

HINGHAM CEMETERY VETERANS AREA

Hingham citizen and Revolutionary War hero General Benjamin Lincoln* was laid to rest in 1810 in the town's old burial ground, now called Hingham Cemetery. Following this precedent the town chose Hingham Cemetery as the site for its important Civil War monument. It is surrounding this obelisk high on a hill overlooking Hingham Harbor that one will find Hingham's only burial space reserved exclusively for veterans and their families.

The 30-foot high Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument made of Quincy granite was erected in 1870 to honor those Hingham men who died in the Civil War. Their seventy-six names are engraved around the base—names such as Hersey, Lincoln, Wilder, Fearing, and Cushing. Nearby stand monuments to some of Hingham's other patriots: Peter Ourish, the town's youngest Civil War volunteer, who fought in 15 major battles before succumbing at the age of 19; Massachusetts Governor John A. Andrew, who oversaw the creation of the first regiment of Negro soldiers during the Civil War; and Massachusetts Governor John D. Long, who served both as a member of Congress and as U.S. Secretary of the Navy under President McKinley.

The Hingham Cemetery Veterans Area was created in 1994 with the unanimous support of Hingham's selectmen and citizens. In accordance with the original deed, no burials around the monument had been permitted up to this time. Today, in order to maintain the integrity and spirit of the original design of uninterrupted open space, only government-issued flat bronze or gray granite markers are allowed for the veteran and flat bronze or gray granite markers of the same size and design for the spouse or dependent.

Burial space here is reserved for eligible veterans and their spouses and dependent minor children who die after the veteran. (Our Superintendent can supply the necessary eligibility criteria.) Lots for both cremations and full burials are offered.

Revised January 2008

- General Lincoln was second in command under George Washington and received the British sword of surrender from Gen. Cornwallis at the end of the war.

VETERANS AREA GUIDELINES

Single or double burial lots in the Veterans Area may be purchased prior to or at the time of the eligible veteran's death.

Eligibility

Veteran status and therefore eligibility will be determined solely by the Directors of the Hingham Cemetery and generally follow the guidelines for veteran burial in a National Cemetery listed on the reverse side. Current requirements for burial are:

- A. Veterans discharged or separated from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable who have completed the required period of service.
- B. Armed Forces members who die on active duty.
- C. Service by a U.S. citizen in the Armed Forces of a government allied with the U.S. in a war.
- D. Current spouses and dependent minor children who die after burial of the eligible veteran.

Markers

- A. Flat bronze or light gray granite markers only may be used for veterans. These are provided free of cost by the U.S. Government. Requests should be made through the town's Veterans' Agent or funeral director.
- B. Spouse's or minor child's markers must be flush bronze or gray granite and identical to veteran's in size and design. No ornamentation is allowed. Markers must be approved in writing *prior* to purchase.
- C. The Cemetery Superintendent will install all markers.

Financial obligations of family of deceased:

Purchase of burial rights; cement liner for full burial; opening and closing of grave; setting of marker on cement base; any funeral expenses.

Any lot holder of a veteran's lot shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the Hingham Cemetery. No planters or in-ground plantings, artificial flowers, or personal items are permitted in the Veterans burial area. (See Cemetery Grounds Regulations and Monument Restrictions.)

Revised January 2008