

Arranging Military Honors

The process starts when a family expresses its desire for military funeral honors to a funeral director. The funeral director then only needs to submit an Honors Request form (found at the website on the back of this brochure) to the MFHP office via a toll-free fax at (1-866-454-0356) to request military funeral honors. If family members are arranging military honors without the assistance of a funeral director, they may call the toll-free number directly and the staff will assist them in processing the Honors Request for the veteran.

Who is Eligible for Honors?

Veterans are eligible for military honors at their funeral if they meet one of the following requirements:

- ★ Currently serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserve (drilling with a unit).
- ★ Discharged from active duty under conditions other than “dishonorable” while meeting appropriate length of service criteria.
- ★ Completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve under conditions other than “dishonorable.”
- ★ Discharged from the Selected Reserve due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Ongoing Initiatives

- ★ Provide one-stop coordination with local, state and federal resources to ensure Wisconsin’s veterans receive honors.
- ★ Provide and process the requests for the stipend program expediently.
- ★ Provide honors training upon request.
- ★ Continue to increase the awareness of the Military Funeral Honors Program.

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
Military Funeral Honors Program
21731 Spring St.
Union Grove, WI 53182

Toll-free phone: 1-877-944-6667

Toll-free fax: 1-866-454-0356

Email: honors@dva.wisconsin.gov

Website: www.WisVets.com/FuneralHonors

WDVA B0210 (08/14)

WISCONSIN MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS PROGRAM



“On behalf of a grateful nation”

Our Mission

To provide and coordinate the appropriate final tribute to eligible Wisconsin Veterans, acknowledging their faithful and honorable service to the State of Wisconsin and our Nation.

The Military Funeral Honors Program (MFHP) is designed to complement and augment existing organizations that provide this solemn and dignified ceremony to honor veterans at the time of burial. The MFHP is committed to serving veterans and their families. The MFHP ensures all agencies are coordinated in their efforts and that honors are conducted with dignity and respect, and meet an acceptable military standard.

Stipend Program

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes that Veterans Service Organizations (VSO's) incur costs in providing honors to Wisconsin veterans. To help offset those costs a stipend program has been established that allows eligible VSO's to receive a stipend of up to \$50.00 for each honors ceremony conducted. To learn more about this program and how your VSO can participate, please call our toll-free number at 1-877-944-6667.



Training

The MFHP provides training and honors refresher courses to Veterans Service Organizations upon request. This includes both flag folding and rifle team training. Call our toll-free number to learn more about training and to make arrangements.

Program Background

Nationally:

On January 1, 2000, Military Funeral Honors became a statutory benefit to all veterans with the signing of the National Defense Authorization Act. The law requires that, upon the family's request, every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the sounding of taps.

Wisconsin:

On May 9, 2000, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs was authorized by Wisconsin law to administer a Military Funeral Honors Program using local units of member organizations of the Council on Veterans Programs and members of the Wisconsin National Guard. As part of this bill, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs also received authority to establish full-time honors teams in Wisconsin.

Military Honors

A standard military honors ceremony consists of the firing of three rifle volleys, the sounding of taps, the folding of the flag and the presentation of the flag to the next of kin. Due to availability of personnel, a rifle detail is not always possible.

Each veteran is entitled, by law, to at least two uniformed service personnel who will sound taps, fold the flag and present it to the next of kin. The family needs to express the desire to have uniformed personnel present to the funeral director, who in turn will contact the MFHP for coordination of the military honors ceremony.

Bugles for Sounding Taps

There is a nationwide shortage of military buglers. There are simply too few to handle the estimated 12,000 annual services. The MFHP coordinates with the Wisconsin Army National Guard 132nd Army Band, other reserve units and also with the Bugles Across America organization to locate volunteers. In addition, we have volunteer buglers in communities across the state that we are able to call upon. If it is not possible to locate a bugler, then taps will be sounded using a CD recorded at Arlington National Cemetery or a ceremonial bugle.

