

Benefits Presentation to VVA 1069 10/8/2014

Last month, 9/10/2014, I discussed Death Pension, Dependency Indemnity Compensation and Accrued Benefits. Today, I will discuss Burial Benefits and a Veterans Pension.

BURIAL BENEFITS: Service Related Death: VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses on or after September 11, 2001. Non-service –Related Death: VA will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses for deaths on or after October 1, 2011 (if hospitalized by VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a \$700 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). Eligibility Requirements: (1) You paid for a Veteran's burial or funeral, AND (2) You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased Veteran's employer, AND (3) The Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, AND (A) The Veteran died because of a service-related disability, OR (B) The Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, OR (C) The Veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay, OR (D) The Veteran died while hospitalized by the VA, or receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, OR (E) The Veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, OR (F) The Veteran had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death, OR (G) The Veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA approved state nursing home. A completed VA Form 21P-530 and supporting documents is needed to apply for Burial Benefits.

VETERAN'S PENSION: A Veteran's Pension is provided if (1) a veteran served 90 days of consecutive service at least one day of which was during a period of war, OR 90 days of combined service during at least one period of war, OR any length of active service during a period of war with a discharge due to a service-connected disability; (2) You are 65 or older OR permanently and totally disabled if medical evidence shows you are : (a) a patient in a nursing home for a long-term care; OR (b) Receiving Social Security Benefits; OR (c) Unemployable due to a disability that is reasonably certain to continue throughout your lifetime that would make it impossible for an average person to follow a substantially gainful occupation; OR (d) Suffering from a disease or disorder that VA determines causes persons who have that disease or disorder to be permanently and totally disabled,; (3) Your NET WORTH and INCOME do not exceed certain requirements. INCOME REQUIREMENT: For a single veteran, \$12,652; Veteran with one dependent, \$16,569; Housebound veteran with one dependent, \$19,380; Aid and Attendance veteran with one dependent, \$25,022. Medical expenses can be subtracted from the Veteran's gross income to obtain the income requirement. EXAMPLE: A single veteran has a gross income of \$20,000 and countable medical expenses of \$15,000. The veteran's income is \$5,000. The \$5,000 is subtracted from \$12,652 and the remainder, \$7,652, is the veteran's pension divided into 12 monthly payments of \$637 a month. A completed VA Form 21-527EZ and supporting documents is needed to apply for a Veteran's Pension.