

Requesting Honor Guard for Military Funeral Service

Requesting Military Funeral service:

Provide the funeral home with a copy of the decedents separation papers and or (DD214) discharge forms

The funeral home is to notify the appropriate Military casualty branch with decedents discharge papers and verify the quality of his or her service. (Nothing less than a general discharge will qualify for Military Honors)

The funeral home will also provide the date, time, point of contact and location of the funeral.

The Military casualty branch will contact the local reserve unit or appropriate organization to provide Military Honors at the funeral service. Usually it will consist of three people to fold the Flag and play taps.

To provide the rifle salute one must request this request from a local VSO (Veteran service organization VFW, American Legion, Marine Corps League)

If in the event you cannot locate a copy of the decedents DD214 discharge papers or separation forms, you can request one online by accessing the National Archives records and request his or her discharge papers.

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov> you can also contact the National Archives by calling 1 (314) 801-0800 if there is an emergency to conduct the funeral.

The following information is needed to locate the descendant's separation papers.

- The veterans complete name used while in the service.
- Service number (if known)
- Social security number
- Branch of service
- Date served.
- Date and place of birth (especially if the service number is not known)
- Place of discharge
- Last unit of assignment
- Place of entry into service (if known)
- You must also provide a copy of the decedents proof of death such a copy of death certificate letter from the funeral home.

if the funeral is a Casket funeral you will need to locate the decedents separation forms as soon as possible as the funeral home may have time limit on holding the casket.

If the funeral is a cremation, you will have time to process his or her discharge papers with the funeral home.

To be interred into a National cemetery one must provide his or her separation papers and a copy of the death certificate (DD214) The funeral home can make all necessary arrangements for burial. The cemetery will also provide available dates they can provide service. (Note the National cemetery does not provide service on weekends)