|  |
| --- |
| **Casualty Assistance/Survivor Assistance Offices**  Fort Benning  1-706-545-4116/4606  Maxwell AFB  1-334-953-5048  Both of these offices provide services for retirees of all services with valid DD-214. |

Entitlement to military retired pay stops at midnight on the date of the services member’s death. Any overpayment after that point is required to be repaid back to DFAS.

☐ Therefore, it is critical that the surviving spouse contacts the Survivor Assistance Office listed above ASAP for help in settling final military pay.

☐ The surviving spouse should activate the annuities for the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) if they were enrolled.

☐ Upon the service member’s death, the Surviving Dependent’s military ID card is required to be re-issued as soon as possible. Survivor must be enrolled in DEERS. If not in DEERS, the surviving spouse must present a marriage certificate. If you already have a current Dependent ID card, you are enrolled in DEERS.

☐ Veterans are entitled to be buried in any national cemetery that has available space. Your spouse and minor children are also eligible for burial in the same grave or niche. All eligible veterans, including military retirees, are entitled to military funeral honors. Your Survivor Assistance Office will help with all of this. This benefit significantly reduces funeral expenses.

☐ Important Paperwork: DD-214 (Report of Separation from the military). Know where this is!

|  |
| --- |
| **Legal Services**: Wills/ Living Wills/ Power of Attorneys/Notary Services/Legal Assistance  **Free legal services are provided to retirees of all services at the following locations:**  Fort Benning  1-706-545-3281  Maxwell AFB  1-334-953-2786 |

Each year, owners and heirs lose millions of unclaimed dollars, as banks and dividend-paying corporations cannot identify and locate the proper payees. Unless your spouse or some responsible family member knows about all of your investments, these funds or property might never be discovered. If you think it’s too early to worry about things like this, consider the possibility that you become disabled to the extent that you are unable to conduct necessary day-to-day financial transactions. If you have not executed a general or durable power of attorney, giving your spouse or other responsible person authority to act on your behalf is important.

☐ **Have a folder of your important paperwork describing your assets in one place and tell someone where it is.**