

# Mission and Background of National Cemetery Administration

## National Cemetery Administration (NCA) Facilities Design Guide, March 2010

### (excerpt)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration

"The mission of the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is four-fold: to provide burial space for veterans and operate and maintain the 114 Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries as national shrines; to provide headstones and markers for the graves of veterans; to provide Presidential Memorial Certificates; and to administer the State Cemetery Grants Program assisting states to build or improve state-owned cemeteries for veterans."

"President Lincoln, on July 17, 1862, signed legislation which authorized the creation of 14 national cemeteries, "...for the soldiers who shall die in the service of the country." These cemeteries were the beginning of what is known as the National Cemetery Administration. From 1862 to 1973, these cemeteries were operated by the Department of the Army. Today, the NCA of the Department of Veterans Affairs oversees 114 national cemeteries in the United States and Puerto Rico."