



GREEN BURIAL COUNCIL

Why Green Burial is a Veteran's Issue

Freedom of Choice

Many of our veterans have expressed a heartfelt wish to be buried naturally, affordably, unfettered and with simplicity, in the respectful manner that reflects their lifelong dedication to the American ideals they have served. It is estimated that there are 22 million veterans who will require burial or cremation. Natural burial in American military cemeteries not only has the potential of saving taxpayer dollars, it will continue our proud tradition of caring for our veterans with respect, dignity, and honor while offering environmentally responsible, affordable disposition choices.

Environmental Impact

Nothing resonates more with veterans than the fight to preserve American soil. Natural burial ensures that the land used for cemeteries will be left free of toxic chemicals, concrete, fiberglass, steel, and other metals forever. Families choose locally made and sourced biodegradable caskets and shrouds, supporting their local economy and the artists and craftspeople who keep American folk traditions alive. Natural burial represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a permanent steward of the land.

Affordability

Green burial requires significantly less money, natural and human resources to operate while continuing to provide quality goods and services. As a result, vital financial resources can be channeled toward programs that truly matter to veterans and their families, in lieu of money spent on toxic chemicals, water, mowing and other high maintenance activities. Both the Veteran's Administration and individual families stand to save thousands of dollars by burying green.

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Land used for natural burial becomes a tangible monument to the lives of those buried there. Costs associated with burial support what goes on above ground — sustainable harvesting, agricultural programs, educational events, recreational opportunities — creating community, strengthening family bonds, and providing opportunity, a gift from the veterans, their family members, and all those who care about leaving a last precious legacy for future generations.



"Show me the manner in which a nation or a community cares for its dead. I will measure exactly the sympathies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals." — William Gladstone