

# VA Burial Benefits

## Service-related Death

VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001, or up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 11, 2001. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

## Non-service-related Death

The VA will pay \$948 toward burial and funeral expenses if the Veteran passed on or after October 1, 2023 and \$948 for a plot allowance.

The VA will pay \$893 toward burial and funeral expenses if the Veteran passed after January 5, 2023, but before October 1, 2023 and \$893 for a plot allowance.

The VA will pay \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses if the Veteran passed on or after October 1, 2022, but before January 5, 2023 and \$893 for a plot allowance.

Note: The VA will also pay toward burial and funeral expenses if the Veteran passed while hospitalized by the VA, in a VA-contracted nursing home at their time of death, or if the Veterans passed while traveling to a VA-authorized care.

For non-service-related death benefits, you must apply for these benefits **within 2 years** after the Veterans death.

## Eligibility Requirements

- You paid for a Veteran's burial or funeral, **AND**
- You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased Veteran's employer, **AND**
- The Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, **AND**
  - The Veteran died because of a service-related disability, **OR**
  - The Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, **OR**
  - The Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, **OR**
  - 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**
  - 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**

- The Veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.

**NOTE:** VA does not pay burial benefits if the deceased:

- Died during active military service, **OR**
- Was a member of Congress who died while holding office, **OR**
- Was a Federal prisoner

**Evidence Requirements:**

- Acceptable proof of death (death certificate) as specified in [38 CFR 3.211](#), **AND**
- Receipted bills that show that you made payment in whole, **AND**
- An itemized statement of account, preferably on the printed billhead of the funeral director or cemetery owner. The statement of account must show:
  - The name of the deceased Veteran for whom the services and merchandise were furnished **AND**
  - The nature and cost of the services and merchandise and all credits

Reference: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-burial.asp>  
<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>