



Honors

Military honors invoke many images, from the folded flag to the sounding of taps. Often times these ceremonies happen at the cemetery, although they can be rendered at a service too. The nation performs this tribute in recognition of the Veteran's commitment and sacrifice to our freedoms and allows Veterans' survivors and loved ones to reflect on this great dedication to our country. So how are honors arranged?

In Douglas County, eligible Veterans of the armed forces have two options. One is through the Department of Defense who provides at least two members of the armed forces from the Veteran's branch of service to fold and present the flag and sound taps. Depending on the length of time in the armed forces Veterans might also be eligible for a rifle team and pallbearers. A second option is with the Veterans of Foreign Wars District Twelve Honor Guard Team. Honors rendered include folding the flag, a firing team, sounding taps, and a short presentation. This team consists of retired members within our community and provides honors to all Veterans, regardless of length of service.

As a courtesy, some funeral establishments will provide a stipend to these retirees to cover their gas costs traveling to the service. Additionally, some funeral directors may accompany these honors by draping the body with a flag as they are removed from the place of death, display our nation's flag at the funeral home and graveside service, and display military service medallions on the hearse. However, not every funeral establishment offers the same options.

It is important that when making your selection you know what choices are available to you before you honor your departed Veteran, and that these honors should be offered without charge. If you have any questions contact your local funeral director.