

Newly Established Memorial Honor Guard at Suffolk's Horton Memorial Cemetery Seeks Volunteers



The MHGC rifle squad works on perfecting the gun salute for a military honors funeral service.

The Memorial Honor Guard Corps (MHGC) at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk was created to ensure that each veteran laid to rest there received the full military honors he or she deserves.

Mike Ihrig, CEO of MI Technical Solutions, Vice President of the Horton Wreath Society and 28-year Navy veteran was presented the idea of creating an on-site honor guard during a meeting and decided to head this project. His company created MITS-GIVES, Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit, to spearhead this effort with the mission to honor and recognize veterans, their families, and the community through volunteering and raising funds for local and national charities.

“We could not be more excited to have a group of volunteers who want to help us honor and remember our veterans during the last benefit they’ve earned,” said Angela Bufano, Cemetery Superintendent. “The new honor guard will be such a welcome addition to our cemetery.”

According to Ihrig, volunteers are needed to complete the MHGC. Each volunteer will serve on a rotational basis and can telework for their full-time jobs on-site at the Horton Cemetery in the new MHGC building. Volunteers must also pass a background check and be able to carry a 20-pound M1 rifle. Uniforms and equipment will be provided.



Part of the Memorial Honor Guard Corps practices the proper method of folding the American flag.

MHGC currently holds practice sessions once each month on Saturdays at the cemetery. If you live in the Hampton Roads area and are interested in volunteering, these sessions are a great opportunity to show up, ask questions, and see what is involved. Military affiliation is ***not required*** to participate. All volunteers will be trained by the core squad led by the Commander, Tony Claiborne and the Vice Commander, Michael Hunter. Commander Claiborne is a 20-year Army veteran who served as Platoon Sergeant of military funerals at Arlington National Cemetery. Vice Commander Hunter is a retired Master Chief with 30-years of service in the U.S. Navy.

The Memorial Honor Guard Corps is also looking for corporate sponsorships for a team of 8 volunteers who can dedicate one day a month to providing services. More details may be found [here](#).

The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery is one of three state veterans cemeteries operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS). It is located at 5310 Milners Road, Suffolk, VA 23434.