



*"To care for him who
shall have borne the
battle and for his
widow, and his orphan."*

*-Abraham Lincoln
Second Inaugural Address
March 4, 1865*



For More Information:

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery
10175 Rawiga Road
Rittman, OH 44270

Contact Information:

Cemetery Administration Office

P.O. Box 8

Rittman, OH 44270

Phone: (330) 335-3069

Fax: (330) 335-5087

NCA website: <http://www.cem.va.gov/>



*Ohio
Western Reserve
National Cemetery*
est. 2000

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National Cemetery Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

Overview

Message from the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery Staff

Welcome to Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. We hope you find peace amid these quiet and beautiful grounds and visit us again.

Families often contact us during a difficult time - after the loss of a loved one.

We're here to make the burial process as comfortable as possible. We encourage veterans and their families to talk with us in advance for information or about any questions or concerns.

When the time comes, we will ensure the committal service and any other requests are handled respectfully. We pledge to honor the dignity and memory of each person and to provide excellent service to family and friends during this difficult time.

Our Mission

The National Cemetery Administration honors veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our nation.



- Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery was established on September 10, 2000.
- The cemetery serves an estimated 540,000 veterans in Ohio.
- Situated on 273 acres, the cemetery accommodates casketed and cremated remains.
- Over 1,500 burials are conducted each year.
- Ohio Western Reserve also maintains the Confederate Stockade Cemetery located on Johnson's Island near Sandusky and Woodlawn Soldiers Lot in Cleveland.
- Ohio Western Reserve has a unique memorial pathway which consists of memorials donated by various veteran organizations.

Making Cemetery Arrangements

Burial arrangements can be made through a funeral home or by the next-of-kin directly with cemetery staff. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except for federal holidays.

Before we can approve burial of a veteran, spouse, or dependent, we must have proof of the veteran's eligibility. The best way to prove eligibility is with documentation of service and discharge, such as the DD Form 214. Once eligibility is determined, we can schedule the burial.

National cemetery interment includes U.S. government-provided benefits including: a burial plot; assistance with a committal service; gravesite opening and closing; a graveliner; a gravesite headstone, marker or columbarium cover with inscriptions; a United States burial flag; perpetual care of the gravesite; and a memorial certificate bearing the President's signature. Funeral directors' services are not covered.

Almost all veterans are eligible for military honors, which may be requested through the family's funeral director and are provided by the Department of Defense.

Gravesites are assigned and cannot be selected in advance. Assignments are made without regard to rank, ethnic or religious background, branch of service or other factors. A husband and wife are interred in the same plot unless both are veterans. In that case, they may be buried side by side in separate plots. Cremated remains are buried in the ground in a specially designated section of the cemetery or in a columbarium.

All veterans interred at a national cemetery are eligible for a headstone or marker. It normally takes less than 60 days following a burial for the headstone or marker to be installed on the gravesite.

Burials and interments are scheduled at 30-minute intervals between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays. Out of respect for all persons buried that day, the cemetery's main flag is lowered to half-staff 30 minutes before the first service, where it remains until 30 minutes following the last service.



Floral Policy

We welcome and encourage fresh-cut flowers throughout the year and provide flower containers for gravesite display. Cemetery visitors are free to use the containers located on the grounds. Once the blooms are spent or damaged by weather, they are removed. They also may be removed for routine mowing or other maintenance.

Artificial flowers are only allowed after the end of mowing operations in the fall on October 1st and must be removed when mowing operations resume in the spring on April 15th.

On Easter and Memorial Day, potted plants and artificial flowers may be placed on gravesites 10 days before through 10 days after the holiday. During the holiday season, from December 1st through January 20th, wreaths, gravesite blankets, and other seasonal decorations may be placed on gravesites. All items will be removed on January 21st. The cemetery will hold these items for 30 days and family members may pick them up during this time.

To maintain the dignity of the cemetery, commemorative items, balloons, pinwheels, glass items, votive lights, statues, shepherd's hooks and permanent plantings, among other items, are not allowed.

No item or object may be attached to a headstone, marker or columbarium cover in a national cemetery.

History and Background

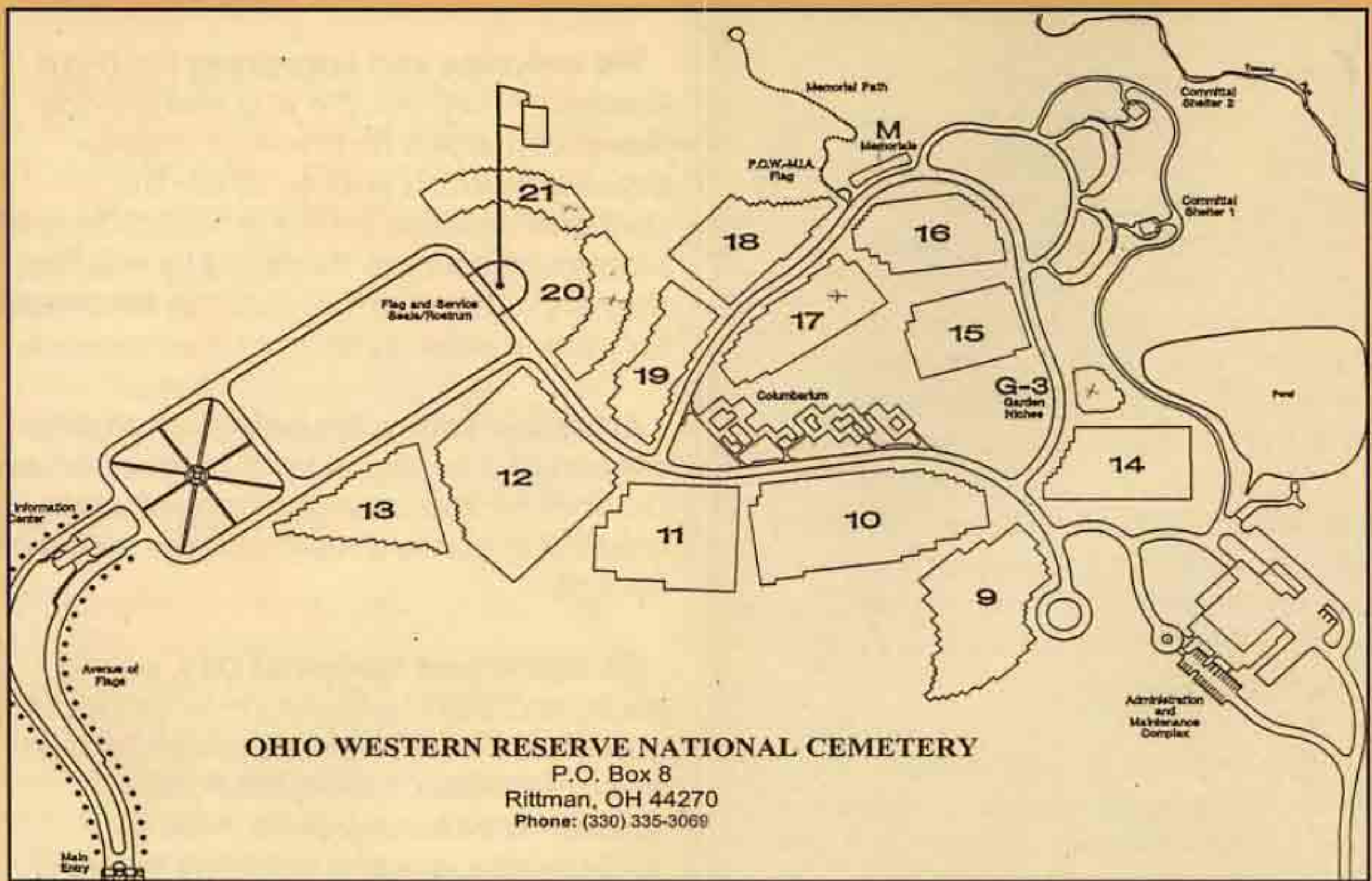
More than one million veterans live in the state of Ohio and approximately 540,000 live in the cemetery's service area. Ohio Western Reserve can provide burial space for 106,000 eligible veterans and dependents.

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery lies approximately 45 miles south of Cleveland in Medina County near the town of Rittman.

The cemetery's name refers to the part of the Northwest Territory formerly known as the Connecticut Western Reserve, a tract of land in Northeast Ohio reserved by the State of Connecticut when it ceded its claims for western lands to the U.S. government in 1786.

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery features a pathway lined with memorials that honors America's veterans, which have been donated by various organizations. There are 75 memorials, most commemorating events and troops of 20th century wars.

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery



Directions:

From Cleveland Hopkins Airport take Interstate 71 south to Interstate 76.

Take Interstate 76 east to the Route 3 (Seville) exit. Follow Route 3 into Seville and turn left at the Main Street traffic light.

Travel approximately four miles to Rawiga Road and turn right.

Travel approximately 1/2 mile. The cemetery is on the left at 10175 Rawiga Road.



Visiting the Cemetery

Thousands of people visit Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery each year. Many come for a committal service or to visit the gravesite of a loved one, others to attend special observances or to enjoy the peaceful setting. We welcome all visitors to this shrine for our nation's heroes.

The cemetery is open to the public daily from dawn until dusk for visitation of cemetery grounds. Specific gravesites can be found using the automated gravesite locator kiosk in the public information center. Monday through Friday, a cemetery volunteer can assist with grave location at the information center. There is also a hardcopy grave locator at the information center. A Nationwide Gravesite Locator for national cemeteries is also available on the Internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

General cemetery information is available at the public information center or the main administration building. Visitors to specific gravesites may park along the edge of the roadway near the gravesite they are visiting. Restrooms and a water fountain are located at the public information center and the main administration building.

Visitors attending committal services should gather at the public information center. All funeral corteges will be met by a cemetery representative. Roadway parking is available throughout the cemetery and near the committal shelter during services. Special observances and ceremonies are held at the main flagpole.



A Memorial Day ceremony is held annually the Sunday before Memorial Day in May. A Veteran's Day ceremony is also held annually, the Sunday before the actual holiday. For the times and dates of these ceremonies, call the cemetery office at (330) 335-3069.

While we invite visitors to Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, we remind them of the solemn purpose of these grounds and ask that they act in a dignified manner while on the cemetery grounds. For this reason, sports or recreational activities are not permitted, including:

- Bicycle riding
- Jogging
- Picnicking
- Public gatherings of a partisan nature
- Roller blading
- Walking of pets