

# Veteran's Burial Benefits

## VETERAN'S BURIAL ALLOWANCE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes a partial reimbursement of eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service-related, the reimbursement is generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance and (2) a plot interment allowance. You may be entitled to a VA burial allowance if:

- You paid for a veteran's burial or funeral AND
- You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some source, such as the deceased veteran's employer AND
- The veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- The veteran died because of a service-related disability OR
- The veteran was getting VA pension or compensation at the time of death OR
- The veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation but declined not to reduce his / her military retirement or disability pay OR
- The veteran died in a VA hospital or while in a nursing home under VA contract.

Service-related death: The VA pays an allowance toward burial expenses.

Non-service related death: The VA will pay an allowance toward burial and funeral expenses and a plot interment allowance. If the death happened while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under contracted nursing care, the cost of moving the deceased may be reimbursed.

## HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

- The VA furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker to mark the unmarked grave of an eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world.
- Flat bronze, granite, or marble markers and upright granite headstones are available. The style choice must be consistent with existing monuments at the place of burial.
- Niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment or cremated remains.

## BURIAL FLAGS

Most veterans are eligible for a burial flag. Reservists entitled to retirement pay are also eligible to receive a burial flag. To facilitate receiving veterans benefits for which you may be eligible, you will need the following when you contact the Veterans Administration Office:

- Proof of the Veteran's Military Service (DD214)
- Service Serial Number
- Certified Copy of the Death Certificate
- Marriage License (if applicable)
- Children's Birth Certificates (if applicable)