

# Burial Benefits for Veterans

Most U.S. veterans are eligible for burial and memorial benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [National Cemetery Administration](#).

## Burial at a National Cemetery or a Private Cemetery

- If you are a veteran, veteran's spouse, or minor child, you are generally eligible for burial at one of the national or state cemeteries located across the United States. Veterans and dependents buried at national and state cemeteries are eligible for headstones and markers. Veterans may also be eligible for military funeral honors, burial flags, and Presidential Memorial Certificates at no cost.
- Veterans buried in private cemeteries may also receive military funeral honors, burial flags, headstones and markers, and Presidential Memorial Certificates at no cost.

## Schedule a Burial

To schedule a burial at a VA national cemetery:

1. Fax all discharge documentation to 1-866-900-6417 or email it to [NCA.Scheduling@va.gov](mailto:NCA.Scheduling@va.gov)
2. Call 1-800-535-1117. Be prepared to state the cemetery of choice, the type of religious emblem for the headstone, the funeral director's contact information, and other information listed in Step 2 on the Schedule a Burial page.
3. Call VA The Pension Management Center - 1-877-293-6380 to notify of Veteran death and have all Disability payments stop.

## Benefits for Survivors of Veterans

You may qualify for (VA) survivor benefits if:

- You are the survivor of a service member or veteran whose death is service-related.
- You are the dependent of a service member or veteran whose total disability is service-related.

You may also qualify for CHAMPVA. The VA shares the costs of services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries in a health care program.

If you are a Survivor Benefit Plan beneficiary, you may also be eligible for VA benefits. Effective July 7, 2014: VA is changing its monetary burial benefits regulations to simplify the program and pay eligible survivors more quickly and efficiently. These regulations will authorize VA to pay, without a written application, most eligible surviving spouses basic monetary burial benefits at the maximum amount authorized in law through automated systems rather than reimbursing them for actual costs incurred.

- Under the current regulations, VA pays for burial and funeral expenses on a reimbursement basis, which requires survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally pays at the maximum amount permitted by law.
- The new burial regulations will permit VA to pay, at a flat rate, burial and plot or interment allowances thereby enabling VA to automate payment of burial benefits to most eligible surviving spouses and more efficiently process other burial benefit claims.
- The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.

### **Evidence Requirements:**

- A copy of his DD-214
- Acceptable proof of death as specified in [38 CFR 3.211.](#), **AND**
- Receipted bills that show that you made payment in whole or part, **OR**
- A statement of account, preferably on the printed billhead of the funeral director or cemetery owner. The statement of account must show:
  - The name of the deceased Veteran for whom the services and merchandise were furnished, **AND**
  - The nature and cost of the services and merchandise, **AND**
  - All credits, **AND**

The amount of the unpaid balance, if any

### **Additional VA Forms-Found on the VA website**

- Form 21-530 Application for Burial Benefits (Under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 23) (4 Pages)
- Form 40-0247 Presidential Memorial Certificate
- Form 40-1330 Application for standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans Cemetery (5 Pages)

-  Form 21-2008 Application for United State Flag for Burial Purposes (3 Pages)

**1. For more information, contact your VA/VSO - 1800-827-1000**

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