

**2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1293**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1293  
1/23/2025

Relating to the creation of a burial medallion program for veterans.
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3:08 p.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

### Discussion Topics:

- Parity with other branches.
- Proper recognition and memorialization.

3:08 p.m. Representative Vetter, District 18, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #31104.

3:11 p.m. Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner, North Dakota Department of Veteran's Affairs, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #30774, #30775.

3:22 p.m. Jenna Lansing, private citizen, testified in favor.

3:27 p.m. Representative Rohr moved a Do Pass.

3:28 p.m. Representative VanWinkle seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

3:29 p.m. Motion passed 14-0-0.

Representative Rohr will carry the bill.

3:30 p.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1293 ([25.0905.01000](#))**

**Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1293 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

HB 1293

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs  
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

1/23/2025

**House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Representative Schauer-Chair**

Chairman Schauer and House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1293.

**Intent of this bill:**

Create and provide headstone medallion for ND National Guard and Reserve members who are otherwise not qualified for VA/National Cemetery Administration (NCA) provided markers.

**Background Need for bill:**

- An individual serving in or has served in the US Uniformed Services, meeting VA eligibility criteria, is eligible for **Funeral Honors, Burial flag, and ND Coin.**
  - Including former National Guard and Reserve completing at least 1 term of service.
- An individual serving in or has served in the US Uniformed Services and meets the definition of a “Veteran” and is eligible for burial in National cemetery but is buried in a private cemetery is **eligible for an NCA approved headstone, marker, Urn, Plaque, or medallion.**
  - NCA: Medallions are for eligible Veterans and service members who are buried in a private cemetery marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. We may provide these types of medallions:
    - Bronze, or Medal of Honor
  - Traditional NG and Reservist (not eligible for retirement) are not eligible for any grave markers or medallions. *Graves have no marker indicating service in the US Uniformed Services.*
  - Recognition on: Memorial Day, Veterans day, Wreaths across America.

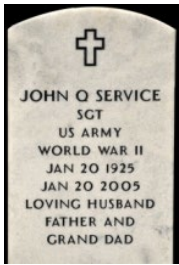
**Outcome of bill:**

- ND National Guard and Reserve who are not otherwise eligible for a VA medallion would be eligible for a ND marker.
- Marker would be designed and approved by NDDVA, ACOVA, and ND National Guard and Reserve.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

**Bronze Medallions: Small, Medium, or Large**

The bronze medallion is available in three sizes: **Small** (2"W x 1-1/2"H x 1/3"D), **Medium** (3-3/4"W x 2-7/8"H x 1/4"D), or **Large** (6-3/8"W x 4-3/4"H x 1/2"D). Each medallion is inscribed with the word "VETERAN" across the top and the branch of service at the bottom.

**Upright Headstones: Granite or Marble**

The upright granite and upright marble headstones are 42 inches long, 13 inches wide and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 230 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color; the marble may contain light to moderate veining. [Lithichrome](#) (a darkened shading) is used for the inscription on headstones at private cemeteries.

**Flat Grave Markers: Granite or Marble**

The flat granite and flat marble grave markers are 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 130 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color; the marble may contain light to moderate veining.

**Flat Grave Marker: Bronze**

The flat bronze grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, with 3/4 inch rise. Weight is approximately 18 pounds. Anchor bolts, nuts and washers for fastening to a base are furnished with the marker. The government does not furnish a base.

**Niche Marker: Bronze**

The niche marker is 8 1/2 inches long, 5 1/2 inches wide, with 7/16 inch rise. Weight is approximately 3 pounds. Mounting bolts and washers are furnished with the marker.

# Veterans headstones, markers, medallions, plaques, and urns

Find out how to apply for benefits for burial or memorialization.

## Eligibility

[Collapse all -](#)

**For Veterans and active-duty service members to get a headstone, marker, plaque, or urn**

A Veteran who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge or a service member who died while on active duty may be eligible for a headstone, marker, plaque, or urn if they meet these requirements.

**At least one of these must be true:**

- The Veteran or service member died on or after November 1, 1990, and their grave is currently marked with a privately purchased headstone, **or**
- The Veteran or service member was buried in an unmarked grave, anywhere in the world

**Note:** If the Veteran or service member served before World War I, we require detailed documents, like muster rolls, extracts from state files, or the military or state organization where they served.

**And for Veterans who served as enlisted personnel after September 7, 1980, or as officers after October 16, 1981, at least one of these must also be true:**

- The Veteran served for a minimum of 24 months of continuous active duty, **or**
- The Veteran died while serving on active duty

**Note:** Hmong individuals who were living in the U.S. when they died are eligible if they were naturalized under the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act of 2000 and died on or after March 23, 2018.

## For Veterans and active-duty service members to get a medallion

Medallions are for eligible Veterans and service members who are buried in a private cemetery marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. We may provide these types of medallions:

- Bronze, **or**
- Medal of Honor

Service members who died while serving on active duty on or after April 6, 1917, are eligible for a medallion.

Veterans who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge may be eligible for a medallion if they meet these requirements specific to when they served:

- Enlisted personnel who served **before September 7, 1980**, must have served for at least 1 day of active duty on or after April 6, 1917.
- Enlisted personnel who served **after September 7, 1980**, must have served for a minimum of 24 months of continuous active duty.
- Officers who served **before October 16, 1981**, must have served for at least 1 day of active duty on or after April 6, 1917.
- Officers who served **after October 16, 1981**, must have served for a minimum of 24 months of continuous active duty.

**Note:** A commissioned officer may be eligible for a medallion if they served in active Public Health Service on or after April 6, 1917.

## For National Guard members and Reservists

A National Guard member or Reservist may be eligible for a headstone, marker, medallion, plaque, or urn if they meet any of the requirements specific to their type of service. We may provide these types of medallions:

- Bronze, **or**
- Medal of Honor



## **National Guard members**

**At least one of these must be true:**

- The National Guard member was entitled to retirement pay at their time of death (or would have been entitled if they were over 60 years old), **or**
- The National Guard member served in a federal status and for the period of time they were called to serve

## **Reservists**

**At least one of these must be true:**

- The Reservist was entitled to retirement pay at their time of death (or would have been entitled if they were over 60 years old), **or**
- The Reservist was called to active duty for purposes other than training

**Note:** National Guard members or Reservists who have only limited active-duty service for training aren't eligible in most cases. They may be eligible in certain situations, such as if they died during or as the result of the training.

## **For spouses and dependent children**

A spouse or dependent child buried in a national cemetery, state or tribal Veterans cemetery, military post cemetery, or military base cemetery may be eligible for a headstone or marker. They may still be eligible even if they die before the Veteran.

In most cases, we provide one gravesite and a single headstone for all eligible family members. But if 2 Veterans are married and we receive a request for separate gravesites and headstones, we can provide side-by-side gravesites with separate headstones.

[Learn more about government headstones and markers](#)

Spouses and dependent children buried in a private cemetery aren't eligible for a headstone or marker. But they may be eligible for an inscription on the Veteran's headstone or marker in a private cemetery.

[Learn about spouse and child inscriptions in private cemeteries](#)

**Note:** Spouses and dependents aren't eligible for a medallion.

## Can I apply for benefits for burial or memorialization?

In most cases, you can apply for one of these benefits if you're representing the deceased Veteran, service member, or family member in any of these relationships or professional roles.

**One of these must describe your relationship to the deceased:**

- A family member, **or**
- A personal representative (someone who officially represents the deceased), **or**
- A representative of an accredited Veterans Service Organization, **or**
- An employee of a state or local government whose official responsibilities include serving Veterans, **or**
- Any person who's legally responsible for making arrangements for unclaimed remains or for details having to do with the deceased's interment or memorialization, **or**
- Any individual representing the deceased, if the Veteran's service ended before April 6, 1917

**You may apply for a memorial headstone or marker if any of these descriptions is true:**

- The deceased's remains haven't been recovered or identified, **or**
- The deceased's remains were buried at sea, **or**
- The deceased's remains were donated to science, **or**
- The deceased's remains were cremated and scattered

## What do I need to know about applying for a plaque or urn?

When you choose to get a plaque or urn for a Veteran, they will no longer be eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. And we won't be able to provide a government headstone, marker, or medallion for the Veteran after you've received a plaque or urn.

The plaque or urn is your property once you receive it.

[Learn more about plaques and urns](#)

# How do I apply for benefits for burial or memorialization?

You can apply for these benefits online, by mail, or by fax.

## Fill out an application

**For a headstone, grave marker, or wall marker,** fill out the Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker (VA Form 40-1330).

[Get VA Form 40-1330 to download](#)

**Note:** If this is your second request, or if you're requesting a replacement because of a mistake with the inscription or a damaged headstone or marker, be sure to explain this in block 27 of the form.

**For a medallion to be placed on a privately purchased headstone or marker,** fill out the Claim for Government Medallion for Placement in a Private Cemetery (VA Form 40-1330M).

[Get VA Form 40-1330M to download](#)

**For a commemorative plaque or urn,** fill out the Claim for Commemorative Urn or Plaque for Veterans' Remains Not Interred (VA Form 40-1330UP).

[Get VA Form 40-1330UP to download](#)

## Send us your application and supporting documents

You can send us your application and documents in any of these ways:

### Online

Submit your application and supporting documents online using the QuickSubmit tool through AccessVA.

If it's your first time signing into this tool, you'll need to register first. After you've registered, you can upload your application and documents online.

[Use the QuickSubmit tool through AccessVA](#)

## By mail

Mail your application, along with a copy of the Veteran's DD214 or other discharge documents to this address:

NCA FP Evidence Intake Center  
PO Box 5237  
Janesville, WI 53547

**Note:** Please don't send original documents since we can't return them to you.

[Review our list of military discharge documents](#)

## By fax

You can also fax your application to [800-455-7143](tel:800-455-7143).

If you need help, please call us at [800-697-6947](tel:800-697-6947) (TTY: [711](tel:711)). We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

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# More information about headstones and markers

[Can I choose the type of headstone or marker?](#)

[What information goes on the headstone or marker, and who provides it?](#)

[When will the headstone or marker I requested arrive, and who sets it?](#)

[Does VA provide a headstone or marker if remains aren't available?](#)

[Can 2 Veterans who are married get separate headstones?](#)

[Can I request a replacement headstone?](#)

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# What do I need to know about burial in a private cemetery?

As you're preparing to apply for the headstone, marker, or medallion, you should know that:

- You don't have to pay for the headstone or marker itself, but you're responsible for the cost of placing it (called a setting fee). And you'll need to make arrangements yourself to have the headstone or marker placed.
- If you'd like, you can request a medallion to attach to a privately purchased headstone, marker, or niche cover in a private cemetery. You can choose from 3 different sizes. When you receive the medallion, it comes with a kit to help you attach it.

[Learn more about medallions and their designs](#)

- You may have additional costs, restrictions on the type of headstone or marker you can use, and other requirements you should know about when preparing for burial in a private cemetery.

[Find out what to ask when planning a burial in a private cemetery](#)



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## **Representative Steve Vetter**

District 18  
804 South 17th Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201-4241  
[smvetter@ndlegis.gov](mailto:smvetter@ndlegis.gov)

## **COMMITTEES:**

Judiciary (Vice Chair)  
Government and Veterans Affairs

Chairman Schauer and GVA committee. My name is Steve Vetter and I represent district 18 which is Grand Forks along the Red River to Manvel. I bring you HB 1293 which allows National Guard members to have burial markers like the other branches of the military. This bill gives the National Guard parity with the other branches of the military.

This bill would provide a headstone medallion for ND National Guard and Reserve members who are otherwise not qualified for VA National Cemetery Administration provided markers.

ND National Guard and Reserve who are not otherwise eligible for a VA medallion would be eligible for a ND marker.

Thank you for your consideration. I would ask you to do give parity to the National Guard members in a simple gesture like having a burial marker with their service recognized. Vote Yes for a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you.

**2025 SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1293**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee

Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1293  
2/21/2025

A bill relating to the creation of a burial medallion program for veterans.
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9:00 a.m. Chairman Luick opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Luick, Vice-Chair Myrdal, Senator Marcellais, Senator Weston, Senator Weber, Senator Lemm

### Discussion Topics:

- ND National Guard and reserve members
- VA National Cemetery Administration markers
- Memorial Day wreaths
- ND State Veterans Cemetery
- Private cemeteries
- Significance of the nine stars on bronze medallion

9:00 a.m. Representative Steve Vetter, District 18, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38301.

9:02 a.m. Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner for the ND Department of Veterans Affairs, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38299 and #38300.

9:08 a.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

9:08 a.m. Senator Marcellais moved a Do Pass.

9:09 a.m. Senator Lemm seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	A
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y
Senator Mark F. Weber	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

Motion passed 5-0-1.

Senator Marcellais will carry the bill.

9:10 a.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

*Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk*



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1293 ([25.0905.01000](#))**

**Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1293 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

HB 1293

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs  
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

2/21/2025

**Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Senator Luick-Chair**

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,  
Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1293.

**Intent of this bill:**

Create and provide headstone medallion for ND National Guard and Reserve members who are otherwise *not* qualified for VA/National Cemetery Administration (NCA) provided markers.

**Background Need for bill:**

- An individual serving in or has served in the US Uniformed Services, meeting VA eligibility criteria, is eligible for **Funeral Honors, Burial flag, and ND Coin.**
  - Including former National Guard and Reserve completing at least 1 term of service.
    - *National Guard and Reserve memorial benefits end here.*
- An individual serving in or has served in the US Uniformed Services and meets the definition of a "Veteran" and is eligible for burial in National cemetery but is *buried in a private* cemetery is **eligible for an NCA approved headstone, marker, Urn, Plaque, or medallion.**
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    - Recognition on: Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Wreaths across America.

**Outcome of bill:**

- ND National Guard and Reserve who are *not* otherwise eligible for a VA medallion would be eligible for a ND Medallion.
- Medallion would be designed and approved by NDDVA, ACOVA, and ND National Guard and Reserve.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA  
**Bronze Medallions: Small, Medium, or Large**

HB 1293

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs  
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

1/23/2025

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## **Representative Steve Vetter**

District 18  
804 South 17th Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201-4241  
[smvetter@ndlegis.gov](mailto:smvetter@ndlegis.gov)

## **COMMITTEES:**

Judiciary (Vice Chair)  
Government and Veterans Affairs

## **HB 1293 Burial Marker**

Chairman Luick and Ag & Veterans committee. My name is Steve Vetter and I represent district 18 which is Grand Forks along the Red River to Manvel. I bring you HB 1293 which allows National Guard members to have burial markers like the other branches of the military. This bill gives the National Guard parity with the other branches of the military.

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ND National Guard and Reserve who are not otherwise eligible for a VA medallion would be eligible for a ND marker.

Lonnie Wangen will coming after me to answer any questions you may have. if you go under your testimony you will see pictures of the medallion.

Thank you for your consideration. I would ask you to do give parity to the National Guard members in a simple gesture like having a burial marker with their service recognized. Please Vote Yes for a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you.