

The Event

Memorial Day: Bearing Witness at the Los Angeles National Cemetery

Led by Roshi Egyoku.

On Monday, May 28th, we will gather at the Los Angeles National Cemetery (LANC) to bear witness to our Veterans on Memorial Day. Interred on its 114 acres are [war veterans](#) from the:

- Mexican-American War (1846-1848)
- Civil War (1861-1865)
- Spanish-American War (1898)
- World War I (1914-1918)
- World War II (1939-1945)
- Korean War (1950-1953)
- Vietnam War (1955-1975)
- Iraq War (2003-2011)
- War in Afghanistan (2001-2014, 2015 to present)

In addition, those who fought in the Native American Indian Wars (our genocide) are buried here. More than one hundred Buffalo Soldiers are also interred. These African American soldiers were members of the 9th, 10th, 24th, and 25th Cavalry during the American Civil War. The cemetery also has two dog burials, Old Bonus, a dog that veterans of the Pacific Branch soldiers home adopted, and Blackout, a war dog wounded in the Pacific during WWII. Pet or animal burials are now prohibited at national cemeteries.

Registration

There is no fee for the retreat.

Please sign up by Friday, May 25 at the Sangha House or by emailing Senshin at programsteward@zcla.org. Roshi will need your email for last minute communication and so that she can have a sense of who will be attending.

Date and Time

Sunday, May 28.

9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Meet at 9:30 along Marne Avenue, around grave 184 as marked on the cemetery map. Marne Avenue is the third road to your right as you enter.

Parking: park anywhere along Marne Avenue. If full, then any other avenue will do. See the attached cemetery map.

Carpooling option: Those who wish to carpool from ZCLA, please meet at the Sangha House driveway at 8:30 AM for an 8:45 AM departure. It takes forty minutes on surface streets, maybe less on a holiday.

Location

Los Angeles National Cemetery
950 South Sepulveda Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Directions

<https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/losangeles.asp>

Please google for directions. Note: the entrance is on Constitution Avenue, which is one block north of Wilshire Boulevard off Sepulveda Boulevard. If you are coming from the direction of Beverly Hills, please note that Sepulveda is pass the entrance to the 405. If you accidentally get on the 405, exit on Veterans Avenue. The Cemetery usually opens the gate on Veteran for Memorial Day (otherwise closed since 9/11)

Retreat Schedule

9:30 AM Meet at Marne Avenue in the Cemetery (see Cemetery Map attached).
Reading of War Poems

9:45 AM Contemplative individual walking throughout the Cemetery, in silence.

10:00 AM For those who wish, there will be a Veteran's Day Ceremony towards the Entrance. This is optional.

11:30 AM Meet at the Lookout Hill at the corner of Lookout Drive and Belleau Wood Drive (see cemetery map). We will meet on the grassy knoll.

11:30 AM Chant Circle Ceremony dedicated to Veterans

11:50 AM Council

1:00 PM End

What to Bring

Rakusu if you have one.

Walking shoes. Water, sun hat, towel to sit on, snacks or light lunch, any other personal items for your own comfort. Kleenex—this is a very sad day to be at the cemetery as families are visiting.

Please do not bring any flags or items for the graves. Flowers are okay. All of the graves will be marked with a flag.

Cemetery Map attached. Retreat meeting points are noted on map.

Links for further information on the Los Angeles National Cemetery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JFIgK1iCwI&fmt=22> (views of the LANC)

https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/national_cemeteries/California/Los_Angeles_National_Cemetery.html (Brief overview)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo_Soldier (Buffalo Soldiers)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_National_Cemetery

To read up on the Wars:

- [Mexican–American War](#)
- [Civil War](#)
- [Spanish–American War](#)
- [World War I](#)
- [World War II](#)
- [Korean War](#)
- [Vietnam War](#)
- [Iraq War](#)
- [War in Afghanistan](#)