



Department of Veterans' Services

Burial Benefits

VA Burial Benefits Program



- The VA burial benefits program is intended to “assist” the survivors of deceased eligible Veterans in meeting the funeral and burial costs associated with the Veteran's death.
- In addition, certain family members may be entitled to some burial related benefits.

Burial Related Benefits



- A plot and/or interment allowance.
- A burial allowance for service-connected deaths, or non-service-connected deaths.
- VA does not pay for deaths in service (DOD).
- Free headstone, marker, or medallion.
- Possible payment for conveying remains.
- Burial in a National Cemetery.
- Presidential Memorial Certificates.

Burial Allowance Service-Connected Death



- Up to \$2000 for a death on/after 9-11-01.
- Up to \$1500 for a death prior to 9-11-01.
- If the Veteran is buried in a VA National Cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.
- No time limit for application.

Burial Allowance Eligibility Services-Connected Death

- Service-connected disabilities must have been the direct or contributory cause of death as determined by the rating activity(VARO).
- For compensation established under 38 USC 1151 (VA Malpractice) –the service-connected burial allowance will not be paid. Eligibility for the NSC amount remains, and may be paid.



Burial Allowance Non-Services-Connected Death



If death occurred on or after October 1, 2019:

- VA will pay up to \$796.00 toward burial and funeral expenses if the Veteran was hospitalized by VA at time of death.
- Or \$300.00 toward burial and funeral expenses if the Veteran was not hospitalized by VA at time of death.
- And \$796.00 plot-interment allowance if the Veteran is not buried in a National Cemetery.

Burial Allowance Non-Services- Connected Death

**If death occurred on or after December 1,
2001, but before October 1, 2011:**

- VA will pay up to \$300.00 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300.00 plot-interment allowance.



Burial Allowance Non-Service-Connected Death

If death occurred on or after April 1, 1988, but before October 1, 2011:

- VA will pay up to \$300.00 toward burial and funeral expenses (for Veterans hospitalized by VA at the time of death).



Burial Allowance Non-Service-Connected Death

- For deaths on or after July 7, 2014 VA will pay non-service connected death burial allowance automatically to eligible claimants. This will occur with month of death compensation or pension benefit based on evidence already in the record, no 21-530 needed.

At the time of death, the veteran was:

- In receipt of VA pension or compensation
- Receiving military retired pay in lieu of compensation.



Burial Allowance Eligibility Non-Service-Connected Death



At the time of death, the veteran was:

- In receipt of VA pension or compensation.
- Receiving military retired pay in lieu of compensation.



Burial Allowance Non-Service-Connected Death

- Died while traveling to or from a VA examination or for VA treatment or care.
 - Authorized travel
 - At VA expense
- Died on or after October 9, 1996 while a patient in a VA-approved state nursing home

Burial Allowance Non-Service-Connected Death



- Died while hospitalized by the VA (does not include Home Based Healthcare).
- In a VA nursing home.
- In a VA domiciliary.
- Had a claim pending and would have been entitled prior to date of death.

Who Can Claim Service Connected or NSC Death Burial Allowance



- The funeral director (if body unclaimed).
- The person whose personal funds were used to pay such expenses.
- The estate when the estate funds were used.

Plot Allowance



- Up to \$796.00 if Veteran dies from non-service-connected causes -payable even though the Veteran may have prepaid the funeral expenses.
- Paid in addition to the non-service-connected burial allowance as long as Veteran is eligible for burial in a national cemetery, but burial is not in a national cemetery or other cemetery under the jurisdiction of the United States.

Plot Allowance Eligibility

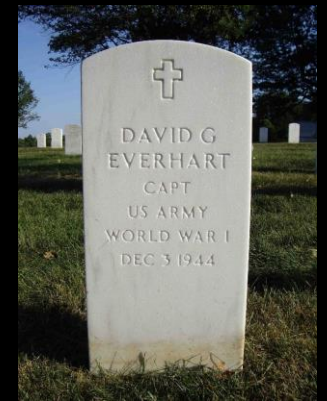
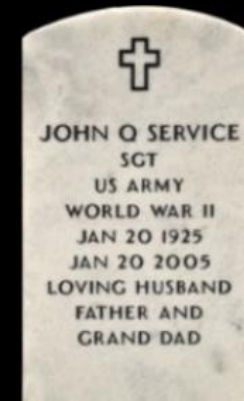


- Discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.
- In receipt of compensation or pension at the time of death or should have been entitled.
- Properly hospitalized by the VA at the time of death.
- A Veteran whose body is unclaimed.
- Under certain circumstances – see 38 CFR 3.1604(d) - a state or other government agency may claim plot allowance.

Questions



Headstone or Marker



Any Veteran eligible for burial in a VA National Cemetery is also eligible for a government-provided headstone or marker.



Who Can Order a Headstone, Marker or Medallion?

Only the following individuals may apply for a headstone, marker or medallion:

- Decedent's next-of-kin (NOK) or family member.
- Personal Representative (person responsible for decisions concerning burial of decedent; include written authorization).
- Veteran Service Officer.
- Funeral Home Management (that received unclaimed remains).
- Cemetery Management (where the unclaimed remains are buried).

If someone other than the above is applying the application package must include a written statement signed by the NOK or decedent authorizing that person (the applicant) to apply for the benefit.





Headstone or Marker

- When burial is in a private cemetery VA Form 40-1330 must be submitted with a copy of the veteran's discharge document.
- Fax to Memorial Programs at 1-800-455-7143.
- Death Certificate is not required.
- Headstones and markers are provided for eligible spouses and dependents only when buried in a national, military base, or state veterans' cemetery.

“In Memory Of”

You must be a member of the deceased’s family to apply

Headstones or Markers ordered for:

- Un-recovered or unidentified remains.
- Buried at sea.
- Donated to science.
- Cremated and scattered.



Private Headstone Medallion

- Medal of Honor Medallion – Medium 3-3/4" W x 2-7/8" H x 1/4" D
- Medal of Honor Medallion – Large 6-3/8" W x 4-3/4" H x 1/2" D



- Bronze Medallion – Small 2" W x 1-1/2" H x 1/3" D
- Bronze Medallion – Medium 3-3/4" W x 2-7/8" H x 1/4" D
- Bronze Medallion – Large 6-3/8" W x 4-3/4" H x 1/2" D



Private Headstone Medallion

- The medallion is currently available in three sizes, 4-3/4 inches, 2-7/8 inches, and 1.5 inches.
- Each medallion is inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom.
- Eligible veterans are entitled to either a traditional Government headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both.



Private Headstone Medallion



Use VA Form 40-1330M.

- Send with copy of DD-214
- Fax to Memorial Programs at 1-800-455-7143 or Mail to:

Memorial Programs Service (41B)

Department of Veterans Affairs

5109 Russell Road

Quantico, VA 22134-3903

*****Death Certificate not required*****

Burial Flags

- Only one burial flag may be provided per Veteran.
- All Veterans, except dishonorably discharged Veterans are eligible for a burial flag.
- This includes those with one term in the National Guard, even if never deployed.



Burial Flags

- Burial flags may be obtained from VA Regional Offices, National Cemeteries and most U.S. post offices.
- Submit VA Form 27-2008, Application for US Flag for Burial Purposes, with a copy of the Veteran's discharge papers at any of these locations.



National Guard Service

National Guard Members/Former Members

- Eligible for burial flag not for VA marker.
- Did not have “federal service”-38 CFR 38.620.

Retired National Guard Members

- Eligible for burial flag
- Eligible for grave marker if entitled to retired pay-38 CFR 38.630



Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC)

An engraved paper certificate:

- Signed by the current President
- To honor the memory of honorably discharged veterans



PMC

- Eligible recipients include the deceased Veteran's Next of Kin and family Members.
- More than one certificate may be provided. It is ok to order several.
- VA Form 40-0247 with a copy of the Veteran's discharge documents.

******Fax: 1-800-455-7143******

OR

Mail the request to:

Presidential Memorial Certificates (41A1C)

National Cemetery Administration

5109 Russell Road

Quantico, VA 22134-3903



Military Funeral Honors

- Upon the family's request, Public Law 106-65, requires that every eligible Veteran receive a funeral with a military honors ceremony to include the folding and presenting of the United States Burial Flag and the playing of Taps by either bugler or high-quality electronic means.



Military Funeral Honors

- A military funeral honors detail consists of two or more uniformed military persons with at least one a member of the Veteran's branch of service.
- The funeral home director should request military funeral honors.



Military Funeral Honors

- Web site for information:
- <https://www.defense.gov/ask-us/faq/Article/1784649/how-do-i-arrange-for-military-funeral-honors-for-a-veteran-and-what-exactly-are/>
- Click on service and state tabs to get contact phone number.





Questions





National Cemetery Burial

Burial benefits include:

- The gravesite (one per Veteran – including eligible family members).
- A headstone or marker.
- Opening and closing of the grave.
- Perpetual care.

VA National Cemeteries may have columbaria or gravesites for cremated remains.

Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery

Individuals generally eligible for burial in a VA National Cemetery are:

- Veterans discharged or separated from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Service members died on active duty.
- Persons entitled to retired pay as a result of 20 years service with a reserve component.



Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery



- A member of a Reserve Component or the National Guard, whose death occurs under honorable conditions, in specific circumstances.
- Members of the Reserve Officer's Training Corps whose death occurs under honorable conditions, in specific circumstances.
- A spouse, surviving spouse, remarried spouse, minor child or unmarried adult child of any of the above-listed eligible individuals.

VA National Cemetery Burial

- Normally, funeral directors contact the cemetery and make arrangements.
- Various local rules/regulations.
- Normally, weekday burial / interment only.
- No weekend scheduling.
- Each area different; contact your local national cemetery, get their information handouts and guidelines.
- Arlington – not a VA cemetery - completely different rules and procedures.



Where to Get More Information

- Veterans Benefits Manual
- 38 CFR
- Public Law 106-65: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000
- <https://www.cem.va.gov>



CHAPTER 115 Burial Benefits

- IAW 108 CMR 9.02
- Directive 18-01
- Max amount of the burial \$5,000.00
- Max allowance that may be paid by the community \$4,000.00
- 180 Days to file
 - VS-9
 - DD-214
 - Funeral Bill
 - Financials