WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

POLICY

POLICY NUMBER 510.200

TITLE **Eligibility for Interment**

EFFECTIVE DATE:	April 20, 2011
AUTHORITY:	General authority of the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs hereinafter referred to as WDVA, to manage and direct the Agency, RCW 43.60A.040, .050, and .060 and RCW 72.36.115.
PURPOSE:	To establish eligibility for interment in the Washington State Veterans Cemetery – Medical Lake hereafter referred to as the Cemetery.
APPLICABILITY:	All WDVA employees, cemetery staff, visitors or anyone entering the cemetery grounds.
DEFINITIONS:	**Applicant**. The individual requesting interment, disinterment or re-interment of a qualified person. **Armed Forces Member.** A member or former member of the armed forces of the United States, the reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, the reserve officers training corps of the United States, or the armed forces of an ally of the United States who is eligible for burial in national cemeteries pursuant to 38 CFR 38.620 and 38 U.S.C. Section 2402. **Committal Service**. A service prior to interment or re-interment. **Cremains**. Cremated human remains. **Designated Memorial Path**. A public path designated by a sign or marker. **Disinterment**. The removal of human remains from their place of interment.

Interment. The disposition of human remains by burial or the placement of cremains in a grave plot or in any location designated by WDVA for use as a permanent location of cremains.

Qualified Person. A person who satisfies the requirements for eligibility for interment in national cemeteries found at 38 CFR 38.620 and 38 U.S.C. Section 2402 and is not prohibited from being interred by 38 U.S.C. § 2411 or 38 CFR 39.5.

Re-interment. The interment of previously interred human remains.

Scattering. Placing human cremains upon the ground.

Un-remarried Spouse. An individual who is the surviving spouse of a deceased armed forces member and who has not remarried.

POLICY:

I. **Eligibility Requirements**.

a. Proof of Qualification as an Armed Forces Member. The following documents may be submitted as proof that an individual is a qualified person:

i. A valid discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States indicating that the character of discharge was other than dishonorable; or

ii. A copy of a Reserve Retirement Eligibility Benefits Letter; or

iii. A valid certificate of naturalization or a valid United States passport and a valid discharge from the armed forces of an ally of the United States in a war during which the individual served indicating that the character of discharge was other than dishonorable; or

iv. Any other evidence satisfactory to Cemetery Director, consistent with USDVA and WDVA eligibility requirements.

b. Proof of Qualification for Relatives of an Armed Forces Member. The following documents may be submitted as proof that an individual is a qualified

person:

i. One of the items listed in Section I above for a parent of the individual, a valid birth or adoption record identifying such parent, and proof of the individual's birth date; or

ii. One of the items listed in Section I above for the spouse of the individual, a valid record of marriage between the individual and the armed forces member, and a certification that the individual was an un-remarried spouse at the time of death, if the armed forces member predeceased the individual; or

iii. Any other evidence satisfactory to the Cemetery Director, consistent with USDVA and WDVA eligibility requirements.

II. **Burden of Proof**. The burden of proof in establishing eligibility for interment or re-interment in the cemetery shall be upon the applicant.

III. **Application for Interment.**

a. **Who May Apply.** A qualified person seeking to pre-register for interment or their legal representative, the Administrator of a qualified person's estate, the personal representative of a deceased qualified person, or a relative of a deceased qualified person may apply for interment. If the qualified person was married at the time of death, that person's spouse must consent to the application. If no relative or legal representative of a qualified person is available to apply on the behalf of a deceased qualified person, a veteran's organization or the Cemetery Director may apply for interment.

b. **Pre-Registration for Interment**. A qualified person or the legal representative of a qualified person may pre-register for interment by submitting proof of eligibility and completing an application form prescribed by the Cemetery Director. If the individual seeking to be pre-registered for interment is a qualified person based upon a relationship to an armed forces member, the armed forces member

must be pre-registered for interment or interred at the cemetery. If a qualified person is eligible based upon marriage to an armed forces member, the Director must receive proof that the qualified person was an un-remarried spouse at the time of death prior to interment.

c. **Application Following Death**. An applicant may submit an application for interment following the death of a qualified person by submitting proof of eligibility, a copy of the Death Certificate and completing an application form prescribed by the Cemetery Director.

REVIEW:	This policy shall be reviewed every five years and updated as necessary.
REFERENCES:	38 CFR 38.620 38 CFR 39.5 38 U.S.C. Section 2402 38 U.S.C. § 2411 RCW 72.36.115; RCW 41.04.007;
SUPERSESSION	None
ATTACHMENTS:	Interment application Pre-registration

John E. Lee

John E. Lee, Director

April 13, 2011

Date