


Veterans Benefits


Military History Toolkit

Produced by the
Veterans Advisory Council
A Taskforce of the National Hospice and Palliative
Care Organization



Locating Information

- Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)
– www.vba.va.gov
- Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
– www.va.gov/health
- National Cemetery Administration (NCA)
– www.cem.va.gov



Military History Checklist

MILITARY HISTORY CHECKLIST

PATIENT DATA

Patient's Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____ (Home) (Medical) (Work)
 _____ (Other)

VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

1. Did you ever serve or family member serve in the military? Yes No

2. If Patient: Yes No Did you serve on active duty? Yes No
 Did you receive military retired pay? Yes No
 Do you have a copy of your DD214 discharge papers? Yes No

3. Did your spouse or family member serve in the military? Yes No

4. Do you have any immediate family members that served or are serving in the military? Yes No

MILITARY BACKGROUND

1. In which branch of the military did you serve?
 Army Marine Air Force Navy Coast Guard National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Air Force Reserve National Guard Other _____

2. In which war or period of service did you serve?
 World War I (1914-1918) World War II (1939 and 1941-1945) Korean War Vietnam War
 Other (1914-1918) Other (1939-1945) Other (1945-1950) Other (1950-1960) Other (1960-1970) Other (1970-1980) Other (1980-1990) Other (1990-2000) Other (2000-2010) Other (2010-2012)

3. How long did you serve in the military?
 Less than 1 year 1-4 years 5-9 years 10-14 years 15-19 years 20-24 years 25-29 years 30-34 years 35-39 years 40-44 years 45-49 years 50-54 years 55-59 years 60-64 years 65-69 years 70-74 years 75-79 years 80-84 years 85-89 years 90-94 years 95-99 years 100+ years

4. How did you view your experience in the military? Yes No

5. If available, would you like your hospice staff/provider to have military experience? Yes No

VA BENEFITS INFORMATION

6. Are you enrolled in VA? Yes No

6a. Do you receive any VA benefits? Yes No

6b. Do you have a service-connected condition? Yes No

6c. Do you get your medications from VA? Yes No

6d. What is the name of your VA hospital or clinic? _____

6e. What is the name and contact information of your VA physician or Primary Care Provider? _____

6f. Would you like to talk with someone about benefits you or your family might be eligible to receive? Yes No

6: VA Benefits Information

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Veterans Benefits Administration

www.vba.va.gov

- General Benefit Information
- Compensation and Pension
- Survivor's Benefits
- Life Insurance
- Education
- Home Loans
- Vocational Rehabilitation

General Benefits Information

Benefit Fact Sheets

- General Benefit Information
- Veterans with Service-Connected Disabilities
- Veterans with Limited Income
- Dependents and Survivors Benefits
- Burial and Memorial
- Insurance
- Miscellaneous




www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/index.asp

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents

www.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp

Benefits for Returning Veterans of OEF/OIF

www.oefoif.va.gov



Compensation and Pension Service

- Administers a variety of benefits and services for veterans, their dependents and survivors
 - Service Connected Compensation
 - Non-Service Connected Pension
 - Burial Allowances
 - More Options
- www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/index.htm



Disability Compensation

- Definition
 - Benefit because of injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty or were made worse by active military service
 - Certain veterans disabled from VA health care
- Eligibility
 - Service-related disability and discharged under other than dishonorable conditions
- *Payments determined by extent of disability, number of dependents or a seriously disabled spouse*



Veterans Pension

- Benefit paid to wartime veterans who have limited or no income, and who are age 65 or older, or, if under 65, who are permanently and totally disabled
 - Discharged from service under conditions other than dishonorable
 - > 90 days of active military service, one day of which was during a war period (after 9/7/1980 must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty).



Aid and Attendance

- A veteran who is determined by VA to be in need of the regular aid and attendance of another person, or a veteran who is permanently housebound, may be entitled to additional disability compensation or pension payments.
- A veteran evaluated at 30 percent or more disabled is entitled to receive an additional payment for a spouse who is in need of the aid and attendance of another person



Dependents and Survivors Benefits

- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Death Pension Benefit
- Survivors' and Dependents Educational Assistance
- Accrued Benefits



Dependents and Survivors Benefits

- Parents Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
- Veterans' Dependent Parent
- Burial and Memorial Benefits
- Additional Death Benefits



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

- Paid to the surviving spouse and/or eligible child of a serviceperson who
 - Died while on active duty, or
 - Died due to a service-related condition
- Monthly tax-free benefit



Death Pension Benefit

- Needs-based benefit
- Paid to a surviving spouse and/or certain eligible children of a deceased wartime veteran



Accrued Benefits

- Benefits that may be due the veteran or other beneficiary but have not been paid prior to his/her death
 - Based on existing ratings or on evidence in the file at the date of death
 - One-year limitation from the date of death for claims to be filed



Burial and Memorial Benefits

- Reimbursement for burial expenses
- Service connected death-up to \$2,000
- Non-service connected death
 - VA will pay \$300 toward burial and funeral allowance, and
 - VA will pay \$300 for a plot allowance when the veteran is buried in a cemetery not under US government jurisdiction.



Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

- An income-based monthly benefit for the parent(s) of a military service member or who died from
 - A disease or injury incurred or aggravated while on active duty or active duty for training, OR
 - An injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on active duty while on inactive duty for training, OR
 - A service-connected disability



Additional Death Benefits

- Burial Flag-to drape a coffin or accompany the urn
 - Given to next-of-kin as a keepsake
- Funeral Honors
 - Folding and presenting the US flag
 - Playing "Taps"



Additional Death Benefits

- Presidential Memorial Certificate – available to next of kin, relatives and friends
- Government headstone or niche marker
- Burial in a VA National Cemetery



Education Assistance

- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA)
 - Children may use the benefit while they are between 18 and 26
 - Spouse and surviving spouse: up to 10 years from date VA finds spouse eligible or from date of death of the veteran
 - Death, permanent service-connected disability, hospitalized, and other criteria



Life Insurance Home Page

- Access VA Life Insurance policy information
 - Apply for Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance
 - File a Death Claim
 - FAQs and other information
 - Call 1-800-668-8477 Mon – Fri between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/default.htm

21



Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI)

- Separated from the service on or after April 25, 1951
 - Service-connected disability rating
 - Eligible to apply even if service-connected disability is only 0%
 - Other than dishonorable discharge
 - Received a rating for a new service-connected disability within the last 2 years
 - Apply within 2 years from date VA grants SC disability
 - Maximum face amount \$10,000
- www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/buying/SDVI.htm



CHAMPVA and TRICARE


- CHAMPVA
 - Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs
 - VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries
- TRICARE
 - Program of the Department of Defense
 - Regionally managed
 - Active duty and retired members of the uniformed services
- www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp

23



Veterans Services Representative (VSR)


- Available at Regional Offices and at some VA medical centers
- Role of VSR
 - Explains benefits
 - Assists veterans who need help in applying for disability, pension and other related VA benefits



Veteran Service Officers

- Advocate for veterans and their dependents
- National Veterans Service Organizations (e.g., VFW, DAV, PVA, VVA)
 - www.va.gov/vso
- State Veterans Service Officers
 - www.va.gov/statedva
- County Veterans Service Officers
 - www.nacvso.org


25



County Veteran Service Officers


- Local government employees
 - County or town based
 - 75% - 90% veterans claims originate in county veterans service offices
- Assist veterans and their dependents in developing and processing claims
- Work collaboratively with VA and other veterans organizations

26



Toll Free Numbers

- VBA National Call Center
 - 1-800-827-1000
- Educational Benefits
 - 1-888-442-4551
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
 - 1-800-273-8255
- Health Care Benefits
 - 1-877-222-8387
- Life Insurance Benefits
 - 1-800-669-8477
- Headstones and Markers
 - 1-800-697-6947
- Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD)
 - 1-800-829-4833



Resources

Department of Veterans Affairs	www.va.gov
Find a VA Facility	
Veterans Health Administration	www.va.gov/health
VA Health Care Eligibility	www.va.gov/healtheligibility
Veterans Benefits Administration	www.vba.va.gov
VA Cemetery Administration	www.cem.va.gov
CHAMPVA	www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva
VHA Forms and Publications	www.va.gov/vhapublications
Veteran Data	www.va.gov/vetdata
National Center for PTSD	www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/index.jsp
VA Hospice and Palliative Care	www.va.gov/GeriatricsSHG/page.cfm?pg=65