

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration

Unclaimed Veteran Remains Casket or Urn Reimbursement Program

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will reimburse for the purchase of a casket or urn used to inter a deceased, Unclaimed Veteran in a VA national cemetery if the Veteran died with no identifiable next of kin and insufficient resources to pay for a casket or urn.

WHO – Any individual or entity that pays for a casket or urn used to inter an eligible Unclaimed Veteran, in a VA national cemetery, who died on or after January 10, 2014 and was interred on or after May 13, 2015. For eligible, Unclaimed Veterans who died on or after January 10, 2014 and were interred in a VA National Cemetery prior to May 13, 2015, special instructions apply*.

WHAT – VA will reimburse the actual cost of a casket or urn, not to exceed an annually established average cost. The reimbursement payable in calendar year 2017 is \$2,069 for a casket and \$163 for an urn. The reimbursement amount will be adjusted for inflation on annually.

HOW – Applicants must submit **VA Form 40-10088, Request for Reimbursement of Casket/ Urn. Part I** should be submitted with documentation of qualifying military service to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office (NCSO). **Part I** may be faxed (toll-free) to 1-866-900-6417, emailed to nca.scheduling@va.gov, or mailed to PO Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

Applicants (who may differ from the individual or entity that requested burial), must submit **Part II of VA Form 40-10088** with the required reimbursement documentation to NCSO at the time of the burial request, **OR** to the VA national cemetery before the actual interment.

Required documentation for reimbursement purposes includes the following:

- Invoice or bill of sale showing model number and cost of casket or urn.
- Completed and signed FSC Vendor File Request Form (**VA Form 10091**) or previously assigned Vendor ID.

CASKET AND URN STANDARDS (A VA National Cemetery official will verify that caskets and urns meet these standards at the interment):

A **casket** must be of at least 20-gauge metal (thickness), designed to contain human remains and include a gasketed seal and external fixed rails or swing arm handles.

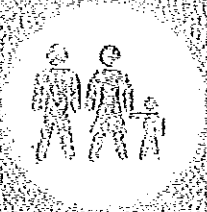
An **urn** must be made of a durable material, such as plastic, wood, metal, or ceramic, designed to hold cremated human remains, and include a secure closure to contain the cremated remains.

*The special instructions for retroactive reimbursements are available in the VA fact sheet entitled "**Retroactive Casket or Urn Reimbursement Requests**." The fact sheet is also available at any VA national cemetery.

For information on other benefits available to assist with providing Unclaimed Veterans a dignified burial please see the Unclaimed Veteran Remains Fact Sheet.

DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS

BURIAL AND PLOT/INTERMENT ALLOWANCE



WHAT ARE VA BURIAL ALLOWANCES?

VA burial allowances are flat-rate monetary benefits that are generally paid at the maximum amount authorized by law for an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs. A VA regulation change in 2014 simplified the program to pay eligible survivors quickly and efficiently. Eligible surviving spouses of record are paid automatically upon notification of a Veteran's death, without the need to submit a claim. VA may grant additional benefits, including the plot or interment allowance and transportation allowance, if it receives a claim for these benefits.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

If the burial benefit has not been automatically paid to the surviving spouse, VA will pay the first living person to file a claim of those listed below:

- The Veteran's surviving spouse, **OR**
- The survivor of a legal union* between the deceased Veteran and the survivor, **OR**
- The Veteran's children, regardless of age, **OR**
- The Veteran's parents or surviving parent, **OR**
- The executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased Veteran

*Legal union means a formal relationship between the decedent and the survivor existed on the date of the Veteran's death, which was recognized under the law of the State in which the couple formalized the relationship and evidenced by the State's issuance of documentation memorializing the relationship.

The Veteran must have been 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 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 for VA compensation or pension pending at the time of death and would have been entitled to benefits 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

HOW MUCH DOES VA PAY?

Service-Connected Death

If the Veteran died on or after September 1, 2001, the maximum service-connected burial allowance is \$2,000. If the Veteran died before September 11, 2001, the maximum service-connected burial allowance is \$1,500. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, VA may reimburse some or all of the costs of transporting the deceased Veteran's remains.

Non Service-Connected Death

- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2016, VA will pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$749 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2015, but before October 1, 2016, VA will pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$747 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2014, but before October 1, 2015, VA will pay \$300 for burial allowance and \$745 for a plot.

Effective October 1, 2011, there are higher non-service-connected death rates payable if the Veteran was hospitalized by VA at the time of his or her death.

- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2016, VA will pay a \$749 burial allowance and \$749 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2015, but before October 1, 2016, VA will pay a \$747 burial allowance and \$747 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2014, but before October 1, 2015, VA will pay a \$745 burial allowance and \$745 for a plot.

If the death occurred 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.

Note: If the Veteran dies while traveling at VA expense for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, VA will pay burial and plot allowances and transportation expenses.

Unclaimed Remains

If a Veteran dies and their remains are unclaimed, the entity responsible for the burial of the Veteran would be entitled to a \$300 burial allowance. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, VA may reimburse the cost of transporting the deceased Veterans remains. VA may also reimburse for the cost of a plot.

HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

You can apply by completing VA Form 21P-530 *Application for Burial Benefits*. You should attach a copy of the Veteran's military discharge document (DD Form 214 or equivalent) and a death certificate. If you are claiming transportation expenses, please attach a receipt for the expenses paid.

You can call us toll-free within the U.S. by dialing 1-800-827-1000. If you are located in the local dialing area of a VA regional office, you can also call us by checking your local telephone directory. For the hearing impaired, our TDD number is 711.



You should mail your application to the VA regional office located in your state. You can obtain the mailing address for VA regional offices by accessing our [locations site](#). The address is also located in the government pages of your telephone book under "United States Government, Veterans."

RELATED BENEFITS

[VA National Cemetery Burials / Headstones, Markers and Medallions / Presidential Memorial Certificates / Burial Flags](#)



Reporting the Death of a Military Retiree or Annuitant

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has prepared this contact sheet to assist you in reporting the death of a military retiree or annuitant. The information provided is meant to serve as a general guide.

You may notify using the DFAS Website at www.dfas.mil utilizing the Forms tab on the top left side and selecting the Fast Forms Online and the form under the Report a Retiree's Death by clicking on the DFAS 9221 Notification of Death. Complete the required fields and then submit. You may also utilize the askDFAS and **New Online Form to Report the Death of a Retiree**: You can now use our convenient online form to report the death of a retiree at <https://go.usa.gov/xnzQ9>.

- Notify DFAS at (800) 321-1080. Please have the decedent's Social Security Number (SSN) and the date of death when you call. We ask that you send one photocopy of a death certificate which indicates the cause of death. Please send it to:

For retirees	For annuitants
Address: Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Retired Pay 8899 E 56 th Street Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200	Address: Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Annuitant Pay 8899 E 56 th Street Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200
Fax: (800) 469-6559	Fax: (800) 982-8459

We will take steps to suspend the pay account to prevent any overpayments. If the decedent was a retiree enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan and/or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), we will take additional steps to initiate pay accounts for eligible survivors.

Designated beneficiaries of retirees should expect a Standard Form 1174 (SF-1174) and, if applicable, SBP/RSFPP-related forms in the mail within seven to ten business days of reporting the death. You may also locate the form on the DFAS Website, specifically at <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html> if you need assistance please contact us at (800) 321-1080.

- **Notify the Social Security Administration (SSA) at (800) 772-1213.**
- **Notify the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) at (800) 538-9552.**
- **If the member was receiving disability compensation or Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC), notify the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) at (800) 827-1000 press 1 and then Option 6.**
- **If the member was a civil servant or retired civil servant, notify the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) toll-free at (888) 767-6738 Option 4.**
- **If the member enrolled in DFA-sponsored Insurance such as National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) or Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), notify them at (800) 669-8477.**

If you live near a military installation you may be able to receive help with administrative matters from a Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) or Retired Activities/Affairs Office (RAO). Please note that these services are not available at all military installations.

Below are some additional toll-free numbers you may find helpful, if applicable:

Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) -----	(800) 776-2322
Army & Air Force Mutual Aid Association (AAFMAA) -----	(800) 522-5221
Military Benefit Association (MBA) -----	(800) 336-0100
Navy Mutual Aid Association (NMAA) -----	(800) 628-6011
Officers Benefit Association -----	(800) 736-7311
Uniformed Services Benefit Association -----	(800) 368-7021

DEVELOPED PRIMARILY FOR USE BY RETIREES OF ALL THE ARMED FORCES
"RETIREES CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST"
 (For later use by next of kin)

As of Date: _____

Retirees Name _____ SSN _____ Ser# (Other) _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)
 Military Grade _____ Date of Retirement _____ Branch of Svc. _____ Yrs. of Svc. _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
Month Day Year
 Date of Marriage _____ Place of Marriage _____
Month Day Year
 Father's Name _____ DOB _____ Place of Birth _____
Month Day Year
 Mother's Maiden Name _____ DOB _____ Place of Birth _____
Month Day Year

Documents needed to claim death benefits:

- Copies of report(s) of separation from active duty (DD Form 214, etc.)
- Copy of retirement orders
- Copies of birth and death certificates
- Beneficiaries birth certificate(s) and marriage and/or divorce data
- Social Security data (see below)
- VA Insurance data (see below)

Location of these Documents:

Plus- You should always have the following documents on hand:

- Updated Will and "LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS"
- Names of banks, credit unions, etc. (account numbers)
- Updated lists of assets and liabilities
- Insurance policies, numbers, instructions, payments, etc.
- Adoption or naturalization papers (if applicable)

Note:
 See "Letter of Instructions" for location of other documents.

Part I – Veterans Administration Data (if applicable)

VA Compensation \$ _____ Disability Claim # _____ Remarks _____
 VA Insurance Policy nr(s) _____ / _____ File # _____
 Type _____ Amount \$ _____ / _____ Location of Policies _____
 Any known paid-up-add'l VA Insurance \$ _____ As of date _____
 Other remarks _____
 Veteran's claim nr(s) (other) _____ Patients data card # _____

Part II – Retirement Pay Data (see Retiree Account Statements)

Retiree gross and net pay data: as of date _____

Gross pay	\$ _____	Deduction	\$ _____ For _____
Deduction	\$ _____ For _____	Deduction	\$ _____ For _____
Deduction	\$ _____ For _____	Deduction	\$ _____ For _____
Deduction	\$ _____ For _____	Deduction	\$ _____ For _____
Net pay	\$ _____	Taxable income	\$ _____

Survivor coverage information (coverage type: spouse only, etc.): _____ Monthly Cost: \$ _____

Survivor Benefit Plan Annuity:

55% annuity amount \$ _____

35% annuity amount \$ _____

RSFPP Annuity: \$ _____

Supplemental SBP: \$ _____

Annuity Base Amount: \$ _____

Note: See "Retiree Account Statement" for explanation of Social Security Offset/2-tier Formula

Effective _____

Part III – Social Security (when applicable)

Social Security Claim # _____ Month Filed _____

Type of Benefit(s) _____ Beginning month of entitlement _____

Amount monthly \$ _____ Bank and acct. # (direct deposit) _____

Note: No payment is payable for the month of death (call 1-800-772-1213)

Part IV – Miscellaneous (Things to know and plan for upon death of retiree)

Disposition instructions for the body (burial, cremation, memorial service, etc.)

Info required for Death Certificate (date/place of birth, father's name, mother's maiden name. etc.)

Info required for Obituary Notice (names, relation and locations of appropriate relatives, etc.)

Widows will need a new ID card (military, medical, commissary, base exchange, etc.)

Necessary changes in your "DEERS" program will have to be made

It may take several months to clear estates (you may require at least 8 copies of death certificates)

Contents of your safety deposit box should be known

Direct deposit of Social Security benefits & military retirement payments (entitlements) must be immediately changed

Named beneficiaries on insurance policies become very important (keep current)

There may be some entitlement to burial benefits (headstone, payments, etc.)

Check VA for Presidential Memorial Certificate

An American flag can be obtained (check VA and Post Office)

The survivor should update appropriate will

Extra credit cards should be destroyed or cancelled

Appropriate changes should be made to all joint ownerships

Contact insurance companies as appropriate

Be prepared to turn in Retirees ID card (where and when required)

Note:
MAKE EVERY EFFORT
to retain "Original"
documents (Provide
Certified copies whenever
possible).

Fill in and keep handy the following office phone numbers:

Office/Organization	Phone Number
Casualty Assistance	781-225-2765
Retiree Activities Office	781-225-1310
Hospital	
Legal Office (Military)	781-225-1410
VA Hotline	1-800-827-1000
Social Security Hotline	1-800-772-1213
DEERS (Information)	781-225-1320
Other - Honor Guard	781-225-6558
Finance (DFAS – Cleveland)	800-321-1080
SBP (Annuity Pay Info)	800-321-1080
Other Pass & ID	

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS	
Organization	Local and 800#
Mortuary Affairs	
American Red Cross	
Family Support Center	
VA Insurance Center	1-800-669-8477
USAF Mil Pers Ctr	1-800-531-7502
Army Retired Services	1-800-360-4909
USMC Retiree Affairs	1-800-336-4649
USCG Pay & Pay Center	1-800-712-8724
Navy Retired Activities	1-800-255-8950

Note: Spouse/Next of Kin should have a copy of this document or know where to locate it.

Note: These are only general type of considerations since each C A R and individual will have their own personal requirements. Also, the individual services may have different needs and requirements.

BURIAL INFORMATION

Who should be notified of your death?

Name	Relationship	Address	Phone#

Do you want to be (circle one): Buried Cremated?

Name of cemetery where you want to be buried: _____

Do you want to be buried in your uniform? YES NO

Do you want a memorial service? YES NO If yes, where?

Have you purchased a burial plot? YES NO If yes, where?

Do you have a preference of funeral home? YES NO If yes, which one?

Do you want a military honor guard? YES NO

INFORMATION

Enrolled in RSFPP, SBP, SSBP (circle all that apply)

Did you disenroll from this plan? Yes No (circle one)

VA Claim #

Eligible to draw VA disability compensation (even if not currently in receipt): Yes No (circle one)

Receiving Social Security: Yes No (circle one) If yes, age at which first received:

Organ donor: Yes No (circle one)

Is there a living will?

Date of Marriage: _____ Place of Marriage (City, State, Country): _____

LOCATION OF DOCUMENTS

<u>DOCUMENT</u>	<u>WHERE LOCATED</u>
Living will	_____
Current Retired Pay Statement	_____
Marriage Certificate(s)	_____
Divorce Decree(s)/property settlements(s) (from previous marriages of retiree or spouse)	_____
Death certificate(s) (from previous marriages of retiree or spouse)	_____
Birth certificates/adoption papers (retiree, spouse, children)	_____
DD Form(s) 214 (Active Duty Discharge	_____

