

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF LAKE COUNTY



Survivors Benefits Packet

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USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

- VA Hotline
 - 800-827-1000
- James A Lovell Federal Health Care Center
 - Main: 847-688-1900
 - Enrollment: 224-610-1463
 - Billing: 877-874-2273
- Lake County Assessors Office
 - 847-377-2050
- Defense Finance Accounting Services
 - 888-332-7411
- Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
 - 800-437-9824
- Lake County Veterans and Family Services
 - 847-986-4622
- Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network
 - 855-452-3526

CONTACT US AT:



847-377-3344



847-984-5750



veterans@lakecountyil.gov



**501 N Riverside Dr
Suite 106
Gurnee, IL 60031**

WELCOME TO THE VAC.

Whether you are planning ahead or grieving a deceased loved one the VAC is here to support and answer questions in this difficult time. This packet includes information about various benefits for the deceased Veteran and their loved ones. The VAC staff is here to assist determining eligibility for various benefits and applying for those benefits. This is not an all encompassing packet. If you have additional questions please reach out.

LAST REVISION

4/30/2021



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VA Benefits for Survivors

This handout provides brief information about benefits available to survivors of military Servicemembers and Veterans from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Burial

- **Reimbursement of Burial Expenses:** A burial allowance may be paid to help offset expenses of the Veteran's funeral and burial. The allowance is payable for Veterans who:
 - Died of a service-connected disability, or
 - Were in receipt of compensation or pension, or retired pay in lieu of, or
 - Died in a VA facility
- **Plot Allowance:** If not buried in a national cemetery, a plot allowance may be payable for Veterans who:
 - Were discharged for disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or
 - Were in receipt of compensation or pension, or retired pay in lieu thereof, or
 - Died in a VA facility
- **National Cemetery:** Most Veterans, their spouses, and dependent children are eligible for burial in one of VA's national cemeteries at no cost to the family. Many states have Veterans cemeteries, built with VA grants, with similar benefits.
- **Headstone or Marker:** VA provides a headstone or marker for Veterans buried in any cemetery nationwide
- **Flag:** an American Flag is provided to drape the casket or accompany the urn of an eligible Veteran. The flag is presented to the Veteran's next of kin upon burial.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

- DIC is a monthly benefit paid to unmarried surviving spouses and dependent children of Servicemembers who die during active military service, or Veterans who:
 - Die after military service because of a service-connected disability, or
 - Were receiving or entitled to receive VA compensation for a service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling.
 - For 10 years immediately preceding death, or
 - Since the veteran's release from active duty and for five years immediately preceding death, or
 - For one year immediately preceding death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war

Parents DIC

- This benefit is paid to parents of Veterans who die in service or as a result of service-connected disability. There are qualifying income limits, and the amount payable varies based on the parent's other income.

Death Pension

- Death pension is a monthly benefit paid to unmarried surviving spouses and dependent children of wartime Veterans whose death is not due to service-connected disability. There are qualifying income limits, and the amount payable varies based on the amount of other income.



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□ **Aid and Attendance / Housebound**

- Aid and Attendance is paid to DIC and Pension recipients, who require regular assistance in eating, bathing, dressing, or taking care of the needs of nature. Individuals who are blind, a patient in a nursing home, or receiving care in an assisted living facility are included.
- Housebound is paid to DIC and Pension recipients who are permanently housebound (or confined to a ward or clinical area) because of disability.

□ **Education and Training**

- The Dependents' Educational Assistance Program provides educational benefits to unmarried surviving spouses and dependent children of:
 - Servicemembers who die during active military service, or
 - Veterans who die of a service-connected disability, or
 - Veterans who were rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability at the time of death.
- There are time limits for use of this benefit, which include:
 - A surviving spouse has 10 years from the date eligibility is established, but 20 years if the Servicemember died while on Active Duty.
 - Children are eligible from age 18-26.
- A child or surviving spouse with disabilities may be eligible for special restorative training or specialized vocational training. Educational and vocational counseling and employment as a work-study student are also available.

□ **Fry Scholarship under the Post 9/11 GI Bill**

- The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship Program provides Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to the children of Servicemembers who die in the line of duty after September 10, 2001.
- Eligible children (between the ages of 18-33) attending school may receive up to the highest public, in-state, undergraduate tuition and fees, plus a monthly living allowance and books and supplies stipend.
- Please visit www.gibill.va.gov for more information.

□ **Home Loan Guaranty**

- The unmarried surviving spouse of a Veteran whose death was service connected is generally eligible for this program.
- VA guarantees loans to purchase a home, including a condominium or manufactured home, or to refinance an existing home loan.

□ **Health Care**

- The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) provides coverage for unmarried surviving spouses and children of Veterans who:
 - Were permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability at the time of death, or
 - Died in service in the line of duty, and the dependents are not eligible for Department of Defense TRICARE benefits.

□ **Restoration of Entitlement**

- Entitlement may be restored for a surviving spouse who remarried after the Veteran's death if the remarriage ended in death, divorce, or annulment.
- A surviving spouse who remarries at age 57 or older, or at age 55 or older for CHAMPVA entitlement, generally retains entitlement to DIC, Home Loan Guaranty, and education and training benefits.



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Life Insurance Benefits

- The Veteran may have had active life insurance coverage with VA. Please see the Contact VA section of this handout to find out where to call if you have insurance questions or need a claim form.
- **VA life insurance coverage:**
 - United States Government Life Insurance
 - National Service Life Insurance
 - Veterans Special Life Insurance
 - Veterans Reopened Insurance
 - Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
 - Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance
 - Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI)
 - Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI)

Education Program Refund

- **Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB):** If the Veteran died while on active duty, or within one year of separation or discharge due to a service-connected disability, the beneficiary of the Veterans SGLI or VGLI policy is eligible for a refund of the Veteran's MGIB military pay reductions which were not paid to the Veterans in benefits.
- **Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP):** A Veteran's designated survivor is eligible to be refunded the Veteran's VEAP contributions that were not paid to the Veteran in benefits.

Related Benefits

- **Civil Service Preference:** the unmarried surviving spouse of certain deceased Veteran's (for example, wartime Veterans) may qualify for hiring preference within the Federal government. The mother of a Veteran who died during military service is also eligible, VA provides an eligibility certification upon request.
- **Commissary and Exchange Privileges:** The Armed Forces provides commissary and exchange privileges to the unmarried surviving spouses of
 - Servicemembers who die on active duty
 - Military retirees
 - Veterans whose service-connected disability was rated 100% or totally disabling at time of death
- VA provides an eligibility certification upon request

Contact VA

- **Toll-Free Telephone Assistance** – (800) 827-1000
- **CHAMPVA** – (800) 733-8387
- **Education and Training** – (888) 442-4551
- **Home Loan Eligibility** – (888) 244-6711
- **VA Life Insurance** – (800) 669-8477
- **Office of Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI)** – (800) 419-1473
- **Direct Deposit** – (877) 838-2778
- **Headstones / Markers (status of claims only)** – (800) 697-6947
- **Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TOO)** – (800) 829-4833

DEATH NOTIFICATION CHECKLIST

When a family member or friend has died, it is important to notify various government agencies, banks, creditors and credit reporting agencies of the death. To reduce the risk of identity theft, these notifications should be made promptly after the death.

To expedite notification, you should initially make the contact by telephone followed by written verification. For many of the government agencies and financial entities, you will need the decedent's social security number, a copy of the death certificate, and, if you are a personal representative (executor) of the estate, your appointment form from the probate court. Make sure to retain copies of all notices that you send.

Below is a checklist of possible agencies and businesses that should be notified of the death. Because each individual case is unique, the list may not be complete. Also, the funeral home may have notified some of the government agencies on your behalf. Please consult with the funeral director when you receive this list so you can check off those agencies which have been notified by the funeral director.

I. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- A. Social Security Administration, 800-772-1213 (everyone).
- B. Veteran's Administration (if decedent was formerly in the military).
- C. Defense Finance and Accounting Service, 800-269-5170 (military service retiree receiving benefits).
- D. Office of Personnel Management, 888-767-6738 (if decedent is a retired or former federal civil service employee).
- E. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, 800-375-5283 (if decedent was not a U.S. citizen)
- F. State Department of Motor Vehicles (if decedent had a driver's license or state ID).

II. FINANCIAL COMPANIES

- A. Credit card and merchant card companies.
- B. Banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions.
- C. Mortgage companies and lenders.
- D. Financial planners and stockbrokers.
- E. Pension providers.

III. INSURANCE AND ANNUITY COMPANIES

- A. Life insurers and annuity companies.
- B. Health, medical and dental insurers.
- C. Disability insurer.
- D. Automotive insurer.
- E. Mutual benefit companies.

IV. CREDIT REPORTING AGENCIES

There are three national credit reporting agencies which you should notify of the death and instruct them to list all accounts as: "Closed. Account Holder is Deceased." You may also request a credit report to obtain a list of all creditors and to review recent credit activities. A sample notification letter is available for your convenience.

- A. Experian, 888-397-3742, P.O. Box 9701, Allen, Texas 75013.
- B. Equifax, 800-525-6285, P.O. Box 105069, Atlanta, Georgia 30348.
- C. TransUnion, 800-680-7289, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, California 92834.

V. MEMBERSHIPS

- A. Professional associations and unions.
- B. Health clubs and athletic clubs.
- C. Automobile clubs.
- D. Video rental stores.
- E. Public library.
- F. Alumni clubs.
- G. Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Veterans' organizations and clubs.

VI. DO NOT CONTACT LISTS

For a fee of \$1.00, you can list the decedent's name on the Deceased Do Not Contact List which is maintained by the Direct Marketing Association. All members of the Direct Marketing Association will delete the decedent's name from their mailing lists once the name is posted. A website for registering the name is set forth below:

- A. Direct Marketing Association (register at www.ims-dm.com/cgi/ddnc).

CREDIT REPORTING AGENCY NOTIFICATION

1. Credit Agencies: Check below each Credit Reporting Agency you wish to send this Notification. It is recommended that you send the Notification to each Credit Reporting Agency with copies of the death certificate and, if you are the personal representative of the estate, your appointment papers from the Probate Court. Prior to sending, make copies for your records.

<input type="checkbox"/> Experian P.O. Box 9701 Allen, Texas 75013	<input type="checkbox"/> Equifax P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, Georgia 30348	<input type="checkbox"/> TransUnion P.O. Box 6790 Fullerton, CA 92834
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2. Identification Information: Fill in the information below for yourself as Requesting Party and for the Decedent.

<u>Requesting Party</u>	<u>Decedent</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____ _____	Date of Death: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Phone Nos.: _____(w) _____ (h)	Location of Birth: _____ Social Security No.: _____

3. Prior Addresses of Decedent. List the addresses of all residences of the Decedent over the past five years starting with the most recent:

(a) _____
(b) _____
(c) _____

4. Relationship of Requesting Party to Decedent: Please identify your relationship to the Decedent.

Spouse Personal Representative of Estate Other: _____

5. Directions to Credit Agency: Please initial each request you wish to make to the Credit Agency receiving this Notification.

_____ Post on the Decedent's credit report: "Deceased. Do Not Issue Credit."

_____ Please forward to me at the address listed above the current copy of the Decedent's credit report.

Date: _____

Signature of Requesting Party

MENU

VA (<http://www.va.gov/>) » National Cemetery Administration (</CEM/index.asp>) » FAQs

National Cemetery Administration

FAQs

Does the VA pay for cremation or burial expenses?

The VA does not pay for cremation directly. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home will be at the families' expense. Some Veterans' families may be entitled to a burial allowance (<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>), which may cover some of these expenses.

What are my burial benefits?

Burial benefits (/cem/burial_benefits/) available include a gravesite in any of our national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

What can I do now to prepare for burial in a national cemetery?

You should advise your family of your wishes and where your discharge papers are kept. These papers are very important in establishing your eligibility. Upon request, VA will make eligibility determinations for burial in a VA national cemetery in advance of need (</cem/pre-need/>). At the time of need your family would contact a funeral home who will assist them with making burial arrangements at the national cemetery. You may wish to make pre-need arrangements with a funeral home. To schedule a burial (/cem/burial_benefits/need.asp): Fax all discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-866-900-6417 and follow-up with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117.

I do not have my military discharge, how can I get a copy?

You can contact the National Archives (<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/index.html>)* to obtain a copy of your discharge papers.

Am I eligible for a burial flag and how do I get one?

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. Learn more (/cem/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp).

What is a Presidential Memorial Certificate?

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (</cem/pmc.asp>) (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased Veterans.

How can I order a headstone, marker or medallion for placement in a private cemetery?

Complete the appropriate VA Form available here (/cem/hmm/order_instructions.asp).

Is my mother, who is not a Veteran, entitled to a Government marker in a private cemetery?

Spouses and dependents are not entitled to a Government-furnished headstone or marker in a private cemetery.

Can I be buried at Arlington National Cemetery?

The Department of the Army maintains two national cemeteries, the Arlington National Cemetery (<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>)* and the U.S. Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery. Please contact them directly for their eligibility information.

How can I find out the status of a headstone order?

To obtain the status of headstones or markers ordered for national or state cemeteries, please contact the cemetery (</cem/cems/listcem.asp>) directly.

Private Cemetery: If more than 60 days have passed since submitting your claim and the grave is still not marked, you should contact the cemetery, funeral home, or other party responsible for accepting delivery of the headstone, marker or medallion to see if they have received it. If they have not received it, you may call our Applicant Assistance Unit between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, at 1-800-697-6947.

What do I do if the headstone inscription is incorrect?

Contact your national cemetery administration (</cem/cems/listcem.asp>) office for assistance. If the Veteran is buried in a private cemetery, contact our Applicant Assistance Office at 1-800-697-6947.

What is the proper way to clean a government headstone or marker?

View our fact sheet: [Cleaning Headstones and Markers \(/cem/docs/factsheets/Cleaning_Headstones_Markers.pdf\)](/cem/docs/factsheets/Cleaning_Headstones_Markers.pdf)

Can VA provide burial at sea?

The VA does not provide burial at sea. If you have any questions about the Burial at Sea program, please contact the United States Navy Mortuary Affairs office toll-free at 1-866-787-0081. Or contact the Department of the Navy (http://www.navy.mil/navydata/nav_legacy.asp?id=204)* for information.

***NOTE:** Link will leave the VA web site.

Download Plugins (<https://www.va.gov/viewers/viewer.htm>)

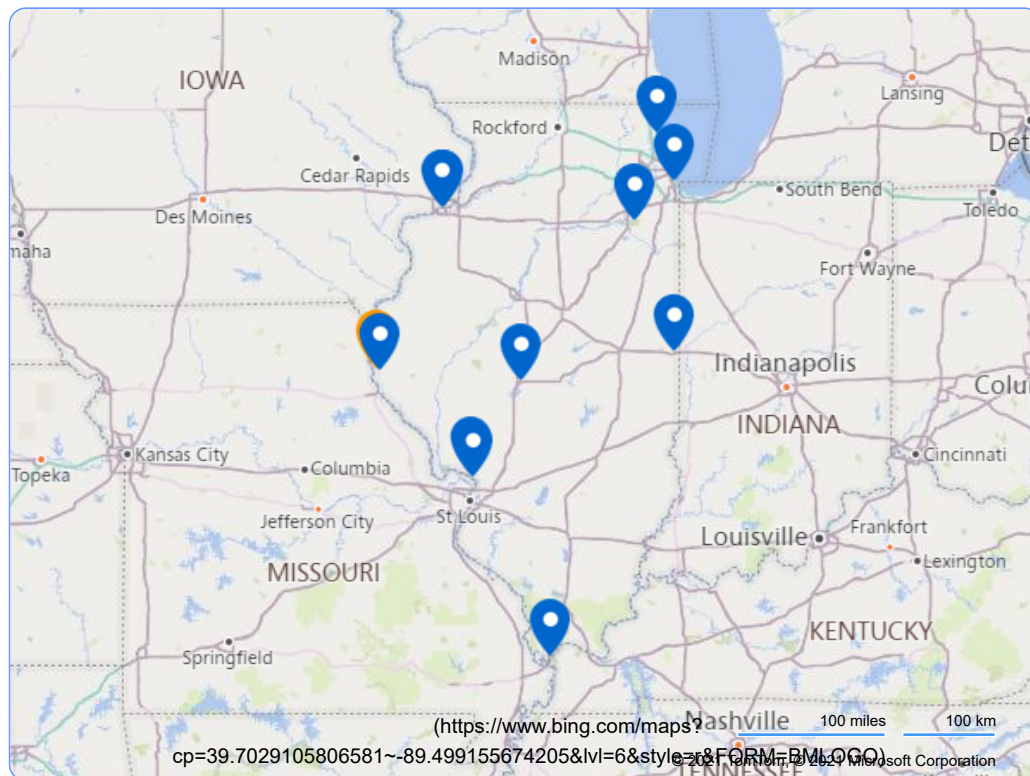
MENU

VA (<http://www.va.gov/>) » National Cemetery Administration (</CEM/index.asp>) » Find a Cemetery (</cems/listcem.asp>) » Department of Veterans Affairs Cemeteries

National Cemetery Administration

Department of Veterans Affairs Cemeteries

Cemetery Listing - Illinois



National Cemeteries

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Cemetery Administration maintains 155 national cemeteries in 42 states and Puerto Rico as well as 34 soldier's lots and monument sites.

Please note that there is not a VA national cemetery in every state. You may also want to check the listing of State veterans cemeteries.

Cemetery Information

Cemetery	Address	Contact	Burial Space
Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery (https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/AbrahamLincoln.asp)	20953 W. Hoff Road Elwood, IL 60421	Phone: 815-423-9958 FAX: 815-423-5824	Open
Alton National Cemetery (https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/alton.asp)	600 Pearl Street Alton, IL 62002	Phone: 314-845-8320 FAX: 314-845-8355	Cremation Only
Camp Butler National Cemetery (https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/campbutler.asp)	5063 Camp Butler Road Springfield, IL 62707-9722	Phone: 217-492-4070 FAX: 217-492-4072	Open
Danville National Cemetery (https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/DanvilleIL.asp)	1900 East Main Street Danville, IL 61832	Phone: 217-554-4550 FAX: 217-554-4803	Open
Fort Sheridan National Cemetery (https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/FtSheridan.asp)	Vatner Road Fort Sheridan, IL 60037	Phone: 224-610-7296 FAX: 224-610-4625	Cremation Only
Mound City National Cemetery (https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/moundcity.asp)	141 State Highway 37 Mound City, IL 62963	Phone: 618-748-9107 FAX: 618-748-9108	Open
Quincy National Cemetery (https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/quincy.asp)	36th & Maine Street Quincy, IL 62301	Phone: 309-782-2094 FAX: 309-782-2097	Closed
Rock Island National Cemetery (https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/rockisland.asp)	Bldg 118 Rock Island Arsenal Rock Island, IL 61299	Phone: 309-782-2094 FAX: 309-782-2097	Open
Confederate Mound (https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/lots/confederate_mound.asp)	Oak Woods Cemetery 1035 E 67th St Chicago, IL 60637	Phone: 815-423-9958 FAX: 815-423-5824	Closed
North Alton Confederate Cemetery (https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/lots/north_alton.asp)	635 Rozier Street Alton, IL 62003	Phone: 314-845-8320 FAX: 314-845-8355	Closed
Rock Island Confederate Cemetery (https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/lots/rockisland_confed.asp)	Rodman Avenue Rock Island Arsenal Rock Island, IL 61299	Phone: 309-782-2094 FAX: 309-782-2097	Closed

State Cemeteries

Many states have established state veterans cemeteries. Eligibility is similar to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries, but may include residency requirements. Even though they may have been established or improved with Government funds through VA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (</cem/grants/>), state veterans cemeteries are run solely by the states. We cannot answer your questions or comments about any of these veterans cemeteries. Please contact the specific cemetery for information.

Cemetery Information

Cemetery	Address	Contact	Funded
Sunset Cemetery (https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/homes/pages/quincy.aspx)	1707 N. 12th Street Quincy, IL 62301	John Wingerter, Acting Administrator Phone: 217-222-8641 x202 FAX: 217-222-9621	YES

National Cemeteries: Definition of Burial Space

Open

- This cemetery has space available to accommodate casketed and cremated remains.

Closed

- This cemetery is closed to new interments. The only interments that are being accepted are subsequent interments for veterans or eligible family members in an existing gravesite. Periodically however, burial space may become available due to a canceled reservation or when a disinterment has been completed. When either of these two scenarios occurs the cemetery will assign such gravesites or columbarium niches to other eligible Veterans or family members at the time of the request. Since there is no way to know in advance when a gravesite may become available, please contact the cemetery at the time of need to inquire whether space is available.

Cremation Only

- This cemetery has space available for cremated remains. We may be able to accommodate casketed remains in the same gravesite of previously interred family members.

State Cemeteries: Definition of Federally Funded and Unfunded

Not A VA Grant Funded Cemetery

- The State has not applied for and received a VA grant to establish, expand or improve this veterans cemetery. The cemetery is owned and operated by a state.

VA Grant Funded Cemetery

- Grants are used only to establish, expand or improve veterans cemeteries that are owned and operated by a state. Aid is granted only to states, not to private organizations, counties, cities, or other government agencies.
- VA can provide up to 100 percent of the development cost for an approved project. For establishment of new cemeteries, VA can provide for operating equipment as well. VA cannot pay for acquisition of land.
- Cemeteries established under the grant program must conform to the standards and guidelines pertaining to site selection, planning, and construction prescribed by VA.
- Cemeteries must be operated solely for the interment of service members who die on active duty, veterans (as defined by federal law), and their eligible spouses and dependent children. States may impose residency requirements and other limitations to eligibility in addition to those imposed by federal law. State eligibility requirements, however, may not be less stringent than Federal requirements.
- The administration, operation, and maintenance of a VA-supported state cemetery is solely the responsibility of the state.

We cannot answer your questions or comments about any of these state veterans cemeteries.

Please contact the specific cemetery for information.

NOTE: Many of the links above will take you outside the VA web site.

DIC rates if the Veteran died on or after January 1, 1993

If you're the surviving spouse of a Veteran

Your monthly payment rate is: **\$1,357.56**

Effective December 1, 2020

You may also be eligible for added amounts based on certain factors. Find any descriptions in the table below that are true for you. Add the amount listed in the Added monthly amount column of each description to your monthly payment. This is your total monthly payment.

Added amounts for surviving spouses

Effective December 1, 2020

If this description is true...	You may qualify for this benefit	Added monthly amount (in U.S. \$)
--------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

If this description is true...	You may qualify for this benefit	Added monthly amount (in U.S. \$)			
If this description is true...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Veteran had a VA disability rating of totally disabling (including for individual unemployability) for at least the 8 full years leading up to their death, and ▪ You were married to the Veteran for those same 8 years 	You may qualify for this benefit	8-year provision	Added monthly amount (in U.S. \$)	288.27
If this description is true...	You have a disability and need help with regular daily activities (like eating, bathing, or dressing)	You may qualify for this benefit	Aid and Attendance	Added monthly amount (in U.S. \$)	336.32
If this description is true...	You can't leave your house due to a disability	You may qualify for this benefit	Housebound allowance	Added monthly amount (in U.S. \$)	157.55
If this description is true...	You have 1 or more children who are under age 18	You may qualify for this benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transitional benefit, and ▪ DIC apportionment rate 	Added monthly amount (in U.S. \$)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 289.00 for the first 2 years after the Veteran's death ▪ 336.32 for each eligible child

What is CHAMPVA?

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a health benefits program in which the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) shares the cost of certain health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. CHAMPVA is managed by the VHA Office of Community Care (VHA CC) in Denver, Colo., which processes CHAMPVA applications and medical claims, determines eligibility and authorizes benefits.

Who is eligible for CHAMPVA?

To be eligible for CHAMPVA, the beneficiary cannot be eligible for TRICARE. CHAMPVA provides coverage to the spouse or widow(er) and to the children of a Veteran who:

- is permanently and totally disabled (P&T) because of an adjudicated service-connected disability, or
- died as a result of an adjudicated service-connected disability or who at the time of death was rated P&T, or
- died while in an active duty status and in the line of duty, not due to misconduct. The term “active duty” may include periods of inactive duty for training.

Effective October 1, 2001, CHAMPVA benefits were extended to beneficiaries age 65 and older. To be eligible, you must also meet the following conditions:

- If the beneficiary was 65 or older prior to June 5, 2001, and was **otherwise eligible** for CHAMPVA, and was entitled to Medicare Part A coverage, then the beneficiary will be eligible for CHAMPVA without the need for Medicare Part B coverage.
- If the beneficiary turned 65 before June 5, 2001, and had Medicare Parts A and B, the beneficiary must keep both parts to be eligible.
- If the beneficiary turned age 65 on or after June 5, 2001, the beneficiary must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to be eligible.

See *Fact Sheet 01-02: CHAMPVA Eligibility* for additional information on CHAMPVA coverage criteria.

What does CHAMPVA pay?

In most cases, CHAMPVA pays similar to Medicare/TRICARE rates. CHAMPVA has an outpatient deductible

(\$50 per person up to \$100 per family per calendar year) and a cost share of 25% up to the catastrophic cap (up to \$3,000 per calendar year).

A 25% allowable cost share should be collected from the patient except when the patient has other health insurance. If the patient has other health insurance (OHI), then CHAMPVA pays the lesser of either 75% of the allowable amount after \$50 calendar year deductible is satisfied, or the remainder of the charges.

See *Fact Sheet 01-04: CHAMPVA Payment Methodology* for further information regarding payment on other than outpatient type of services.

Can a beneficiary have OHI and use CHAMPVA?

Yes. If the beneficiary has other health insurance (OHI), the OHI should be billed first. The explanation of benefits should then be submitted with the claim for reimbursement to CHAMPVA. By law, CHAMPVA is always the secondary payer except to Medicaid, Indian Health Services, State Victims of Crime Compensation Programs and supplemental CHAMPVA policies.

What is the impact of Medicare on CHAMPVA?

A federal law passed on June 5, 2001, effective October 1, 2001, expanded CHAMPVA benefit coverage to eligible family members and survivors of qualifying Veteran sponsors. CHAMPVA will pay after Medicare and any other insurance, such as Medicare HMOs and Medicare supplemental plans, for health care services and supplies. CHAMPVA does not pay Medicare Part B premiums.

How do I get more information?

- Mail: VHA Office of Community Care
CHAMPVA
PO Box 469063, Denver, CO 80246-9063
- Phone: 1-800-733-8387, Monday-Friday
8:05 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time
- Email: Follow the directions for submitting email via IRIS at <https://iris.custhelp.com/app/ask>
- Website: VHA Office of Community Care at <http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare/>

(CHECK ONE BOX)

- WORLD WAR II DESERT STORM
- KOREAN VIETNAM
- GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM
- OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

DVA FILE # _____

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
P.O. Box 19432, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9432**

BENEFICIARY / SURVIVORS COMPENSATION

THIS APPLICATION IS TO BE USED BY THE SURVIVING NEXT-OF-KIN OF PERSONS KILLED WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, DEATH WAS NON-SERVICE CONNECTED AND AWARDED APPROPRIATE MEDAL, OR DIED OF SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES AND APPLIES TO THE WIDOW OR WIDOWER, CHILD OR CHILDREN, MOTHER, FATHER, PERSONS STANDING IN LOCO PARENTIS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE ORDER LISTED.

VETERAN'S FULL NAME _____
LAST
FIRST
MIDDLE

NAME UNDER WHICH DECEASED ENTERED THE SERVICE (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE) WAS: _____

SSN _____ BIRTHDATE _____ SERVICE NUMBER _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____
MM/DD/YYYY

VETERAN'S DATE OF ENTRY TO ACTIVE DUTY _____ PLACE OF ENTRY _____
MM/DD/YYYY

VETERAN'S DATE OF DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY _____ PLACE OF DISCHARGE _____
MM/DD/YYYY

VETERAN'S ADDRESS AT TIME ENTRY TO ACTIVE DUTY _____
STREET ADDRESS
CITY
STATE

WAS THE VETERAN A RESIDENT OF ILLINOIS PRIOR TO HIS/HER ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY?

YES NO ____ YEARS ____ MONTHS

THE VETERAN DIED ON _____, 20__ AT _____

(ATTACH OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF DEATH, DO NOT INCLUDE TELEGRAMS)

NAME OF APPLICANT (MR., MRS., MISS) _____

APPLICANTS SSN _____ PHONE# _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS OF APPLICANT _____
NUMBER
STREET
CITY
STATE
ZIP CODE

RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN _____ (SEE AFFIDAVIT INFORMATION)

HAVE YOU OR HAD THE VETERAN, APPLIED FOR OR RECEIVED FROM A STATE OTHER THAN ILLINOIS A BONUS PAYMENT BASED UPON THE VETERAN'S SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES?

YES NO IF YES, FROM WHAT STATE _____

AFFIDAVIT FOR SURVIVORS COMPENSATION

I/WE AM/ARE THE _____ WIDOW OR WIDOWER, _____ CHILD OR CHILDREN, _____ MOTHER,
 _____ FATHER _____ PERSON(S) STANDING AT LOCO PARENTIS, _____ BROTHER(S)
 AND _____ SISTER(S) OF THE DECEASED VETERAN DESCRIBED ABOVE.

PROOF OF SUCH RELATIONSHIP BY CERTIFIED COPY MUST BE ATTACHED.

LIST BELOW THE NAMES OF THE VETERAN'S LIVING CHILDREN:

CHILD 1 _____
CHILD'S NAME DATE OF BIRTH AND PLACE NAME OF PERSON HAVING CUSTODY
ADDRESS _____

CHILD 2 _____
CHILD'S NAME DATE OF BIRTH AND PLACE NAME OF PERSON HAVING CUSTODY
ADDRESS _____

CHILD 3 _____
CHILD'S NAME DATE OF BIRTH AND PLACE NAME OF PERSON HAVING CUSTODY
ADDRESS _____

CHILD 4 _____
CHILD'S NAME DATE OF BIRTH AND PLACE NAME OF PERSON HAVING CUSTODY
ADDRESS _____

CHILD 5 _____
CHILD'S NAME DATE OF BIRTH AND PLACE NAME OF PERSON HAVING CUSTODY
ADDRESS _____

CHILD 6 _____
CHILD'S NAME DATE OF BIRTH AND PLACE NAME OF PERSON HAVING CUSTODY
ADDRESS _____

LIST BELOW THE FULL NAME OF ALL LIVING BROTHERS AND SISTERS

NAME	ADDRESS
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

NOTE: APPLICANTS FILING FOR COMPENSATION UNDER THE SURVIVORS COMPENSATION ACT PROGRAM, WHO ARE NOT IN THE ORDER OF NEXT-OF-KIN NAMED ABOVE, MUST BE PREPARED TO SUBMIT PROOF WHY A PRECEDING APPLICANT IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION e.g. DEATH OF WIDOW/WIDOWER, CHILD/CHILDREN, MOTHER, FATHER, PERSON STANDING IN LOCO PARENTIS, OR PRIOR DIVORCE OF SPOUSE FROM THE VETERAN.

I/WE CERTIFY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME/US, IN THIS APPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY/OUR KNOWLEDGE. FURTHER, I/WE, UNDERSTAND THAT IN EVENT ANY FALSE STATEMENTS ARE MADE, KNOWINGLY OR WILLFULLY, I/WE WILL BE LIABLE TO PUNISHMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW.

SIGNATURE(S) OF APPLICANT(S)

_____	DATE _____	_____	DATE _____
_____	DATE _____	_____	DATE _____
_____	DATE _____	_____	DATE _____
_____	DATE _____	_____	DATE _____
_____	DATE _____	_____	DATE _____

THIS SECTION FOR DVA USE ONLY

AMOUNT APPROVED: _____

APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS BY: _____

DATE: _____



Phase-Out of the SBP-DIC Offset Frequently Asked Questions

Section 622 of the National Defense
Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 modified the law that requires an offset of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments for surviving spouses who are also entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Under the previous law, a surviving spouse who receives DIC is subject to a dollar-for-dollar reduction of SBP payments, which can result in SBP being either partially or fully offset. The repeal will phase-in the reduction of this offset beginning on January 1, 2021, and culminating with elimination of the offset in its entirety on January 1, 2023. For the remainder of calendar year 2020, surviving spouses remain subject to the existing dollar-for-dollar offset of SBP payments by the amount of DIC paid by VA. After January 1, 2021, survivors subject to the “[SBP-DIC Offset](#)” will potentially see a change in their SBP payments. Many surviving beneficiaries, current service members, and retirees have questions about the impact of this change. The most frequently asked questions are answered below.

Sections

- [1. Impacted Beneficiaries](#)
- [2. Timing](#)
- [3. Premiums and Annuities](#)
- [4. Child Annuitants](#)
- [5. Resources](#)

Impacted Beneficiaries

Q1.1: Who will be impacted by the repeal of the SBP-DIC offset?

A1.1: This change affects surviving spouses who are, or who will become in the future, eligible for both [Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\)](#) payments and [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation \(DIC\)](#) payments, and who were previously subject to a full or partial [SBP-DIC offset](#). The law also impacts the children of service members who died while on active duty or inactive duty, in the line of duty, who are currently receiving SBP payments because the surviving spouse chose the optional child annuity. It does not impact surviving spouses who receive only SBP but not DIC. It also does not impact spouses who are in receipt of DIC-only, either because SBP was declined by the service member at retirement or because the service member was a disabled veteran who was not also a retiree. It is important to note that this change does not impact any retirees or surviving spouses if SBP coverage was previously declined, and does not create opportunities for new enrollment in SBP for retirees who previously declined coverage.

Q1.2: Does every widow/widower of a service member who dies in the line of duty get SBP?

A1.2: In most cases, a surviving widow or widower whose spouse dies on active or inactive duty in the line of duty on or after September 10, 2001, and who remains unmarried prior to age 55 (see question 1.4) qualifies for a [Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\)](#) annuity. The only exception would be in situations in which a former spouse of the service member had been awarded SBP as a result of a divorce court order and the necessary former spouse SBP election was registered prior to the death of the service member. Survivors

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of members who died in the line of duty prior to September 10, 2001, are not eligible to receive SBP. Certain surviving spouses of members who died in the line of duty on or after October 7, 2001, were eligible to transfer the SBP annuity to a dependent child, which is referred to as an “Optional Child Annuity.” This topic is discussed in [Section 4](#) of this FAQ.

Q1.3: If I was not subject to the DIC-SBP offset before, does this change affect me?

A1.3: Most likely not. The change only impacts those surviving spouses who were previously subject to the [SBP-DIC offset](#), and those surviving spouses and children of members who died in the line of duty if the spouse chose to transfer the SBP benefit to a child or children. This law does not create new beneficiaries nor change the eligibility criteria for SBP or DIC.

Q1.4: What if I got remarried, will I still get the SBP benefit?

A1.4: Section 622 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 did not change the eligibility requirements for the [Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\)](#). If a surviving spouse remarries prior to age 55, he or she is ineligible to continue receiving SBP. If he or she remarries after turning age 55, that spouse does remain eligible to continue receiving the SBP annuity. Note that rules for remarriage differ under the Department of Veterans Affairs [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) (DIC) program.

Q1.5: Will I lose Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) at a certain age?

A1.5: No, SBP is a life-long benefit for spouses. Eligibility does not depend on the age of surviving spouse. Unless the surviving spouse re-marries before the age of 55, he or she will not lose eligibility. Re-marrying after turning age 55 will not cause the survivor to lose eligibility for SBP.

Q1.6: When I retired my spouse and I declined coverage because I’m totally disabled and we knew my spouse would get Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) when I died and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) would be offset. Will she now be eligible for SBP?

A1.6: No, an election to decline or reduce coverage at retirement is irrevocable, regardless of rationale. Section 622 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 does not authorize retirees who previously declined or elected reduced coverage (such as electing child-only coverage at retirement) to re-enroll or change their level of coverage.

Q1.7: I used to participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) but I withdrew when I was rated as totally disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. How does this change affect me?

A1.7: Section 622 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 does not restore [Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\)](#) enrollment for any retiree who previously voluntarily withdrew. Withdrawal from SBP remains in effect as long as the retiree who withdrew is rated totally disabled. If the retiree’s rating is later reduced below “totally disabled,” SBP coverage can be reinstated, but only if the retiree requests it within one year of the effective date of the reduction of the VA disability rating.

Q1.8: My spouse declined Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) when he retired. I am receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from VA now because he died of a service-connected issue. Will I now receive SBP also?

A1.8: No, declining SBP at retirement is an irrevocable decision. Section 622 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 does not grant the authority to reinstate SBP coverage if it was previously declined at retirement.



Timing

Q2.1: When will the change go into effect?

A2.2: Section 622 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 was signed into law on December 20, 2019; however, the actual adjustments to [Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\)](#) payments for those affected by the change will begin in 2021. The legislation phases in the repeal of the [SBP-DIC offset](#) from 2021 to 2023. Survivors subject to the SBP-DIC offset will remain offset dollar-for-dollar in 2020.

Q2.2: When will I see an increase in my Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments?

A2.2: Section 622 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 phases in the elimination of the [SBP-DIC offset](#) in the following way:

In 2020, surviving spouses will continue to have their SBP offset by the full amount of [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation \(DIC\)](#) they receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In 2021, SBP will be reduced by no more than two-thirds of the amount of DIC rather than by the entire amount of DIC, even though eligible surviving spouses will continue to receive the full amount of DIC.

In 2022, SBP will be reduced by no more than one-third of the amount of DIC received.

In 2023, the SBP-DIC offset will be eliminated in total, so that surviving spouses eligible for both programs will receive both SBP and DIC in full, effective January 1 (paid as of February 1).

Q2.3: Why can't I receive the full Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) benefit starting this year?

A2.3: Section 622 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 does not authorize any change to the calculation of the [SBP-DIC offset](#) prior to January 1, 2021.

Q2.4: When will I start receiving benefits in full?

A2.4: Eligible survivors will start receiving [Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\)](#) payments in full, without offset, beginning with their January 2023 entitlement, which will be paid on February 1, 2023.

Q2.5: Does any form, document, or supporting statement need to be submitted to take advantage of these increased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments? If yes, when is the cutoff date?

A2.5: No, the increase in benefits will occur automatically for surviving spouses subject to the [SBP-DIC offset](#). All surviving spouses subject to the offset will have their benefit recalculated for the month of January 2021, which they will receive on February 1, 2021. We would encourage you to ensure your contact and bank account information is updated through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's self-service portal, [myPay](#).

Q2.6: If a person becomes a surviving spouse this year, would that person automatically start to receive both Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits?

A2.6: First, in order to be eligible for both benefits the current or former military member must either have retired – and elected to participate in SBP – or died in the line of duty. If retired, he or she must also have died of a service-connected disability for the surviving spouse to be eligible for [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation \(DIC\)](#). Less than 10 percent of surviving spouses qualify under both programs. In 2020, all new surviving spouses remain subject to the [SBP-DIC offset](#) if eligible under both programs. Those survivors will receive only the amount of SBP in excess of the amount of DIC they receive. Beginning in 2021, new surviving spouses will receive the same increase in benefits as existing survivors.

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Premiums and Annuities

Q3.1: How much will the average survivor get?

A3.1: [Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\)](#) annuity payments can vary for each beneficiary because they are based on a number of factors such as retirement date, length of service, pay grade, and disability rating of the sponsor. There is no set amount, so each surviving spouse's current and future SBP payments could be quite different. We recommend reaching out to a [financial counselor](#) or retirement services office on your local installation to discuss individual amounts.

Q3.2: I am currently subject to the SBP-DIC offset. Will I definitely get an increase?

A3.2: Yes, eventually, although not all survivors will see an increase in the first year. It is possible that if your [Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\)](#) payments are currently less than two-thirds of the amount of [Dependency Indemnity Compensation \(DIC\)](#), you may not see an increase in 2021. For example, if you currently receive \$1,500 from VA for DIC, but your gross SBP before offset is only \$800, you would not see an increase in 2021 other than the normal annual [cost of living adjustment \(COLA\)](#). This is because your SBP amount, \$800, is still less than the amount of DIC that would be subject to offset, which in this example would be \$1,000 (i.e., \$1,000 is two-thirds of the \$1,500 DIC). Eventually, though, you will see an increase as the [SBP-DIC offset](#) is further reduced in 2022 and then completely eliminated in 2023.

Q3.3: Now that the offset is being eliminated, will there be any back pay for the years we didn't get Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments we paid for?

A3.3: No, Section 622 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 does not authorize back payments. Surviving spouses of retirees who were subject to the [SBP-DIC offset](#) received either a partial or full refund of premiums to account for the reduced SBP payments.

Q3.4: I received a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) premium refund once I started getting both SBP and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), will I have to pay it back?

A3.4: No, if you previously received a refund of SBP premiums due to the [SBP-DIC offset](#), you will not have to pay back that refund because of this change in the law.

Q3.5: What is the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)?

A3.5: The [Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance \(SSIA\)](#) is a payment made to surviving spouses subject to the [SBP-DIC offset](#) that partially restores some of the [Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\)](#) amount that is offset. SSIA is a set amount established by Congress and adjusted each year by a [cost-of-living adjustment \(COLA\)](#), if applicable. The [SSIA rate for 2020](#) is \$323 per month. Surviving spouses subject to the SBP-DIC offset will continue to receive SSIA, up to the amount that is reduced from their SBP payment (i.e., until the offset is fully-repealed in 2023).

Q3.6: Will the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) be phased out?

A3.6: Eligible survivors will continue to receive SSIA, up to the prescribed maximum amount ([\\$323 per month for 2020](#)) or the amount of SBP that is offset due to DIC, whichever is less. SSIA will no longer be paid once the [SBP-DIC offset](#) is fully eliminated in 2023 and surviving spouses receive the full amount of SBP and DIC concurrently, without offset.



Child Annuitants

Q4.1: The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 repealed the authority for optional annuities for dependent children. What does this mean?

A 4.1: When a currently-serving member dies in the line of duty on active or inactive duty, the surviving spouse has the option, in consultation with the Secretary of the Military Department, to choose to have the [Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\)](#) annuity paid directly to a dependent child rather than to receive the benefit for him or herself. This allows the surviving spouse to receive [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation \(DIC\)](#) from the Department of VA in full without it affecting the SBP payments. SBP paid to the child or children of the deceased service member is not offset by DIC. This provision is only allowed in situations in which the member died on active or inactive duty, in the line of duty, after October 7, 2001. While it remains in effect for now, on January 1, 2023, this option will go away in accordance with Section 622 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. Further, those annuities that were directed to a child rather than a surviving spouse will automatically revert to the surviving spouse, if he or she is still eligible, on January 1, 2023.

Q4.2: I chose the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) optional child annuity when my spouse died on active duty. Will I now receive the SBP benefit?

A4.2: Not yet, but you will eventually. If your child is the designated SBP beneficiary, he or she will continue receiving the SBP payments until the [SBP-DIC offset](#) is fully eliminated in 2023. As long as you did not remarry prior to age 55, the annuity will revert to you as the surviving spouse on January 1, 2023. If your child or children lose eligibility because he or she reaches age 18 (or [age 22 if a full-time student](#)) prior to January 1, 2023, the annuity will be suspended until January 1, 2023, at which time it will revert to you. See question 4.3 if your child or children has already lost SBP eligibility.

Q4.3: I gave the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) to my child when my spouse died in the line of duty while still in military service, but she is no longer eligible because she is too old. What happens now?

A4.3: The annuity remains suspended until January 1, 2023, at which point it will revert to you.

If you previously chose to transfer the SBP annuity to your child or children, and your child or children are no longer eligible for SBP, the SBP benefit will be restored to you, as the surviving spouse, beginning on January 1, 2023, as long as you did not remarry prior to age 55.

Q4.4: I previously chose the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) child annuity when my spouse died on active duty. What do I need to do to ensure the payment comes back to me instead of my child?

A4.4: You will be contacted by the appropriate military service prior to the annuity reverting to you as the surviving spouse on January 1, 2023. You do not need to do anything at this time.

Q4.5: When my spouse retired from the military, he elected child-only Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). Does this mean I will now get the SBP instead of my child?

A4.5: No, the child remains the designated beneficiary for SBP. Section 622 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 does not impact SBP Child-Only or [Special Needs Trust \(SNT\)](#) elections made by retirees and their spouses at retirement. Spouse eligibility is not restored because the election of child-only or SNT coverage at retirement was irrevocable. The section of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 that discusses restoring eligibility to spouses refers only to certain

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situations in which the surviving spouses chose to transfer the benefit to a child following the death of a military member on active or inactive duty, in the line of duty, after October 7, 2001.

Q4.6: I am a retiree who elected spouse and child Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage? How will this change in the law affect that coverage?

A4.6: This change in the law does not affect spouse and child SBP elections made by retirees. If the elected coverage was for spouse and child, the child (if under age 18 or [age 22 if a full-time student](#)) will only become eligible for SBP if the spouse loses eligibility, for example a surviving spouse remarries before age 55 or the spouse passes away.

Resources

Q5.1: I would like to learn more, where can I go?

A5.1: The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has created this webpage to share information about the elimination of the SBP-DIC offset: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/SBP-DIC-News>. Additionally, you can contact Military One Source at 800-342-9647 or find other counseling options through the [Military One Source website](#).

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To schedule honors for each service branch:

ARMY

CHICAGO: (217) 685-4878

ng.il.ilarng.list.funeral-and-honors---chi@mail.mil

MACOMB: (217) 685-4377

ng.il.ilarng.list.funeral-and-honors---

mac@mail.mil

DECATUR: (217) 494-3268

ng.il.ilarng.list.funeral-and-honors---decc@mail.mil

MARION: (217) 494-3265

ng.il.ilarng.list.funeral-and-honors---

mar@mail.mil

CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CENTER:

(800) 350-7746

Other Branch Contacts

NAVY: (866) 203-7791 or (904) 542-1536

USMC: (866) 826-3628

AIR FORCE: (618) 256-4586

COAST GUARD: (216) 902-6269

or (314) 606-6792



For more information on Military Funeral Honors contact your local office using the map below or:

Address: Military Funeral Honors

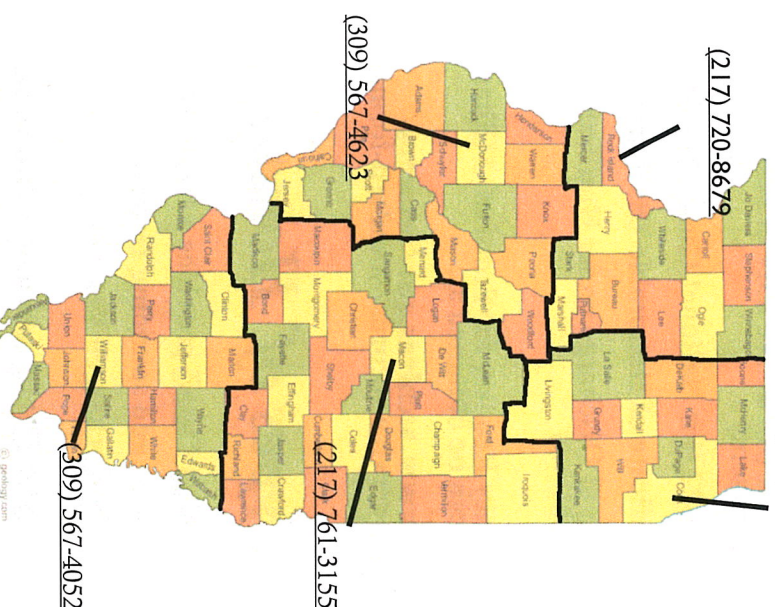
1301 N. MacArthur Blvd

Springfield, IL 62702

Phone: (217) 761-2908

Fax: (217) 761-2920

E-mail: ng.il.ilarng.list.funeral-and-honors@mail.mil



More information can be found at/
<https://mfh.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/>

ILARNG Military Funeral Honors Program



HONORING THOSE
WHO SERVED

History

The United States Military has a time-honored tradition of honoring their fallen.

On January 1, 2000, Military Funeral Honors (MFH) became a statutory benefit to all Veteran's with the signing of the National Defense Authorization Act. The law requires that, upon a family's request, every eligible Veteran receive a Military Funeral Honors ceremony to include, a Two-Soldier Detail for the sounding of "TAPS", folding and presenting the United States Flag.

Mission

The ILARNG provides professional Military Honors in accordance with service tradition to all eligible Veterans when requested by an authorized representative. Soldiers in the ILARNG Military Funeral Honors program are selected and trained using the same standards as Arlington National Cemetery.

Eligibility

An eligible Veteran is any person (Active, National Guard, or Reserve) who has completed at least one enlistment or other obligated military service and received an honorable discharge.

Some of the documents used to determine eligibility include:

- DD-214 (for active duty or reserve component)
- NGB-22 (for National Guard Soldiers)
- Certificate of Honorable Discharge
- General Discharge under Honorable Conditions

Emergency Request for Proof of Military Service can be obtained at:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>

Types of Honors

Two Soldier Detail provides a flag fold, presentation and sounding taps for honorably discharged Veterans.

Nine Soldier Detail provides pallbearers, flag fold and presentation, firing party, and sounding taps for a Medal of Honor Recipient, KIA, E-9, or an O-7 and above and any Retiree or an M-Day Soldier who is not serving in a combat situation.

Requesting Honors

A family member or authorized representative is encouraged to notify the funeral director or service coordinator of their desire to have Military Funeral Honors rendered at the interment of their loved one. The funeral director then contacts the appropriate branch of service in which the Veteran served.

The map on the back shows which ILARNG Military Funeral Honors Team to contact for Army services based on county.



THERE IS NO CHARGE TO THE FUNERAL HOME OR FAMILY FOR MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS