



Dr. Criss Helmkamp
Cultural Resources, 502-624-6581

FORT KNOX POST CEMETERY

The Fort Knox Post Cemetery is among the most significant historic resources located on Fort Knox. It is located along 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion Road near the Custer Housing Area. Founded in 1920, shortly after the establishment of Camp Henry Knox in 1918, the cemetery has evolved over time while still preserving its most significant historic features. The Post Cemetery is one of 117 cemeteries located on Fort Knox and is the only official military cemetery on Post. The other 116 cemeteries are “historic” cemeteries” located on land acquired by the government during the World War I and World War II eras.

Those who visit the Post Cemetery will experience a solemn and serene setting that honors our Nation’s veterans and their dependents. The cemetery consists of 1.87 acres and features a quarter of a mile of stone walls surrounding and within the cemetery grounds. Within these walls are the graves of nearly 1000 veterans and their family members. The cemetery also includes a small section containing the graves of 18 German and Italian Prisoners of War who died at Fort Knox and surrounding POW camps during World War II. Another small section of the cemetery contains the Reuben Jones and Pearson family cemeteries which were relocated to Post Cemetery in order to make way for construction of new family housing areas in the 1950s. These burials are easily identified by older and diverse styles of 19th and early 20th century civilian grave markers. All of the other headstones in the cemetery are the standard government-issued “General” type found in military cemeteries throughout the Nation.

In recent years concerted efforts by the Fort Knox Garrison, and in particular the Directorate of Public Works and the Directorate of Human Resources, have resulted in numerous improvements to Post Cemetery. The turf in the cemetery, which was comprised of varying grasses and weeds, was completely removed and re-sodded. The cemetery’s first flag pole was installed and repairs to the exterior stone walls and Caretakers House began. These efforts brought a great distinction to Fort Knox. In 2015 the Fort Knox Post Cemetery became the first Army post cemetery determined to meet the “National Shrine Standards” as designated by the Office of Army Cemeteries.

The following year, 2016, brought additional recognition to the Post Cemetery. That year the Fort Knox Post Cemetery was officially determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The NRHP eligibility recommendation noted the cemetery’s association with significant events related to the nation’s military history and its long association with Fort Knox; its association with the lives of persons significant in our past, including a Medal of Honor recipient, a Fort Knox commanding general, and war casualties; and for its distinctive characteristic as a military cemetery with government furnished headstones arranged in uniformed and linear rows and featuring 1930s constructed concrete reinforced laid stone walls and a stone Caretakers House.

The Fort Knox Post Cemetery is open for visitation throughout the year. Friends and relatives from across the Nation visit to pay their respects to their loved ones. We encourage you to make a visit to the Fort Knox Post Cemetery to pay your respects to our veterans and experience an outstanding tribute to the history of Fort Knox, the U.S. Army, and our Nation.