

**WEST POINT POST CEMETERY
GROUNDS AND FLORAL POLICY**
(Established 1782)

VISITING HOURS

The cemetery grounds are open for visitors from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. The Columbarium at the Old Cadet Chapel is open 0800 to 1630 daily. Restrooms are located at the cemetery's main entry as well as at the rear of the Memorial Affairs Office. A grave locator is available inside the Old Cadet Chapel, in the Old Cadet Chapel Columbarium and at the rear of the Cemetery Caretaker Lodge/Memorial Affairs Office.

FLORAL POLICY

Floral arrangements accompanying the remains (casket or urn) at the time of burial will be placed on the dressed and closed gravesite (if outdoors). They will be removed when they become faded, unsightly or when it becomes necessary to facilitate cemetery grounds maintenance operations such as mowing. Our floral policy allows for fresh cut flowers to be placed on the gravesite year round. Small green floral vases are located near the cemetery office for this purpose. (Note that wildlife roams and may feed upon floral arrangements. In addition, any baskets, vases and potted plants will be removed and discarded to allow for mowing and trimming.)

The day of the burial, arrangements to have flowers, wreaths or other dignified decorations placed at the outdoor gravesites may be made by contacting a local florist and providing them with the gravesite location for floral placement to arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the service.

Artificial flowers may be permitted to dress the outdoor gravesites during the turf's dormant period (from 15 November to 15 March). Planting of trees, flowers, and shrubs by the public as memorials is prohibited.

Christmas wreaths and other dignified seasonal adornments may be placed on graves from 1 December to 20 January, however, these may not be secured to the headstones or markers (due to stone deteriorations and discoloration).

Placing of flowers, wreaths or other decorations is prohibited in the Old Cadet Chapel Columbarium (due to environmental conditions). Minor children visiting the West Point Cemetery and the Old Cadet Chapel Columbarium must be accompanied by an adult.

GROUNDS POLICY: The Government is not responsible for items left at a gravesite or niche. These items are considered abandoned property. In addition—

a. All items left at gravesite or niches are subject to immediate removal based on environmental factors, safety, potential damage items may cause to headstones, ensuring the cemetery maintains a dignified appearance.

b. U.S. flags will be placed on gravesites for Memorial Day.

c. The following items are prohibited from being left at gravesites, niches, or within Army Cemeteries—

(1) Statues, lights, noise makers, hanging ornaments and any other type of commemorative items.

(2) Planted flowers, shrubs, and so forth.

(3) Items that present a safety or health concern, such as munitions, alcohol, tobacco products, glass objects, electrically powered devices, and so forth.

- d. Items may not be affixed to Government furnished markers.
- e. The Government does not assume any responsibility for damaged or missing items left at gravesites or niches.
- f. Floral and other items will be removed from the gravesites or adjacent niches as soon as they become faded, wilted, and/or unsightly.
- g. The following items may be left at gravesites or outdoor niches at West Point cemetery—
 - (1) Fresh cut flowers may be placed on gravesites or adjacent niches at any time.
 - (2) Artificial flowers may be placed on gravesites or adjacent niches from 15 November to 15 March.
 - (3) Potted plants, during the period 7 days before and 7 days after Easter (or this period before and after the Roman and Byzantine (Orthodox) Easters, when they occur on different dates).
 - (4) Wreaths, during the winter holiday season. Wreaths may not be tied or otherwise affixed to headstones.

The West Point Cemetery grounds are a solemn place where the remains of over 9,000 service members and family members from several centuries rest. These historic monuments and tributes depict the names of graduates who dedicated their life in the service of this nation. As such, visitors are reminded to conduct themselves with the utmost dignity. Sitting upon, leaning against, stepping on or placing items upon gravestones of anyone other than your family or loved one is not permitted.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES: Jogging, picnicking, bicycling, and recreational dog walking are not allowed in the cemetery. Vandalism, theft, defacing or tampering with monuments is prohibited. Should a visitor notice any of these activities, please contact the post military police at (845) 938-3333 or the Cemetery Office at (845) 938-2504.