Fort Sheridan Cemetery is located at the northern end of historic Fort Sheridan between the cities of Highwood and Lake Forest. In 1983, a portion of Fort Sheridan was declared a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service.

For more information on Fort Sheridan Cemetery burials, please contact the VA’s local cemetery office at 224-610-7296.

Memorial Day Services
The American Legion McKinlock Post #264 of Lake Forest conducts a memorial service each Memorial Day at Fort Sheridan Cemetery and places American flags on veterans’ graves. The public is invited.
A monument to Chaplain Edward J. Vatman stands at the cemetery entrance. Major Vatman is buried under the monument.

Cemetery Maintenance

Federal legislation introduced by U.S. Representative John Porter and signed by President Clinton in 1995 transferred 259 acres of the northern end of the former Fort to the Lake County Forest Preserves for open space, recreation and nature preservation, and reads: “the Lake County Forest Preserves shall provide maintenance and care to the remaining Fort Sheridan Cemetery.”

In fulfillment of the agreement, the Lake County Forest Preserves provides basic care and maintenance to the cemetery, including snow removal.

For more information regarding cemetery maintenance, please contact Superintendent of Maintenance Operations, Greg Townsend, at 847-968-3412, or by email gtownsend@LCFPD.org.

Fort Sheridan Cemetery is open daily, 8 am to 5 pm. On Memorial Day, it is open 8 am to 7 pm.

Fort Sheridan Cemetery Facts

• Fort Sheridan Cemetery was established in 1889, two years after the Fort was created in 1887.

• Three soldiers who served in the 7th Cavalry with General George A. Custer at the time of the Battle of the Little Bighorn (1876) are buried at the cemetery—1st Sgt. August B. Siefert, 1st Sgt. John Hackett and Private Philip Spinner. It is not known if Siefert and Spinner were actually at the Battle, but it appears Hackett was part of the support personnel and personally helped in the burial of Custer.

• A monument to Chaplain Edward J. Vatman stands at the cemetery entrance. Vatman, an Army major and close personal friend of President Theodore Roosevelt, ran a home for war widows and children of soldiers of World War I. He designed, built and paid for the monument prior to his death in 1919, and he is buried underneath it.

• Nine German Prisoners of War, most captured during the campaign in North Africa during World War II, are interred at the cemetery.

• Cyril H. Evans, a Private with the British Royal Army Ordnance Corps who was liberated from a Japanese prison and died at Camp Grant in Rockford, IL, was buried at Fort Sheridan October 26, 1945.