



M. Kevin Knowles
Cemetery Director
East Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries
Knoxville TN
2016 –present

Kevin directs the daily operations of 2 state veteran's cemeteries with 18 full and part time staff members. Kevin oversees daily burial schedules and eligibility of US military service personnel for burial working in conjunction with the US Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

Kevin's office handles over 1100 pre-registration applications and over 800 interments per year. Kevin has been a resident of TN from 1994 to 2008, 2012 to current. Kevin has a passion for cemetery/funeral service to veterans, having a brother with service in Vietnam and a Grandfather MIA in WWII. Kevin currently has over 4 decades of operational and management experience in cemetery, funeral service and is a previous funeral homeowner.

East Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries, including John Sevier and Lyons View, were honored with the "Operational Excellence Award" by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) in recognition of their outstanding performance during the March 2023 compliance review. It's worth noting that the Operational Excellence Award is a prestigious accolade bestowed upon only a select few of the 122 state and tribal cemeteries annually.