of Memorial Day.

The site was chosen in 2021 as the location of New York's first State Veterans Cemetery by a committee appointed for that purpose.

DVS took over the Cemetery on February 1, 2023.



Department of
Veterans' Services

NY STATE VETERANS CEMETERY - FINGER LAKES

CONTACT US

NY State Veterans Cemetery -

Finger Lakes

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ELIGIBILITY

Burial in the New York State Veterans Cemetery – Finger Lakes is an honor reserved for Armed Forces Veterans discharged from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions.

Also entitled to burial in the cemetery are the Veteran's legal spouse and eligible dependent children.

Any enlisted person that entered active duty after September 7, 1980, or an officer commissioned after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 consecutive months to be considered for burial. This does not apply to Veterans Killed in Action.

Also eligible for burial is any person who was discharged or released for disability or hardship, and Reservists who are eligible for retirement.

APPLICATION

At the time of need (when a death has occurred), the next of kin should contact a funeral home of their choice. To avoid possible delays it is recommended that Veterans and families consider pre-arraignments with a Funeral Director prior to the time of need. It will ensure that your wishes are documented and paperwork such as the Veteran's discharge, marriage certificate, etc. is easily accessible when needed.

At the time of need, the funeral home will send the necessary information to the cemetery to arrange for interment.

To determine eligibility the funeral home will need the Veteran's full name; rank; branch of service; character of discharge; date of entry, and discharge date. Service number should be included, if applicable.

This information can be found on the Veteran's military discharge records, and the cemetery will need a copy.

If a funeral home is not involved in the scheduling of services for the family, the cemetery will accept correspondence for scheduling with the next-of-kin (NOK).

ASSISTANCE

There may be additional services and benefits available for you or your family as a result of your loved ones' military service.

If you are in need of assistance in accessing the Veterans' benefits and services, the Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) is available to assist.

A Veterans Benefits Advisor will provide free and confidential assistance to ensure all of the benefits earned in military service are accessed.

Reach out to DVS to make an appointment:

Phone: 888-838-7697
Website: veterans.ny.gov