

# Burial Heritage

**KEY:** † Military Cemetery + Remains from these former military cemeteries were moved to Clark Veterans Cemetery ★ Capital of the Philippines



### Cabanatuan American Memorial

A marble altar mark the site of the Japanese Cabanatuan Prisoner of War. Names of internees who died at Cabanatuan are inscribed in the wall.

### American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 31 memorials, monument and markers in 17 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that “time will not dim the glory of their deeds.”

### Clark Veterans Cemetery

Established in 1948, this site consolidated burials from former U.S. base cemeteries across the Philippines. In 1949, the U.S. Air Force assumed command of Clark Air Force Base and took over cemetery management. Following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991, the cemetery fell into neglect. In 1992, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2485 assumed responsibility for its care and maintenance. In 2013, the U.S. Congress directed the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to oversee the site. Today, Clark Veterans Cemetery continues to honor and inter eligible veterans of the United States Armed Forces and the Philippine Scouts.



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For more information on this site and other  
ABMC commemorative sites, please visit

[www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)

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ENGLISH

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

## Clark Veterans Cemetery



‘Time will not dim the glory of their deeds.’

- General of the Armies John J. Pershing



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# BURIAL HERITAGE

## 1899

The U.S. Army installed posts in the Philippines. Fort Stotsenburg (later known as Clark Air Base Field) and Fort McKinley (where Manila American Cemetery is located now) were the first ones to be built.

## 1900–1942

Two post cemeteries in Fort Stotsenburg were built and managed by the U.S. Army for the internment of their soldiers and their dependents. Other post cemeteries are found in different U.S. military reservation in the Philippines.

## 1946

As the Philippines gained its independence, U.S. military bases were negotiated. Fort McKinley was given back to the Philippine government, and it was agreed that a portion of it would become a permanent memorial and cemetery. On the other hand, Fort Stotsenburg remained under the U.S. Army.

## 1948

The American Graves Registration Service established Clark Air Base Cemetery as the third post cemetery in Clark Field/Fort Stotsenburg. Non-WWII burials from the Fort McKinley Post Cemetery were moved to make way for the establishment of the Manila American Cemetery.

## 1949

The U.S. Army handed Fort Stotsenburg and Clark Field to the U.S. Air Force, including the operations of the cemetery. Burials from the two post cemeteries in Fort Stotsenburg were consolidated in the new post cemetery.

## 1950

Burials from Sangley Point Naval, Cavite, were transferred to the Clark Air Base Cemetery in preparation for the closing of the U.S. Naval Yard.

## 1984

The USAF initiated a program of improvements and upgrades. The commander of the 13th U.S. Air Force dedicated a memorial to the “last active USAF Cemetery outside of the United States.”

## 1991

The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo prompted the speedy evacuation of the U.S. Government in Clark Field. The site was formally transferred to the Philippine government in November 1991. Clark Air Base Cemetery was neglected until VFW 2485 stepped up.

## 1993–2013

VFW Post 2485 and the Philippine Government entered a memorandum of agreement that the VFW would maintain and operate the cemetery. It was at this time that the site became known as the Clark Veterans Cemetery.

By special agreement with the Philippine Government, the cemetery remains open for burials of American Veterans and Filipino Scouts who can present a DD Form 214, an official government document given at the time of discharge documenting an individual’s military service. The VFW Post provides full military honors.

## 2010

The Clark Veterans Cemetery Restoration Association was created to help advocate for the U.S. government to reassume its responsibility to properly manage and administer Clark Veterans Cemetery.

## 2013-Present

President Barack Obama signed Public Law 112-260, which directed the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to maintain and operate Clark Veterans Cemetery. During the first five years, renovations and improvements were carried out at the site. All headstones were replaced with upright marble ones to ensure uniformity and enhance aesthetics. Today, it is one of only two ABMC cemeteries with active burial operations for eligible U.S. veterans and Philippine Scouts.

### Administrative Building

Here you can meet our staff and ask them questions, ask for an interpretive tour of the site, and sign the guest register.



### Overview

The aerial view highlights the grave area.



### Graves Area

Divided into three sections denoted by alphabets A, B, & C and each section is divided into 40 plots. Each plot is composed of 100 graves.



### Headstones

Lt. Col Waterous served as a medical practitioner in the U.S. Army in World War I, and World War II. He is credited for preventing a diphtheria outbreak in the Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp during the Second World War.



### Cemetery Emblem

Installed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2485 to honor those who are buried here.



### Monument to the Unknown Dead

Originally erected at Fort McKinley Post Cemetery for the unknown dead during the early years of American intervention in the Philippines. After the closure of Fort McKinley Post Cemetery, it was moved to Clark Veterans Cemetery with the burials to make way for Manila American Cemetery and Memorial.

From the entrance in M.A. Roxas Gate, the expanse of the cemetery can be seen facing first the Ceremonial Plaza where public ceremonies are held. Following the concrete path on the left hand side, one will find the restroom and administrative building. Parking is available at both gates of the cemetery.



### Ceremonial Plaza

Flags of the different services of U.S. Armed Forces and of the Philippine Scouts fly every day. This is where public ceremonies are held.



## Headstone Location

**PLOT:** .....

**ROW:** .....

**GRAVE:** .....

## Useful Information

**DIMENSIONS:** 22.37 acres  
**TOTAL GRAVE SITES:** 12000  
**INTERRED:** 9,268 (AS OF JUNE 2025)

**UNKNOWN:** 2100  
**ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED:** 1948  
**DEDICATED AS AN ABMC CEMETERY:** 2013