



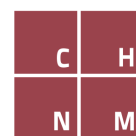
Remembering, Understanding, and Honoring at Washington Crossing

DEVELOPED BY CHRIS JOHNSON



Guiding Question:

How does Washington Crossing National Cemetery allow us to remember, understand, and honor veterans?



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Overview

Before visiting Washington Crossing National Cemetery, students will read two newspaper articles regarding national cemeteries and their importance. Once at the cemetery, the teacher will highlight the service of two veterans. Students will each complete a small amount of research on one veteran interred at the cemetery who served in the Global War on Terror. Based on that research, each student will submit a brief write-up of that veteran's service to his or her country in a manner that can be shared at school.

Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, students will be able to:

- Understand that service to one's nation in the Armed Forces and as veterans takes a variety of forms;
- Describe how memorials and cemeteries give today's citizens a chance to learn from and honor those who have served; and
- Explain efforts by government and the Armed Forces to honor veterans' service and educate future generations about the nature of their service.



The national cemetery at Washington Crossing is a relatively new addition to the system. As such, it is largely unknown in the community. This exercise is meant to acquaint secondary students with a national cemetery near them, allowing them to remember, understand, and honor those laid to rest there.

— Chris Johnson

Johnson teaches at Central Bucks High School East in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Spotlight: Washington Crossing National Cemetery

The new 205-acre national cemetery in southeastern Pennsylvania will serve veterans' needs for the next 50 years. The cemetery is located in Bucks County, north of the city of Philadelphia, about three miles northwest of Interstate 95, and less than three miles from Washington Crossing Historic Park.

In January 2008, VA awarded a design contract to Cairone & Kaupp, Inc. of Philadelphia. VA plans on completing a 12-acre early burial area with temporary facilities (Phase 1A) followed by the second construction stage of the project (Phase 1B). When completed, the 64-acre Phase 1 development will provide 15,500 full casket gravesites, including 15,100 pre-placed crypts, and 6,500 in-ground cremation sites and 4,100 columbarium niches.

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Standards Connections

Connections to Common Core

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3 Evaluate various explanations for actions or events and determine which explanation best accords with textual evidence, acknowledging where the text leaves matters uncertain.

Documents Used

Secondary Sources

Map, Washington Crossing National Cemetery

National Cemetery Administration

<https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/maps/WashingtonCrossing926.pdf>

Michael E. Ruane, "Arlington Cemetery to open new sections with space-saving pre-dug graves"

The Washington Post, June 4, 2018

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/arlington-cemetery-to-open-new-section-with-space-saving-pre-dug-graves/2018/06/02/bc487710-6353-11e8-a768-ed043e33f1dc_story.html

Nationwide Gravesite Locator

National Cemetery Administration

<https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>

Stu Bykofsky, "Why a tombstone in a South Jersey military cemetery has both a Star of David and a cross"

The Philadelphia Inquirer, May 26, 2018

http://www.philly.com/philly/columnists/stu_bykofsky/stu-bykofsky-memorial-day-column-tombstone-catholic-jew-soldiers-20180525.html?arc404=true

Veteran Profile, Lieutenant Colonel Victor Wiczorek

National Cemetery Administration

<http://cem.va.gov/legacy/>

Materials

- Map, Washington Crossing National Cemetery
- Remember, Understand, Honor Student Writing Assignment
- Names of Global War on Terror Veterans Interred at Washington Crossing National Cemetery

Activity Preparation

- Print a copy (or share links to) the following newspaper articles:
 - “Arlington Cemetery to open new sections with space-saving pre-dug graves” and
 - “Why a tombstone in a South Jersey military cemetery has both a Star of David and a cross”
- Make one copy of the Map, Washington Crossing National Cemetery and Names of Global War on Terror Veterans Interred at Washington Crossing National Cemetery list for the teacher.
- Make one copy of the Remember, Understand, Honor Student Writing Assignment for each student.

Procedure

Activity One: Pre-Cemetery Preparation (30 minutes)

- Distribute the two newspaper articles to the students. Provide time for the students to read both of them and then lead students in a discussion. Discussion questions (followed by talking points):
 - *What is the importance of maintaining an active cemetery?*
 - An active cemetery offers opportunities for veterans and those currently serving to know a cemetery will exist to honor, understand, and remember their service.
 - An active cemetery offers a more dignified and solemn space than a cemetery that is no longer active.
 - We are living in an era when many veterans of conflicts (World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War) are passing away.
 - We have been living through an era where America has maintained a large peacetime military.
 - America has been engaged in the Global War on Terror, meaning a continued need to maintain cemeteries.

- *What qualifies one for interment in a national cemetery? Why does such criteria exist?*
 - Those eligible for burial in a national cemetery include:
 - Veterans and members of the Armed Forces;
 - Members of reserve components and the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC);
 - Members of uniformed services of the United States: some Merchant Mariners, some officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Public Health Service are eligible; and
 - Spouses and dependent children.
 - There are disqualifying criteria to keep these cemetery spaces for those who have honorably served.
- *What is the purpose for cemeteries to be located throughout our nation?*
 - The Armed Forces draw on people from throughout the nation, a nation that has grown with communities that have changed over the decades.
 - Cemeteries throughout the nation allow veterans and those currently serving to know a cemetery will exist to receive their remains near home and family.
 - Cemeteries can only receive so many burials. As our existing cemeteries run out of room for any more remains, it becomes necessary to find new cemeteries.
- Conclude with some instruction as to context for the Washington Crossing National Cemetery.
 - **Philadelphia National Cemetery (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)**
 - Philadelphia was one of 14 national cemeteries established in 1862, during the American Civil War.
 - Philadelphia was an important center for recruitment and transportation during the Civil War.
 - Philadelphia was the location for significant hospital facilities for Civil War wounded.
 - **Beverly National Cemetery (Beverly, New Jersey)**
 - Beverly was established during Civil War near the location of two hospitals treating wounded from that conflict.
 - Beverly accommodated the burial of many veterans in the twentieth century after nearby Philadelphia National Cemetery was closed to new interments.

- **Washington Crossing National Cemetery (Newtown, Pennsylvania)**
 - Washington Crossing is one of the newer national cemeteries, dedicated in 2009.
 - Washington Crossing accommodates the burial of veterans who qualify for burial at Philadelphia or Beverly but for whom there is no longer room.
 - Washington Crossing is located in populous area that is home to many who are serving and who have served in the Armed Forces.

Activity Two: Washington Crossing National Cemetery (1 hour, 30 minutes)

- Begin the visit to the cemetery at Committal Service Shelter #2. You will visit two burial plots. At each, encourage students to look at adjacent graves, inferring service and contributions from the grave markers.
- Walk with students to section 32, site 1113, where the grave of Corporal James Seibert is located.
 - Discussion and Sharing: Corporal James Seibert, veteran of Merchant Marines and U.S. Army during World War II.
 - He was a veteran of World War II.
 - He was rejected by the Army on his first attempt to enlist.
 - Early in World War II, he served with Merchant Marines, a uniformed service that shipped supplies to and from U.S. and Allied forces.
 - He was accepted by U.S. Army on his second attempt to enlist and served with 3rd Infantry Division.
 - He was a longtime resident of Reading, Pennsylvania.
 - He was a husband and father.
- Possible discussion questions:
 - *What information can you learn from this grave marker?*
 - He served as both a Merchant Marine and soldier in U.S. Army.
 - He was a veteran of World War II.
 - He lived long after the war was over.
 - *What might have prompted Seibert's involvement in two branches of national service?*
 - At expiration of a term of enlistment, servicemen can find opportunities to serve in other ways.
 - In times of war, qualifications for and opportunities to serve can change.

- Walk with students to section 6, site 2389, where the Lieutenant Colonel Victor Wieczorek is interred.
 - Discussion and Sharing: Lieutenant Colonel Victor Wieczorek, veteran of World War II and the Korean War.
 - He was a Marine aviator who flew approximately 120 combat missions in the two conflicts with VMF-212, a Marine Fighter Squadron.
 - He was a native of Dearborn, Michigan and a long-time resident of North Plainfield, New Jersey.
 - He was a long-time worker in aeronautics industry. He had an exemption from wartime draft due to defense industry employment but enlisted anyway.
 - He was a husband and father of three.
- Teacher Tip:** *You can use the Veteran Profile, Lieutenant Colonel Victor Wieczorek to help tell this story.*
- Possible discussion questions:
 - *What information can you learn from this grave marker?*
 - He was a U.S. Marine veteran.
 - He was an officer.
 - He lived long after conflicts in which he served.
 - He was awarded Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal.
 - “Semper Fidelis” was added by his family to marker. It indicates the veteran’s and family’s pride in service.
 - His wife, Zona Johnson Wieczorek, is buried in the same grave.
 - *What might have prompted Wieczorek’s involvement in two conflicts?*
 - World War II and the Korea were fairly close in time.
 - The Korean War emergency prompted U.S. government to recall many veterans to service and activate many reservists.
 - The rank of lieutenant colonel indicates a fairly long time of service.

Assessment

- Assign students the Remember, Understand, Honor Student Writing Assignment, allowing appropriate time for completion.
- Use the Names of Global War on Terror Veterans Interred at Washington Crossing National Cemetery to assign one veteran to each student.
 - Remind students of the goals for this assignment.
 - Remember those from the area who have served in the Global War on Terror.
 - Understand the nature of their service to country.
 - Honor these individuals in a way that allows others to remember and understand as well.
- Remind students of the boundaries for this assignment. This project is not about engaging in exhaustive biographical research.
 - Base research on what can be found from the National Cemetery Association and from commonly accessed news and public information platforms.
 - Do not contact family members or friends of these veterans.
 - Do not make requests for the service records of these veterans.

Teacher Tip: Use students' write-ups as some sort of display at school in conjunction with the observance of Veterans Day or Memorial Day.

Methods for Extension

- Teachers may be interested in visiting one or both of these nearby sites so as to offer students a chance to compare ways in which memorials and cemeteries help to remember, understand, and honor service to nation.
 - **Washington Crossing State Park (3.3 miles from Washington Crossing National Cemetery)**
 - Context: *What occurred in 1776 that led to the creation of a cemetery here?*
 - *Why are the unmarked graves dated from 1776 to 1777?*
 - *Learn more about the one marked grave: story of Captain James Moore*
 - **The Garden of Reflection 9/11 Memorial (1.6 miles from Washington Crossing National Cemetery)**
 - Context: *What made it important and necessary for Bucks County to have a memorial to a tragic attack that took place elsewhere?*
 - *What is the symbolism and design of the memorial garden?*

VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

Remember, Understand, Honor Student Writing Assignment

Task and Purpose: You will engage in a brief research and writing assignment regarding a veteran buried at Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Your final product will be a short write-up regarding the circumstances of the veteran's service to country. If possible, your final product will also feature a photograph of the veteran you have studied. The purpose of this work is to better remember, understand, and honor the sacrifices made by those who serve our nation in the Armed Forces.

1. Complete the readings and participate in the site visit to Washington Crossing National Cemetery.
2. With your teacher's assistance, identify a veteran who served as part of the Global War on Terror and is buried at Washington Crossing who can serve as a subject for your work.
3. Think about what you want to learn about your veteran. Consider looking for information that will help you answer these questions:
 - What is your veteran's year of birth?
 - When did your veteran die?
 - In what branch(es) of the Armed Forces did your veteran serve?
 - In what war(s) did your veteran serve?
 - What was the highest rank achieved by your veteran?
 - Were there any medals awarded to your veteran?
 - Did your veteran lose his/her life while serving in the Armed Forces?
4. Conduct research so that you can learn more about your veteran. Please use the resources identified below.
 - The Nationwide Gravesite Locator managed by the National Cemetery Association (<https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>)
 - Local newspapers (in print or online)
 - National publications (in print or online)
 - DO NOT contact the family or friends of the veteran you are researching. Your job is to remember, understand, and honor, not exhaustively research.
5. Compose, proofread, and submit your write-up of your veteran.
 - Obey the word limit for this assignment: 75 words or fewer.
 - Make sure your veteran's full name and rank are part of your write-up.
 - Avoid fancy wording and complicated sentences. Make your work readable for a general audience.
 - Include a photograph of your veteran if you have found one.
 - Include a works cited page that acknowledges the sources used.

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Names of Global War on Terror Veterans Interred at Washington Crossing National Cemetery

Name	Branch of Service	War
Phalaneao L. Allen	U.S. Navy	Iraq War
Derek M. Ball	U.S. Navy	Iraq War
Robert Joseph Bobbin	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War, Iraq War
Louis M. Breitenbach	U.S. Air Force	Iraq War
Ronald Spencer Brisbane	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War
Lyn Stephen Brown	U.S. Army	Iraq War
James R. Bruner	U.S. Marine Corps	Iraq War
Sharod Ahkeim Carroll	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Samuel Hong Cha	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War, Iraq War
Garrett C. Cheung	U.S. Marine Corps	Iraq War
Anthony Jason Ciervo	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War
Eric James Clauson	U.S. Marine Corps	Iraq War
Virginia Lee Cofield	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War
George Harold Cox	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Charles Crego	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Alise Chanelle Davis	U.S. Army	Iraq War
James Edward Davis	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Matthew John Diamond	U.S. Marine Corps	Iraq War
Carrie Patricia Eglund	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Jason Epp	U.S. Navy	Afghanistan War
John T. Erickson	U.S. Air Force	Iraq War
William Thomas Erickson	U.S. Coast Guard	Afghanistan War
Bradley Michael Fox	U.S. Marine Corps	Iraq War
Kirby Levon Frederick	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Demetrius M. Frison	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War, Iraq War
Keith Edward Grover	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Ryan Nickerson Hemphill	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War, Iraq War
Wayne Gabriel Hood	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Joshua Edward Huf	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Anastasia Aileen Jackson	U.S. Marine Corps	Afghanistan War, Iraq War
James Weldon Johnson	U.S. Army National Guard	Iraq War
Herman Jones	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War, Iraq War
Michael Angelo Kane	U.S. Marine Corps	Iraq War

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Noelle G. Kelly	U.S. Navy	Iraq War
Patrick Alexander Kenny	U.S. Navy	Iraq War
Derrick Taylor Killebrew	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Marvin I. Kirkland	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Robert Lewis Kress	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Devin James Kuhn	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War
Brian Joseph Laloup	U.S. Marine Corps	Iraq War
Terence Nicholas Le Gare	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Jeffrey Russel Macgregor	U.S. Marine Corps	Iraq War
Norman Thomas Madsen	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Richard Paul Malinowski	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Justin James Mann	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Corey G. Miller	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War, Iraq War
John Allen Miranda	U.S. Marine Corps	Iraq War
Ashawn Ali Moore	U.S. Navy	Iraq War
Paul Daniel Morgan	U.S. Navy	Iraq War
Michael Nathan Morrison	U.S. Navy	Iraq War
Thomas Robert Morrow	U.S. Air Force	Iraq War
Mashkhur Mukhamadiev	U.S. Air Force	Iraq War
Odilio David Munoz	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Kimathi Muthee	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Thomas Joseph Myers	U.S. Air Force	Iraq War
Santiago Orlando Navarrete	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Jared Glen Paynter	U.S. Marine Corps	Afghanistan War, Iraq War
Al Worthy Ray	U.S. Marine Corps	Iraq War
Kevin Reed	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Daniel Barton Robison	U.S. Marine Corps	Iraq War
Thomas Michael Rodgers	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Mark Joseph Szafara	U.S. Air Force	Iraq War
Louis Giraud Torraca	U.S. Army	Iraq War
Pasquale Antonio Troisi	U.S. Navy	Afghanistan War, Iraq War
Allen Walker	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War
Daniel John Warriner	U.S. Army	Afghanistan War, Iraq War
Nicole A. Watkins-Barnett	U.S. Army	Iraq War

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