

Veterans Burial Allowance

Table of Contents

Veterans Burial Allowance	1
Question 1: Am I eligible for allowances to help pay for a Veteran’s burial and funeral costs?	2
Question 2: Who can’t I get burial allowances for?	3
Question 3: What kind of burial benefits can I get?	3
Question 4: Is there a time limit for filing?	3
Question 5: What documents do I need to send with my application?	3
Question 6: As a surviving spouse, do I need to file a claim for burial costs?	4
Question 7: How do I apply?	4
Question 8: Are costs for moving the Veteran’s remains payable?	5
Question 9: What are the burial allowance amounts for service-connected death?	5
Question 10: What are the burial allowance amounts for nonservice-connected death?	5
Question 11: What are the burial allowance amounts for nonservice-connected death if the Veteran was hospitalized by VA at the time of their death?	6
Question 12: What are the headstone or marker allowance amounts?	7
Question 13: What if I have more questions?	8

This section addressed FAQs related to applying for Veterans Burial Allowance.

Question 1: Am I eligible for allowances to help pay for a Veteran's burial and funeral costs?

Answer: You may be eligible for Veterans burial allowances if you're paying for the burial and funeral costs and you won't be reimbursed by any other organization, like another government agency or the Veteran's employer. You must also meet all of these requirements.

One of these relationships or professional roles describes your connection to the Veteran:

- You're the Veteran's surviving spouse (Note: We recognize same-sex marriages.), or
- You're the surviving partner from a legal union (a relationship made formal in a document issued by the state recognizing the union), or
- You're a surviving child of the Veteran, or You're a parent of the Veteran, or
- You're the executor or administrator of the Veteran's estate (someone who officially represents the Veteran)

The Veteran must not have received a dishonorable discharge, and one of these circumstances must be true:

- The Veteran died as a result of a service-connected disability (a disability related to service), or
- The Veteran died while getting VA care, either at a VA facility or at a facility contracted by VA, or
- The Veteran died while traveling with proper authorization, and at VA's expense, either to or from a facility for an examination, or
- The Veteran died with an original or reopened claim for VA compensation or pension pending at the time of death, if they would've been entitled to benefits before the time of death, or
- The Veteran died while receiving a VA pension or compensation, or
- The Veteran died while eligible for a VA pension or compensation at their time of death, but instead received full military retirement or disability pay, or
- The Veteran had been getting a VA pension or compensation when they died, or

- The Veteran had chosen to get military retired pay instead of compensation

Note: We'll also provide an allowance for the cost of transporting a Veteran's remains for burial in a national cemetery

Question 2: Who can't I get burial allowances for?

Answer: We don't provide burial allowances if the individual died in any of these ways:

- On active duty, or
- While serving as a member of Congress, or
- While serving a federal prison sentence

Question 3: What kind of burial benefits can I get?

Answer: If you're eligible, you may receive these benefits:

- VA burial allowance for burial and funeral costs
- VA plot or interment allowance for the cost of the plot (gravesite) or interment
- VA transportation reimbursement for the cost of transporting the Veteran's remains to the final resting place

We provide burial benefits for all legal burial types, including cremation and burial at sea.

We also provide burial benefits for donating the Veteran's remains to a medical school.

Question 4: Is there a time limit for filing?

Answer: You must file a claim for a non-service-connected burial allowance within 2 years after the Veteran's burial.

If a Veteran's discharge was changed after death dishonorable to another status, you must file for an allowance claim within 2 years after the discharge update.

There's no time limit to file for a service-connected burial, plot, or interment allowance.

Question 5: What documents do I need to send with my application?

Answer: You'll need to send copies of these documents:

- The Veteran's military discharge papers (DD214 or other separation documents)

- The Veteran's death certificate
- Any documents or receipts you have for the cost of transporting the Veteran's remains
- A statement of account (preferably with the letterhead of the funeral director or cemetery owner)

The statement of account should include this information:

- The Veteran's name
- The type of service or item purchased
- Any credits
- The unpaid balance

Question 6: As a surviving spouse, do I need to file a claim for burial costs?

Answer: No, you don't need to file a claim as a surviving spouse, as long as you're listed as the Veteran's spouse on the Veteran's profile.

When we receive notice of the Veteran's death, we automatically pay a set amount to those eligible surviving spouses to help pay for the plot, the cost of interment, or transportation of the remains to the cemetery

Question 7: How do I apply?

Answer:

- You can apply online right now: <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/apply-for-allowance-form-21p-530ez/introduction>
- You can also apply by mail:
 - Fill out an Application for Burial Benefits (VA Form 21P-530EZ). [Download VA Form 21P-530EZ \(PDF\) \(https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA21P-530EZ-ARE.pdf\)](https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA21P-530EZ-ARE.pdf)
 - Mail the application and copies of supporting documents to your nearest VA regional office. [Find your nearest VA regional office \(https://www.va.gov/find-locations?facilityType=benefits\)](https://www.va.gov/find-locations?facilityType=benefits)

Question 8: Are costs for moving the Veteran’s remains payable?

Answer: Yes. We may also pay you back for some or all of the costs of moving the Veteran’s remains if one of these descriptions is true:

- The Veteran was hospitalized or in a VA-contracted nursing home at the time of death, or
- The Veteran died while traveling to VA-authorized car

Question 9: What are the burial allowance amounts for service-connected death?

Answer:

Status	Maximum
If the Veteran died on or after September 11, 2001	\$2,000
If the Veteran died before September 11, 2001	\$1,500
If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery	We may pay you back for some or all of the costs of moving the Veteran’s remains

Question 10: What are the burial allowance amounts for nonservice-connected death?

Answer:

Status	Maximum
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2024	We’ll pay a \$978 burial allowance and \$978 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2023, but before October 1, 2024	We’ll pay a \$948 burial allowance and \$948 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after January 5, 2023, but before October 1, 2023	We’ll pay a \$893 burial allowance and \$893 for a plot

Status	Maximum
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2022, but before January 5, 2023	We'll pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$893 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2021, but before October 1, 2022	We'll pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$828 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2020, but before October 1, 2021	We'll pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$807 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2019, but before October 1, 2020	We'll pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$796 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2018, but before October 1, 2019	We'll pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$780 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2017, but before October 1, 2018	We'll pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$762 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2016, but before October 1, 2017	We'll 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	We'll 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	We'll pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$745 for a plot

Note: If a Veteran's remains aren't claimed, we'll pay the person or organization responsible for the Veteran's burial a burial allowance based on the rates in this table.

If the deceased qualifies, we may pay you back for the costs of moving the Veteran's remains to a VA national cemetery.

Question 11: What are the burial allowance amounts for nonservice-connected death if the Veteran was hospitalized by VA at the time of their death?

Answer:

Status	Maximum
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2024	We'll pay a \$978 burial allowance and \$978 for a plot

Status	Maximum
If the Veteran on or after October 1, 2023, but before October 1, 2024	We'll pay a \$948 burial allowance and \$948 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2022, but before October 1, 2023	We'll pay a \$893 burial allowance and \$893 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2021, but before October 1, 2022	We'll pay a \$828 burial allowance and \$828 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2020, but before October 1, 2021	We'll pay a \$807 burial allowance and \$807 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2019, but before October 1, 2020	We'll pay a \$796 burial allowance and \$796 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2018, but before October 1, 2019	We'll pay a \$780 burial allowance and \$780 for a plot
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2016, but before October 1, 2017	We'll 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	We'll 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	We'll pay a \$745 burial allowance and \$745 for a plot

Question 12: What are the headstone or marker allowance amounts?

NOTE: Headstone or marker allowance amounts are based on when the Veteran died.

Status	Maximum
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2021	\$231
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2020, but before October 1, 2021	\$231
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2019, but before October 1, 2020	\$236
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2018, but before October 1, 2019	\$290



Status	Maximum
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2017, but before October 1, 2018	\$195
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2016, but before October 1, 2017	\$208
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2015, but before October 1, 2016	\$218
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2014, but before October 1, 2015	\$199
If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2013, but before October 1, 2014	\$205

Question 13: What if I have more questions?

Answer: Call us at [800-827-1000](tel:800-827-1000) (TTY: [711](tel:711)). We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET. Or call your VA regional office.

If you need an interpreter: Call [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) and select 0.