

## **BARRANCAS TOURS**

**Note: Self-guided tours may be taken anytime during daylight hours. Please return this brochure to the locator area upon completion of your visit today.**

The individual leading the tour may keep only one brochure per group or family unit.

Tours for large groups may be pre-arranged with the cemetery staff. Burial operations have precedence over all other cemetery activities. Your respect and consideration is greatly appreciated.

You may drive and park only on the hard surfaced roadways.

**INTRODUCTION: THIS CEMETERY DATES TO THE 1820'S. ORIGINALLY A SMALL CEMETERY OF THE MARINE HOSPITAL NEAR THE PENSACOLA NAVY YARD.**

**MARINE HOSPITALS SERVED THE MERCHANT FLEETS AT MAJOR SEAPORTS.**

**ARMY AND NAVY CEMETERIES OPERATED SEPARATELY PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERY IN 1868 BY AGREEMENT OF SECRETARY OF WAR AND SECRETARY OF NAVY BY DIRECTION OF CONGRESS TO ASSURE PROPER BURIAL OF CIVIL WAR CASUALTIES.**

**THE CEMETERY COMPRISES OF APPROXIMATELY 98 ACRES OF BURIAL GROUNDS.**

**THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 30,000 BURIALS TO DATE.**

**THE PRESENT INTERMENT RATE IS APPROXIMATELY 90-100 BURIALS PER MONTH.**

**EXISTING AVAILABLE SPACE IS PROJECTED TO APPROX 2035.**

## **POINTS OF INTEREST:**

**ADMIN BLDG - serves as reception center for families and friends before and after a funeral service. Responsible for maintaining burial records and registers. Headquarters for Cemetery Director's planning, direction and administration of cemetery operations at Barrancas and Mobile National Cemeteries.**

**Memorial Sections "A" and "B" - Contains memorial markers for veterans whose remains were not recoverable. There are no bodies or ashes buried in these sections. Are easily identified by "In Memory Of" inscription at top of monument. Veterans whose bodies were lost or buried at sea, held by foreign powers, donated to science, or ashes scattered are authorized a "memorial marker" at a national cemetery.**

**A. B. C. D. are Columbaria Niches**

**E. CIVIL WAR VETS – (Sections 1-12) the majority of civil war dead interred here were buried elsewhere and re-interred here approximately ten years after the "war between the states". Most of these union soldiers were from the states of New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire.**

**F. USCT's - US COLORED TROOPS – Almost 180,00 blacks served officially in the Union Army during the civil war. Thousands of others served unofficially as scouts, spies, and laborers building military fortifications. More than 30,000 died during the war with nearly 3,000 killed in battle. Sixteen soldiers and four sailors received the Medal of Honor. Black military units were mustered directly into federal service and designated as United States Colored Troops (USCT). These units were comprised of emancipated or escaped slaves. The exceptions to this were the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts regiments, which were volunteer units, originally composed entirely of free blacks. 151 USCTs are interred in Sections 9, 10, and 11.**

**G. CONFEDERATE VETS – (Section 12) there are 72 Confederate soldiers buried at this national cemetery. 52 Known and 20**

Unknown. Most confederate dead were buried in confederate or private cemeteries. There is one confederate style marker in Memorial Section "A". Confederate monuments are distinguishable by the "tented" or "pointed" top and the inscription of the Southern Cross.

H. GEROMINO'S WIFE – (Section 18, Grave 1496) "GA-AH" the wife of Apache Indian Geromino died during interment in the Mount Vernon Barracks area of Alabama, north of the city of Mobile. She was imprisoned with her husband and his followers after surrendering to U.S. forces that hunted them in the Arizona and New Mexico territories of the American west. As prisoners of war they were removed from the west to Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island and subsequently transferred to Mt. Vernon Barracks. Climatic conditions in Alabama caused many deaths among the Indians. Geromino's son Chappo and a cousin Larry (Lannie) Fun are buried at Mobile National Cemetery with fourteen other Native American followers of Geromino.

Geromino, another of his wives, and two daughters are buried at the Apache Cemetery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

I. INFANTS - Outbreaks of Malaria and Yellow Fever were once common in West Florida, Alabama, and other coastal areas of the gulf coast during the 1930's. These diseases claimed many infants and young children whose immune systems had no natural defenses to these outbreaks. Section 17, 18 and 25 contain most of their graves. They were children of soldiers and sailors stationed at Fort Barrancas and the Pensacola Navy Yard.

CIVILIAN CEMETERY - Barrancas National Cemetery surrounds the old Town of Warrington Cemetery. That cemetery was originally located on the hill opposite the

Navy Memorial Chapel. It was moved to accommodate the military's need for high ground to build housing. The last burial there was in 1932. A listing of those buried there is maintained at the Barrancas Administration Bldg. That cemetery contains many interesting inscriptions and styles of headstones marking the graves of individuals born in the late 1700's and early 1800's.

Short-Block Unknowns - The small numbered blocks seen throughout the cemetery mark the graves of unknowns. The majority of them are found in Sections 13, 14, 15, and 1, 2, and 3. These graves contain the remains of individuals who were buried in the Key West, Fort Myers, and Tampa areas and re-interred here approximately ten years after the civil war. Each set of bones was given a gravesite marked with the numbered short blocks. Had there been evidence to positively identify these remains as union or confederate soldiers then such graves would have been identified by an upright marker indicating "UNKNOWN UNION SOLDIER" OR "UNKNOWN CONFEDERATE SOLDIER". These small numbered blocks have also been used to identify unmarked graves in the old Town of Warrington cemetery.

The open area between the administration building and the maintenance shops is the site of the MARINE HOSPITAL/CEMETERY LODGE building. That building was condemned and demolished for public safety reasons in 1996. Originally a small Marine Hospital the building was used for years to house the families of the Cemetery Director. Marine Hospitals were the forerunners of the U.S. Public Health Service.

J. MARINE MONUMENT - Erected in 1884 by the Marine Guard of the Navy Yard in memory of the eight marines who died in the barracks from yellow fever. Their names are inscribed on the four faces of the monument. Their

ages at death ranged from 20 to 29 years. This monument marks the only group interment and only mounded gravesite within the cemetery.

**PRIVATE MONUMENTS** - Families were permitted to erect private monuments within this national shrine during the period it was administered by the Department of the Army. Presently they are permitted (except in those cases where an adjoining gravesite was set-aside or reserved for the future burial of a veteran or spouse; or with the approval of the Cemetery Director within a section that already contains these monuments.

**K. MEDAL OF HONOR** - There are three recipients of the Medal of Honor buried at this national shrine. Army SSgt Clifford C. Sims' grave is located on the slope of Section 29 (Grave 546), north of the maintenance building. Marine Corps Major Steven W. Pless's grave is located in Section 21 (Grave 929-A), across from the Marine Memorial Monument. Navy Lieutenant Clyde E. Lassen's grave is located in Section 38 (Grave 113). These men were cited for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, during the Vietnam War.

Sgt Sims was an Airborne Infantry squad leader who sacrificed his life to protect his men from the blast of a boobytrap.

Major Pless was a Helicopter Gunship Pilot who rescued four stranded and wounded soldiers who were being overwhelmed by a large Viet Cong force, by flying through intense enemy fire.

Lieutenant Lassen was a pilot of a Search and Rescue helicopter operating against enemy forces in North Vietnam. He effected the rescue of two downed aviators by his courageous and daring actions, determination, and extraordinary airmanship in the face of great risk and intensified enemy opposition.

**L. PERSIAN GULF C-130 AIRCREW** - Seven crewmembers of the C-130 Hercules Gunship that was shot down during the Persian Gulf War are buried along side each other in

Section 38. These men belong to an elite Air Commando Unit stationed at Hulburt Field near Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Their mission was instrumental in the speedy and victorious conclusion to that war in which 28 nations joined to liberate the country of Kuwait from an Iraqi invasion in 1990.

**M. SOMALIA - C-130 "JOCKEY 14" AIRCREW** - Two aircrew members of the USAF C-130 Hercules Aircraft from the Special Operations Wing at Hulburt Field crashed on takeoff off the coast of Kenya while in direct support of operations in Somalia. These Gravesites are located in Section 38.

**N. 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMINOLE WAR CASUALTIES** - The remains of 17 individuals from the Fort Myers area have been re-interred in Section 3 (1996).

**O. SAUDI ARABIA TERRORIST BOMBING VICTIMS** - Two local airmen died in the terrorist bombing of the United States Housing Compound in Dhahran. These individuals (Joshua E. Woody and Joseph E. Rimkus) are buried in section 40, grave 81 and 82. A memorial bench is located along the north side of this Section in honor of those who gave their lives for their country during that terrorist attack on U.S. Forces serving in the Middle East.

**P. Group Memorial Monuments at the "Tear Drop"**. Memorial Monuments honoring various groups (Seabee, Enlisted Pilots, Retired Officers, Sea Service Women, & the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWII) are located in the area containing the Columbarium Complex.

**Q. Repatriated Aviators (Sections 38 and 41)** – Three pilots shot down over North and South Vietnam, originally listed as Missing in Action (MIA), then

**presumed Killed in Action (KIA), have since been identified and returned to the U.S.**

**R. British Aviators-During WWII 4000 British and Commonwealth Aviators were trained at NAS Pensacola. 10 of them were killed in training and are buried in Section 23, Graves 1923, 1931, 1955, 1956, 1972, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, & 1999.**

**S. Pvt Rosamond Johnson Jr – 24<sup>th</sup> Inf Div - 1<sup>st</sup> casualty of Korean War from Escambia County is buried here. “Johnson Beach” at the Gulf Islands National Seashore (Perdido Key) is named in his honor. He is buried in Section 8, Grave 65.**

**T. Lieutenant’s Teenage Widow – Slab describing a never-ending love and devotion for her departed husband. (Section 20)**

**U. Memorial Benches (WWII- Persian Gulf) honoring those who died and those who survived 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Leyte Gulf, the crew of the USS Tangier, and the Airmen killed in terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia. Two of these Airmen (Rimkus and Woody) are buried in graves 81 and 82 of Section 39.**

**V. IRAQ KIA) – Cpl Jonathon “J” “R” Spears, USMC, the 1<sup>st</sup> casualty from Escambia County, Florida to be killed in action in Iraq is buried in Grave 399 of Section 25. “J” “R” was a graduate of Tate H.S.**

**W. First known burial – Sam Clarkson, Sec 20, Grave 1910 – May 15<sup>th</sup> 1829**

A B C D – Columbia Niches (Cremations)

E – Civil War Veterans

F – USCT’s (U.S. Colored Troops)

G – Confederate Veterans

H – Geromino’s Wife

I – Infants

J – Marine Monument

K – Medal of Honor Recipients

L – Persian Gulf C-130 Aircrew

M – Somalia C-130 Aircrew

N – 2<sup>nd</sup> Seminole War Casualties

O – Saudi Arabia Terrorist Victims

P – Group Memorial Monuments

Q – Vietnam Repatriated Aviators

R – WWII British Aviators

S – Rosamond Johnson

T – Lieutenant’s Teenage Widow

U – Memorial Benches (WWII-Persian Gulf)

V – IRAQ KIA (“J.R.” Spears)

W – First Known Burial (Samuel Clarkson)