

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Honors Burial – Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, CO. Saturday, May 29, 2021 10:00 AM

Good morning VVA Chapter 1071 members,

I recently was informed by O'Neal Hughes of Fort Logan National Cemetery that, as it stands now, they will be unable to accommodate our request for a committal service for the 19 veterans we will be honoring at our Honors Burial Ceremony at Fairmount Cemetery on May 29th (Labor Day weekend). It appears that the National Cemeteries nationally are very restricted and the services they are currently offering has been cut way back until further notice.

I prefer to remain somewhat optimistic that things could change over the next several weeks and we may still have some hope that things will change in our favor before June 1. Consequently we are preparing to have the ceremony in full at Fairmount and let the 2 cemeteries make the final arrangements between them to inurn the veterans we will honor next month.

Currently Fairmount is allowed to have 50 people in their chapel with an overflow room that would accommodate an additional 5 people. Our participants in this ceremony will include 19 urn bearers as well as an additional 10 or so members to perform the ceremony. Fairmount will have a limited number of participants (approximately 5), so if you are planning on attending as a member or observer, plan accordingly. The ceremony will be available on YouTube live with possibly another streaming venue that we hope to announce prior to the service.

The rules regarding the pandemic have disrupted so many events and we are caught up in it ourselves. This Honors Burial program has meant so much to all of us so, needless to say, I am disappointed that we are unable to give the honored veterans the services that we have provided several times before. However, we have been taught to follow the rules, especially when there is no other choice, so we will press on and give our 19 honorees the best send off we possibly can.

Thanks to all who have signed up and to those who signed up for the committal at Fort Logan, I have your names and intend to honor your service if things should change. Hope to see you all at the monthly meeting this Saturday, April 17. Bring your appetite...breakfast is always great.

Jim Topkoff
Coordinator,
Honors Burial Program
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