

*“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:*

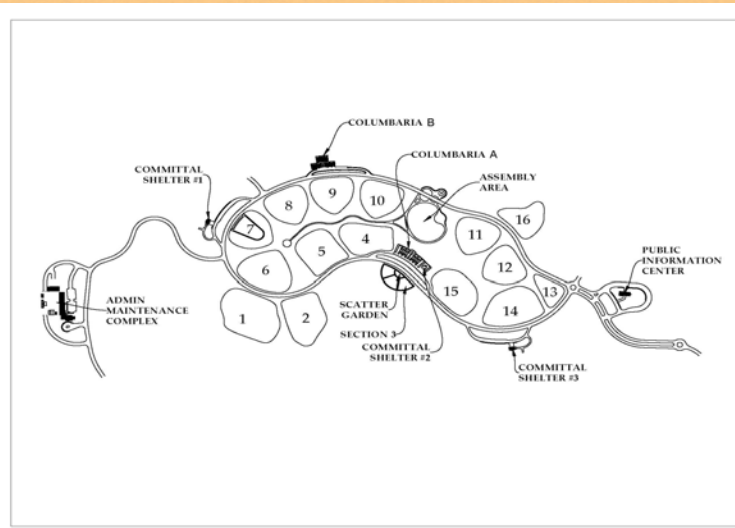
Georgia National Cemetery  
2025 Mount Carmel Church Ln.  
Canton, GA 30114

Cemetery Administration Office  
Phone: (770) 479-9300  
Fax: (770) 479-9311

Burial Arrangements:  
Phone: (800) 535-1117  
Fax: (866) 900-6417

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

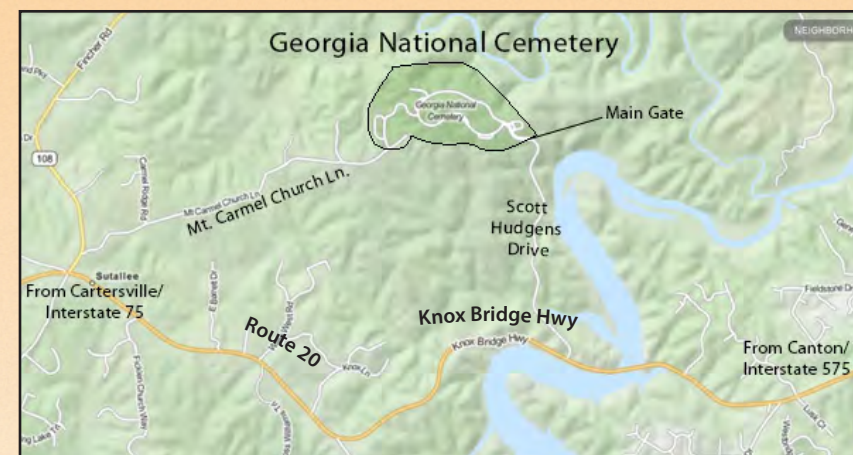
## Georgia National Cemetery



### Directions:

Directions from I-75: Take exit 290 (Highway 20) toward Canton (east). Travel ten miles, turn left on Scott Hudgens Drive. Enter through the main cemetery gate after approximately 2 miles.

Directions from I-575: If traveling north, take exit 16 bearing to the left. If traveling south, take exit 16A. At traffic light, turn left onto Highway 5 and 20 – get into the right through lane which leads you onto Highway 20 (Knox Bridge Road). Travel approximately five miles, turn right at Scott Hudgens Drive. Enter through the main cemetery gate after approximately two miles.



## Visiting the Cemetery

Thousands of people visit Georgia 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 every day of the year during daylight hours for visitation of cemetery grounds. The gravesite locator is a kiosk at the Public Information Building. A Nationwide Gravesite Locator for national cemeteries is also available on the Internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

General cemetery information is available in the Public Information Building. Visitors to specific gravesites may park along the curb near the gravesite they are visiting. Restrooms and a water fountain are located in the Public Information Building.

Visitors attending committal services should gather at the Public Information Building prior to going to a committal shelter.

A Memorial Day ceremony is held annually on the Saturday before Memorial Day. For more information, call the cemetery office at (770) 479-9300.

VA regulations 38 CFR 1.218 prohibit the carrying of firearms (either openly or concealed), explosives or other dangerous or deadly weapons while on VA property,



except for official purposes, such as military funeral honors. Possession of firearms on any property under the charge and control of VA is prohibited. Offenders may be subject to a fine, removal from the premises, or arrest.

While we invite visitors to Georgia National Cemetery, we remind them of its solemn purpose and ask that they act in a dignified manner while on the cemetery grounds. For this reason, public gatherings of a partisan nature are not permitted. In addition, sports or recreational activities are not permitted, including:

- Bicycle riding
- Jogging
- Picnicking
- Roller blading
- Walking of pets
- Fishing or hunting

## GEORGIA NATIONAL CEMETERY

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration



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[www.twitter.com/vanatcemeteries](http://www.twitter.com/vanatcemeteries)



## Overview



- Georgia National Cemetery opened for burials on April 24, 2006.
- The cemetery serves an estimated 395,000 Veterans in Georgia.
- Situated on 775 acres, the cemetery accommodates casketed and cremated remains.
- Cremated remains are buried in the ground in specially designated areas or in the columbarium or scattered in a designated garden.



## Making Burial Arrangements

The funeral home or next-of-kin should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to make burial arrangements for Veterans and/or their eligible dependents.

The funeral home should fax all available military discharge documents to the scheduling office at (866) 900-6417 and follow up with a call to (800) 535-1117. If military discharge documents are not available, scheduling office representatives will assist the funeral home or next-of-kin with the verification process. This process may require 48 hours or more to determine eligibility for burial in a national cemetery.

The scheduling office will be open seven (7) days a week, from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Central time, except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Please contact the cemetery directly to:

- Schedule active duty interments
- Schedule memorial services without interment
- Cancel or reschedule interments
- Change information initially provided to the scheduling office
- Request disinterment or relocation of remains

Burial benefits provided by the National Cemetery Administration, at no cost to the Veteran, include: burial plot; opening and closing of the gravesite; a government liner; headstone or marker with inscription; interment flag; perpetual care of the gravesite; and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Funeral director's services are not covered.

Gravesites are assigned by the cemetery and cannot be selected in advance. Assignments are made without regard to rank, ethnic or religious background, branch of service or other factors.

The Veteran and spouse are interred in the same grave. If both were Veterans, they may choose to be buried side-by-side in separate graves.

Military honors are provided by the Department of Defense and are to be arranged by the funeral director. If there is no funeral director, cemetery staff will assist the family in arranging for military honors.

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

Georgia National Cemetery has the following burial site options:

- Casket: in-ground
- Cremation: in-ground
- Cremation: above-ground columbarium
- Scatter garden
- Memorial section

The administration office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on designated holidays.

## 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 in receptacles placed throughout 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** allowed only between November 10 and March 1.

**On Easter and Memorial Day** potted plants may be placed on the gravesites 10 days before and 10 days after the holiday. During the holiday season, beginning the second Saturday in December until approximately the second Saturday in January, wreaths may be placed on gravesites.

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

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

## History and Background

Georgia National Cemetery opened for burial operations on April 24, 2006. A dedication ceremony was held at the cemetery on June 4, 2006.

The property on which the cemetery rests was donated by Scott Hudgens, the late Atlanta World War II Veteran, land developer and philanthropist. The site lies midway between Cartersville and Canton, near the Etowah River, offering views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Lake Allatoona.

During the first phase of construction, 110 acres of the 775-acre cemetery will be developed. It will include 44,300 gravesites, 7,000 columbaria niches, 5,500 in-ground sites for cremated remains, and a scattering garden. Georgia National Cemetery will provide burial space for eligible Veterans and dependents for the next 50 years.



## Message from the Georgia National Cemetery Staff

Welcome to the Georgia 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.