

# VETERANS BENEFITS FOR FINAL EXPENSES

Do not worry about paperwork. We will promptly prepare all necessary documentation to make notification to the proper Veteran's Service Agency who will help you apply for any Veteran's final expense benefits that the Veteran's family might be entitled to receive.

We ask only that we be provided with a copy of the Veteran's Honorable Discharge. If you are considering making pre-need arrangements with us, we would encourage you to allow us to copy your discharge and keep that copy in the pre-need file for future reference. We offer this service to Veterans whether pre-paying a pre-need or not.

For complete details beyond the overview below, go to [www.cem.va.gov/CEM/bbene\\_burial.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/bbene_burial.asp)

Survivors of any person who was an active or retired member of the military at time of death, or an honorably discharged veteran, could be eligible for a number of benefits, including:

1. An American flag (which may be displayed folded in the casket or draped over the casket).
2. Burial in a National Cemetery (includes the grave space and opening and closing of the grave).
3. A bronze or granite marker.
4. Military Honors at the cemetery or place of funeral ceremony. This includes either uniformed members of the branch of the deceased (Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard) or the Genesee County Joint Veteran's Council (Team of Veteran volunteers providing a color guard, firing squad, and taps) or both.
5. A lump sum payment of \$300.00 is usually available to families of those veterans that were entitled to receive VA compensation or pension at time of death (such as retirees). If the veteran passes away while a registered patient in a VA hospital or other accredited VA facility (NYS Veteran's Home), this amount increases to \$745.00.

If one of these circumstances apply and a National Cemetery is not utilized, up to \$745.00 could be reimbursed as a plot or interment allowance (requires proof of payment to a non-VA cemetery). Private cemeteries usually assist you by filing this benefit in your behalf. Additionally, for veterans who die of a service connected disability, the VA could pay an allowance to reimburse funeral costs of \$2000.00 or less (no additional VA death benefits would be available). Active duty military personnel are usually entitled to a greater amount, which can vary.

6. Veterans who die in a VA facility also may be eligible for reimbursement of some or all transportation costs (Transfer to Funeral Home, Hearse, Airfare, etc.).

**NOTE: Monetary benefits are paid to the legal next-of-kin or the estate of the deceased only upon payment in full of the funeral expenses at the funeral home. The funeral home will release a PAID IN FULL bill and uncertified copy of the Veterans death certificate to the Veteran's Service Agency upon payment.**

7. If not remarried, the surviving spouse is eligible for burial in the National Cemetery. Dependent children of the veteran are also eligible.
8. Claims for Veteran's Benefits must be filed within 2 years of death by the veteran's family, a non-family member who can prove that the Veteran's funeral services are paid, or the funeral director.

We will start the process of applying on your behalf if you provide us with a Veteran's Honorable Discharge. You will need to meet with the Veteran's Service Agency to complete the application.

**For Assistance in Genesee County, phone 585-815-7905.**

*This document serves as a guideline only. We make no guarantee that the information provided herein is accurate. All benefits are subject to change without notice. Please refer to the website provided and/or your local Veteran's Service Agency for current, more detailed information.*



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