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HQ U.S. Air Force Academy



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Mortuary Affairs
Janet Edwards



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Background

- **Only active cemetery in the Air Force**
- **Pre-need website**
<http://www.usafa.af.mil/Units/Mission-Support-Group/Force-Support-Squadron/Mortuary-Affairs/>
- **Funerals conducted Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**
 - Excludes weekends and federal holidays
- **Mortuary Officer is first point of contact**
 - (719) 333-3323 (DEAD)
 - Located in the Community Center, upper level



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Funeral Locations

- **Cadet Chapel**
 - Catholic, Protestant, Jewish
 - Closed September 2019 – November 2022 (approximately)
- **USAFA Cemetery**
- **Memorial Pavilion**
- **Columbarium**
- **Community Chapel**
 - Requires DoD ID card or Entry Authorization List (EAL) if security increases



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Casketed Remains

- **Outer burial container provided at no cost**
- **Plot selection permitted at time of need**
- **Local funeral home (out of state deaths)**
 - Prepare, casket, ship to Denver
 - Provide flag that drapes casket
- **Receiving funeral home**
 - Pick up remains at airport
 - Transport to Colorado Springs
 - Transport to USAFA
- **May watch lowering of casket**
- **Piggy back burial**
 - No more than 3 per plot



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Cremated Remains

- **Local funeral home (out of state)**
 - Pick up remains from place of death
 - Prepare cremation permit and death certificate
 - Cremation
 - Provide flag
 - Mail urn and flag to USAFA Mortuary Affairs or
 - Family may hand carry to USAFA
- **Receiving funeral home not needed**
- **May place urn in ground**
 - Plot selection at time of need
- **Direct vs traditional cremation**
 - Cost & services

Cremated Remains (Ground Burial)

- Outer burial container provided by USAFA at no cost (ground burial)
 - Inside dimensions – 14 ½”x 14 ½” x 14 ½” x 14 ½”
- Flat bronze marker for each person
- Granite base
- Vase



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Cremated Remains (Columbarium)

- Located on east side (exterior) of Memorial Pavilion
- Dimensions: 9 1/2" wide x 7 3/8" high x 12 1/2" deep
- Companion niche
- No flowers or flags may be displayed
- One 5x7 aluminum nameplate for both
 - 8 lines total
 - 4 lines for sponsor; 4 lines for spouse
 - No additional text
- Place urn in niche



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Miscellaneous

- **USAFA chaplain (active duty)**
 - Will attempt to provide denomination specific support if available
- **Civilian clergy provided by family**
- **Military honors may only be rendered in one location**
 - Must provide DD 214 for sponsor or spouse death (member 4)
- **Burial/cremation clothing**
- **Burial agreement**
- **Reception**
- **Pre-need arrangement benefits**
 - Peace of mind for family
 - Lock in cost



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Miscellaneous

- **No cost for USAFA services**
 - Plot (or niche)
 - Outer burial container
 - Opening/closing of grave
 - Permanent grave marker
 - Granite base
 - Vase
- **Flyover**
 - Exception To Policy (ETP) process
 - Letter of request, DD 214, biography
 - No less than 5 business days to process
 - AF assets
 - Private aircraft (civilian)



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