

Eligibility to Receive Funeral Honors

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors for United States Armed Forces veterans is a tribute that our veterans and their families justly deserve. Section 578 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 requires the Department of Defense to provide, upon request, Military Funeral Honors (MFHs) for eligible veterans. Any person (Active, National Guard, or Reserve) who has completed at least one enlistment or other obligated military service and received an honorable discharge is eligible for Military Funeral Honors. Military Funeral Honors may not be furnished for any individual convicted of a capital offense under federal or state law for which the person was sentenced to death or life without parole.

Source: Military Funeral Honors Handbook, Dated 11 November 2010

Chapter 5

Eligibility for Military Funeral Honors

5-1 Deceased Active Duty personnel and Veterans.

5-2 The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) has defined “Veterans” as a decedent who:

5-2.1 Served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable by means of an honorable or under honorable conditions (general) discharge; or

5-2.2 Was a member or former member of the selected reserve; and

5-2.3 Completed at least one (1) enlistment as a member of the selected reserve or, in the case of an officer, completed the initial obligated service as a member of the selected reserve; or

5-2.4 Was discharged before completion of the person’s initial enlistment as a member of the selected reserve or, in the case of an officer, period of initial obligated service as a member of the selected reserve, for a disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty; or

5-2.5 Died while a member of the selected reserve.

5-3 The state MFH coordinator is responsible for determining that the deceased is eligible for honors prior to providing a MFH detail. If the deceased is not eligible, the process stops.

5-4 Individuals who have, at any time, been discharged or released from military service with one of the following characterizations are not eligible for MFH: Only the Secretary of the service (ie Sec Army, Navy, etc) can deny honors.

5-4.1 Dishonorable discharge

5-4.2 Bad conduct discharge

5-4.3 Dismissal from the service awarded by a court-martial

5-4.4 Under other than honorable conditions discharge

5-4.5 An officer’s resignation for the good of the service in lieu of court-martial, which results in a discharge of under other than honorable conditions.