



Veterans Death Benefits

All veterans honorably discharged from the military are entitled to death benefits.

Burial Benefits:

Any veteran, except for those dishonorably discharged, are eligible for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery.

- Veterans are entitled to a one-time death benefit
- VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial expenses and \$300 plot-interment allowance
- A government head stone or marker will be issued for burial in a cemetery
- VA provides an American flag for services to be given to the next of kin or close associate, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of the veteran
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate honoring the veterans service is provided to the family

Burial with Military Honors:

The rendering of Military Honors for a veteran is free of charge and mandated by law. The honor detail will perform a ceremony which includes folding and presenting of the flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps.

How do I access the benefits?

- American Flag (VA form 40-1003):
http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp
- Veterans Cemetery locations: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/listcem.asp>
- Monetary Death Allowance (VA form 21-530):
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf>
- Government headstone or marker (VA form 40-1330):
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/>
- Presidential Memorial Certificate (VA form 40-0247):
<http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp>
- Survivor Benefits: http://www.va.gov/opa/persona/dependent_survivor.asp
- DD 214 (Proof of Military Service) should be kept with all of the Veteran's important papers. Copies may be obtained at:
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

Veterans benefits information provided by:
Castiglia Funeral Home, Inc. & Erie County Cremation Service
(716) 824-6435 www.CFHECC.com