

# Veterans Benefits- Basic Training

presented by

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**VITAS Healthcare**



# Goal

To provide information about benefits and resources that could help Veterans, their families, and those caring for and supporting Veterans and their families.

# Objectives

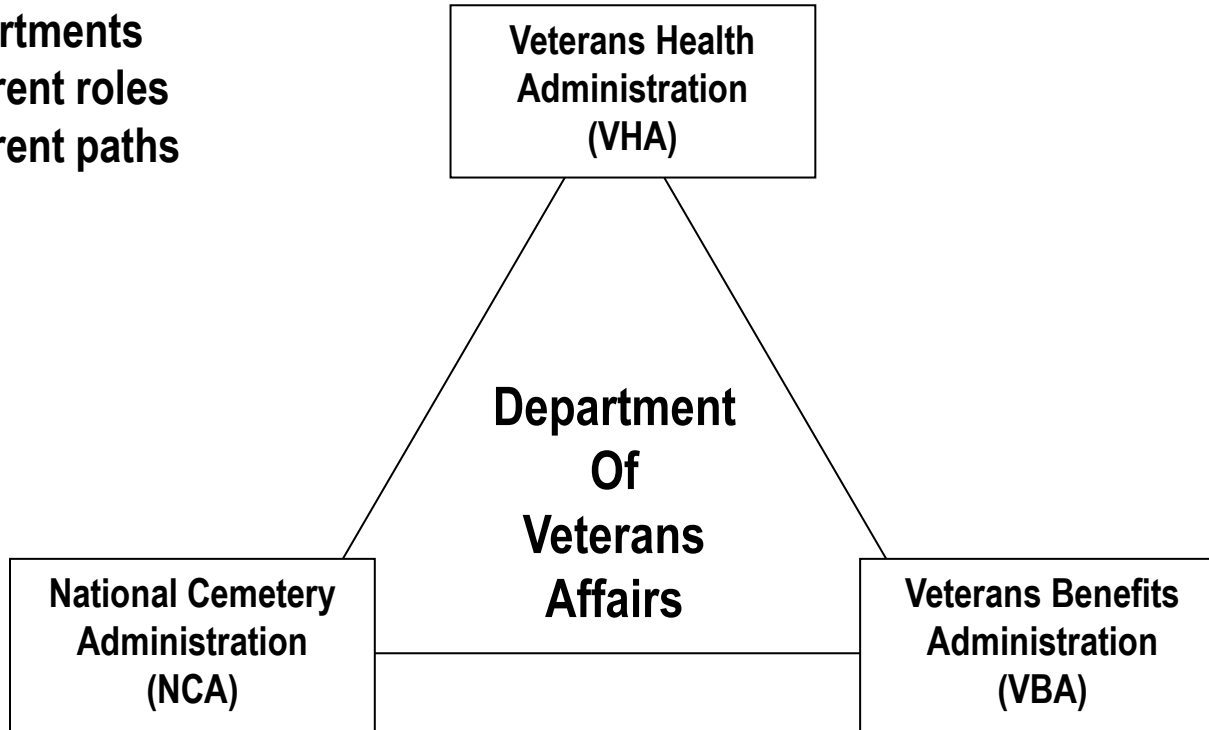
- Identify basic eligibility requirements for pertinent federal benefits for Veterans, their family members and their survivors
- Discuss the general buckets which describe the eight VA medical priority groups
- Explain VA disability compensation, pension, and survivor compensation.
- Explain VA burial benefits.
- Discuss how and who to coordinate with at the VA medical facilities to help Veterans and their families.

# General Eligibility for Most VA Benefits

- **Requires discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions.**
- **Active service means full-time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and the United States Space Force.**
- **“Active duty for training” is not the same as “active military service”.**

# The Department of Veterans Affairs

- 3 departments
- 3 different roles
- 3 different paths



# A Different Role for Each Administration

- **VHA** – Medical care
  - Must get enrolled! (Some minor exceptions)
- **VBA** – Think \$
  - Disability compensation, pensions, and funeral allowances.
  - Utilize a Veterans Service Officer to file the required paperwork.
- **NCA** – Burial and memorial benefits
  - The general rule is to utilize a funeral director.  
(Assume that burial and plot allowances require a claim)

# Role of the Service Officer is Very Important!

- To get questions answered
- To submit claims
- Can enroll for VA medical care
- Follow-up as patient's designated agent
- **Do not charge for services**

# Area Accredited Service Officers

For a listing of all VA accredited Service Officers, visit

<https://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp>

## **Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC Service Officers** (1 more from which to choose)

- Harry William Schwarz  
VFW Office, Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC  
913-758-4296
- Allen L. Barnes  
VFW Office, Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC  
913-682-2000  
[allen.barnes2@va.gov](mailto:allen.barnes2@va.gov)

## **Kansas City VAMC Service Officers** (14 more from which to choose)

- Bradley, Rebecca L  
Missouri Veterans Commission, KCVA  
816-889-2050  
[rebecca.bradley@mvc.dps.mo.gov](mailto:rebecca.bradley@mvc.dps.mo.gov)
- Cobb, Chad Elliott  
VFW National Headquarters, KCVA  
816-756-3390  
[ccobb@vfw.org](mailto:ccobb@vfw.org)



# What is Service Connection?

**An illness or injury that affects body or mind:**

- **Caused by military service.**
- **Already existed but was aggravated by military service.**

# Discharges

1. **Honorable** – Administrative
2. **General** – Administrative

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3. **Other Than Honorable (OTH)** – Most severe type of administrative discharge
4. **Bad conduct** – A punitive discharge, usually implies a general court martial
5. **Dishonorable** – A punitive discharge, usually implies a court martial

# Defined War Periods

- **World War II** (December 7, 1941-December 31, 1946)
- **Korean conflict** (June 27, 1950-January 31, 1955)
- **Vietnam era** (February 28, 1961-May 7, 1975 for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period; otherwise August 5, 1964-May 7, 1975)
- **Gulf War** (August 2, 1990 – through a future date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation)

# Separation Papers

- Must have to get benefits from the VA
- Also known as
  - Discharge papers
  - Report of separation
  - DD214
  - Pre-1950 discharges are various WD/AGO Forms
- How to Replace
  - Application must be made by the Veteran or surviving next of kin:
    - Mail-in forms
    - On-line at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)
    - Veterans Service Officers
- 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center

# Sample DD 214 Form



THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD SAFEGUARD IT.

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME <b>HANDY F [REDACTED]</b>		2. SEX <b>M</b>	3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER <b>[REDACTED]</b>	4. DATE OF BIRTH YEAR <b>[REDACTED]</b> MONTH <b>[REDACTED]</b> DAY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
5. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS <b>ARMY-IA</b>		6a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK <b>PV2</b>	6b. GRADE <b>E-2</b>	7. DATE OF SERVICE YEAR <b>74</b> MONTH <b>03</b> DAY <b>27</b>
8a. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER [REDACTED]	8b. SELECTIVE SERVICE LOCAL BOARD NUMBER, CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE [REDACTED]	9. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE (Home, RFD, City, State and ZIP Code) [REDACTED]		
8a. TYPE OF SEPARATION <b>Relief from Active Duty</b>		8b. STATION OR INSTALLATION AT WHICH EFFECTED <b>Fort Riley, Kansas</b>		
11. AUTHORITY AND REASON <b>Para 2-18 AR 635-200 SFD 201</b>		12. EFFECTIVE DATE <b>74</b>	13. MONTH <b>[REDACTED]</b>	14. DAY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
4. CHARACTER OF SERVICE <b>HONORABLE</b>		9. TYPE OF CERTIFICATE ISSUED <b>NONE</b>		10. REENLISTMENT CODE <b>RE-1B RE-3 RE-3C</b>
11. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND <b>HQB 1st Inf Div Arty Fort Riley, Kansas - FORSCOM</b>		12. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED <b>USAR COM CP (ACTIVE) ST LOUIS, MISSOURI 63132</b>		
13. TERMINAL DATE OF RESERVE (If applicable)		14. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE (City, State and ZIP Code)		15. DATE ENTERED ACTIVE DUTY THIS PERIOD <b>71</b>
YEAR <b>77</b>	MONTH <b>[REDACTED]</b>	DAY <b>[REDACTED]</b>	16. RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D.O.T. NUMBER <b>223,387</b>	
16a. PRIMARY SPECIALTY NUMBER AND TITLE <b>76A10 27 Aug 71 Supply Clerk</b>		16b. RECORD OF SERVICE YEARS MONTHS DAYS <b>3 0 0</b>		
17a. SECONDARY SPECIALTY NUMBER AND TITLE <b>NONE</b>		16c. NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD <b>3 0 0</b>		
17b. RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D.O.T. NUMBER <b>NONE</b>		16d. PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE <b>0 0 0</b>		
		16e. TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE (e + f + g) <b>3 0 0</b>		
		16f. PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE <b>0 0 0</b>		
		16g. TOTAL SERVICE FOR PAY (e + f + g) <b>3 0 0</b>		
		16h. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE THIS PERIOD <b>0 9 11</b>		
19. INDOCHINA OR KOREA SERVICE SINCE AUGUST 9, 1964 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <b>17 Sep 71 - 27 Jun 72</b>		20. HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED (In Year) SECONDARY/HIGH SCHOOL <b>10</b> YRS (1-12 GRADES) COLLEGE <b>0</b> YRS		
21. TIME LOST (Preceding This Duty) <b>0</b>	22. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID <b>10</b>	23. SERVICE MEMBER'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 <input type="checkbox"/> NONE		24. DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES
		25. AMOUNT <b>DHA</b>		25. PERSONNEL SECURITY INVESTIGATION a. TYPE <b>ENTNAC</b> b. DATE COMPLETED <b>[REDACTED] 71</b>
26. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED <b>NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL MARKSMAN (M-16A1 RIFLE) VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BR STAR MARKSMAN (M-16 RIFLE) REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL MARKSMAN (M-16 RIFLE)</b>				
27. REMARKS <b>Last Overseas Service - Vietnam Training Completed - General Supply Course; Cooks Course</b>				
28. MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (Form, RFD, City, County, State and ZIP Code) <b>Same as Item #8c</b>		29. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <b>[REDACTED]</b>		
30. TYPED NAME, GRADE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER <b>VERNON L FRENCH, MAJ AUS (RET) CHIEF, TRF ACTV BR</b>		31. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER <b>Vernon L French</b>		

# Other Documents

- **Government IDs and SSNs**
- **If Veteran is unable to make decisions:**
  - **Power of attorney** (The VA is picky about the medical POA).
- **If getting spousal related benefits:**
  - **Marriage certificate.**
- **For burial/memorial or survivor benefits:**
  - **Corresponding death certificate.**
- **VA Pension and VA medical enrollment:**
  - **Annual family income, savings (bank accounts, 401Ks, IRAs, stocks, etc.), unreimbursed medical expenses.**

# How to Enroll for VA Medical Care

- **By phone**
  - Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday - Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EST. **(Veteran must be able to speak).**
- **Apply online at va.gov**
  - The application form can be downloaded from <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction> and then mailed to the designated address for your area once completed.
  - No personal interview to clarify questions.
- **Apply in person at any VA health care facility.**
  - Going to the “Eligibility Department” in a VA medical center (VA hospital) is the quickest, most sure option.

# How to Enroll for VA Medical Care

- **Go to one of the Community VA's clinics.**
  - Will be able to get and submit forms, but generally there will be no interview.
- **Go to a local Veterans Benefits Service Officer**
  - This is a good option



# During Enrollment

- **Enrollment isn't complete until the Veteran has attended an initial "vesting" visit with a VA physician.**
  - It is usually done by the assigned VA Primary Care Physician at the Veteran's chosen VA primary care location
- ***Hospice eligible Veterans are exceptions and do not need an initial vesting visit.***

# Health Care Benefits

- **During enrollment, each veteran is assigned to a priority group**
  - There are 8 priority groups
- **The VA must do this because it does not have unlimited funding and resources**

# Medical Benefits for Veterans

General “buckets” for the 8 Priority groups.

- **Medical/psychological issues caused or aggravated by military service.**
- **Former POW’s and Purple Heart recipients.**
- **When and where they served.**
- **Income** (Priority Groups 7 & 8, differs by county)
- **Catastrophic disability** (Priority Group 4)

# The 8 Priority Groups

## Group 1

- **Veterans with a VA rated disability of 50% or more; or unemployable due to service-connected conditions**

## Group 2

- **30 to 40% disabled**

## Group 3

- **Former POW's, Purple Heart awardees, Veterans with 10-20% disability rating, or were discharged for a disability incurred in the line of duty**

# The 8 Priority Groups

## Group 4

- Veterans who receive increased compensation or pension based on their need for regular aid and attendance or by reason of being permanently housebound
- Veterans determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled.

## Group 5

- Non-service connected Veterans and non-compensable service connected Veterans (0% disabled) with annual incomes below the geographically adjusted income limits
- Veterans receiving VA Pension benefits.
- Veterans eligible for Medicaid programs.

# The 8 Priority Groups

## Group 6

- **Compensable 0% service connected Veterans**
- **Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.**
- **Project 112/SHAD participants.** (Shipboard Hazard and Defense series of tests, 1962-1973).
- **Vietnam Veterans** (Jan 1962-May 1975)
- **Veterans of the Persian Gulf War** (August 1990-Nov 1998)
- **Veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August, 1953 to December, 1987.**
- **Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations are eligible for 5 years post discharge.**

# The 8 Priority Groups

## Group 7

- **Veterans with gross household income below the geographically-adjusted VA income limit for their resident location and, who agree to pay copayments**

## Group 8

- **Veterans with gross household incomes above VA national income limit and the geographically-adjusted income limit for their resident location and, who agree to pay copayments**

VA's current thresholds can be located at:

<http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/gmt/index.asp>

# Co-Pays

## Outpatient (Priority Groups 7 and 8)

- **Primary Care Services: \$15**
- **Specialty Care Services and Tests: \$50**

## Prescriptions

- **30-day or less supply for Tier 1 (Preferred generics) - \$5**
- **30-day or less supply for Tier 2 (Non-preferred generics) - \$8**
- **30 day or less supply for Tier 3 (Brand name) - \$11**

*(There is a copay cap of \$700)*



# Co-Pays (cont.)

## Inpatient

- **Group 7 - 20% of VA's full inpatient co-pay rate**
  - **First 90 days of care**
    - **\$281.60 co-pay + \$2/day**
  - **Each additional 90 days of care**
    - **\$142.80 co-pay + \$2/day**
- **Group 8 - VA's full inpatient co-pay rate**
  - **First 90 days of care**
    - **\$1,408 co-pay + \$10/day**
  - **Each additional 90 days of care**
    - **\$704 co-pay + \$10.00/day**

# Coordinating Care with VA Medical Centers

- Find out if the Veteran is already enrolled for VA medical care.
  - If enrolled:
    - Find out the who and where of the Veteran's VA primary care physician/care team.
    - Utilize the Social Worker of the Veteran's VA primary care team.
  - If not enrolled, the Veteran is not in the VA system
    - Assume she/he must get enrolled.
- For hospice, there is a different set of rules for non-enrolled Veterans.

# Skilled Nursing, Home Health In-home Respite

# Long-term Skilled Services

The VA provides institution based services (nursing home level of care) to Veterans through three programs:

- **VA owned and operated Community Living Centers (CLC)**
  - VA Eastern Kansas Healthcare System, Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC, Leavenworth, KS
  - VA Eastern Kansas Healthcare System, Colmery O'Neil VAMC, Topeka, KS
  - Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital, Columbia, MO
- **The community nursing home program**
- **State Veterans' Homes owned and operated by the state**
  - Kansas Soldiers Home, Fort Dodge, KS
  - Kansas Veterans Home, Winfield, KS
  - Missouri Veterans Home, Warrensburg, MO
  - Missouri Veterans Home, Cameron, MO

# Long-term Skilled Services

The VA is obligated to pay the full cost of nursing home services for enrolled Veterans:

- At CLCs and VA contracted nursing homes:
  - If the Veteran needs nursing home care for a service-connected disability, or
  - If the Veteran has a 70 percent or greater service-connected disability rating or
  - *If the VA agrees that the Veteran is hospice appropriate.*
- At state Veterans homes:
  - These are run by each state; The states have their own eligibility rules and agreements with the VA.

# Home Health Aid Program

- **Veteran must be enrolled for VA medical care.**
- **Unskilled assistance from community-based home health providers for at home assistance.**
- **Generally for Veterans needing help with at least 3 ADLs (activities of daily living)**
- **To assist with ADLs**
- **Can be for temporary needs**
- **Available for home and ALF/LTC facility hospice patients (Not SNF); Varies, 9-15 hrs/wk.**

# In-home Respite

- **Veteran must be enrolled for VA medical care.**
- **Unskilled assistance from community-based home health providers for at home assistance.**
- **Time allotment for up to 6 hrs/day for up to 30 days/year**
- **Generally can be used concurrently with VA approved home-health hours**

# What Monetary Assistance Does the VA Provide?

- **Disability Compensation**
- **VA Pension**
- **Dependency and Indemnity**
- **Certain Allowances**



# VA Disability Compensation

- For VA recognized service connection
- Requires filing a claim
- Varies with the degree of disability and the number of dependents.
- **Basic awards (2021):**
  - 10% service connected = \$144/month
  - 100% service connected = \$3,146/month

# Presumptive Service Conditions

The VA presumes that certain disabilities were caused by military service because of the unique circumstances of a specific Veteran's military service.

Examples:

- *Veterans who develop ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease)*
- *Former POW's, if they become 10% disabled*
- *Veterans exposed to Agent Orange (17 conditions to date)*
- *Veterans exposed to radiation*
- *Gulf War Veterans with chronic disabilities*
- *Veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune, 1953 to 1987.*

# Implications for:

- **Service connected disability claims**
- **Qualification for VA medical care**
- **Surviving dependent compensation**
- **Increased funeral allowances (as you will see).**

# Think about Vietnam Veterans:

- **Vietnam era (February 28, 1961-May 7, 1975 for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period:**
  - 1973 – Last combat troops left Vietnam
  - A 19-40 year old in 1975 would be ..... 65-86 years old in 2021.
- **Some of the presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure include** (There are now 17 known conditions):
  - Respiratory cancers
  - Prostate cancer
  - Type 2 diabetes
  - Parkinsons/Parkinsonism
  - Hodgkin's disease
  - Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
  - Some soft-tissue sarcomas
  - Bladder cancer
  - Ischemic heart disease

# “Aid and Attendance”

This is actually “VA Pension”

- Service officers don't use the term “aid and attendance”, they will use the terms:
  - “Non-service Connected Pension”
  - “Low-income Pension”
- Types
  - Veterans Pension
  - Survivors Pension

# VA Pension

- Do not confuse with military retirement.
- For honorably discharged Veterans with one day of active duty wartime service
- For surviving dependents of honorably discharged Veterans with one day of active duty wartime service.
- Based on: Low household income and limited household savings/assets.

# VA Pension

- 1. For both the Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension:  
(net family income) + (liquid assets) < \$130,773**
- 2. Amount awarded is:  
(max possible award) - (net family income)**

# VA Pension - Max Possible Award

## Maximum Possible Rates

### Veterans Pension:

- Veteran (no dependents) - \$13,931/yr
- Veteran (no dependents), eligible for Aid & Attendance - \$23,238/yr
- Veteran with one dependent – \$18,243/yr
- Veteran with one dependent, eligible for Aid & Attendance - \$27,549/yr

**\* Add \$2,382/yr for each additional dependent child**



# VA Pension - Max Possible Award

## Maximum Possible Rates

### Survivor's Pension:

- Surviving spouse (no dependents) - \$9,344/yr
- Surviving spouse (no dependents), eligible for Aid & Attendance - \$14,934/yr

**\* Add \$2,382/yr for each additional dependent child**

# The Aid & Attendance (A&A) Increased Monthly Pension:

- Recipient requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protection from the hazards of daily environment
- Recipient 's disabilities require that they remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment
- Recipient is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity
- Recipient's eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes
- Required documentation can be filled out by a non-VA physician

# Pension and Disability Compensation

- Veterans can not get a service connected disability and a VA low-income pension at the same time.
- If eligible for both, the higher of the two would be paid.

**Beware!!!**

**Veterans Benefits Service Office**

**VS**

**Organizations that want to make \$ by handling assets**

**Warning: Pension recipients are at risk of financial exploitation.**

**\*\*\*This is a warning about dishonest individuals who prey on those who receive pension benefits. There have been reports of scam artists targeting and taking advantage of Veterans/survivors receiving these benefits\*\*\***

# Look Back and Penalty Period

- There is a 36-month look-back period
- There is a potential penalty period of up to 5 years for those who transfer assets in an attempt to qualify for pension.

# Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

- For surviving dependents
- Not income based
- If Veteran's death was caused by or hastened by a service-connected issue.
- The Veteran had been rated with a **100% service-connected disability** (Unless the rating was awarded very recently).
- Basic Monthly rate - **\$1,357/mo**
  - Plus \$336/mo if surviving spouse is entitled to A&A
  - Plus \$289/mo for each dependent child

# DIC Eligibility

## Surviving Spouse:

- **Married to a service member who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, or**
- **Was married to the Veteran for a least one year, or**
- **Had a child with the Veteran and cohabitated with the Veteran continuously until the Veteran's death, or**
- **If separated, was not at fault for the separation and is not currently remarried.**

# Burial and Memorial Benefits



# Burial in VA National Cemeteries

- Other than dishonorable discharge
- Veterans, spouses, and dependent children
- The Veteran does not have to die before a spouse or dependent child

# Burial in VA National Cemeteries

- Veteran and spouse/dependents
- At no cost to the family
- Includes gravesite
  - Opening and closing of the grave
  - Headstone or marker and perpetual care
  - Perpetual care as part of a national shrine
- ▶ In general, the family is responsible for all costs up to delivery of the remains to the national cemetery.
- ▶ The federal government only pays funeral costs up-front for Veterans that die while on active duty.

# Burial in VA National Cemeteries

- Includes burial flag and military funeral honors (Veteran only)
- Of note on Arlington National Cemetery
  - Run by the Department of the Army, not the NCA
  - Has different eligibility rules

# Burial in Private Cemeteries

- **Headstone or marker**
- **Medallions in lieu of headstone or marker**
- **Military funeral honors**
- **Veteran only**

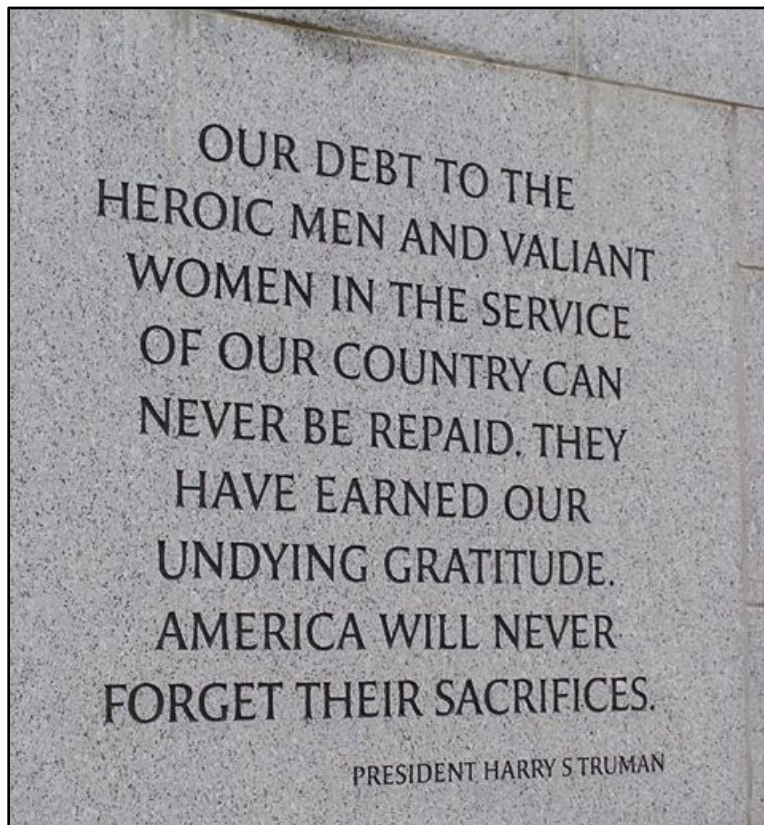
# VA Burial Allowances

- **The Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, and:**
  - **The Veteran died because of a service-related disability, or**
  - **For non-service connected allowances:**
    - **The Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation, or**
    - **The Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or under VA contract at a non-VA facility, or**
    - **The Veteran died while traveling at VA expense to get VA care, or**
    - **The Veteran died while a patient at a VA-approved Veteran state nursing home**

# Burial Expenses Reimbursement

- **Service Connected** - \$2,000
- **Non-service connected**
  - Up to \$300 burial/funeral allowance and \$807 for a plot.
  - If hospitalized by the VA at the time of death, up to \$807 burial/funeral and \$807 for a plot.
  - If death occurred under VA care, costs of transporting the remains may be reimbursed.
  - No plot allowance if buried in a national cemetery.

# In Closing...



# Questions

**Thank you for joining VITAS Healthcare today. If you have questions or need more information, please contact:**

**Shawn Mueller  
VITAS Representative  
913/563-8877  
Shawn.Mueller@vitas.com**



# Resources

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)
- Official military records - [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)
- Accredited VA Service Officers - <https://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp>

# References

- **Federal Benefits for Veterans (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, 2018, and 2019, Editions) Dependents and Survivors, US Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **VA Health Care Benefits Overview, 2018 Edition, US Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)**
- **Jake Zimmerman, Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Kane County, Geneva, Illinois.**
- **Wells, Steven, Service Officer of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Kane County, Geneva, Illinois.**
- **Thanks to Captain Lovell FHCC Social Worker Terri Bohlman for information on The VA's Skilled Home Health and Home Health Aid program.**
- **Thanks to Captain Lovell FHCC RN Joan Pacetti for information on the VA's Skilled Home Health and Home Health Aid program.**
- **Thanks to Hines VAMC Social Worker Alexi Vahlkamp for information on the VA's hospice and palliative care benefits.**
- **Military records, [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)**