

Lending magnificent dignity, soldierly comportment, and a symbol for the nation's unending gratitude at every burial in which they participate, an observer can only find himself deeply moved by the comfort and sincere solace given by volunteer members of the Honor Guard to the families of veterans being buried at Saratoga National Cemetery — "The last full measure of devotion..." Over the past several years thousands of volunteer hours have been contributed by Honor Guard members.

And thousands of rounds of blank ammunition have been expended. Those figures, wondrously impressive as they are, almost are overshadowed by the unbroken mustering record registered by the Honor Guard. It matters not how merciless the cold, snow, rain or summer's heat, nothing has prevented the Honor Guard from the completion of its appointed rounds. In spite of blizzard conditions and sub-Arctic cold, Honor Guard volunteers take justifiable pride in, and must be commended for, never having failed to provide

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation has advanced from volunteers using their own automobiles to a bus provided by Shenendehowa Senior Citizen Center in Clifton Park.

Correspondence or Inquiries, Write to:

SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY
HONOR GUARD ASSOCIATION
200 Duell Rd. • Schuylerville, N.Y. 12871
Cemetery Phone: (518) 581-9128

THE HONOR GUARD PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING MILITARY BURIAL HONORS:

The Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard Association currently consists of six squads of 10-18 members each. Military honors consist of three rounds of rifle fire, the sounding of TAPS, and the folding of the flag, which is then presented to the next of kin or other individual as designated by the family and/or funeral director.

Since the average age of the squad members is 64 years, providing pall bearers is prohibited.

The Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard is available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. Services at other times may be available through special arrangement.

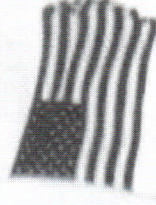
Arrangements for the services of the Honor Guard are made by the Funeral Director through the Saratoga National Cemetery Office (phone (518)581-9128. This all-volunteer organization does not charge for its services, although donations are always graciously accepted.

SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Grounds are open during daylight hours every day of the year. Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. For gravesite information, if you plan to visit during non-office hours, visit the computerized grave locator at the information center.

SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Honor Guard Association
Organized January 1999



SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY

SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY
Schuylerville, NY

FOLDING OF THE FLAG

There are twelve triangular folds to the Flag; a tribute has been designated to each fold:

- 1st – To the Symbol of Life.
- 2nd – The Belief in Eternal Life.
- 3rd – In Honor and Remembrance of the Veteran being commemorated.
- 4th – For Divine Guidance.
- 5th – In tribute of “Our Country.”
- 6th – Our Pledge to the Flag.
- 7th – Tribute to our Armed Forces.
- 8th – To Honor the Mothers of Veterans.
- 9th – Tribute to Womanhood. For their faith, love, loyalty and devotion to veterans.
- 10th – Tribute to the Fathers who have given of their sons and daughters to the Armed Forces.
- 11th – In the eyes of the Hebrew Citizen, the seals of Kings David and Solomon.
- 12th – In the eyes of the Christian Citizen represents the Emblem of Eternity.

When the Flag is completely folded, the Stars are uppermost reminding us of our National Motto: “In God We Trust.”

TAPS

The sounding of “Taps” at the close of day on Military Bases and after the rifle volley are part of the Military Honors provided for honorably discharged veterans and dates back to the Civil War.

A very touching song “Sleep, Soldier Boy” was written by Dorothy Alexander during World War I. In the closing lines, these words are sung in the music of Taps: “Sleep in Peace Soldier Boy, Till the Bugle Calls You With the Fawn, Sleep and Rest, God is Nigh, Soldier Boy.”

HONOR GUARD MEMBERS

Any honorably discharged veteran is eligible to join the Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard Association at Saratoga National Cemetery. Veterans wishing to join this all-volunteer organization should attend one of our monthly membership meetings, held the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at American Legion Post 278, Clancy Street, Schuylerville NY.

Members choose which day of the week best suits their individual schedules, and join the squad that is on duty that day. All uniforms are issued to members at no individual charge. Training is provided by the squads themselves.

All volunteers are required to register with the Voluntary Services Office at the Albany VA Medical Center. Members do not need to travel to Albany to do this, however, as the Honor Guard will complete the necessary paperwork at the Saratoga National Cemetery or at a monthly membership meeting.

**“AND THEY WHO FOR THEIR COUNTRY
DIE SHALL FILL AN HONORED GRAVE, FOR
GLORY LIGHTS THE SOLDIERS TOMB AND
BEAUTY WEEPS THE BRAVE”**

They Who Die, J.R. Drake



“This flag is presented on behalf of a grateful nation, as a token of our appreciation for the honorable and faithful service rendered by your loved one.”

That statement has been expressed thousands of times by a member of the Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard as part of the formal presentation of the flag of the United States to the survivors of the veterans being laid to rest at the Saratoga National Cemetery.

MISSION OF THE HONOR GUARD

The principal duty performed, is to provide a military ceremonial burial service, at no charge, for the family of an honorably discharged veteran. The service will be provided only if requested by the family or a designated funeral director.

Military honors will be provided 9 a.m. through 3 p.m., Monday through Friday of any given week. Funerals are scheduled by the cemetery approximately every thirty minutes.

