

M. J. "DOLLY" COOPER VETERANS CEMETERY ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Veterans who desire burial in South Carolina's M. J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery may request that eligibility for themselves and their eligible dependents be established in advance. While this will not reserve a specific gravesite, it will lessen the burden on surviving family members at the time of the veteran's/dependent's death and allow immediate scheduling of burial by the veterans cemetery staff. In situations where no pre-certification has been made, burial will not be scheduled until eligibility has been confirmed.

Service Verification

Veterans requesting pre-determination of eligibility for themselves and their dependents should provide a copy of their DD-214 or Military Discharge showing character of discharge and dates of active service, or the retirement letter from the Reserves or National Guard.

Qualifications

To qualify for a plot in a state veterans' cemetery, the applicant must be a veteran or a member of the immediate family of a veteran who meets the requirements:

- ❑ The veteran must have an **Honorable** discharge from the Armed Forces.
- ❑ The veteran must have been a resident of South Carolina either
 - when the veteran entered the Armed Forces (**Home of Record**); or
 - when the veteran died; or
 - for five years (and can prove it).

Allotment to the Veteran

In a plot that is allotted to a veteran, the division shall bury: (1) the veteran, and (2) any member of the immediate family of the veteran if the family member can be buried in a space above or below the veteran. The division shall bury the veteran without charge. For burial of a member of the immediate family, the cost is \$300 at time of death.

Marriage Documentation

Veterans who desire their spouse to be buried with them must provide a copy of their Marriage Certificate.

Birth Documentation

In some cases, the veteran's children may be eligible for burial with the veteran. Please contact a cemetery representative for more information about a dependent child's eligibility.

Please forward all documentation along with a completed Pre-Certification Application to the M. J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery where burial is desired.

Upon verification of burial eligibility, the veteran will be provided with a letter stating that his or her eligibility has been confirmed. The letter should be kept with important papers or provided to the veteran's funeral director if a funeral plan has been established. The Veterans Cemetery will also maintain a file copy of the letter and other pertinent documents, so that interment can be scheduled immediately upon notification of death.

October 6, 2009