The LA GROUP

VETERANS CEMETERY EXPERIENCE



THE LA GROUP, Landscape Architecture and Engineering, P.C., is a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) recognized as one of the nation's preeminent veterans cemetery design firms. With a continuous 31-year history working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the firm has developed an extensive knowledge base of VA guidelines and design requirements for national and state veterans cemeteries. The LA Group has worked on 160+ cemetery projects at 80 veteran cemeteries located in 38 states. The firm has designed over one-million pre-placed crypt gravesites and nearly a half-million columbarium niches. In addition, the firm has completed numerous IDIQ/peer review projects for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

FIRM CAPABILITIES

The LA Group has established an in-house studio of professionals who are committed full-time to county, state and national veterans cemetery projects. Each member has many years of experience and extensive knowledge of VA guidelines and standards of the industry. The firm's philosophy is to provide a high level of quality, accommodate client needs, seek input and opinion, and be responsive to deadlines. The LA Group understands that respecting the honor and dignity of our nation's veterans is paramount in developing each cemetery design.

Professional staff includes landscape architects, civil engineers, planners, and environmental scientists. The diversity of in-house staff disciplines allows The LA Group to provide a comprehensive approach to land planning issues, based on an in-depth level of resource analysis.

The LA Group offers expertise in the following services within NAICS codes #541320 Landscape Architecture, #541330 Engineering, and #541620 Environmental Consulting:

- Cemetery Design and Planning
- Site Analysis
- Master Planning
- Landscape Architecture
- Civil Engineering (grading, roadway design, stormwater, and utility design)
- Schematic Design through Construction Administration
- Signage Systems and Wayfinding
- Peer Reviews
- RFP Document Preparation
- Environmental NEPA Compliance (EAs, FONSIs, and wetland delineation)
- VA Standards Expertise
- Facility Conditions Assessments

VA INDEFINITE DELIVERY INDEFINITE CONTRACT (IDIQ) EXPERIENCE

For more than 31 years, The LA Group has acted as both prime A/E and subconsultant on 36 VA IDIQ contracts. The LA Group has been a prime A/E as part of a joint venture on four nationwide CFM A/E IDIQ contracts (1997-2016), two NCA district A/E IDIQs (North Atlantic and Midwest, 2018-2023), and currently four NCA district A/E IDIQs (North Atlantic, Pacific, Continental and Southeast, 2023-present). In addition, The LA Group has been or is currently a subconsultant on eight CFM Nationwide A/E IDIQ Contracts (2023-present), two NCA district A/E IDIQs (Southeast and Continental, 2018-2023), a CFM A/E IDIQ (2017-2022), a CFM Construction Management IDIQ (active), and numerous other VA Healthcare VISN IDIQ contracts. Through these contracts in all geographical regions, The LA Group has gained extensive NCA, VHA and VBA project experience.

Active VA IDIQ Contracts:

- NCA AE IDIQ North Atlantic District (JV Prime)
- NCA AE IDIQ Pacific District (JV Prime)
- NCA AE IDIQ Southeast District (JV Prime)
- NCA AE IDIQ Continental District (JV Prime)
- CFM National Region IDIQ (Subconsultant, 10 teams)
- CFM Construction Management IDIQ (Subconsultant)
- VISN 8 AE MATOC (Subconsultant, 4 teams)
- VISN 19 AE IDIQ (Subconsultant)
- VISN 21 Design AE IDIQ (Subconsultant, 2 teams)
- VISN 21 Master Planning/Study AE IDIQ (Subconsultant, 2 teams)
- VISN 22 Design AE IDIQ (Subconsultant, 6 teams)

FIRM PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS

The LA Group provides Registered Landscape Architects (RLAs) and licensed Professional Engineers (PEs):

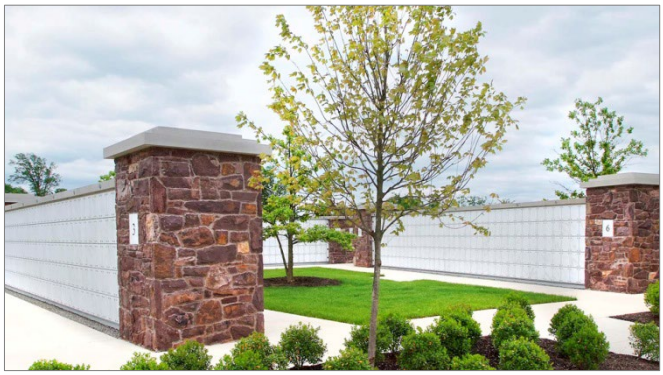
States Registered
AL, AZ, AR, CA, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, KY, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, SC, SD, TN, TX, VT, VA, WV

NATIONAL AND STATE VETERANS CEMETERY EXPERIENCE

The LA Group has extensive veterans cemetery planning, design and construction administration experience. Our firm has received Honor Awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) for its design of the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, Washington Crossing National Cemetery and Alabama National Cemetery. The US Department of Veterans Affairs has used these national cemeteries as examples of excellent national cemetery design.



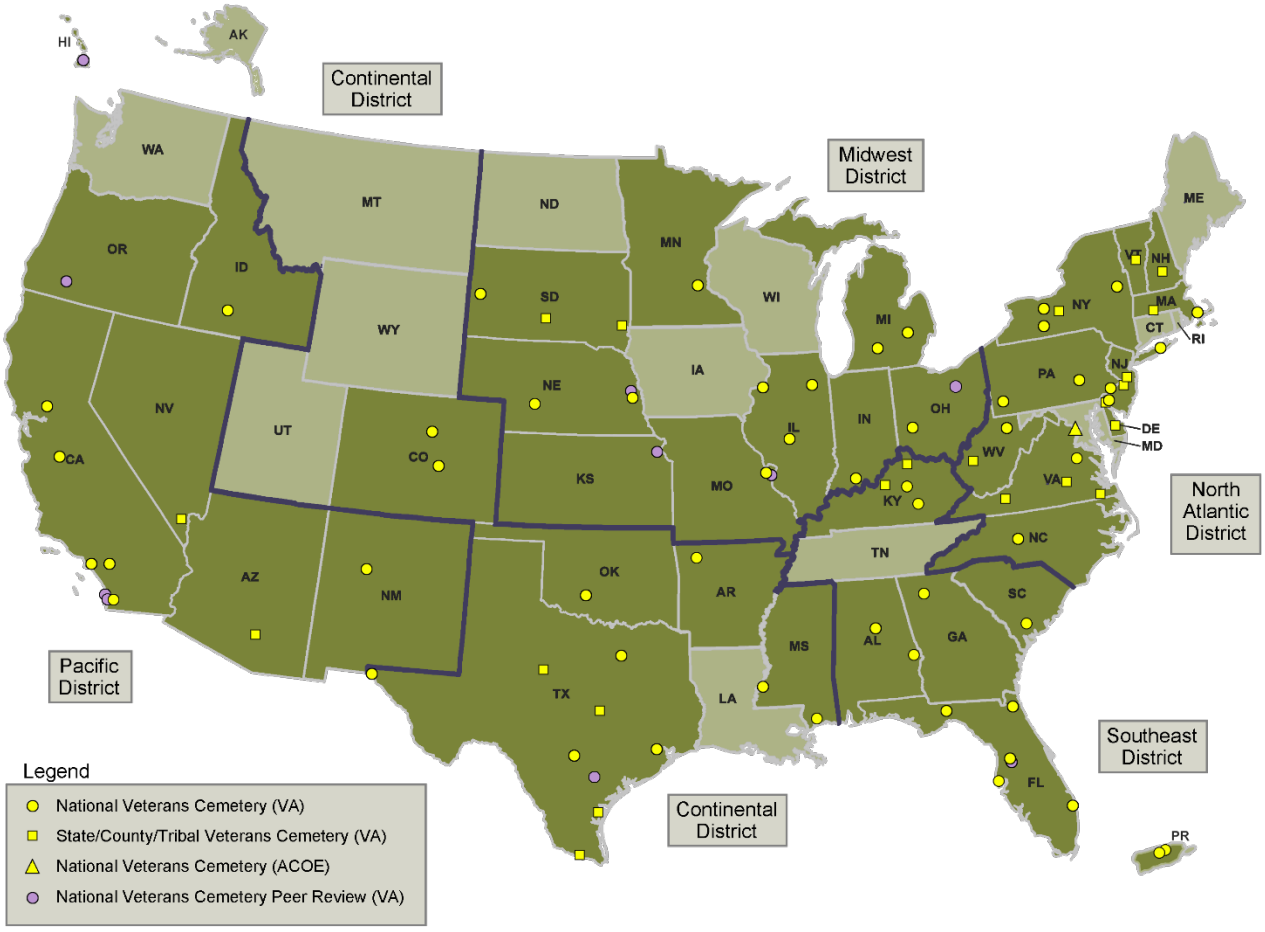
Western New York National Cemetery
Pembroke, NY



Washington Crossing National Cemetery
Newtown, PA

Services for the firm's veterans cemetery projects have included site analysis, programming, master plan services, coordination with the VA, design development, and construction documentation through construction administration. Maintaining a dedicated veterans cemetery design studio has enabled The LA Group to be at the forefront of cemetery design, construction techniques, and operational issues. Various design elements are consistently woven into the day-to-day function and mission of the individual cemetery. New concepts have evolved in many cases as a result of frequent meetings and exchanges between The LA Group and cemetery program officials at the VA.

Of particular importance regarding projects with the Department of Veterans Affairs is the firm's ability to mobilize quickly on short notice and completing this work on or ahead of schedule. The LA Group can respond quickly because the firm's government studio has a ready staff of professionals who have a continuing body of VA work that is of the highest priority.



The LA Group has worked on numerous national cemetery VA IDIQ task orders throughout the country as well as stand-alone state and national veterans cemetery projects in each National Cemetery Administration District. To date, the firm has designed 11 new national cemeteries, 12 new state/tribal veterans cemeteries and more than 118 veterans cemetery expansions.

National Veterans Cemeteries	
Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo, AL	Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly Township (Detroit), MI
Albuquerque National Cemetery, Albuquerque, NM	Houston National Cemetery, TX
Arlington National Cemetery, VA (USACE)	Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA
Bakersfield National Cemetery, Bakersfield, CA	Jacksonville National Cemetery, Jacksonville, FL
Bath National Cemetery, NY	Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO
Bay Pines National Cemetery, Bay Pines, FL	Los Angeles National Cemetery, CA
Beaufort National Cemetery, Beaufort, SC	Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne, MA
Biloxi National Cemetery, Biloxi, MS	Mill Springs National Cemetery, Nancy, KY
Black Hills National Cemetery Design-Build, Sturgis, SD	Miramar National Cemetery, San Diego, CA
Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY	Morovis National Cemetery, Morovis, Puerto Rico
Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield, IL	National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA
Camp Nelson National Cemetery, Nicholasville, KY	Natchez National Cemetery, Natchez, MS
Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery, TX	Omaha National Cemetery, Omaha, NE
Dayton National Cemetery, OH	Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO
Fayetteville National Cemetery, Fayetteville, AR	Quantico National Cemetery, Quantico, VA
Finn's Point National Cemetery, Salem, NJ	Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA
Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL	Rock Island National Cemetery, IL
Fort Bliss National Cemetery, El Paso, TX	Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, CA
Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI	Salisbury National Cemetery, NC
Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO	San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Santa Nella, CA
Fort Mitchell National Cemetery, Fort Mitchelle, AL	Snake River Canyon National Cemetery, Buhl, ID
Fort McPherson National Cemetery, Maxwell, NE	South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth, FL
Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, OK	Tallahassee National Cemetery, Tallahassee, FL
Fort Snelling National Cemetery, St. Paul, MN	Washington Crossing National Cemetery, Newtown, PA
Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA	West Virginia National Cemetery, Grafton, WV
G.B.H.S. Saratoga National Cemetery, Saratoga Springs, NY	Western New York National Cemetery, Pembroke, NY



Great Lakes National Cemetery
Holly Township, MI (Midwest District)



Snake River Canyon National Cemetery
Buhl, ID (Pacific District)



Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery,
Town of Saratoga, NY (North Atlantic District)



Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO
(Continental District)

State/County/Tribal Veterans Cemeteries
Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk, VA
Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Marana, AZ
Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, NJ
Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX
Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery at Corpus Christi, TX
Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Bear, DE
Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Millsboro, DE
Donel Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery, Charleston, WV
Gloucester County Veterans Cemetery, Monroe Township, NJ
Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliffe, KY
Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North, Williamstown, KY
Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Agawam, MA
New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, Boscawen, NH
Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery, Mission, TX
Sampson Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Seneca County, Romulus, NY
Sicangu Akicita Owicahe Rosebud Sioux Tribal Veterans Cemetery, Mellette County, SD
South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery, Sioux Falls, SD
Southern Nevada State Veterans Cemetery, Boulder City, NV
Southwest Virginia State Veterans Cemetery, Dublin, VA
Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene, TX
Vermont Veterans Cemetery, Randolph Center, VT
Virginia Veterans Cemetery at Amelia, VA



Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, NJ



Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery at Corpus Christi, TX

NATIONWIDE DESIGN-BUILD EXPERIENCE

The LA Group has extensive experience using the design-build delivery method. Taking a proactive approach to design-build promotes greater communication between all team members and project stakeholders.



Jacksonville National Cemetery Phase 2, Jacksonville, FL



Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield, IL

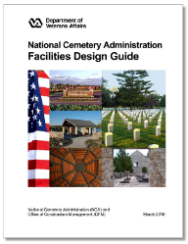
VA PEER REVIEW EXPERIENCE

The LA Group has performed numerous timely and effective quality peer reviews for a variety of clients including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs under the IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity) contracts. In addition to construction document and specifications review, services provided include review of NEPA environmental assessments, cost estimates, and facilities conditions assessments.

National Cemetery Peer Reviews:

- Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery Expansion 95% CD Peer Review, Elwood, IL
- Eagle Point National Cemetery Expansion 95% CD Peer Review, Medford, OR
- Florida National Cemetery Expansion 95% CD Peer Review, Bushnell, FL
- Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery Design/Build RFP Peer Review, San Diego, CA
- Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Expansion RFP Peer Review, San Antonio, TX
- Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery Expansion DD Peer Reviews, St. Louis, MO
- Leavenworth National Cemetery Expansion 95% CD Peer Review, KS
- Miramar National Cemetery Expansion 95% CD Peer Review, San Diego, CA
- National Cemetery of the Pacific 95% CD Peer Review, Honolulu, HI
- Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery Phase II Expansion CD1/Backcheck Peer Review, Rittman, OH
- Ohio Western Reserve Phase IV Expansion CD1 and CD2 Peer Review, Rittman, OH
- Omaha National Cemetery Design Build DD2/CD1/Backcheck Peer Review, Omaha, NE

UPDATE, MODIFY AND CREATE NEW VA STANDARDS



The LA Group led a team of consultants to update the NCA's (National Cemetery Administration) Facility Design Criteria and Master Specifications. This year-long process involved the Office of Construction and Facilities Management and the NCA's staff, as well as MSN regional offices and resident engineer staff. The finished product provides the users of the Technical Information Library clearly coordinated design guidelines and new master specifications tailored to NCA cemetery projects. The update was the first major revision completed since the '90s and reflected current changes to the standards and guidelines in a comprehensive manner.

NATIONAL CEMETERY AWARDS

Honor Award, General Design (2012)
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), PA/DE Chapter
Washington Crossing National Cemetery: A New Paradigm for Our Nation's Sacred Landscapes (with Cairone & Kaupp, Inc.), Newtown, PA

Engineering Excellence Grand Award (2012)
American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), MO Chapter
Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery Phase 1A – Early Turnover (with URS), St. Louis, MO

VA Sustainability Achievement Award (2011)
Massachusetts National Cemetery (MNC): Reclaimed Water Use from the Air Force Engineering and Environmental (AFCEE)/Otis Air National Guard Base (ANGB) Groundwater Filtration System for Cemetery Irrigation Use (with MNC director Paul McFarland). Bourne, MA

Federal Energy and Water Management (FEWM) Award (2011)
Massachusetts National Cemetery (MNC): Reclaimed Water Use from the Air Force Engineering and Environmental (AFCEE)/Otis Air National Guard Base (ANGB) Groundwater Filtration System for Cemetery Irrigation Use (with MNC director Paul McFarland and colleagues Rose Forbes, civil engineer, and Mark Ivory, project manager). Bourne, MA

Honor Award, Analysis & Planning (2010)
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Alabama Chapter
Alabama National Cemetery (with Macnally Ross Land Design), Montevallo, AL

Honor Award (2001)
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), NY Upstate Chapter
Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, Saratoga, NY



ASLA Honor Award
Washington Crossing National Cemetery
Newtown, PA



ASLA Honor Award
Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery
Town of Saratoga, NY

KEY STAFF

The LA Group's staff includes landscape architects, civil engineers, and environmental planners that provide support on multiple task orders. Key staff are noted below:

Joseph G. Sporko, RLA, ASLA
Co-Founder, Strategic Advisor
As the firm's Founder, Joe has over 46 years of experience in all phases of site design and implementation. He has extensive experience and knowledge of the Department of Veterans Affairs guidelines and standards of the industry. Since 1994, Mr. Sporko has guided the firm's projects with the Department of Veterans Affairs, staying actively involved in each phase of the project from conceptual design through construction administration. Mr. Sporko has led large teams of consultants on both individual projects and multi-year IDIQ contracts with the VA and other federal agencies.

Timothy R. Larson, RLA, LEED AP
Principal / Landscape Architect
Tim has 25 years of experience as a landscape architect and project manager with more than 20 years designing national, state, and county veterans cemeteries. He is a LEED Accredited Professional, having the expertise required to assist with the design of project sites to LEED standards.

Douglas B. Heller, PE
Director of Engineer / Principal
Doug has over 17 years of experience as a civil engineer as well as quality control expert for national cemetery projects. As senior project engineer at The LA Group, Doug has served on a broad range of projects and has demonstrated expertise in infrastructure design, stormwater management, land development planning, streambank stabilization, and on-site wastewater treatment and disposal facilities.

Jonathan D. Bonham, RLA
Associate Principal / Landscape Architect
Jon has over 21 years of experience in all phases of site design and landscape architecture with a strong focus on the design of national and state veterans cemeteries. Jon has designed and managed many National Cemetery projects, including all facets of the design process. He has extensive knowledge of the CFM and NCA guidelines and standards and construction methods for national cemeteries.

Lisa Tonneson-McCorkell, RLA, LEED AP, SITES AP
Associate Principal / Landscape Architect
Lisa has 39 years of experience in all phases of site design and master planning. She is a LEED Accredited Professional, and has the expertise required to assist with the design of sites to LEED standards and to coordinate the documentation process that is necessary for LEED certification. Her work on the VA's Sustainable Design Checklist manual has become the standard process for sustainable site efforts on VA design projects.

Jonathan S. Stilan, RLA
Associate Principal / Landscape Architect
Jon has over 20 years of experience as a landscape architect, master planner and project manager. He has extensive experience in cemetery master planning and the production of construction drawings for cemetery specific site elements. He has also served in a construction administrator role for The LA Group during construction of many national and state veteran cemetery projects.

Patrick A. West, RLA, LEED AP BD+C, CLARB, ASLA
Project Coordinator / Senior Landscape Architect
Pat has 40 years of experience as a landscape architect and has managed and designed both major and minor veterans cemetery projects for the past 15+ years. He has provided landscape architectural design from master plan through construction documents and construction phase services on nine national cemetery projects. Pat has also managed and designed large-scale public and private development projects.

Allison J. Moran, RLA
Landscape Architect
Allison has 22 years of experience in landscape architecture, with a particular emphasis on cemetery design. She applies a sustainable and creative approach to each project, fully unlocking a site's potential. Her design philosophy is deeply influenced by her research on cemeteries across Europe, VA cemetery design, and extensive hands-on experience in the private cemetery sector. Allison has led the design and implementation of numerous public and private projects nationwide, working closely with municipalities and other key stakeholders to ensure project success.

Kevin J. Franke, Environmental Specialist
Director of Environmental Services / Senior Associate
Kevin has over 37 years of experience conducting environmental analysis and studies nationwide. He brings a broad range of knowledge in all facets of municipal, County, State, and Federal environmental permitting. Kevin has experience with NEPA documentation and federal permitting for federal projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs and National Park Service. He has extensive knowledge of the CFM and NCA guidelines and standards as well as permitting requirements for national cemeteries.