



Veteran Death Preparation and Benefits



Summary



- Planning ahead
- Reporting a death
 - Military branch, DFAS, VA, and Social Security etc.
- Burial Benefits
 - Burial in National or State Cemeteries in Georgia
 - Military Funeral Honors
 - Headstones, Medallions or Markers
- Military Funeral Honors
- VA Benefits
 - Burial Benefits, Death Pension, DIC, Accrued Benefits, DEA, and Home Loans



Plan Ahead



- Keep all vital documents together in a fireproof container. This includes:
 - Vital documents- to include birth certificates, marriage license, divorce decree, SS cards, DD 214/WW II discharge documents.
 - Life insurance policies/location of medical records
 - Will, living will/health directive, DNR-Do not resuscitate order, and Power of Attorney's.
 - Financial account information- to include bank accounts, stocks/bonds, 401k, credit cards, mortgages, property information/deeds & titles, safe deposit boxes etc.
 - Retiree (retirement orders), Veteran (discharge orders)
 - Copy of last VA rating decision
 - Membership in organizations: Legion, VFW, AUSA etc.
 - Employer information
 - Death certificate (when it happens—at least 10 copies)



Reporting a Death



■ Service Organization

- Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs -1-800-626-3317
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Reporting%20A%20Death>
- Navy- Call DFAS Casualty Care Team at 1-800-321-1080
<https://www.public.navy.mil/BUPERS-NPC/REFERENCE/PUBLICATIONS/SHIFTCOLORS/Pages/reportdeath.aspx>
- Air Force- Call DFAS Casualty Care Team at 1-800-321-1080
<https://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/440063/reporting-a-retireeannuitant-death/>
- Marines- Current member 1-888-320-2917, retiree 1-888-767-6738
<https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/hrom/Benefits/Survivor-Benefits/>
- Coast Guard- 1-800-772-8724, choose #5 from menu,
<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Retiree-Services-Program/>



Reporting a Death



Reporting a Death Cont.'



- Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213
<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10008.pdf>
- Veteran's Administration 1-800-827-1000
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service 1-800-321-1080
<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html>
- Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) 1-800-538-9552
- GA Department of Driver Services 1-678-413-8400



Reporting a Death Cont.'



- Automotive Insurers
- All Financial Companies (credit cards, banks, mortgage companies, and lenders)
- Pension/Annuity Providers
- Life Insurance Companies
- Health and Dental Insurers/Disability Insurers
- Memberships (clubs, library, veterans organizations etc.)
- Deceased Do Not Contact Registration <http://www.ims-dm.com/cgi/ddnc>
- Credit Report Agencies
 - Experian, 1-888-397-3742
 - Equifax, 1-888-298-0045
 - TransUnion, 1-888-909-8872



Burial Eligibility



- To be eligible for burial in a National Cemetery you must have the following qualifications (partial list):
 - Be a veteran or member of the Armed Forces (member who dies on active duty, veteran discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, veterans who served during a time of war)
 - Member of the Reserve Components and ROTC (eligible for retired pay, die while hospitalized as a result of training in IDT and AD training or if discharged honorable for the component; ROTC-die while on duty at authorized training camp.)
 - Spouses and dependents of an eligible veteran, surviving spouse of an eligible veteran (even if remarried); children of veteran under age of 21, 23 if in school.
 - https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/eligible.asp
 - You can apply in advance using VA Form 40-10007 Application for pre-need determination of eligibility of burial. Need to send DD 214



Burial Eligibility



Burial Benefits



- The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) provides burial services to veterans and eligible dependents in national, state veterans and private cemeteries.
- Three National Cemeteries in Georgia
 - Marietta National Cemetery in Marietta, GA 866-236-8159 (closed to new internments)
 - Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, GA 770-479-9300
 - Andersonville National Cemetery in Andersonville, GA-managed by National Park Service. 229-924-0343
 - To schedule a burial
https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/need.asp or fax 1/866-900-6417 and follow up with phone call to 1-800-535-1117



Burial Benefits Cont.'



- There are two State Veterans Cemeteries in Georgia
 - Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Glennville, GA 912-654-5398 <https://veterans.georgia.gov/gvmc-glennville> (closest to Statesboro)
 - Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Milledgeville, GA 478-445-3363 <https://veterans.georgia.gov/gvmc-milledgeville>
 - Application process is slightly different than federal but have the same eligibility requirements. Use links to apply.



Burial Benefits Cont.'



- Eligible veterans are entitled to a government headstone/marker for national or state cemetery, or medallion for a private cemetery
 - Apply for headstone/marker using VA Form 40-1330 and fax to 1-800-455-7143
 - Apply for medallion for private cemetery using VA Form 40-1330M
- Eligible recipients can request Presidential Memorial Certificates using VA Form 40-0247 <https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/pmc.asp>



Military Funeral Honors



Military Funeral Honors



- Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country.
 - This ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration a grateful nation can provide to the veteran's family.
 - By law, an honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces.
- For more information on how to schedule military funeral honors visit <https://mfh.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/>



Military Funeral Honors Cont.'



- To schedule funeral honors see below for a breakdown of who to call in your county. Please have the veterans DD 214 available before you call.
 - Army call 1-800-557-7408
 - Marine Corps call 1-866-826-3628
 - Navy call 1-904-542-1536
 - Air Force call 1-229-257-4142
- Application for US Flag for Burial purposes is requested using VA Form 27-2008
- Your local Funeral Director is one of the main people that can assist you in applying for funeral honors.



VA Benefits



VA Benefits



- Military Burial Allowance—to apply use VA Form **21P-530** Application for Burial Benefits (Use fact sheet for eligibility and monetary breakdown)

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf>

Military Funeral Honors

- Will need marriage license, DD 214, and death certificate
- Death Pension, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), and/or Accrued Benefits
 - All filed using VA Form **21-534EZ**
 - You can apply for all at the same time (if all approved you must chose from DIC and Death Pension)
 - Will need marriage license, DD 214 and death certificate



VA Benefits Cont.'



- Death Pension (Survivors Pension) is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.
 - <https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepen.asp>
 - The veteran must meet minimum regarding active service during a period of war. Generally its 90 consecutive days (1 during a period of war) or 90 days combined during one period of war or
 - Any length of active service during a period of war when at the time of death the veteran was receiving VA compensation or retirement pay for a service connected disability or
 - Veteran was discharged from active service due to a service connected disability
 - Death pension is income bases and your net worth and income must not exceed certain requirements (\$8830 is spouse no children)
 - How to calculate- <https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepencalc.asp>
 - Pension rates- https://www.benefits.va.gov/PENSION/rates_survivor_pen17.asp



VA Benefits Cont.'



- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military Servicemembers who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of Veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.
 - Eligibility requirements:
https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/types-dependency_and_indemnity.asp
 - Separate requirements for surviving spouse and surviving children



VA Benefits Cont.'



- **Accrued Benefits-** are benefits due to the veteran based on existing ratings, decisions, or evidence in the VA's possession at the time of death, but the benefits were not paid before the veterans death; and you are the surviving spouse, child or dependent parent of the deceased veteran.
- VA pays benefits in order of priority: Spouse, Children of Veteran, Dependent parents.



VA Benefits Cont.'



- Dependent's Educational Assistance Program- offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service connected condition or of servicemembers who died during active military service or veterans who died as a result of a service-related condition.
 - Eligibility requirements-- <https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance/>
 - Apply using VA Form **22-5490** or apply online



VA Benefits Cont.'



- Home Loans- the VA helps eligible surviving spouses become home owners. This benefit may be used to help you buy, build, repair, retain, or adapt a home for your own personal occupancy.
 - Benefits, eligibility and how to apply -
<https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/>
 - Survivors apply using VA Form **26-1817** and **DD 214**
 - Call **1-877-827-3702** for more info
 - Your local GDVS office can assist you with the application.



Good Information



- Planning Your Legacy Kit:
https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/Planning_Legacy_Booklet.pdf
- Use your local Georgia Department of Veterans Service (GDVS) office to file for benefits
- <https://veterans.georgia.gov/locations/veterans-field-service-office>



Questions?





Check on Learning



- What are two of the location you report a veterans death to?
- How many federal and state veterans cemeteries are there in Georgia?
- Who is the main person that can assist a veteran with requesting funeral honors?
- What is the tax free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of servicemember who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of Veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease?



Check on Learning Answers



- What are two of the location you report a veterans death to? **Service organization, VA, SSA, DFAS, DEERS, State Agencies, insurance companies, banks, credit bureaus.**
- How many national and state veterans cemeteries are there in Georgia? **3 national (Andersonville, Georgia National, and Marietta; 2 state (Milledgeville and Glennville)**
- Who is the main person that can assist a veteran with requesting funeral honors? **Funeral Director**
- What is the tax free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of servicemember who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of Veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease? **Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC)**