



National Cemetery Administration
Beaufort National Cemetery
1601 Boundary Street
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902
(843) 524-3925

Louis N. Brown, II
Cemetery Representative
Beaufort National Cemetery
1601 Boundary Street
Beaufort, SC 29902
Office: 843-524-3925 Option 2
Fax: 843-524-8538 Fax
Louis.BrownII@va.gov

Dear Family Member and Friend:

Please accept my deepest condolences on the recent loss of your loved one. It is our intention to provide the best possible service to our nation's Veterans who, like your loved one, willingly served in our armed forces to defend and preserve our freedom. We strive to maintain the highest standards for interments in the National Cemetery Administration and at Beaufort National Cemetery. If at any time you believe those standards have been compromised, please contact me so we can discuss this and take corrective action if necessary.

An additional inscription can be added to your loved one's headstone at no charge to your family. This additional inscription can be a maximum of two lines with 15 characters each line (including spaces). Please submit your request for this inscription within 3 days after your loved one's interment. For your convenience, you may email your inscription to Beaufort.NationalCemetery@va.gov or fax your inscription to (843) 524-8538. If you have any questions concerning this process please call our office at (843) 524-3925. Please allow 45-60 days for the installation of your loved one's headstone.

Enclosed you will find a cemetery map. The graves in section 45, 50, 61 (and all future sections in our expansion area) are located in front of the headstones. Any questions regarding the position of your loved one feel free to contact the staff.

An American flag draped the casket or accompanied the urn of your loved one. You may donate this flag to be displayed in our Cemetery's Avenue of Flags, which will be flown on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Let us know if this is something you would consider.

Also, you and your family are entitled to receive a Presidential Memorial Certificate. The embossed certificate is signed by our current President expressing his appreciation for your loved one's military service. You should receive this certificate in the mail automatically along with a form and instructions on how to order up to 19 additional certificates.

Mr. Louis N. Brown, II (Cemetery Representative), **Mr. Nicholas Trout** (Cemetery Technician) and **Ms. Patricia G. Simmons** (Program Assistant) are your contacts. They can be reached via email at Beaufort.NationalCemetery@va.gov or by calling (843) 524-3925, Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

It was our honor to assist you in your time of need and it would be our privilege to help you in the future. Please let us know how we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Parks
Director

Attachments

1. Cemetery
2. Floral Regulations
3. Cemetery Protocol



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A brick wall surrounds the cemetery that is laid out in the shape of a half wheel; the cemetery's oyster shell roads form "spokes", and the large iron gates are set at the "hub". The cemetery grounds are serenely landscaped with numerous shrubs and large trees, predominately magnolias, live oak, and palmetto (the State Tree).

Beaufort was one of the first U.S. National Cemeteries designated by President Abraham Lincoln, who personally authorized its establishment, in a letter dated February 10, 1863.

The Commanding General of federal occupation troops bought the twenty-nine acre tract known as Polly's Grove for \$75 at a tax sale on March 11, 1863. It became the final resting place for soldiers who gave their lives during the War Between the States.

The cemetery contains a cross-section of veterans of every conflict between the Civil War and Afghanistan. Remains of Union troops were removed from several places in Eastern Florida, Savannah, Charleston, Morris Island, Hilton Head Island, and islands near Beaufort. About 2,800 remains were removed from Millen, Georgia and reinterred in the National Cemetery.

There are more than 7,500 Civil War soldiers interred here, including 4,019 unknown Union soldiers and 117 known Confederates. Many of the troops fell on battlefields in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina. In addition, there are presently more than 6,500 veterans of the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf, as well as peacetime veterans who have joined their comrades in final rest here.

Ralph H. Johnson is interred in Section 3, Grave 21. PFC Johnson was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for service as a marine reconnaissance scout on March 5, 1968, near Quan Duc Valley, Republic of Vietnam. His courage and selfless devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

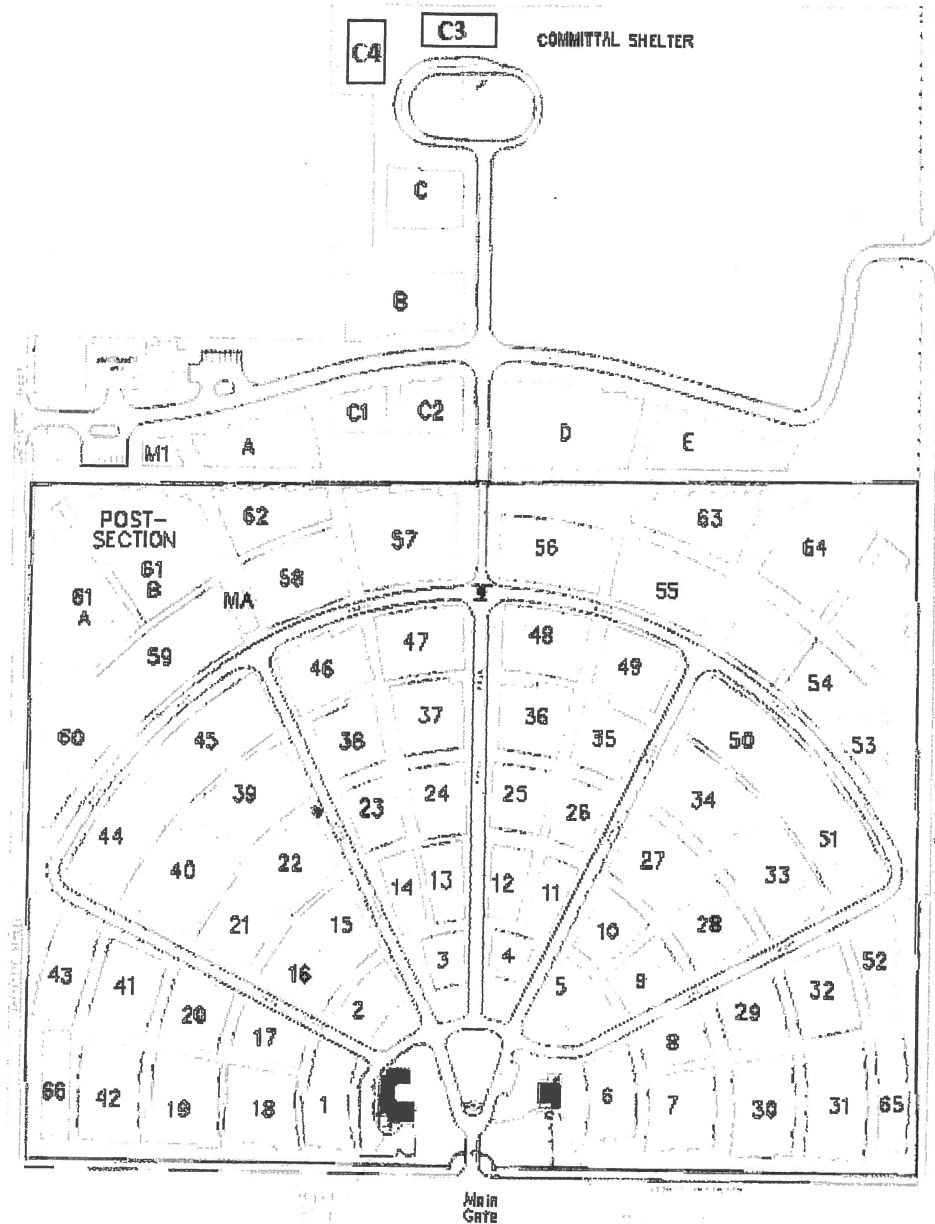
A German World War II Prisoner of War is interred here. He was a crew-member of the German submarine U-Rathke which was sunk May 9, 1942 off of Cape Lookout, North Carolina by the Coast Guard Cutter, Icarus. He died while en route to Charleston, South Carolina.

A Memorial Section has been established between Sections 58 and 59 for those veterans whose remains are unrecoverable (Missing in Action, Missing in Service), buried at sea, or whose remains were scattered.

On May 29, 1989, 19 Union soldiers of the all black Massachusetts 55th Infantry were reinterred with full military honors. Their remains were found on Folly Island, South Carolina in 1987. Their grave is marked with a bronze plaque near section 56.

This cemetery is under administrative control of the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration. Visitors are welcomed at the Beaufort National Cemetery daily. Memorial Day services are observed annually in May.

Beaufort Nations Cemetery
1601 Boundary Street, Beaufort South Carolina 29902
(843) 524-3925; Fax (843) 524-8538



Civil War Dead by States

<u>States:</u>	<u>Section:</u>
Confederate	53
Navy & Marine	3 & 4
OH & IN	5
Navy	6
IL	7
IN	8
OH	9 & 10
NY	11,12,25,27,28,33,35
MA	13,14,15,16
NH	17 & 18
RI & ME	19 & 20
All Black 55 th MA Inf	56
All Black 54 th MA Inf	16 (Graves: 1244,1246,1248,1250
Depicted in the 1989	1252,1255,1257,1260,1265,1266
Movie, "Glory"	1304,1308,1311

Spanish American War

<u>States:</u>	<u>Section :</u>
VT,KY,WV,TN	23
PA	23,37,38
CT	36
MI,MO,MN,IA	41
ME,WI	42

Other Interest

Gerd Reussel, German POW	
Section: PB61	Grave: 18
Ralph H. Johnson - Medal of Honor	
Section: 3	Grave: 21
Donald Conroy - "The Great Santini"	
Section: 62	Grave: 182

FLORAL/GROUNDS POLICY

Our cemetery floral regulations exist only to reflect the honor and respect we hold for our Nation's Veterans, by preserving the dignity and solemnity of their final resting place.

We welcome and encourage fresh-cut flowers throughout the year and provide flower containers for gravesite display. Items left at the grave must be floral in nature and may not stand taller than the headstone. Other items, to include hazardous materials, glass, metal, toys, candles, balloons and flags are not permitted. Unauthorized items will be removed. Flowers will be removed when they become unsightly, for mowing and maintenance, or if damaged by weather or wildlife. Due to the open nature of the grounds, we cannot guarantee against theft, vandalism or the effects of nature.

All flowers will be removed every Tuesday in sections A, B, C, C1, C2, C3, D, M1 and Wednesday for all other sections for turf maintenance.

During the Holiday season, (Thanksgiving through January 10) potted plants, artificial flowers, wreaths (less than 18 inches in diameter) and grave blankets (less than 2 X 3 feet) are permitted. During Easter and Memorial Day articles may be placed on gravesites up to one week before the holiday. The cemetery staff will remove items 10 days after the holiday.

Permanent plantings, statues, balloons, vigil lights, breakable objects and similar items are not permitted on the graves. The Department of Veterans Affairs does not permit adornments which are considered offensive, inconsistent with the dignity of the cemetery or considered hazardous to cemetery personnel. For example, items incorporating beads or wires may become entangled in mowers or other equipment and cause injury.

Unauthorized items which have been removed from gravesites will be kept in a holding area for two weeks. Please check with cemetery office for location of holding area.

The cemetery is not responsible for the loss or deterioration of potted plants, vases or flowers. Permanent floral vases are not permitted.

In order to preserve the dignity and honor of our Veterans' final resting place, please observe the following rules of behavior while visiting the cemetery grounds:

- Altering a headstone in any manner is prohibited. (i.e., marking, sitting on, placing objects upon, attaching photographs or keepsakes to, etc.)
- Pets are not allowed on the cemetery grounds at any time.
- No soliciting.
- Sports or recreational activities of any kind are prohibited.
- No picnicking.
- Public gatherings of a partisan nature are prohibited, no unauthorized gatherings are permitted. Committal shelters are for services only, no loitering.
- Littering is not allowed, please use one of the many receptacles provided.
- Smoking is not allowed on the grounds, in any building or the committal shelter. Please smoke only at the designated receptacles.
- No cutting, digging or otherwise damaging the landscape.
- Boisterous activity, including the playing of loud music, is prohibited.
- These rules are covered by the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (38--1.218) and are subject to fines.

We thank you in advance for providing the respect our Veterans are due, by observing the above listed rules. Our Nation's Heroes, some of whom gave their lives for this country, deserve no less than an honorable and pristine landscape to make their final rest.

National Cemetery Protocol

We welcome you to these hallowed grounds. So we can preserve the dignity, beauty and serenity of this national cemetery, we ask you to observe the following cemetery restrictions:

The following activities are prohibited on cemetery grounds:

1. Any form of sports or recreation to include, but not limited to, jogging, bicycling, skating and picnicking.
2. Public gathering of a partisan nature.
3. Littering of grounds.
4. Cutting, breaking or injuring trees, shrubs, grass or other plantings.
5. Boisterous actions.
6. Bringing pets into the cemetery property for recreational purposes. The only exception is a seeing-eye dog.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Cemetery Director
Beaufort National Cemetery

VETERAN MEMORIAL MARKER INSCRIPTION PROOF

1. If Religious Emblem is desired, see the attached page for the 2-Digit code to enter here. MI or full middle name can be used.

2. Select one:

- Inscribe middle initial only
- Inscribe the following middle name: _____

3. Optional inscription

IN MEMORY OF
















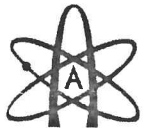








































GARY E
SEMLER
MMCM SS
US NAVY
DEC 12 1941
MAY 19 2012
BURIED AT SEA
MAY 29 2014

Note: Items preceded by an asterisk (*) are mandatory. You may **draw a line through any section that does not begin with an asterisk (*)**. DOB may be omitted with written request. Please have the next of kin verify the headstone information and add Optional Inscription in the space provided.

Next of Kin Signature: _____ Date _____

Please fax or email this form back to us at 843-524-8538, or Beaufort.NationalCemetery@va.gov within 3 days of the service. If you have any questions you may call us at 843-524-3925. If no changes have been made to the inscription on this form, the headstone will be ordered with the information shown.

Available Emblems of Belief for Placement on Government Headstones and Markers

						
01 - Christian Cross	02 - Buddhist (Wheel of Righteousness)	03 - Judaism	04 - Presbyterian Cross	05 - Russian Orthodox Cross	06 - Lutheran Cross	07 - Episcopal Cross
						
08 - Unitarian Church / Unitarian Universalist Association	09 - United Methodist Church	10 - Aaronic Order Church	11 - Mormon (Angel Mormon)	12 - Native American Church of N. America	13 - Serbian Orthodox	14 - Greek Cross
						
15 - Bahai (9-Pointed Star)	16 - Atheist	17 - Muslim (Crescent & Star)	18 - Hindu	19 - Konko-Kyo Faith	20 - Community of Christ	21 - Sufism Reoriented
						
22 - Tenrikyo Church	23 - Seicho-No-Ie	24 - Church of World Messiahity (Izunome)	25 - United Church of Religious Science	26 - Christian Reformed Church	27 - United Moravian Church	28 - Eckankar
						
29 - Christian Church	30 - Christian & Missionary Alliance	31 - United Church of Christ	32 - Humanist (American Humanist Association)	33 - Presbyterian Church (USA)	34 - Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii	35 - Soka Gakkai International - USA
						
36 - Sikh (Khanda)	37 - Wicca (Pentacle)	38 - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod	39 - New Apostolic Church	40 - Seventh Day Adventist	41 - Celtic Cross	42 - Armenian Cross
						
43 - Farohar	44 - Messianic Jewish	45 - Kohen Hands	46 - Catholic Celtic Cross	47 - First Church of Christ, Scientist (Cross & Crown)	48 - Medicine Wheel	49 - Infinity
						
51 - Luther Rose	52 - Landing Eagle	53 - Four Directions	54 - Church of Nazarene	55 - Hammer of Thor	56 - Unification Church	57 - Sandhill Crane

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and for his orphan."

Abraham Lincoln
 Second Inaugural Address
 March 4, 1865



Star Wars Information:

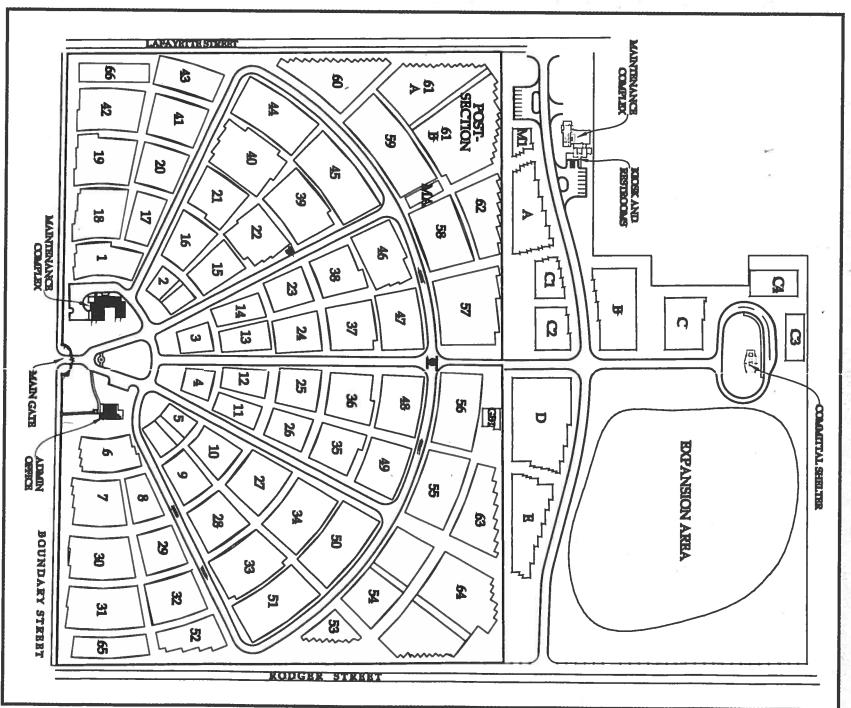
Beaufort National Cemetery
 1601 Boundary Street
 Beaufort, SC 29902

Cemetery Administration Office:

Phone: (843) 524-3925
 Fax: (843) 524-8538
 Burial Arrangements:
 Phone: (800) 535-1117
 Fax: (866) 900-6417

NCA website: <http://www.cem.va.gov/>

Beaufort National Cemetery

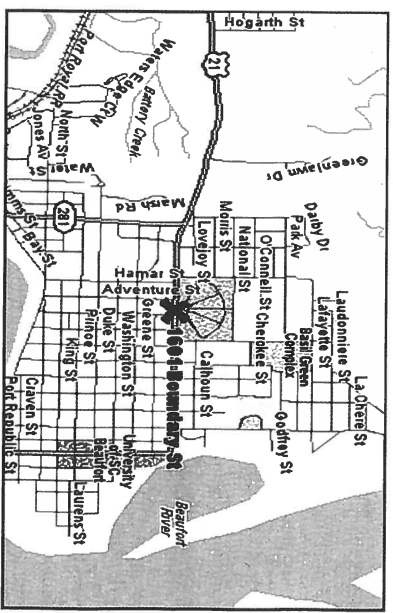


Directions:

The cemetery is located within the Beaufort city limits, 42 miles north of the Savannah Georgia Airport.

From Savannah, take U.S. Highway 17 north to South Carolina State Highway 170. Then take Highway 170 north to U.S. Highway 21 south.

The cemetery is approximately one mile on the left on U.S. Highway 21 south, which is also Boundary Street.



Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter:  www.facebook.com

Making Burial Arrangements

The funeral home or next-of-kin should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to make burial arrangements for Veterans and/or their eligible dependents.

The funeral home should fax all available military discharge documents to the scheduling office at (866) 900-6417 and follow up with a call to (800) 535-1117. If military discharge documents are not available, scheduling office representatives will assist the funeral home or next-of-kin with the verification process. This process may require 48 hours or more to determine eligibility for burial in a national cemetery.

The scheduling office will be open seven (7) days a week, from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Central time, except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Please contact the cemetery directly to:

- Schedule active duty interments
- Schedule memorial services without interment
- Cancel or reschedule interments
- Change information initially provided to the scheduling office
- Request disinterment or relocation of remains

Burial benefits provided by the National Cemetery Administration, at no cost to the Veteran, include: burial plot; opening

Gravesites are assigned by the cemetery and cannot be selected in advance. Assignments are made without regard to rank, ethnic or religious background, branch of service or other factors.

The Veteran and spouse are interred in the same grave. If both were Veterans, they may choose to be buried side-by-side in separate graves.

Military honors are provided by the Department of Defense and are to be arranged by the funeral director. If there is no funeral director, cemetery staff will assist the family in arranging for military honors.

Burials and interments are scheduled between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except designated holidays. Out of respect for all persons buried at the cemetery the main flag is lowered to half-staff 30 minutes before the first service, where it remains until 30 minutes following the last service of the day.

Beaufort National Cemetery has the following burial site options:

- Casket: in-ground only
- Cremation: in-ground
- Cremation: above-ground columbarium (under construction)

The administration office is open Monday

Floral Policy

We welcome and encourage fresh-cut flowers throughout the year and provide flower containers for gravesite display. Cemetery visitors are free to use the containers located in receptacles placed the first road intersection after entering the cemetery. Once the blooms are spent or damaged by weather, they are removed, also may be removed for routine mowing other maintenance.

Artificial flowers are only allowed after the end of mowing operations in the fall October 10th and must be removed when mowing operations resume in the spring April 15th.

On Easter and Memorial Day, potted plants and artificial flowers may be placed on gravesites 10 days before through 10 days after the holiday. During the holiday seasons wreaths or gravesite blankets 18 inches in diameter and not higher than the marble headstone may be placed on gravesites and will be removed January 20th.

To maintain the dignity of the cemetery commemorative items, balloons, pinwheel glass items, votive lights, statues, shepherd hooks and permanent plantings, among other items, are not allowed.

No item or object may be attached to

Visiting the Cemetery

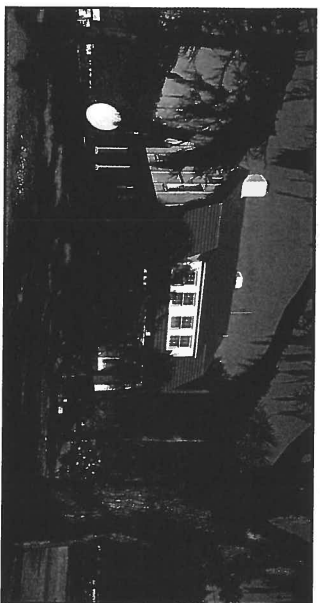
Thousands of people visit Beaufort National Cemetery each year. Many come for a committal service or to visit the gravesite of a loved one, others to attend special observances or to enjoy the peaceful setting. We welcome all visitors to this shrine for our nation's heroes.

The cemetery is open to the public daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. for visitation of cemetery grounds. Specific gravesites can be found using a gravesite locator near the cemetery entrance. A Nationwide Gravesite Locator for national cemeteries is also available on the internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

General cemetery information is available in the office building. The building is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Visitors to specific gravesites may park along the curb near the gravesite they are visiting. Restrooms and a water fountain are located at the opposite end of the administration building to opposite end of the maintenance building.

Visitors attending committal services should follow the directions given by the cemetery employee stationed at the entrance road to the cemetery. Roadway parking is available throughout the cemetery and near the committal shelter during services. Special observances and ceremonies are held at the main flagpole near the entrance of the cemetery.

VA regulations 38 CFR 1.2118 prohibit the carrying of firearms (either openly or concealed), explosives or other dangerous or



deadly weapons while on VA property, except for official purposes, such as military funeral honors. Possession of firearms on any property under the charge and control of VA is prohibited. Offenders may be subject to a fine, removal from the premises, or arrest.

A Memorial Day ceremony is held annually on Memorial Day in May. For the time and date of the ceremony, call the cemetery office at (843) 524-3925.

While we invite visitors to Beaufort National Cemetery, we remind them of its solemn purpose and ask that they act in a dignified manner while on the cemetery grounds. For this reason, public gatherings of a partisan nature are not permitted. In addition, sports or recreational activities are not permitted, including:

- Bicycle riding
- Jogging
- Picnicking
- Roller blading
- Walking of pets
- Fishing or hunting

**BEAUFORT
NATIONAL
CEMETERY**

