



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

Burial and Plot Interment Allowance

What Are VA Burial Allowances?

VA burial allowances are flat-rate monetary benefits. They help cover eligible Veterans' burial and funeral costs. Generally, they are paid at the maximum amount allowed by law.

A 2014 VA regulation change helped simplify the program. Eligible surviving spouses are now paid automatically. This happens upon notification of the Veteran's death. There is no need to submit a claim.

However, VA may grant additional benefits after receiving a claim. These include plot or interment allowance and transportation reimbursement.

Who Is Eligible?

If the surviving spouse has not been automatically paid, VA will pay whomever files a claim first of the following:

- The Veteran's surviving spouse
- The Veteran's children, regardless of age
- The Veteran's parents
- The executor or administrator of the estate
- The survivor of a legal union with the Veteran. This applies to formal relationships that continued up until the Veteran's death. The couple needs to have formalized the relationship under the law of the state. There should be state-issued documentation of the relationship.

The Veteran must have a discharge other than dishonorable. The Veteran must also have met one of the following conditions:

- Death as the result of a service-connected disability

- Receiving VA pension or compensation at time of death
- Entitled to receive VA pension or compensation at time of death, but instead received full military retirement or disability pay
- Died while hospitalized by VA or while receiving care under VA contract
- Died while traveling under the following circumstances:
 - Under proper authorization and at VA expense
 - To or from a place for the purpose of examination, treatment or care
- Had an original or reopened claim for VA compensation or pension pending at the time of death
 - Only if the Veteran would have been entitled to benefits from a date prior to the death date
- Died on or after Oct. 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home

How Much Does VA Pay?

Burial allowance amounts for a service-connected death, non-service-connected death, and a non-service-connected death if the Veteran was hospitalized by VA at the time of their death are found at www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/.

If the Veteran dies while traveling at VA expense, VA may pay burial, and plot or interment allowances. VA may also pay transportation expenses to the place of burial. The travel at the time of death must have been for the purpose of an exam, treatment or care.

VBA may also reimburse the costs incurred to transport a Veteran's remains if the Veteran:

- Died while hospitalized by VA or while receiving care under VA contract or
- Is buried in a VA national cemetery

If the Veteran remains are unclaimed:

- The entity responsible for burial can receive a burial allowance.
- VA may reimburse the cost of transporting the remains, if buried in a VA national cemetery.

How Can You Apply?

You can apply online for burial benefits at <https://www.va.gov/burials-and-memorials/application/530/introduction>.

You can also apply by filling out VA Form 21P-530, "Application for Burial Benefits." You can find the form at <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21p-530-ARE.pdf>.

Attach a copy of the deceased's discharge document and a death certificate or other public record of death. However, if either of these documents have been previously furnished to VA, they do not have to be provided again. Attach **an itemized bill** if you are claiming transportation expenses.

Mail your application to the address or location listed on the application form.

For more information, call 800-827-1000, or contact your local VA regional benefit office.