



## Veterans Affairs

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Director

Fact Sheet #3

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# BURIAL BENEFITS

### What is a VA Burial Allowance?

A VA Burial Allowance is a partial reimbursement of an 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.

### Who is Eligible?

You may be eligible for 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 other 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 decided 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.

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## How Much Does VA Pay?

**Service-related death** - VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after 9/11/2001. The VA will pay up to \$1500 for deaths prior to 9/10/2001. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of moving the deceased may be reimbursed.

### **Non service-related death –**

- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2015, VA will pay a \$300 allowance and \$747 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2014, but before October 1, 2015, VA will pay \$300 for burial allowance and \$745 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2013, but before October 1, 2014, VA will pay \$300 for burial allowance and \$745 for a plot.

Effective October 1, 2011, there are higher non-service-connected death rates payable if the Veteran was hospitalized by VA at the time of his or her death.

- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2015, VA will pay a \$747 burial allowance and \$747 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2014, but before October 1, 2015, VA will pay a \$745 burial allowance and \$745 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2013, but before October 1, 2014, VA will pay \$734 for burial allowance and \$734 for a plot.

If the death occurred while the Veteran was properly hospitalized by VA, or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the Veteran's remains may be reimbursed.

**NOTE:** If the Veteran dies while traveling at VA expense for the purpose of examination, treatment or care, VA will pay burial and plot allowances and transportation expenses.

### **What the VA Cannot Do**

- Gravesites in a National Cemetery cannot be reserved.
- The National Cemeteries, normally do not conduct burials on weekends.
- National Cemeteries cannot place headstones or markers from outside sources.
- The National Cemetery system cannot enter into contracts or agreements with local Funeral Directors or Mortuaries.
- The National Cemetery Administration cannot endorse local mortuaries or offer any discounts through a local
- Funeral Director or Mortuary.



## **What the VA Cannot Do Continued**

The veteran and/or family can purchase a prepaid burial plan through any organization of their choice. No Funeral Director or Mortuary can claim that they have any contract or agreement with the National Cemetery Administration.

***Please report any questionable claims or advertisements to your local VA or National Cemetery Office.***

## **Related Benefits**

- Burial in VA National Cemeteries Headstones and Markers
- Presidential Memorial Certificates Burial Flags

## **What Do I Need To Apply?**

Veterans Service Representatives are available to assist you with burial, survivors' or to discuss any veterans' benefit with you. You should bring proof of the veteran's military service (discharge or DD 214), a death certificate, and copies of funeral/burial contracts and receipts for expenses paid by you.

## **How Do I Get Help Or More Information?**

Veterans Service Representatives are available to discuss any veterans' issue with you. Call or visit the office closest to you for more information

## **Veterans Affairs Office Locations:**

- 175 W. Fifth Street, Second Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470 (909) 387-5516
- 15900 Smoke Tree Street, Hesperia, CA 92345 (760) 995-8010
- 8575 Haven Ave., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909-948-6470
- **Or call Toll Free from anywhere in San Bernardino County : 1-866-4SBVets (1-866-472-8387)**