



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

For Immediate Release
May 4, 2009

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First Indigent Veteran Interred

New Program Ensures Dignified, Honorable Resting Place

(RADCLIFF, May 4, 2009) In April, the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs authorized the first reimbursement from a new program to pay for the funeral expenses of indigent veterans.

One thousand dollars from a dedicated trust fund ensured that James E. Williams of Louisville, a 54-year-old Army veteran, received proper pre-burial services from a local funeral home before his interment at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central in Radcliff.

“These men and women deserve a final resting place of dignity and honor,” said Jeff Acob, KDVA Staff Assistant for Cemeteries. “We are gratified this program is making that possible.”

Rep. Charlie Siler sponsored the bill to create the Indigent Veterans Burial Program in the 2008 General Assembly. Previously, veterans who could not afford a casket were brought to the cemetery in plain boxes. State and national veterans cemeteries charge nothing to inter veterans, but the family must cover the funeral home costs.

The program provides a decent interment for indigent veterans at state, national or private cemeteries in Kentucky. KDVA encourages funeral homes to make diligent efforts to inter indigent veterans in a state or national cemetery to avoid the plot allowance and headstone costs charged by private cemeteries.

No matter where the final resting place chosen by the funeral home or family, the maximum amount that may be reimbursed is \$1,000 to the party who pays for or provides the funeral services.

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central (KVCC) mainly serves veterans from a 75-mile radius of the cemetery, including parts of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. KVCC also serves Active Duty soldiers and their dependents serving at nearby Fort Knox. Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central is Kentucky's second state veterans cemetery. Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West opened in Hopkinsville in March 2004. Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North, in Williamstown, opened August 22, 2008. KDVA is currently planning the design and construction of Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East in Greenup County.

For more information about interment at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, including eligibility and services, call the cemetery at 270-351-5115 or 270-351-5119.

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central is located on 99 acres at 2501 N. Dixie Highway in Radcliff, adjacent to Fort Knox. Construction included a 3,600-square-foot administration building, a 4,400-square-foot maintenance building with service area, a committal facility and a columbarium. It also has appropriate parking, road network, walking path and landscaping commensurate with the dignity and honor of a state veterans cemetery. Construction and initial equipment for KVCC cost approximately \$8.95 million. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reimbursed the state for construction, and the state pays the operating costs.