

An Alternative to Burial

In 1987, the Academy constructed a columbarium adjacent to the cemetery on College Creek. The columbarium offers resting places for those who wish to be inurned at the Naval Academy. Niches are assigned in consecutive order and cannot be reserved.

At the columbarium stands a memorial donated by the Class of 1937. It reads: *Here we remember our shipmates whose resting places are known only to God ... Their bodies have been left in the seas or in remote places but their spirit lives with us always.*



Eligibility for Burial or Inurnment

There are a number of specific eligibility requirements for burial in the cemetery and inurnment in the columbarium. For burial in the cemetery, Naval Academy graduates must attain flag rank while on active duty. All Naval Academy graduates are eligible for inurnment in the columbarium.



Several trees shade the center of the cemetery.

Visiting the Cemetery and Columbarium

Since the US Naval Academy considers the cemetery and columbarium ceremonial spaces, visitors are asked to respect the dignity of the grounds. Please refrain from smoking, eating, drinking, littering, dog walking, or jogging. Adherence to these regulations will help to guarantee the august appearance of the cemetery and columbarium.

In 2003, under the leadership of Midshipman Tyler Hale Churchill NA 2003, the 13th Company placed benches in the cemetery for the convenience of visitors. The 13th Company's benevolent actions represent an important symbolic bond between today's midshipmen and those who have served before them.

A Meaningful Link to Our Past

From decorated admirals to mess stewards to blacksmiths to infants, the cemetery and columbarium hold the remains of a diverse array of individuals. Their lives tell the history of the US Navy and the Naval Academy. More than a landscape graced with artful memorials, the United States Naval Academy Cemetery and Columbarium are irreplaceable cultural resources. As such, the Academy is taking steps to ensure the management of the monuments and grounds for future generations by:

- Creating a photographic archive of gravestones
- Conducting gravestone survey and condition assessments
- Computerizing written cemetery and columbarium records
- Developing an informational exhibit

We hope this brochure enhances your visit to the historic United States Naval Academy Cemetery and Columbarium.

**For more information or to arrange a burial or an inurnment, please contact the Memorial Affairs Coordinator
United States Naval Academy
101 Cooper Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5027
Phone: (410) 293-1101
Fax: (410) 293-4809**



United States Naval Academy Cemetery and Columbarium Annapolis, Maryland





Located on a peninsula overlooking the Severn River and College Creek, the United States Naval Academy Cemetery and Columbarium are the final resting places for hundreds of the nation's veterans, many of whom gave their life in service to their country. Their

memorials immortalize their heroic deeds and make the cemetery and columbarium solemn tributes to America's rich naval heritage.

The Beginning

In 1868, the Academy purchased a sixty-seven acre tract called Strawberry Hill as part of its expansion efforts in the years after the Civil War. A parcel of this land became the cemetery within a year of its purchase. As early as July 1869, visitors admired its wooded and grass-strewn landscape. Today, the cemetery remains one of the most picturesque and tranquil spots on the Academy grounds. This broken column monument, a symbolic representation of early death, is just one graceful way in which the deceased are remembered at the cemetery.



Notable Monuments and Burials

The USS *Huron*, an iron sloop-rigged steamer, was wrecked in a storm near Nag's Head, North Carolina, on November 24, 1877. Modest-sized markers for the graves of individual men surround a larger monument commemorating the *Huron* tragedy.



The Jeannette Monument was erected in memory of the men who perished in the Jeannette Arctic Expedition in October 1881. The ice on the cross is a reminder of the frigid environment in which they were lost. This is the most imposing monument at the cemetery.



According to his gravestone, Thomas Taylor drowned in 1852 while serving on the USS *Preble*, a sloop-of-war. The USS *Preble* was the first training ship used by midshipmen at the Academy. This is one of the oldest monuments at the cemetery.

Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King (1878-1956) NA 1901 was Commander in Chief of the U.S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations during World War II. King is the only five-star admiral at the cemetery. His monument proudly proclaims this distinction.



A forty-two year Navy veteran, Admiral Arleigh A. Burke (1901-1996) NA '23 served as Chief of Naval Operations for three terms, making him the longest serving CNO. Burke's monument depicts the USS *Arleigh Burke*, DDG-51, the first in a class of guided missile destroyers named for him.

The lone grave of Captain Edward L. Beach, Jr. (1918-2002) NA '39 is appropriately located in front of Beach Hall, named in honor of him and his father, Captain Edward L. Beach, Sr. (1867-1943) NA 1888. In 1960, the younger Beach was the Commanding Officer of the nuclear-powered submarine USS *Triton* when it sailed submerged around the world in a record-setting 84 days.



In October 1864, Union Commander William B. Cushing (1842-1874) NA 1861 led a crew that attacked and sank the Confederate ironclad CSS *Albatross*. His monument is topped by an elaborate relief that depicts drapery, a service dress hat, and a sword.



The monument of Rear Admiral Charles J. Train (1845-1906) NA 1865 and that of Commodore Isaac Mayo (1791-1861) are examples of the more ornamental monuments at the cemetery. Train's Celtic cross is representative of a collection of Celtic



crosses at the cemetery. The anchor on Mayo's obelisk is a common naval motif throughout the grounds.

Rear Admiral Wilson F. Flagg (1938-2001) NA '61 and his wife, Darlene E. Flagg (1938-2001), were on American Airlines Flight 77 when it crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. RADM Flagg logged the most hours of any pilot on F-8 Crusader supersonic jets.



Bandmaster Charles A. Zimmerman (1861-1916) composed the music for *Anchors Away* as a football fight song dedicated to the Class of 1907.

This lamb topping the gravestone of an infant is a clear indication of the innocence of the deceased. Many small monuments at the cemetery mark the graves of infants.



Others buried at the cemetery include Medal of Honor recipients, superintendents of the US Naval Academy, midshipmen, and former employees of the Academy.