

# ILLUSTRATIONS OF STANDARD GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

**UPRIGHT HEADSTONE  
WHITE MARBLE (U) OR  
LIGHT GRAY GRANITE (V)**



This headstone is 42 inches long, 13 inches wide and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 230 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color, and the marble may contain light to moderate veining. Additional inscription is limited to 15 characters (including spaces) up to four lines maximum.

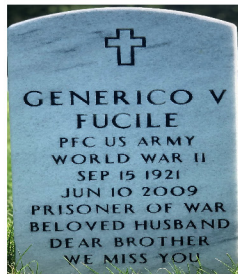


Spousal inscription information (i.e., name, date of birth, and date of death) is authorized on a Government-furnished headstone or marker if the Veteran's date of death is on or after October 1, 2019. For flat markers, the spousal information is inscribed at the bottom. For upright headstones, the spousal information is inscribed on the back.

**BRONZE NICHE (Z)**



This niche marker is 8-1/2 inches long, 5-1/2 inches wide, with 7/16 inch rise. Weight is approximately 3 pounds; mounting bolts and washers are furnished with the marker. Used for columbarium or mausoleum interment. Also provided to supplement a privately-purchased, permanent and durable headstone or marker for eligible Veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990 and are buried in a private cemetery. Additional inscription is limited to 27 characters (including spaces) up to two lines maximum.



VA will include a Prisoner of War (POW) or Former Prisoner of War (FPOW) inscription, upon request and with confirmation. Character and space limitations apply based on marker type.

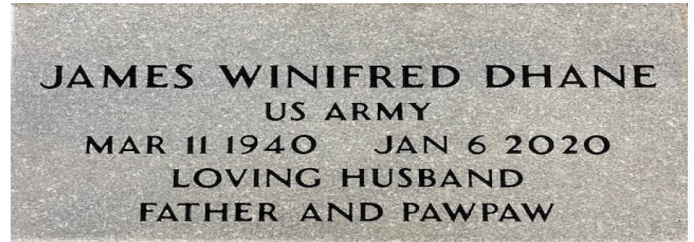
**FLAT MARKERS**

**BRONZE (B)**



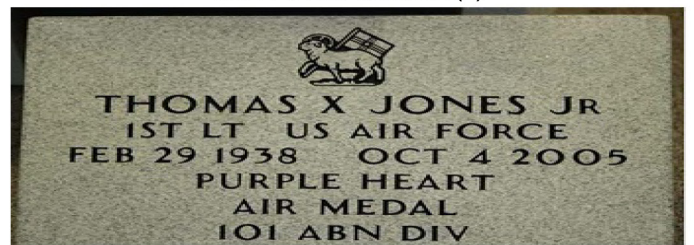
This grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, with 3/4 inch rise. Weight is approximately 18 pounds. Anchor bolts, nuts and washers for fastening to a base are furnished with the marker. The base is not furnished by the Government. Additional inscription is limited to 27 characters (including spaces) up to two lines maximum.

**LIGHT GRAY GRANITE (G) OR WHITE MARBLE (F)**



This grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 130 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color; the marble may contain light to moderate veining. Additional inscription is limited to 27 characters (including spaces) up to two lines maximum.

**SMALL FLAT GRANITE (L)**



This grave marker is 18 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 3 inches thick. Weight is approximately 70 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color. Additional inscription is limited to 27 characters (including spaces) up to two lines maximum.

**NOTE:** Historic headstones (Prior to World War I) - In addition to the headstone and markers pictured, two special styles of upright headstones are available for those who served with Union Forces during the Civil War or for those who served in the Spanish-American War. Another style headstone is available for those who served with the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. The applicant must submit detailed documentation to VA that supports eligibility for a historic headstone. Inscriptions on these headstone types are intentionally limited to assure historic accuracy. For example, only ranks above 'Private' were historically authorized; emblems of belief and the words 'Civil War' are not authorized.

## INSCRIPTION INFORMATION

**MANDATORY ITEMS** - Information in English about the decedent (provided by an authorized applicant). Such items are: Legal Name, Branch of Service, Year of Birth, Year of Death, and for State Veterans and National Cemeteries only, the section and grave number. Branches of Service include: U.S. Army (USA), U.S. Navy (USN), U.S. Air Force (USAF), U.S. Marine Corps (USMC), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Space Force (USSF), U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF), Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASP), and other organizations authorized for certain periods of time. Different examples of inscription formats are illustrated above. More than one branch of service is permitted, subject to space availability. VA will inscribe the phrase "IN MEMORY OF" on all memorial headstones and markers, as required under 38 CFR 38.630(c).

**OPTIONAL ITEMS** - Information in English about the decedent (provided by an authorized applicant). Optional items are identified by bold blocks on this form. War service includes active duty service during a recognized period of war and the individual does not have to serve in the actual place of war, e.g., Korea may be inscribed if the Veteran served during the Korean War period, even though the individual never served in the country. VA will inscribe authorized country names (e.g., Afghanistan, Iraq, etc.) as the war service only if the individual served in country. The applicant must submit supporting documentation to VA to have the highest rank and/or awards inscribed on the headstone or marker.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** - Information in English or non-English text about the decedent (provided by an authorized applicant), consisting only of characters of the Latin alphabet and/or numbers. Examples of additional items include appropriate terms of endearment, nicknames (in expressions such as "OUR BELOVED POPPY"), military or civilian credentials or accomplishments such as DOCTOR, REVEREND, etc., and special unit designations such as WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS, ARMY AIR CORPS, ARMY NURSE CORPS or SEABEES. The applicant must request an additional inscription item in block 18, and each request is subject to VA approval. VA will not inscribe graphics, emblems or pictures. VA will inscribe authorized emblems of belief, the Medal of Honor, and the Southern Cross of Honor for Civil War Confederates.

**INCOMPLETE OR INACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE CLAIM MAY RESULT IN ITS RETURN TO THE CLAIMANT, A DELAY IN RECEIPT OF THE HEADSTONE OR MARKER, OR AN INCORRECT INSCRIPTION.**

**AVAILABLE EMBLEMS OF BELIEF FOR PLACEMENT ON GOVERNMENT  
HEADSTONES AND MARKERS (See block 17)**

									
(01) CHRISTIAN CROSS	(02) BUDDHIST (Wheel of Righteousness)	(03) HEBREW (Star of David)	(04) PRESBYTERIAN CROSS	(05) RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CROSS	(06) LUTHERAN CROSS	(07) EPISCOPAL CROSS	(08) UNITARIAN CHURCH (Flaming Chalice)	(09) UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	(10) AARONIC ORDER CHURCH
									
(11) MORMON (Angel Moroni)	(12) NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA	(13) SERBIAN ORTHODOX	(14) GREEK CROSS	(15) BAHAI (9 Pointed Star)	(16) ATHEIST	(17) MUSLIM (Crescent and Star)	(18) HINDU	(19) KONKO- KYO FAITH	(20) COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
									
(21) SUFISM REORIENTED	(22) TENRIKYO CHURCH	(23) SEICHO-NO-IE	(24) CHURCH OF WORLD MESSIANITY	(25) UNITED CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE	(26) CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH	(27) UNITED MORAVIAN CHURCH	(28) ECKANKAR	(29) CHRISTIAN CHURCH	(30) CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE
									
(31) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	(32) HUMANIST	(33) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)	(34) IZUMO TAISHAKYO MISSION OF HAWAII	(35) SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL (USA)	(36) SIKH (KHANDA)	(37) WICCA (Pentacle)	(38) LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD	(39) NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH	(40) SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
									
(41) CELTIC CROSS	(42) ARMENIAN CROSS	(43) FAROHAR	(44) MESSIANIC JEWISH	(45) KOHEN HANDS	(46) CATHOLIC CELTIC CROSS	(47) CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST (Cross & Crown)	(48) MEDICINE WHEEL	(49) INFINITY	(51) LUTHER ROSE
									
(52) LANDING EAGLE	(53) FOUR DIRECTIONS	(54) CHURCH OF NAZARENE	(55) HAMMER OF THOR	(56) UNIFICATION CHURCH	(57) SANDHILL CRANE	(58) CHURCH OF GOD	(59) POMEGRANATE	(60) MESSIANIC	(61) SHINTO
									
(62) SACRED HEART	(63) AFRICAN ANCESTRAL TRADITIONALISTS (Nyame Ye Ohene)	(64) MALTESE CROSS	(65) DRUID (Awen)	(66) WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD	(67) POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH	(68) GUARDIAN ANGEL	(69) HEART	(70) SHEPHERD AND FLAG	(71) AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
									
(72) EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	(73) UNIVERSALIST CROSS	(74) FAITH AND PRAYER	(75) ICHIHYS	(76) NICHIREN SHOSHU TEMPLE	(77) DOVE OF PEACE	(78) KINGIAN FAITH	Emblems 79 through 97 have not yet been assigned	(98) DRUZE	

To obtain the most recent information about headstones and markers including the complete and most current list of available emblems of belief (listing and graphics), please visit our website at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov).