

**Town of Waterford**  
**Gravesite Decoration at Town Cemeteries**

**American Flags Honoring Veterans**

To properly honor the United States Flag in accordance with the US Flag Code, 4 USC 1-10, the American flag should not be used as graveside decoration year-round. Flags placed in a cemetery can easily become dirty and tattered by inclement weather. Therefore, the Town of Waterford will observe the following rules at Town Cemeteries:

- American flags may be placed on veterans graves up to 5 days prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and be removed not later than 7 days after the holiday. Proper placement is at the center of the grave, approximately 1 foot from the headstone.
- Flags not collected in a timely manner may be removed by the Sexton and placed in storage if still in good condition, or properly destroyed if in bad condition.

**Other Gravesite Decoration**

The items below are allowed decorations. Please remove them as advised; it will not be the responsibility of the Sexton or landscaper to remove them.

- Cut flowers, they should be removed when wilted.
- Plastic flowers, they should be removed when faded or no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Vases may be placed to the side of the headstone; glass vases are not allowed.
- Other mementos not described below may be placed near a headstone but must not interfere with trimming.

**Gravesite Decoration Not Allowed**

The following prohibitions are items with the potential to cause safety issues. They can get in the way of trimming and mowing equipment, potentially causing injury to landscaping personnel. The alternative is for Town or contractor staff to remove the decorations beforehand, a time-consuming activity that neither are obligated to do. Please do not place the following items at the gravesite:

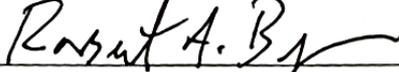
- Fencing or any borders around the grave;
- Glass ornaments, candles, vases or jars;
- Stuffed animals;
- Large flags or banners;
- Light up decorations.

**Resolution to Adopt**

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022, this policy is hereby adopted by the Town of Waterford Selectboard.

  
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Gary Allard, Chair

  
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Mike Barrett, Vice Chair

  
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Rob Begin

  
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Marcia Martel

  
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Susan Hayes