

LEGION MARKING VETERANS GRAVES

Comprehensive Plan Adopted Is Outgrowth of Waukegan Man's Ideas

One of the most comprehensive and complete plans for honoring veterans graves in all parts of the United States is the outgrowth of suggestions submitted by Mancel Talcott of Waukegan, recently appointed for the fifth consecutive term as state graves registration officer, American Legion, Department of Illinois. The plan now in use by Illinois posts of the Legion, follows:

Object of Plan

1. To fulfill our obligation to our departed comrades.
2. To permanently record in our Department files the names of every deceased World War veteran buried in cemeteries in Illinois, together with location of their graves and military records and any other data of the veterans—such as cause of death, etc., when available.
3. To assist the local American Legion Posts in keeping up their Post records so that all graves may be conveniently located and appropriately marked on Memorial Day.
4. To assist relatives of deceased veterans in obtaining the U. S. Government headstones and in all other ways that concern the burial and permanent registration of veterans' graves.

Scope

1. The Department plan, as herein-after outlined, shall refer to the graves of Honorably Discharged World War veterans. It being understood that as an organization composed only of World War veterans this is our first obligation. However, in communities where the marking and registration of the graves of veterans of other wars has not been undertaken by other patriotic organizations, or where a request has been received to assume this obligation, it shall be undertaken locally. In no case should the American Legion assume charge of this service where it is in conflict with some organization of another war.

Organization and Duties

1. Department Graves Registration Commission. This commission, appointed by the Department Commander, shall be composed of six (6) members and appointed for a term of three years—each division in the department being represented.
2. Division Graves Registration Officer. (a) In addition to being a member of the Department Commission he shall be in charge of the division.
3. District Graves Registration Officer. (a) Appointed by District Commander and in charge of his district.
4. County Graves Registration Officer. (a) Appointed by County Commander and in charge of his county. (b) Shall maintain a complete record of all the cemeteries in the coun-

ty and assign each one to some particular American Legion Post. (c) Shall request plats of all cemeteries in the county for use of Legion Posts as provided in Sec. V, paragraph 1, hereinafter described.

(d) Shall keep a card file of each cemetery with the name of veterans buried therein and after checking with the County Clerk's records, submit his record to the various Posts, thirty days (30) before Memorial Day.

(e) Shall make an annual report to county commander, a copy of same to be passed on to his successor.

5. Post Graves Registration Officer.

- (a) Appointed by the post commander and charged with the responsibility of making a survey, investigating all records and recording of the graves of every World War veteran buried in cemeteries assigned to his post.
- (b) Shall record on the blue print plats the location of every grave. (See Sec. V, pp. 1 of these instructions.)
- (c) After the survey is made he shall

check his records with the official "Roll of Honor" volumes supplied each post by the State of Illinois and immediately report any omissions or corrections to department headquarters.

(d) Shall prepare and keep up to

date, a card index file giving complete information and report burials to department headquarters as soon as they occur.

(e) Shall also make reports of burials to country graves registrar. (Continued on page 24)

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