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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
National Headquarters

March 23, 2020

From: National Commandant Dennis Tobin
To: All Marine Corps League Detachments & Members
Subj: Temporary Procedures of Marine Corps League Assistance to Funeral Honors

As of today, in complying with the Veterans Administration course of action (see statement at the end of this letter), the Marine Corps League is suspending all Funeral Honors or Memorial Services at any National Cemetery until such time as the Veterans Administration lifts their restrictions.

In keeping with the guidance of the below letter and in the best interest of our members, the Marine Corps League is hereby suspending all Funeral Honors Details or Memorial Services at any private, state or national cemeteries, until such time that the Veterans Administration lifts their suspension.

I request that this letter is delivered to every Detachment in the Marine Corps League. This is a very serious time in our nation and the Board of Trustees believes that health and welfare of our members is the upmost important. The Coronavirus 2019 is a major concern of the older generation, which makes up most of the members of funeral honors and memorial services teams.

As of this date, we were informed that the Marine Corps is complying with the VA's directions for National Cemeteries but are still providing a two-Marine team for flag folding and presentation of the flag to other cemeteries unless local or state requirements dictate. With the Marine Corps providing this service, this eliminates the need for the Marine Corps League to bring in another group of Marines to participate. Many local funeral homes are only allowing a total of 10 persons to attend a funeral as it is.

I request your patience and support during these trying times. Let's take care of ourselves so that we will be ready to resume "business as usual" when this Coronavirus is no longer affecting the masses as it is now. We will then continue our Legacy of providing final honors at our Marines' funerals. Stay Safe Marines.

Semper Fidelis,

Dennis Tobin
National Commandant/CEO
Marine Corps League



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From: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

New Procedures at VA National Cemeteries due to COVID-19

As of today, NCA will only conduct committal services for groups of 10 or fewer people. As of Monday, March 23, Committal Services (including honors) will not be conducted until further notice. Both of these announcements, especially the latter, will impact Military Honors. Additionally, volunteer honors are discontinued (i.e. American Legion, VFW, etc.).

NCA cemeteries are open for visitation, and families CAN choose to have a burial and witness it from a distance (the ten or fewer people rule applying) but without honors and without a committal service. Families CAN also have a committal service at a future time if they choose to go with immediate burial at an NCA cemetery.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, thank you for your steadfast support of America's Veterans and their families. Together we will come out of this trying time stronger and better.

Sincerely,

Lawrence A. Provost
Outreach Officer/Veteran Service Organization (VSO) Liaison-Public Affairs and Outreach
Office of Engagement and Memorial Innovations (OEMI)
National Cemetery Administration (NCA)
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)