

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S  
**MOUNT ★ VERNON**

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OFFICE OF EVENTS, VOLUNTEERS & PROTOCOL

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## Military Ceremony Policy

*"...my first wish would be that my Military family, and the whole Army, should consider themselves as a band of brothers..."*

George Washington, October 21, 1798

*As the home and final resting place of General Washington, Mount Vernon is often sought after as the preferred site for special military ceremonies, including re-enlistments, promotions, and retirements. While Mount Vernon's mission is to preserve Washington's iconic home and share his unparalleled legacy with the world, we will, whenever possible, allow men and women of the United States Armed Forces the special opportunity to hold brief military ceremonies on the estate. To provide a positive experience for all of Mount Vernon's guests, we ask groups to observe and adhere to the following guidelines:*

- I. Military ceremonies should be reserved in advance through the Office of Events & Protocol by emailing [events@mountvernon.org](mailto:events@mountvernon.org). When making reservations, please provide your name, contact information, preferred date, group size, and type of ceremony.
- II. Availability is limited and subject to change. Ceremonies are scheduled on a first come, first served basis.
- III. Groups will be escorted at all times by Mount Vernon staff. A designated staff member will greet the group near Mount Vernon's main gate and escort the group onto the property once everyone has arrived. Free parking is available.
- IV. Ceremonies must take place in an area designated by Mount Vernon staff and must be appropriate for the historic and hallowed nature of Mount Vernon.
- V. Mount Vernon reserves the right to end or cancel a ceremony at any time.
- VI. Food and beverage are not permitted in the ceremony spaces. Please contact the Mount Vernon Inn at 703-780-0011 for information on receptions prior to or following ceremonies.

### **Ceremonies Held in Mount Vernon's Outdoor Historic Area:**

- VII. Military ceremonies may take place outdoors on the Bowling Green following Mount Vernon's public open hours and should not exceed 45 minutes in length or 35 guests.
- VIII. In the event of inclement weather, Mount Vernon will make all reasonable efforts to move the ceremony to an indoor location designated by Mount Vernon staff or will reschedule the ceremony.
- IX. A donation is requested to cover facilitation costs. General admission to the estate is not included.
  - a. \$50 for outdoor ceremonies with up to 25 guests, due at time of ceremony.
  - b. \$100 for outdoor ceremonies with up to 35 guests, due at time of ceremony.
- X. Mount Vernon cannot provide electrical services, seating, transportation, or any other logistical support. Storage is not available.
- XI. The following items are not permitted nor provided by Mount Vernon: Sound equipment, instruments, banners, decorations, chairs, and other props and furniture.

**\*You may provide: one instrument or singer to perform the National Anthem and one U.S. Flag\***