

## GRAVE MARKERS AT SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY, NEW MEXICO

**1. PURPOSE/REASON FOR ISSUE:** This notice provides information about a provision of Public Law 118-31, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (enacted December 22, 2023) that is of significance to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

**2. SUMMARY AND RELATED BACKGROUND:** P.L. 118-31, div. E, title L, § 5002 repeals VA authority to provide flat grave markers at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, New Mexico, and requires VA to submit a report on the cost of replacing the flat markers with upright markers. The report is to be submitted to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives not later than December 22, 2024.

Congress originally provided authority for VA to provide flat grave markers at Santa Fe National Cemetery in section 612 of Public Law 106-117 (enacted November 30, 1999). This authority provided an exception to 38 U.S.C. § 2404(c)(2), which requires NCA to provide upright markers at most national cemeteries.

This repeal does not require VA to replace the flat markers that were installed between November 30, 1999, and December 21, 2023. VA is authorized to retain and maintain those markers.

**3. ACTION:** NCA Budget Service (42B) will work with NCA Office of the Executive Director of Cemetery Operations (41A) to develop the report for Congress.

**4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** NCA Policy and Regulatory Service (42E), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, is responsible for the contents of this notice.

**5. EXPIRATION:** This notice will be archived one year after the date issued.

/s/  
Matthew T. Quinn  
Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs

**Distribution:** Electronic Only