



STATE OF OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Cemetery to
Receive National Stewardship Award**

ARDMORE, OK – The staff of the Seaman First Class Billy Turner Veterans Cemetery will be honored with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' **National Cemetery Administration Stewardship Award** on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 12:00 PM**. The award will be presented by **James Earp**, Director of the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program in Washington, D.C.

The **Stewardship Award** is presented to state veterans cemeteries that demonstrate superior performance and full compliance during a comprehensive federal audit conducted by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). The review process examines **95 NCA standards**, including administrative processes, interment operations, grounds and equipment maintenance, and headstone alignment.

This marks the cemetery's **first review** since opening on **June 4, 2022**, and the award recognizes the high operational standards the staff has maintained.

The Seaman First Class Billy Turner Veterans Cemetery spans **20 acres** and will accommodate interment for more than **20,000 qualified veterans, spouses, and eligible dependents**. Currently, nearly **200 veterans and family members** are interred at the site.

Veterans interested in interment may submit an eligibility application online at Oklahoma.gov/veterans or contact the cemetery at **580-490-6489** for more information.

About the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs:

The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is dedicated to ensuring that all Oklahoma veterans and their families receive the highest quality services and support. Through a variety of programs, ODVA provides benefits assistance, and other essential services and programs to enhance the well-being of veterans across the state.

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OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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