



## **Veterans Burial and Plot Allowance Program**

# **Burial and Plot-Interment Allowances**

## **What are VA Burial Allowances**

**VA burial allowances** are **partial reimbursements** of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service-related, the reimbursements are generally described as two payments:

- (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, AND
- (2) A plot interment allowance.

## **Who Is Eligible?**

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

- 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.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- the veteran died because of a service-related disability OR
- the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death OR
- the veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay OR
- the veteran died in a VA hospital, in a nursing home under VA contract, OR
- while in an approved state nursing home.

## **How Much Does VA Pay?**

### **Service-Related Death**

VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001 of those deaths which are the result of a VA recognized Service Related death. VA will pay up to \$1,500 for Service Related deaths prior to September 10, 2001. If the veteran is buried in a VA National Cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed as well.

### **Non Service-Related Death**

VA will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses, and a \$700 plot-interment allowance for deaths which are not considered Service Connected on or after 1 October 2011.

If the death occurs while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA a contracted VA nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the deceased's remains may be reimbursed.

# Burial and Plot-Interment Allowances



**Gettysburg  
National Cemetery**

The increased **Burial** and **Plot Allowances** only applies to death which occurs after 1 October 2011. Beginning in fiscal year 2013, the **Burial** and **Plot Allowance** may be increased annually based upon the **Consumer Price Index** for the preceding 12 month period. The first opportunity for such an annual increase is 1 October 2012.

The term “properly hospitalized by VA” includes facilities in which the deceased was properly admitted for hospital nursing home or domiciliary care by the VA

There is no increase in burial allowance for indigent Veterans or Veterans who were not hospitalized by VA at the time of death.

## **How Can You Apply?**

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. You should attach proof of the veteran's military service (DD 214), a death certificate, and copies of funeral and burial bills you have paid.

- Related Benefits
- Burial in VA National Cemeteries
- Headstones and Markers
- Presidential Memorial Certificates
- Burial Flags
- Burial Flags



## **Why Does VA Provide a Burial Flag?**

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service to his or her country. VA will furnish a burial flag for memorialization for each other than dishonorable discharged.

- veteran who served during wartime
- veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941
- veteran who served after January 31, 1955
- peacetime veteran who was discharged or released before June 27, 1950
- certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S Armed forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951?
- certain former members of the Selected Reserves

## **Who Is Eligible to Receive the Burial Flag?**

Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin, as a keepsake, after its use during the funeral service. When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making request for it. For those VA national cemeteries with an Avenue of Flags, families of veterans buried in these national cemeteries may donate the burial flags of their loved ones to be flown on patriotic holidays.

## **How Can You Apply?**

You may apply for the flag by completing VA Form 21-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes. You may get a flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office. Generally, the funeral director will help you obtain the flag.

## **Can a Burial Flag Be Replaced?**

The law allows us to issue one flag for a veteran's funeral. We cannot replace it if it is lost, destroyed, or stolen. However, some veterans' organizations or other community groups may be able to help you get another flag.