



## BURIAL

# 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-connected, the reimbursements are generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot or 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 as a result of a service-connected 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 instead to receive his or her full military retirement or disability pay, **OR**
- the Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, **OR**
- the Veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment or care, **OR**
- the Veteran had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and would have been entitled to VA compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death, **OR**
- the Veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



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## HOW MUCH DOES VA PAY?

**Service-Connected Death.** VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. VA will pay up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some of all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

**Non Service-Connected Death.** For deaths on or after October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$700.00 toward burial and funeral expenses (if properly hospitalized by VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not properly hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a \$700.00 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). For deaths 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. The plot-interment allowance is \$150.00 for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the Veteran was properly hospitalized by VA, or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the Veteran's remains may be reimbursed.

An annual increase in burial and plot allowances for deaths occurring after October 1, 2011, begins in fiscal year 2013 based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period as follows:

- Effective October 1, 2012, the \$700 burial/funeral and plot/interment allowance was increased to \$722.
- Effective October 1, 2013, the \$722 burial/funeral and plot/interment allowance was increased to \$734.

**Note:** If the Veteran dies while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment or care, burial, funeral, plot, interment, and transportation expenses will be allowed as though death occurred while properly hospitalized by VA.

## HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, *Application for Burial Benefits*. You should attach a copy of the Veteran's military discharge document (DD 214 or equivalent), death certificate, funeral and burial bills. They should show that you have paid them in full. You may download the form at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>

## RELATED BENEFITS

VA National Cemetery Burials / Headquarters and Markers / Presidential Memorial Certificates / Burial Flags

