

## **Find out how to get Veterans burial allowances (sometimes called “Veterans death benefits”) to help cover burial, funeral, and transportation costs.**

### **Am I eligible for allowances to help pay for a Veteran’s burial and funeral costs?**

You may be eligible for Veterans burial allowances if you are paying for the burial and funeral costs and you will not be reimbursed by any other organization, like another government agency or the Veteran’s employer. You must also meet all of the requirements listed below.

**One of these relationships or professional roles describes your connection to the Veteran. You are:**

- The Veteran’s surviving spouse (**Note:** We recognize same-sex marriages.), **or**
- The surviving partner from a legal union (a relationship made formal in a document issued by the state recognizing the union), **or**
- A surviving child of the Veteran, **or**
- A parent of the Veteran, **or**
- 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**
- While getting VA care, either at a VA facility or at a facility contracted by VA, **or**
- While traveling with proper authorization, and at VA’s expense, either to or from a facility for an examination, or to receive treatment or care, **or**
- 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**
- While receiving a VA pension or compensation, **or**
- While eligible for a VA pension or compensation at 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**
- Had chosen to get military retired pay instead of compensation

**Note:** We will also provide an allowance for the cost of transporting a Veteran’s remains for burial in a national cemetery.

### **You cannot get burial allowances for certain individuals**

We do not provide burial allowances if the individual died:

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

## **Is there a time limit for filing?**

You must file a claim for a non-service-connected burial allowance within **2 years after the Veteran’s burial or cremation**. If a Veteran’s discharge was changed after death from dishonorable to another status, you must file for an allowance claim within 2 years after the discharge update.

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

## What kind of burial benefits can I get?

For burial in a national cemetery, you will receive an allowance for:

- Burial and funeral costs
- The plot (gravesite) or interment
- Transporting the Veteran's remains for burial

**Note:** The Veteran's family will need to cover the cost of funeral director services, like cremation.

## What documents do I need to send with my application?

You will 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) that has this information:
  - The Veteran's name, **and**
  - The type of service or item purchased, **and**
  - Any credits, **and**
  - The unpaid balance

## As a surviving spouse, do I need to file a claim for burial costs?

No, you do not need to file a claim as a surviving spouse, as long as you are 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.