



Choose VA

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Center for Minority Veterans**

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Deputy Director

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Overview

- Center for Minority Veterans
- Special Programs
- Memorial Affairs
- Benefits
- Q&A



Center for Minority Veterans

November 1994, Public Law 103-446 required SECVA to create Center for Minority Veterans (CMV) and established the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (ACMV).

CMV serves as principal advisor to SECVA on adoption and implementation of policies and programs affecting minority Veterans.

Who We Serve: African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans (American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians), Pacific Islanders, and women Veterans who are minority group members.

What we do:

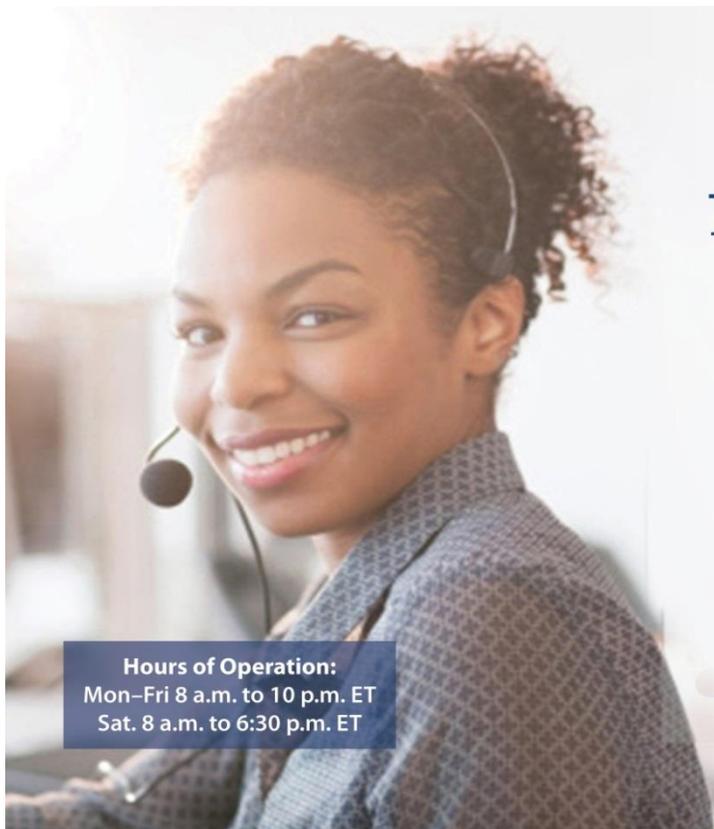
- Educate Veterans, their families and survivors through targeted outreach and effective advocacy
- Promote the use of VA programs, benefits, and services for minority Veterans.
- Disseminate information and provide culturally relevant programs that enhance Veteran-centric services to minority Veterans (*men & women).



VA Benefits, Services, & Programs



Women Veterans Call Center



**Trust her to
find answers.**

**The Women Veterans Call
Center is your guide to VA.**

**Call 1-855-VA-WOMEN
(1-855-829-6636)**

**Anonymous Chat at
www.womenshealth.va.gov**

Hours of Operation:
Mon–Fri 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET
Sat. 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET

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<http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/ProgramOverview/wvcc.asp>

Suicide Prevention

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.

Toll Free Crisis line

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Veterans Press 1

or

Text to 838255



National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

The NCA honors Veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our nation.

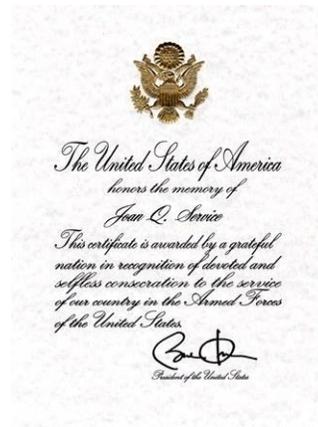
VA National Cemetery directors have the primary responsibility for verifying eligibility for burial in VA national cemeteries.

VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for service-connected deaths.

VA will pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$749 for a plot for non-service related deaths.

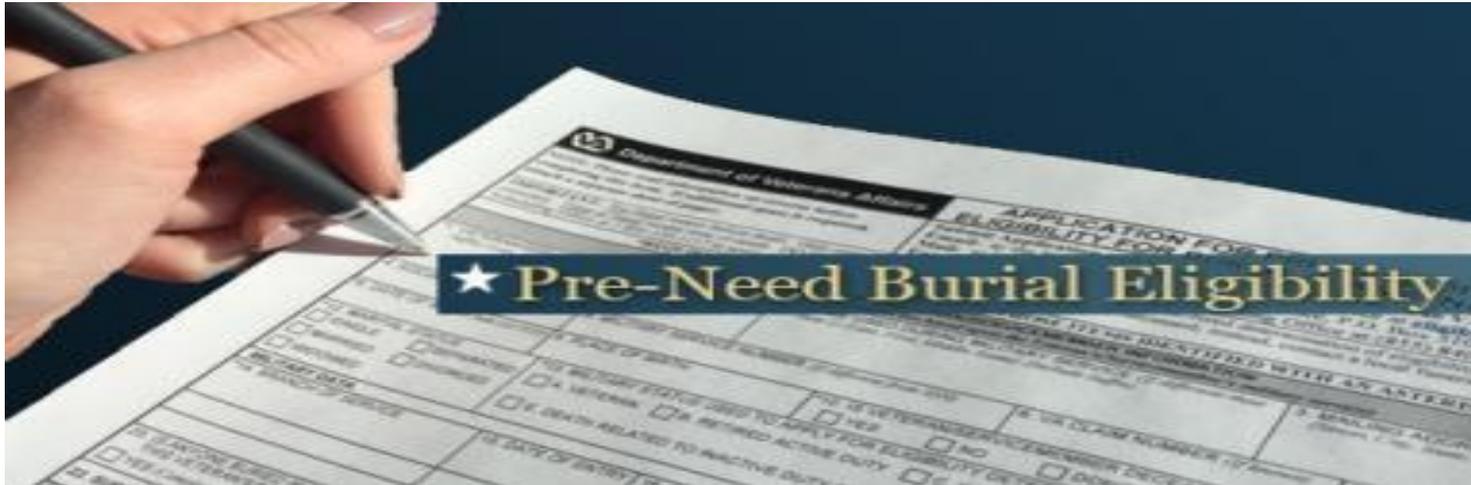
VA will provide a Headstone, Marker and/or Medallions.

Presidential Memorial Certificates



National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

Pre-Need Eligibility Determinations



<http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf>



National Cemetery Administration

Burial Eligibility

Burial in the VA National Cemetery or state veterans Cemetery is open to all members of the Armed Forces and Veterans who have met the minimum active duty service requirements, as applicable by law and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

National Cemetery Administration

Benefits

- Burial benefits include a gravesite in the VA national Cemetery with available space, or a VA-funded state/tribal cemetery; the opening and closing of the grave; grave liners; government headstone or marker; perpetual care of the grave; a burial flag; and Presidential Memorial Certificates at no cost to the family.
- VA's Veterans Benefits Administration pays a burial and plot allowance for those veterans eligible by law. For more information, please contact the nearest VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000.

National Cemetery Administration

Arranging Burials

The funeral home or next-of-kin should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling office to make burial arrangements for veterans, spouses and/or their eligible dependents at 800-535-1117. The scheduling office representative will assist with the verification process. It may require up to 48 hours to determine eligibility for burial in a national cemetery.

National Cemetery Administration

Headstones, Markers and Medallions

VA provides headstones and markers for the graves of eligible veterans in private and government cemeteries around the world. VA also provides a bronze medallion that can be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker. The medallion is furnished in the lieu of traditional government headstone or marker.

National Cemetery Administration

Presidential Memorial Certificates

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is inscribed with the Veteran's name and bears the President's signature to honor the memory of deceased Veterans. Intended recipients included next-of-kin and loved ones.

National Cemetery Administration

Burial Flag & Military Funeral Honors

- VA provides U.S. flags to drape the caskets of the members of the armed forces and eligible Veterans. The flag is given to the next-of-kin. Apply for the flag by completing the VA form 27-2008, *Application for United States Flags Burial Purposes*. U.S. post offices are the primary issuing point for burial flags.
- The Department of Defense (DOD) provides military funeral honors. Funeral directors should request this on behalf of the Veterans' family. To learn more, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/.

National Cemetery Administration

Nationwide Gravesite Locator

The burial locations of Veterans and their family members in VA national cemeteries, some state Veterans cemeteries and various other military and Department of Interior cemeteries may be accessed through the Nationwide Gravesite Locator (<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>) and grave locator kiosk at national cemeteries.

National Cemetery Administration

Veterans Legacy Initiative

The Veterans Legacy Program offers educators an integrated new suite of lesson plans designed to teach students about the service and sacrifice of our nation's Veterans and take advantage of our national cemetery as historic places with teaching and learning – both in the classroom and on site. The educational resources of the Veterans Legacy Program draw rich stories from national cemeteries to offer teachers a variety of activities directly connected to the national curriculum standards. Visit www.cem.va.gov/legacy for more information.

Eligibility for VA Benefits

The three main groups that are eligible for VA benefits are:

- Veterans
- Servicemembers, including National Guard and Reserve members
- Dependents and Survivors of Servicemembers or Veterans



Servicemember



National Guard Member



Veteran



Reserve Member



Dependents and
Survivors

Helping Disabled Veterans: Disability Compensation

What is it?

A tax-free benefit paid to Veterans for a disability that was incurred in or aggravated by military service. Certain Veterans are eligible for disability compensation based on the presumption that the disability is service connected.

Who qualifies?

Veterans discharged from service under conditions other than dishonorable and who have a current disability due to injury, disease, or psychological issue incurred in or aggravated by military service.



Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

Compensation

Disability Compensation is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service.

VA Form 21-526EZ application form

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax-free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of Service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training or survivors of Veterans who died from their service-connected disabilities.

VA Form 21-534EZ application form

Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) is an additional tax-free benefit that can be paid to Veterans, their spouses, surviving spouses and parents. For Veterans, Special Monthly Compensation is a higher rate of compensation paid due to special circumstances such as the need of aid and attendance by another person or a specific disability, such as loss of use of one hand or leg.

VA Form 21-2680 application form

Disability Compensation

- Disabilities are rated from 0% to 100%
- Combined overall rating
- Compensation payment is tax free
- Additional allowance for dependents with 30% or higher rating



Additional Disability Compensation Information

- **Clothing Allowance** – Annual payments for Veterans whose service-connected condition requires treatment (e.g., orthopedic appliance, skin cream) that irreparably damages outer garments.
- **Automobile and Adaptive Equipment** – A one-time allowance to purchase an automobile or conveyance and additional allowances for adaptive equipment to accommodate certain severe service-connected disabilities.
- **Specially Adapted Housing (SAH)/Special Housing Adaptation (SHA)** – Helps Servicemembers and Veterans with certain severe service-connected disabilities purchase, construct, or modify a home to accommodate the disability.
- **Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)** – Helps the family of a disabled Veteran who received an SAH grant pay off the home mortgage in the event of the Veteran's death.
- **Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI)** – Life insurance benefit for Veterans with service-connected disabilities, but who are otherwise in good health.
- **Special Monthly Compensation** – An additional amount paid to Veterans with certain severe service-connected disabilities.

How to Apply for Benefits

There are numerous ways to apply for VA disability benefits depending on the type of benefit you are seeking:

- Online using an [eBenefits](#) account
- Submit an FDC claim
- Complete and mail your claim form to your nearest VA regional office
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you.
 - To find the VA regional office nearest you, use the [Veterans Affairs National Facilities Locator](#) or call VA toll free at **1-800-827-1000**.
- **Work with an accredited representative or agent.**

We also encourage you to become familiar with [evidence requirements](#) so you have a complete understanding of not only VA's responsibility, but yours as well.

Helping Families: Benefits for Dependents and Survivors



What is it?

VA honors the sacrifices of the families of Servicemembers and Veterans through benefit programs which may include payments based on financial need or service-related death; loans to help purchase, construct or improve a home; and assisting in obtaining a degree.

Who qualifies?

These benefits are for the qualifying surviving spouse, dependent child(ren), and parent(s) of deceased Servicemembers and Veterans.

Benefits for Dependents and Survivors

- **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)** – A monthly tax-free benefit paid to an eligible surviving spouse, dependent child(ren), and/or parent(s) of a Servicemember or Veteran whose death was related to service.
- **Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)** – Provides assistance to obtain a degree and pursue other eligible education and training including certificate programs, apprenticeships, correspondence courses, and on-the-job training.
- **Burial** – A benefit that may include furnishing a headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial allowance, a Presidential Memorial Certificate, and an American flag to drape the Veteran's casket, as well as the option of burial in a VA national cemetery.
- **Home Loans** – A benefit that may be used to help purchase, construct, or improve a home, or refinance a mortgage.
- **Survivors' Pension** – A monthly tax-free benefit based on limited income and net worth, which is paid to the unmarried surviving spouse and/or child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

Outreach Resources

VA is continuously improving the resources available to help educate Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families about available VA benefits.



facebook.com/VeteransBenefits



[@VAVeteransBenefits](https://twitter.com/VAVeteransBenefits)



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



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<https://www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/>



Questions?

