



Department of

Veterans Services

Burial Benefits

Welcome

Administrative

Group Rosters

Certificates

Presentation

WebEx Orientation

Connection options Computer/phone

Camera

Microphone (mute)

Chat box for questions

Unmute and state your name and organization

Introduction

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

– John F. Kennedy



Overview

Learn what benefits are available for the funeral, transportation, and interment of a deceased veteran, and what the requirements are for such benefits and to understand the requirements for burial in a National Cemetery and related honors.

Overview

- Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance
- National Cemeteries
- State Cemeteries
- Headstone or Marker
- American Flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificate

Reference

- Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapters 23 and 24.
- 38 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1, § 1.10; Part 3, §§ 3.1700–3.1709.
- Adjudication Procedures Manual M21-1MR, Part VII (7) and III (3)
- VA Pamphlet 80-19-01, 2020 *Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents*
- 2021 *Service Connected Disability and Improved Pension Rates* 12.07.2020
- 2020 *VA Planning Legacy Booklet: VA Survivors and Burial Guide*
- 2017 *VA Headstone Marker Medallion Brochure*

Forms

- VA Form 21P-530EZ - Application for Burial Benefits
- VA Form 40-1330 - Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker
- VA Form 27-2008 - Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes
- VA Form 40-0247 - Presidential Memorial Certificate Request Form
- VA Form 40-10007 - Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a National Cemetery.
- 21P-534EZ - Application for DIC, Death Pension, and Accrued Benefits
- VA Form 21-0847 - Request for Substitution of Claimant Upon Death of Claimant

Burial Benefits

- VBA provides the following five burial benefits:
 - ✓ service-connected (SC) burial allowance
 - ✓ non-service-connected (NSC) burial allowance
 - ✓ VA hospitalization death burial allowance
 - ✓ plot or interment allowance, and
 - ✓ transportation reimbursement.

Note: National Cemetery Administration processes claims for headstones, markers, and burial flags.

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will pay a burial allowance on behalf of any deceased veteran who dies as the result of a service-related disability. If the veteran's death is not related to service or a service-connected disability, VA will pay a lesser amount for a veteran who meets any of the following requirements:

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

- The veteran was in receipt of compensation or pension, or would have been entitled to receive compensation or pension but for receipt of military retired pay; or
- At the time of death, the veteran had a claim pending for compensation or pension which would have entitled him or her to payment but for his or her death; or
- The veteran served during a wartime period and the body is unclaimed; or

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

- The veteran died while hospitalized by VA or while receiving care at a non-VA facility under VA contract; or
- The veteran died while traveling under VA authorization and expense to or from a specified place for examination, treatment, or care; or
- The veteran died while a patient at an approved state nursing home.

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

If eligibility is based on a claim pending at the time of death, then the same rule applies as for claims for accrued benefits based on a claim pending at the time of death, namely that all of the evidence necessary for a favorable decision must have been in file (as defined) on the date of the veteran's death.

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

There is also one other requirement: entitlement to the pending benefit must be from a month earlier than the month of death—otherwise, the veteran would not be “entitled to receive” compensation or pension for the month of death.

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

If the death is not service-connected, veterans who first entered service after September 1980 (enlisted) or October 1981 (officers) are subject to the minimum active-duty service requirement.

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

- A plot or interment allowance may also be payable for a veteran whose death is not service-connected and who:
 - You paid for a Veteran's burial or funeral, AND
 - You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased Veteran's employer, AND
 - The Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, AND
 - Receiving VA pension or compensation at time of death
 - Entitled to receive VA pension or compensation at time of death, but instead received full military retirement or disability pay
 - Died while hospitalized by VA or while receiving care under VA contract
 - Died while traveling under the following circumstances:
 - Under proper authorization and at VA expense
 - To or from a place for the purpose of examination, treatment or care
 - Only if the Veteran would have been entitled to benefits from a date prior to the death date
 - Died on or after Oct. 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

- There is no time limit for filing a **service-connected** burial claim; or for claiming the allowance for transporting a veteran's body from a VA (or VA-contracted) hospital to the place of burial or interment; or for claiming the allowance for transporting the veteran's body to a National Cemetery for burial.

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

For deaths which are **not service-connected**, the time limit for submitting a claim for the burial and/or plot allowance is two years after the date of final permanent burial or interment. If the burial allowance could not be paid at the time of the veteran's death because of the character of the veteran's discharge and the discharge is subsequently corrected or upgraded so that benefits would now be payable, the claim for burial allowance must be filed within two years from the date of correction of the veteran's discharge.

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

Did you Know?

VA does not pay burial benefits if the deceased:

- Died during active military service, **OR**
- Was a member of Congress who died while holding office, **OR**
- Was a Federal prisoner

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

How Much Does VA Pay?

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

- For service-connected deaths:
 - If the Veteran died on or after Sept. 11, 2001:
maximum \$2,000
 - If the Veteran died before Sept. 11, 2001:
maximum \$1,500
 - If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery: some or all of the costs of transporting remains

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

- For non-service-connected deaths:
 - If the Veteran died on or after Oct. 1, 2020: \$300 burial allowance; \$807 for a plot
 - If the Veteran died on or after Oct. 1, 2019: \$300 burial allowance; \$796 for a plot
 - If the Veteran died on or after Oct. 1, 2017: \$300 burial allowance; \$762 for a plot
 - If the Veteran died on or after Oct. 1, 2016, but before Oct. 1, 2017: \$300 burial allowance; \$749 for a plot

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

Remember: If the Veteran dies while traveling at VA expense, VA will pay burial, funeral, plot or interment allowances. VA will also pay transportation expenses. The traveling must have been for the purpose of an exam, treatment or care.

Burial, Plot, and Transportation Allowance

The order of precedence of claimant(s) for the burial, plot and transportation allowances is:

1. The surviving spouse, child or next of kin;
2. The administrator or executor of the veteran's estate or the estate of the person who paid the expenses of the veteran's burial or provided such services;
3. The person whose personal funds were used to pay the expenses of the funeral, transportation, and burial.

Poll Question #1

- There is a 24-month time limit for filing a service-connected burial claim; or for claiming the allowance for transporting a veteran's body from a VA (or VA-contracted) hospital to the place of burial or interment; or for claiming the allowance for transporting the veteran's body to a National Cemetery for burial.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Poll Question #1 Answer

Answer: False

- There is no time limit for filing a **service-connected** burial claim; or for claiming the allowance for transporting a veteran's body from a VA (or VA-contracted) hospital to the place of burial or interment; or for claiming the allowance for transporting the veteran's body to a National Cemetery for burial.
- .

Application Process

- The application and evidentiary requirements for burial allowance are a completed VA Form 21P-530EZ, Application for Burial Benefits, signed by the proper claimant along with proof of death.

Application Process

- An itemized receipt or statement is required for a claim for transportation reimbursement.
- The itemized receipt or statement must show the
- name of the deceased Veteran for whom the services and transportation were furnished
- nature and cost of the services and transportation
- name of the claimant that files for transportation reimbursement, and dates of the services rendered.

Application Process

- If transportation reimbursement is claimed, and the amount of expenses incurred on the application is more than the itemized receipt, pay transportation reimbursement of the charges listed on the itemized receipt and solicit for the additional transportation costs incurred in the decision notice. If the statement or receipt does not show *any* transportation expenses, VA will deny and develop in the decision letter.

Application Process

- If transportation reimbursement is claimed, and the receipt is not itemized, VBA may accept phone call development to the funeral home to obtain an itemized statement. If they cannot contact the funeral home, VA will deny and develop in the decision letter.
- VA will reimburse for transportation expenses that are *incurred* as claims on the application and verified through the statement of account. Statements or receipts do not have to show paid in full, only that expenses were *incurred*.

National Cemeteries (includes State)

The Department of Veterans Affairs Has Administered the National Cemetery system (now called the National Cemetery Administration) since 1973. Persons eligible for burial in a National Cemetery include service members who die on active duty and veterans who meet applicable active duty requirements (veterans who first entered service after September 1980 [enlisted] or October 1981 [officers] are subject to the minimum active duty service provision), and who were discharged under honorable conditions.

National Cemeteries

Other persons eligible for burial in a National Cemetery include Reservists who are entitled to retired pay based on 20 or more years of creditable service with a Reserve component; Reservists and members of the National Guard who die as the result of disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty during active duty for training or inactive duty training, or who die while being treated for such a disease or injury, or who die while traveling to or from authorized training.

National Cemeteries

Finally, the spouse or surviving spouse of an eligible person may be buried in a National Cemetery, even if the eligible person is not buried or memorialized in the National Cemetery. The dependent minor children, the unmarried adult children (up to age 23) who are attending an approved school, and the unmarried adult disabled (helpless) children of an eligible person are also eligible for burial in a National Cemetery.

National Cemeteries

- When a Veteran, service member, or family member qualifies for burial in a VA state and national cemetery, they receive certain burial benefits at no cost to their family.
- **These burial benefits include:**
- A gravesite in any of our [138 national cemeteries](#) with available space
- Opening and closing of the grave
- A burial liner provided by the government
- [A headstone or marker provided by the government](#)
- Perpetual (ongoing) care of the gravesite

State Veteran Cemeteries

- There are five existing Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries to include two in Knoxville, one in Nashville and two in West Tennessee.
- The State Veterans Cemeteries are managed and maintained by the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services.
- These pristine final resting places meet the National Cemetery Administration standards as required by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Cemeteries



West Tennessee



Parker's Crossroads



Middle Tennessee



East Tennessee: John Sevier and Lyons View

Online Registration

- In July 2013, the department launched online pre-registrations for burials in four of the Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries.
- <https://www.tn.gov/veteran/veteran-benefits/tn-state-benefits/veteran-burial-benefits/state-cemeteries.html>
- This secure resource allows Veterans and eligible dependents to complete the verification of eligibility prior to a tragic loss.
- Since 2013, the number of online pre-registrations has more than doubled. 6,300 Tennessee Veterans and their eligible dependents are pre-registered for burial.

Poll Question #2

If the death is not service-connected, veterans who first entered service after September 1980 (enlisted) or October 1981 (officers) with 18 months of credible service, can the veteran be placed in a State or National Cemetery?

- a. True
- B. False

Poll Question #2 Answer

Answer: False

- The A person whose first tour of duty began on or after the dates listed above is eligible if he or she completed a continuous period of active duty of at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty

Headstone or Marker

- If the burial is in any other cemetery, the headstone or marker must be ordered from VA by completing VA Form 40-1330, *Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans' Cemetery*

American Flag

VA will provide an American flag to cover the casket of a veteran or eligible Reservist (only). This may be requested by the funeral director or by the next of kin or next friend of the deceased. VA Form 21-2008, *Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes*, may be submitted to a VA Regional Office, to the National Cemetery office, or to designated Post Offices.

Presidential Memorial Certificate

A Presidential Memorial Certificate, signed by the President and stating the country's gratitude for the veteran's service, may be issued to the families or other loved ones of any honorably discharged deceased veteran. This may be obtained by applying to any VA Regional Office or by mailing a request, together with proof of the veteran's honorable discharge from service and a copy of the veteran's death certificate.

Next Lunch and Learn

- **February 2021 Lunch and Learn: Total Disability Individual Unemployability (TDIU)**

February 10, 2021 @ 11:30 CST or 12:30 EST

- Pending Updates:
- *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (January 5, 2021)*
- *William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (January 1, 2021)*

Questions?

