



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



# National Cemetery Administration

**Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans**

**Presented by:**

**The Honorable William F. Tuerk**

**Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs**

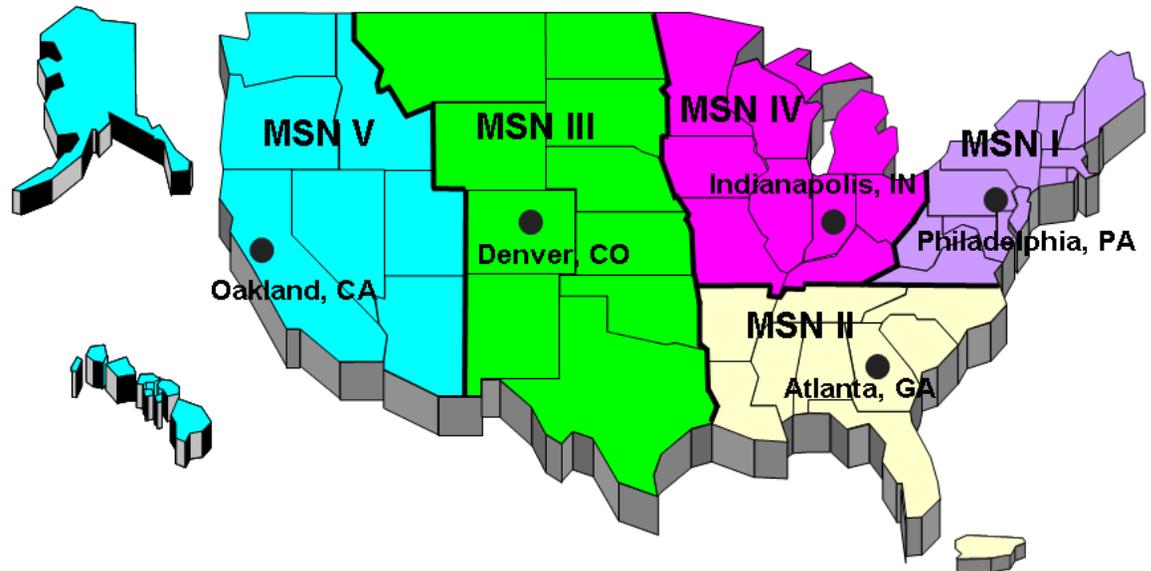
**June 17, 2008**

# Responsibilities

- **Provide burial space for veterans and maintain cemeteries as National Shrines**
- **Administer the Federal grants program for construction of state veterans cemeteries**
- **Furnish headstones and markers**
- **Administer the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program**

# National Cemetery Administration

- 125 Cemeteries
- 2.9 million gravesites
- 100,185 total burials FY 2007
- 1,589 FTE
  
- Five Memorial Service Networks
  - 1 Philadelphia, PA
  - 2 Atlanta, GA
  - 3 Denver, CO
  - 4 Indianapolis, IN
  - 5 Oakland, CA



# American Customer Satisfaction Index

## 2007 Survey Results

- Highest score in customer satisfaction ever awarded to a federal agency or private organization ... rating of 95 out of 100 possible
- 98% of respondents believed that NCA served their loved ones in a respectful way
- Repeated NCA's overall score of 95 that was also earned in the last survey (conducted in 2004)

# Eligibility

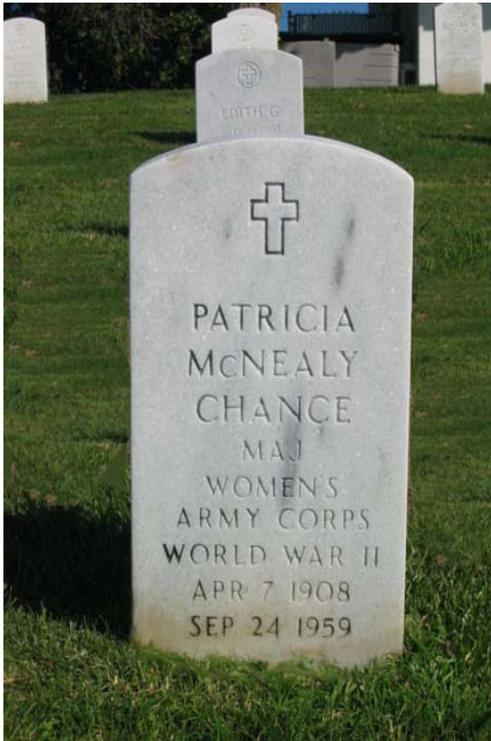
- Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.
- Any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- National Guard members and Reservists with 20 years of qualifying service, who are entitled to retired pay or would be entitled, if at least 60 years of age.
- Spouses and minor children.

# Burial Benefits

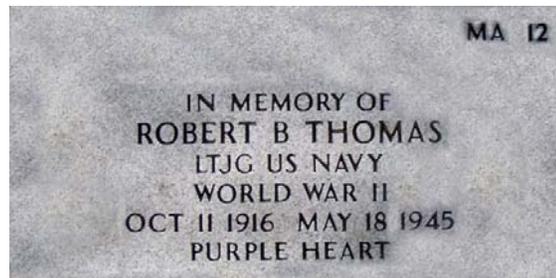
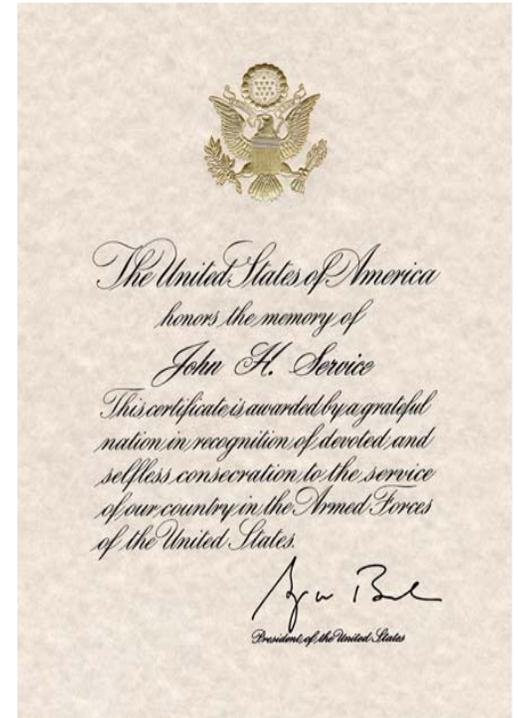
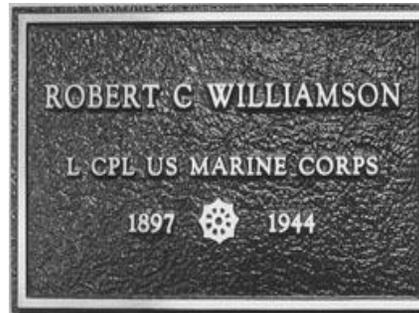
- Grave Site
- Opening and closing of the grave
- Grave liner
- Headstone or marker
- Perpetual care of the grave site
- U.S. Flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificate



# National Cemetery Administration FY 2007 – Memorial Programs



**359,530 Headstones  
and Markers Provided**



**423,143 Presidential  
Memorial Certificates**

# Veterans by Period of Service

<u>Service Era</u>	<u>Participants</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Living Veterans</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Median Age</u> <sup>3</sup>
<u>WW II</u>	16,113,000	2,583,000	84
<u>Korea</u>	5,720,000	2,792,000	77
<u>Vietnam</u>	8,744,000	7,773,000	61
<u>Peacetime</u> <sup>4</sup>	--	5,987,000	--
<u>Gulf War</u>	Current	5,239,000	38
	Total	23,442,000 <sup>5</sup>	61

Note 1: U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs: "America's Wars" Fact Sheet, Nov 2007

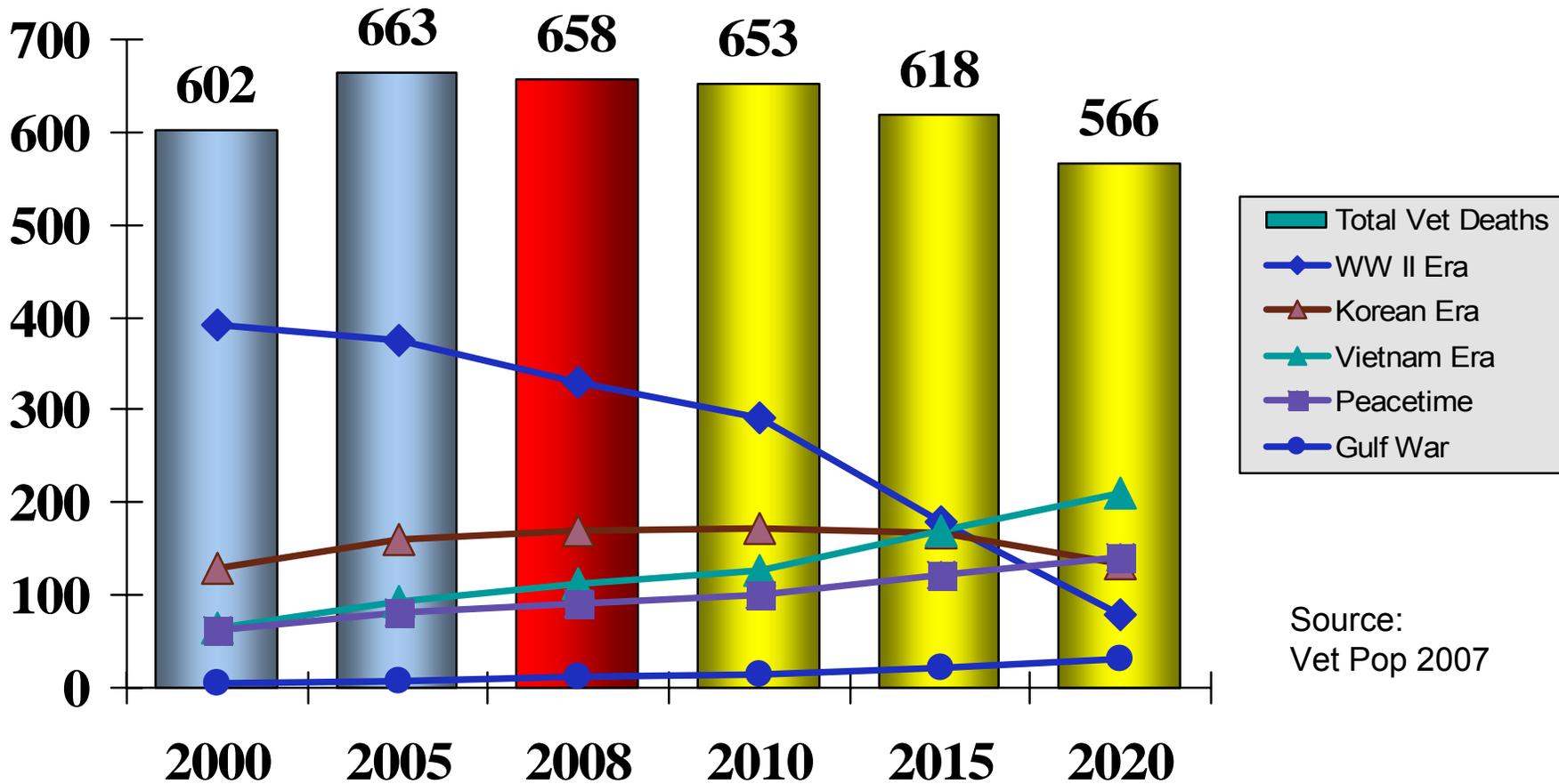
Notes 2,3: U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs: Office of the Actuary Vet-Pop 2007

Note 4: Veterans who served pre-Korean Conflict (excluding WWII) or in the periods between Korean Conflict and Vietnam Era or Vietnam Era and Gulf War

Note 5: Column does not total exactly because some veterans served during more than one period of war.

# Projected Veteran Deaths

Thousands



Source:  
Vet Pop 2007

# NCA Strategy to Meet Burial Needs of Veterans

- Develop new cemeteries
- Extend the service life of existing cemeteries
- Encourage states to build veterans cemeteries



Construction of  
South Florida VA National Cemetery

# Expansion of National Cemeteries

P.L. 106-117, Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act



South Florida  
National Cemetery



Great Lakes  
National Cemetery, MI



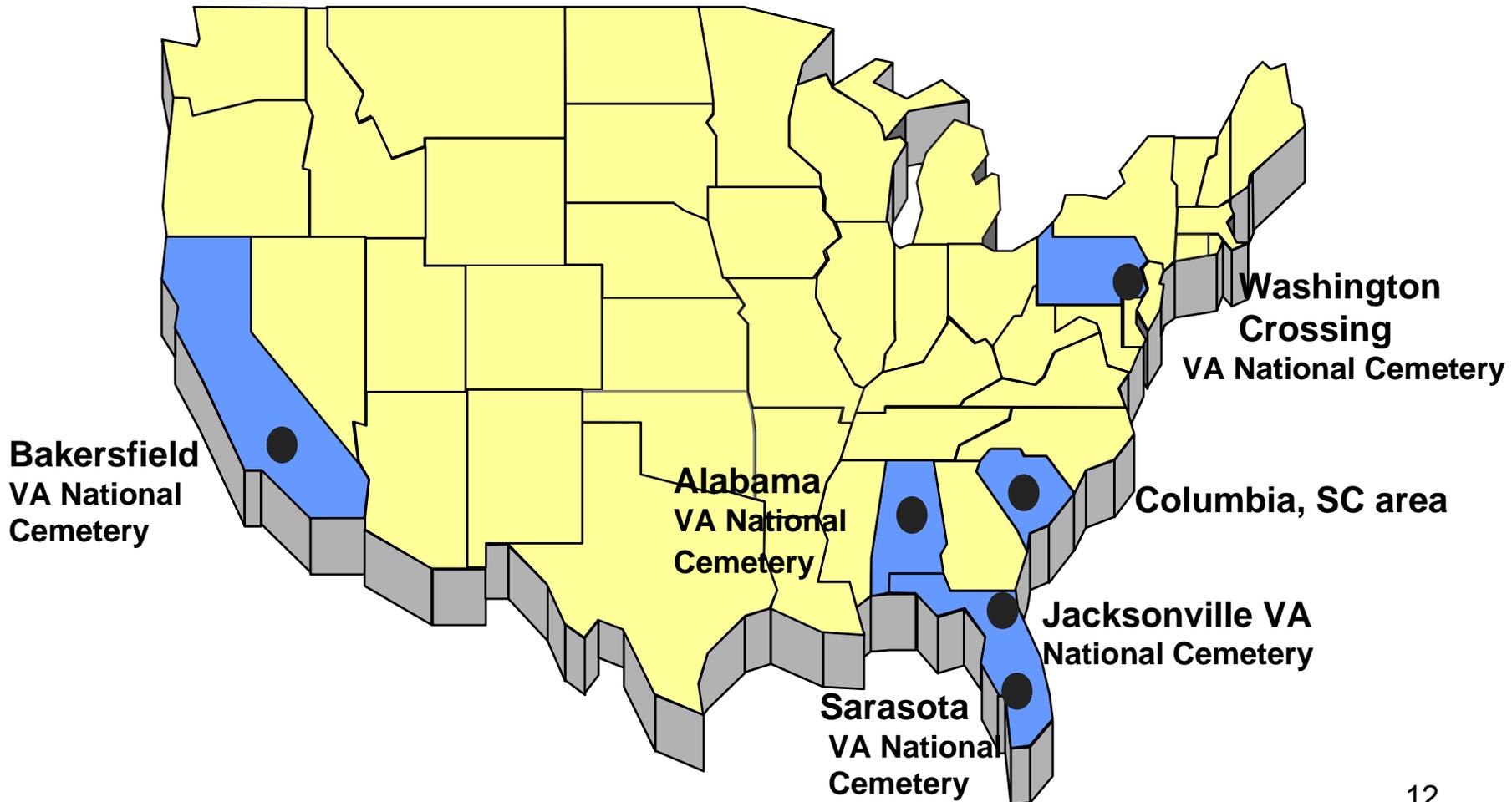
National Cemetery  
of the Alleghenies, PA



Sacramento Valley  
National Cemetery, CA

# Future National Cemeteries

P.L. 108-109, National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2003



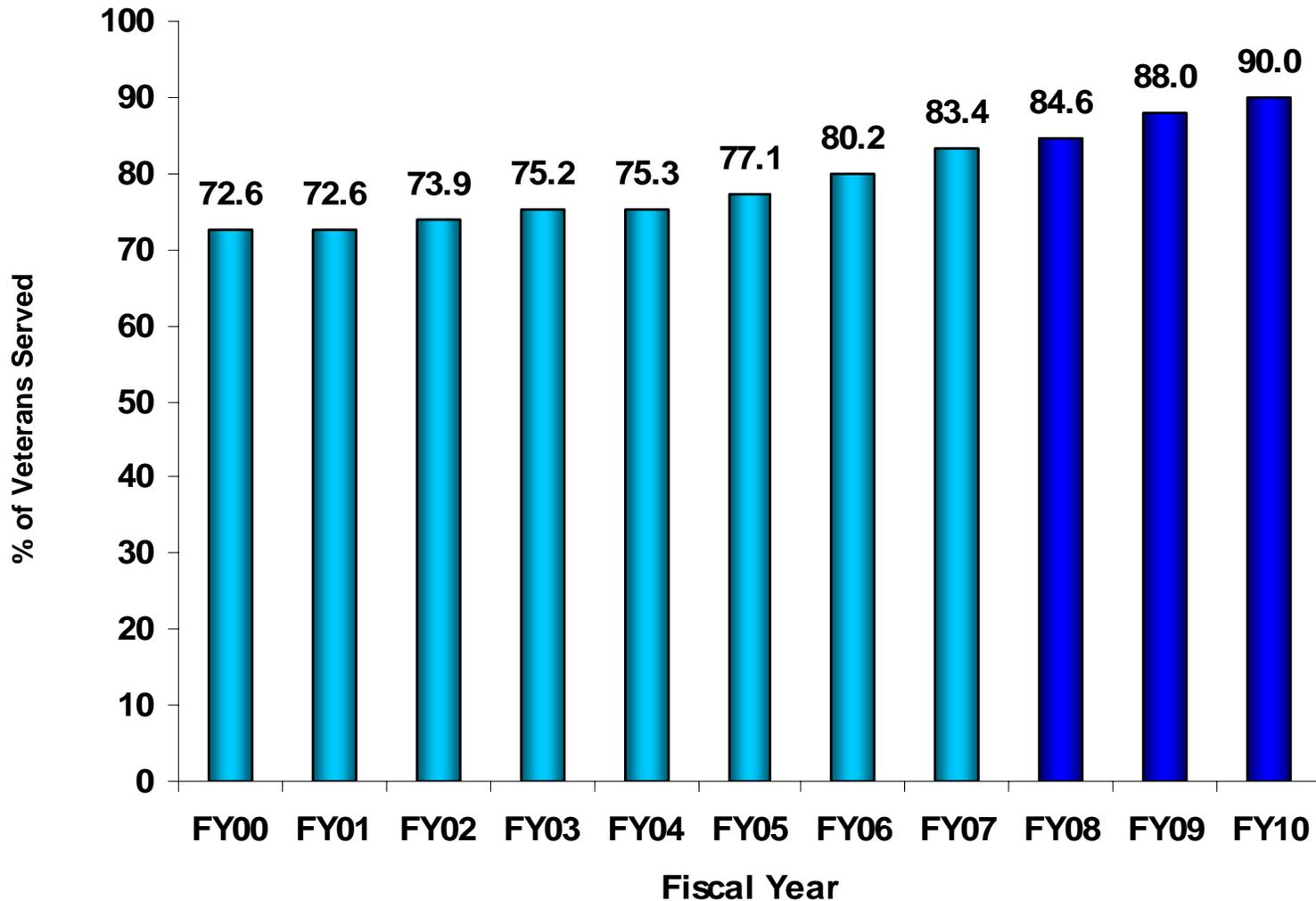
# State Cemetery Grants Program

- VA provides 100% of development costs
- \$316 million awarded in 162 grants since 1980
- 35 states plus Guam and Saipan received grants



- **69 operational, 5 under construction**
- **23,200 interments in FY 2007**

# Meeting Burial Needs – Percent of Veteran Population Served\*



\*within 75 miles of a national or state veterans cemetery

# National Shrine Commitment



*An initiative to maintain the appearance of VA cemeteries in a manner befitting their status as National Shrines.*

# National Shrine Commitment



Cypress Hills National Cemetery  
Brooklyn, NY



Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery  
San Antonio, TX

# Water-wise landscaping at VA National Cemeteries



***National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona***



***Fort Bliss National Cemetery, TX***

# Fulfilling the Final Promise of Care

