United States Navy Mortuary Affairs
Burial At Sea Program

Please read through this entire page.

Burial at Sea is a means of final disposition of remains that is performed on United States Navy vessels. The committal ceremony is performed while the ship is deployed. Therefore, family members are not allowed to be present. The commanding officer of the ship assigned to perform the ceremony will notify the family of the date, time, and longitude and latitude once the committal service has been completed.

Eligibility: Individuals eligible for this program are: (1) active duty members of the uniformed services; (2) retirees and veterans who were honorably discharged. (3) U.S. civilian marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command; and (4) dependent family members of active duty personnel, retirees, and veterans of the uniformed services.

How to get started: After the death of the individual for whom the request for Burial at Sea is being made, the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) should contact the Navy and Marine Corps Mortuary Affairs office at 1-866-787-0081 to request a packet and for additional information.

Supporting documents which must accompany this request are:

(1) a photocopy of the death certificate
(2) the burial transit permit or the cremation certificate
(3) a copy of the DD Form 214, discharge certificate, or retirement order.

The Burial at Sea Request Form and the three supporting documents listed above make up the Burial at Sea Request package.

Burial Flag: A Burial Flag is required for all committal services performed aboard United States Naval vessels, except family members, who are not authorized a burial flag. Following the services at sea, the flag that accompanied the cremains/remains will be returned to the PADD. If the PADD does not wish to send a burial flag for the service, a flag will be provided by the Navy for the committal service, but will not be sent to the PADD.

Cremated Remains (Cremains): Cremated Remains (Cremains): Cremains must be in an urn or temporary container (preferably Bio-degradable) to prevent spillage in shipping. Recent changes in law prohibit the discharge of plastics at sea. Families are encouraged to have the cremains inurned directly, or transferred to a sturdy biodegradable urn at their local funeral home to facilitate burial at sea. Burial at Sea Coordinators at the ports of embarkation are available to field any questions regarding the urns. The cremains, along with the completed Burial at Sea Request package should be forwarded to the Burial at Sea Coordinator at the desired port of embarkation (listed below). Prior to shipment, it is recommended that a phone call be made informing the coordinator of the pending request. ONLY Priority Mail Express Service is authorized when shipping cremains and it is recommended that that Tracking and Signature On Delivery is used to ensure the package is delivered to the correct individual in a timely manner.

Intact Remains (Casketed): Specific guidelines are required for the preparation of casketed remains. All expenses incurred in this process are the responsibility of the PADD, who will select a funeral home in the area of the port of embarkation. After this selection has been made and notification has been provided to the coordinator, the casketed remains, the request form, supporting documents, and the burial flag are to be forwarded to the receiving funeral home. The coordinator will make the inspection and complete the checklist for the preparation of casketed remains. It is recommended that funeral homes responsible for

preparing and shipping intact remains contact the Mortuary Services office at Navy Casualty in Millington, TN to receive the preparation requirements.

PORTS OF EMBARKATION / COORDINATORS		
Norfolk, Va. Commander, Naval Medical Center ATTN: Code 0210C 620 John Paul Jones Cir. Portsmouth, VA 23708-5100 Phone: (757) 953-2617\2618	**Jacksonville, Fla.** Officer in Charge Naval Hospital Branch Clinic P. O. Box 280148 Naval Station Mayport, FL 32228-0148 Phone: (904) 270-4285	
San Diego, Calif. Commanding Officer Naval Medical Center Decedent Affairs Code: 09O4 34800 Bob Wilson Drive San Diego, CA 92134-5000 Phone: (800) 290-7410	**Bremerton, Wash.** Commanding Officer Naval Hospital Bremerton Code: 015-BAS/HP01 Boone Road Bremerton, WA 98312-1898 Phone: (360) 475-4313	**Honolulu, Hi.** Navy Liaison Unit Tripler Army Medical Center Tripler AMC, HI 96859-5000 Phone: (808) 433-4709 (808) 577-7590

Questions concerning Burial-at-Sea?
Please call Monday - Friday, 0730-1600 Central Time
Toll Free - 1-866-787-0081
DSN - 882-8576

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