

GUIDELINES FOR REQUESTING GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES AND MARKERS, UDC GRAVE MARKERS, OR IRON CROSSES

Public Law 110-157 allows the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish a Government Headstone or marker for the graves of eligible **veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990, regardless of whether the grave is already marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.**

For **deaths** occurring **before November 1, 1990**, the VA provides a Government headstone or marker for **unmarked graves**. A grave is considered marked if a monument displays the decedent's name and date of birth and/or death, even though the veteran's military data is not shown.

The General Information Sheet accompanying VA Form 40-1330 (application for a Government marker) clearly states the individual making the application must certify the grave is unmarked and a Government headstone or marker is preferred to a privately purchased one. Submitting false or incorrect information is considered fraud. The UDC takes this very seriously.

The decision to establish the following guidelines and procedures has been made in an effort to protect the good name of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and to remove us from any liability for incidents such as the ones noted above.

The following guidelines are effective immediately.

Government headstones and markers:

Members submitting applications for **Government headstones and markers** must send a copy of the following to their Chapter Grave Marker Committee Chairman, Division Grave Marker Committee Chairman and the General Grave Marker Chairman.

1. A copy of the completed application (VA Form 40-1330)
2. A copy of the "Government Headstone / UDC Grave Marker Placement Authorization Form", giving permission for the ordering and placing of the marker, signed by a family member, a cemetery official or the land owner, if on private property, and the Chapter member securing the information.
3. A photo of the gravesite before the placement of the VA marker.

UDC Grave Markers:

Members submitting applications for **UDC Markers** send two copies of the following to their Chapter Grave Marker Chairman for signature; who sends it to the Division Grave Marker Committee Chairman for signature. The Division Chairman will send two copies to the UDC Business Office, 328 North Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23220-4009. The Business Office will verify the member information, deposit the check and mail two copies to the General Grave Marker Chairman. The General Grave Marker Chairman will process and send the order to the vendor. The application must include:

1. Two copies of the Grave Marker Order Form (Rev November 2009)
2. A copy of the "Government Headstone / UDC Grave Marker Placement Authorization Form", giving permission for the ordering and placing of the marker, signed by a family member, a cemetery official or the land owner, if on private property, and the Chapter member securing the information.

Iron Crosses:

The Iron Cross is ordered directly from Smith Brothers. DO NOT send this order to the Business Office or the General Chairman.

Members ordering an Iron Cross must send a copy of the following to the Chapter, Division and General Grave Marker Chairmen.

1. A copy of the "Government Headstone / UDC Grave Marker Placement Authorization Form", giving permission for the ordering and placing of the marker, signed by a family member, a cemetery official or the land owner, if on private property, and the Chapter member securing the information.

By having this information on file, we will be able to easily and quickly identify when and who marked a grave.

Marking the graves of Confederate veterans, of Real Daughters – both members and non-members of the UDC, and of our members – is a wonderful way to honor their memory and we must do nothing that would be dishonest or deceitful, thus tarnishing their memory or our Organization.

If you have any questions, please contact the General Grave Marker Chairman.