

Veterans Benefits

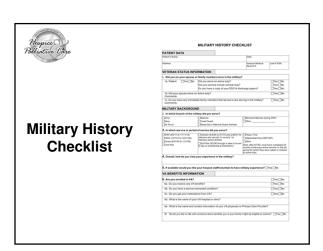
Military History Toolkit

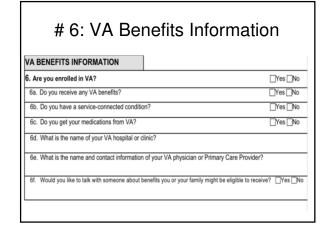
Produced by the
Veterans Advisory Council
A Taskforce of the National Hospice and Palliative
Care Organization



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







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



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
 - 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



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

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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

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Toll Free Numbers

- VBA National Call Center
 - 1-800-827-1000
- Educational Benefits
 1-888-442-4551
- National Suicide
- 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

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www.va.gov
www.va.gov/health
www.va.gov/healtheligibility
www.vba.va.gov
www.cem.va.gov
www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva
www.va.gov/vhapublications
www.va.gov/vetdata
www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/index.jsp
www.va.gov/GeriatricsSHG/page.cfm?pg=65