



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996-5000

DEC 4 2014

West Point Association of Graduates
698 Mills Road
West Point, NY 10996

Dear Members of the Long Gray Line:

The West Point Cemetery is near capacity for the burial of remains in new gravesites. As of this writing, there are only 65 full-body and 68 in-ground cremation plots available before the cemetery maximizes its working potential. To address this issue, the United States Military Academy (USMA) has developed an expansion plan that will allow future generations' in-ground burial options through 2024. During the interim time, however, I have no choice but to impose a temporary restriction on the Army Regulation 210-26 internment criteria and prioritize the remaining 65/68 plots.

This temporary measure is the first of several phases of the West Point Cemetery Expansion Program. The next phase includes the relocation of key utilities and landscaping at an estimated cost of \$2.8M and will provide 308 new in-ground casketed burial sites and 132 new in-ground inurnment plots allowing the cemetery to continue in-ground burials through 2024. We have already started planning the second phase and expect this phase to take two to three years before we can use these new plots.

The third phase will expand the cemetery into portions of the old PX adjacent to the northern end of the existing cemetery. There are extensive regulatory policies that must come together to make this work and we have begun this effort.

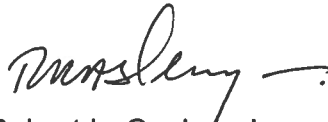
In the meantime, since we only have 65 full-body and 68 in-ground cremation plots available for new in-ground burials for the next 2-3 years, we have to prioritize these remaining plots until the expansion goes into effect. This temporary restricted eligibility is limited as follows:

- USMA Graduates who were U.S. citizens that retired honorably (either for length of service or medical disability), and were receiving retired pay at their time of death and were recipients of the Distinguished Service Medal or Silver Star or higher award
- USMA Graduates who die on active duty
- Distinguished Graduate Award recipients
- Nininger Award recipients
- USMA Graduates having existing bona fide reservations assigned by the Superintendent under previous regulations and policies

- Spouses and dependent children of USMA Graduates meeting the criteria above

It is important to note that these restrictions apply only to in-ground burials. Through the generosity of the graduating Classes of 1955, 1964, 1966, 1968, 2001, and 2002 and in coordination with the West Point Association of Graduates, the addition of an Outdoor Columbarium is already in place and expands the ability of the West Point Cemetery to inurn cremated remains throughout the restrictive period and into the foreseeable future.

Although this measure may temporarily limit the variety of choices available regarding the type of interment or inurnment for some, it in no way impacts the previously established eligibility for columbarium inurnment and will ensure that generations of our Graduates will have the decision of resting with honor beside their brothers and sisters in The Long Gray Line.



Robert L. Caslen, Jr.
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Superintendent