



# APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

During your time at Arlington National Cemetery, please be mindful that you are visiting a shrine to the honored dead of the United States Armed Forces that is an active cemetery. Activities that may be appropriate in other places are often not appropriate at a national cemetery.

During your visit, please remember to:





# APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR



*Family members and friends visit the graves of loved ones in Section 60 on Memorial Day. (Arlington National Cemetery/ Rachel Larue, 2016)*

## Respect other visitors

Visitors come to Arlington in different moods and mindsets for a variety of reasons. This is an active cemetery with up to thirty funerals each day. Please be respectful of mourners attending funerals and grieving relatives and friends visiting graves.







*A sign reading "silence and respect" near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. (Arlington National Cemetery/Rachel Larue, 2015)*

## **Speak in quiet voices**

The cemetery is a place of grieving, contemplation and reflection. Speak quietly and use headphones if you are listening to something, so that your experience does not distract or disturb other visitors.







*Visitors explore the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery during a walking tour. (Arlington National Cemetery/ Rachel Larue, 2015)*

## Enjoy the space appropriately

Visitors are encouraged to explore the cemetery, observe public ceremonies, walk on the grass to explore the graves and learn more about Arlington. However, activities such as running, climbing, playing sports, picnicking or cheering are not appropriate.







*Visitors walk through Section 46. (Arlington National Cemetery/Elizabeth Fraser, 2019)*

## **Respect the property**

Do not damage or sit on monuments, headstones, plants, or other property. They are historic features of this sacred site, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.







*A fountain near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Memorial Amphitheater. (Arlington National Cemetery/2011)*

## Drink water

The cemetery grounds are vast, and the weather is often hot during the summer, so it is important to hydrate properly. Do not drink from spigots as they do not contain potable water; please only drink from water fountains. Please also do not pour water or other liquids down outdoor drains. Alcoholic beverages and food are not allowed in the cemetery.





*Service dogs with visitors at the Memorial Amphitheater. (Arlington National Cemetery/Elizabeth Fraser, 2018)*

## **Leave pets at home**

Only approved service animals or military working dogs are permitted at the cemetery.







*Visitors show respect during a wreath-laying and observance ceremony. (Arlington National Cemetery/Elizabeth Fraser, 2019)*

## **Show respect during military ceremonies**

When a flag is used in a ceremony or service, or a bugler plays Taps, civilians should place their right hand over their heart. Military service members and veterans may salute.







*A funeral procession makes its way through Arlington National Cemetery. (Arlington National Cemetery/Sean K. Harp, 2013)*

## **Respect funeral services by staying at a distance**

Funeral services are held each week day. If you encounter a funeral procession, please step aside and wait for the procession to pass. If your exploration of the cemetery brings you near a funeral service, please move along to an area that is not the site of active mourning.





## Source:

“Visitor Rules and Etiquette.” Arlington National Cemetery. Accessed December 31, 2019.  
<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Visit/Visitor-Rules>

## Image sources:

**Page 2:** Larue, Rachel. Memorial Day in Arlington National Cemetery. Photograph. Arlington, Virginia: Arlington National Cemetery, May 30, 2016. <https://flic.kr/p/GL77BA>

**Page 3:** Larue, Rachel. Silence and Respect. Photograph. Arlington, Virginia: Arlington National Cemetery, May 1, 2015. <https://flic.kr/p/s8q4fD>

**Page 4:** Larue, Rachel. Arbor Day tree planting in Section 37 of Arlington National Cemetery. Photograph. Arlington, Virginia: Arlington National Cemetery, April 24, 2015. <https://flic.kr/p/rm7wPs>

**Page 5:** Fraser, Elizabeth. Summer 2019. Photograph. Arlington, Virginia: Arlington National Cemetery, August 23, 2019. <https://flic.kr/p/2h4i7xS>

**Page 6:** Memorial Amphitheater. Photograph. Arlington, Virginia: Arlington National Cemetery, July 27, 2011. <https://flic.kr/p/aio3ZN>

**Page 7:** Fraser, Elizabeth. 40th and 41st Sergeant at Arms of the U.S. Senate Participate in a Wreath-Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Photograph. Arlington, Virginia: Arlington National Cemetery, August 15, 2018. <https://flic.kr/p/2a3us2C>

**Page 8:** Fraser, Elizabeth. National Memorial Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery. Photograph. Arlington, Virginia: Arlington National Cemetery, May 27, 2019. <https://flic.kr/p/2g3MTu4>

**Page 9:** Harp, Sean K. funeral for retired Air Force Gen. David C. Jones. Photograph. Arlington, Virginia: Arlington National Cemetery, October 25, 2013. <https://flic.kr/p/sABsoZ>

