

Why Home Funerals Matter to Our Veterans

By Lee Webster

As the last of our WWII and Korean veterans approach the end of their lives, they seek assurance that their needs, beliefs and values will be honored. Many veterans have relayed a profound desire for simplicity, frugality, and peace during their final days, surrounded by loved ones who hold the promise of the future.

Caring for our own dead is a fundamental American right. Bringing or keeping our loved ones home after death to be cared for by familiar hands, prepared for final rest with dignity and respect, and quietly witnessed as they lie in honor during home vigils is the essence of home funerals.

Home funerals are:

- **family-directed**, with help from neighbors, friends, and professionals alike
- **meaningful** for all involved, including children
- **authentic**, designed to reflect the individual's own values
- **healing** for those who can show their last act of love by action
- **eco-conscious** by forgoing invasive, toxic practices
- **affordable**, by conducting basic body care, filing necessary paperwork, transporting to a crematory or burial ground
- **safe**, as confirmed by major US and world health organizations, CID, WHO, CDC



Many home funeral guides provide guidance and support for veterans' families who choose to conduct home funerals at no cost. To learn more about home funerals, go to the Funeral Consumers Alliance, the National Home Funeral Alliance, or the FuneralPartnership.org to find your state.

Few can so effectively express our shared emotional ties to the ideals of family and country as those who have fought to protect them.