



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

H32(2200)

May 12, 2020

Memorandum

To: Deputy Director, Operations
Exercising the Authority of the Director

Through: Chief, Office of Policy /s/ **Alma Ripps**

From: Acting Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science
/s/ **Joy Beasley**

Subject: Amendment to National Cemetery Operations and Reference Manual 61

This memorandum seeks your approval to make minor amendments to Director's Order #61: National Cemetery Operations and Reference Manual 61. The amendments are needed in order to respond to a recent change in law, as set out below.

Background

[Director's Order #61](#) was approved in 2010. The accompanying [Reference Manual 61](#) was promulgated in 2011. Section 3.11 of both documents addresses the subject of flags, including the POW/MIA flag. Pursuant to Section 1 of [Public Law 105-354 \(36 USC 902\)](#), both the Director's Order and Reference Manual require that the POW/MIA flag be flown at the national cemeteries administered by the National Park Service on the six days specified in the law, namely:

- Armed Forces Day (the third Saturday in May);
- Memorial Day (the last Monday in May);
- Flag Day (June 14);
- Independence Day (July 4);
- National POW/MIA Remembrance Day (the third Friday in September); and
- Veterans Day (November 11).

On November 7, 2019, [Public Law 116-67](#) (133 Stat. 1128) became law. It amended 36 USC 902 by requiring the POW/MIA flag to be displayed on "all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed" (emphasis added).

Please note that this law applies only to national cemeteries, not to all Federal sites where the flag of the United States is displayed. The National Park Service currently administers 14 national cemeteries.

Policy Amendments

In order to comply with Pub. L. 116-67, we request your authorization to:

(1) Amend Section 3.11 of Director's Order #61 by striking the second paragraph thereof and substituting the following:

In accordance with 36 USC 902 (as amended by Pub. L. 116-67), the POW/MIA flag will be flown on all days and at all times during which the flag of the United States is displayed.

and

(2) Amend Section 3.11 of Reference Manual 61 by striking subsection B thereof and substituting the following:

B. POW/MIA Flag

The POW/MIA flag will be flown in accordance with 36 USC 902 (as amended by Pub. L. 116-67) on all days and at all times during which the flag of the United States is displayed.

Your signature in the space provided below will serve as direction to the Office of Policy to make such amendments.

Approved:

/s/ Raymond Vela
Deputy Director, Operations
Exercising the Authority of the Director

07/09/2020
Date