

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Active Duty Burial Allowance

The government will reimburse up to \$6,900 of expense for the member's burial and will provide travel for the next-of-kin. www.dod.mil/militarypay/benefits

Burial Allowance

VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot interment allowance, if the veteran is entitled to a VA pension or compensation, or dies in a VA facility. www.va.gov

Burial Allowance for Service-connected Disability

Burial allowance of up to \$2,000 paid by VA if the veteran's death is service-connected. www.va.gov

Burial Flag

Department of Veterans Affairs provides a US flag for the casket of eligible veterans. www.va.gov

Burial in a National Cemetery

Active duty military, military retirees, honorably discharged military members, spouses, dependent adult children, and minor children are eligible. www.cem.va.gov

Burial Plot Allowance

Plot allowance of \$300, if burial is not in a national cemetery, is paid only when the veteran was discharged under honorable conditions and served during a period of war, or had been discharged for a disability incurred in the line of duty. www.va.gov

Fallen Hero Compensation

\$100,000 lump sum to next of kin of a military member who dies on active duty under combat-related circumstances. \$12,420 to survivor of member who dies under other circumstances which will automatically rise each year by the amount of base pay.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

May be payable when death occurs on active duty or when a veteran dies of a service-connected disability, or in certain circumstances if a veteran who was rated totally disabled from a service-connected disability dies from non service-connected conditions. \$967/mo. for spouse, \$241/mo./child under age 18, or 18-23 and attending school. Amounts differ for children of servicemembers with no eligible spouse. (2005). An additional spouse DIC augment of \$250 per month up to a maximum of 24 months is available to your spouse while caring for dependant children under age 17. www.va.gov

Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance (SDEA)

45 months at a VA-approved institution for education or training. \$788 per month if a full-time student. (2005) Children must use the benefit between ages 18-26, spouses have 10 years from the date of eligibility. www.gibill.va.gov

Exchange, Commissary, Hospital, and Other Military Facilities

Available to dependents of active duty and retired members of the armed forces.

Government Headstone or Grave Marker

Provided in a national cemetery. Also available if burial is not in national cemetery. www.cem.va.gov

Home Loan

Available to unmarried surviving spouses of veterans who dies of a service-connected disability and to spouses of service personnel on active duty who are listed as MIA/POW. www.va.gov

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Medical and Dental Benefits

An unmarried surviving spouse and minor dependents continue to receive health care and dental benefits for three years. After three years, they can transition to TRICARE benefits as provided to retirees.

Housing

After death of Active Duty Service member, 180 days BAH or 180 days in government quarters.

Legal Assistance

Limited assistance from a military Staff Judge Advocate.

Memorial Service Expense

Reimbursement of up to \$2,000 if the remains of a member of the armed forces who dies on active duty are not recoverable.

Pay

Arrears in pay and accumulated leave for deceased active duty military member.

Service Member's Group Life Insurance

Group Term Life Insurance Coverage of up to \$400,000 for all members of uniformed services unless specifically rejected by a member in writing. The first \$150,000 will be provided free to troops in a combat zone. Lump sum or monthly payments paid if death occurs on active duty or within 120 days after leaving active duty, or if decedent qualifies for SGLI as a ready reservist or retired reservist. FSGLI provides coverage for children of \$10,000 each at no cost. Optional coverage for spouses of up to \$100,000 with premiums based on age.

Traumatic SGLI

Coverage for life-changing traumatic injuries received in the line of duty which pays between \$25,000 and \$100,000.

Survivor Assistance

Each military service has a program to assist survivors with claims for military benefits. The military authorities must be notified of a member's death to have the assistance of a Casualty Assistance Call Officer.

Survivor Benefit Plan and/or Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan

Paid to the surviving spouse of retirement eligible service members and to survivors of military retirees who elected to participate in SBP. SBP is available for the surviving spouse of children of an active duty service member who dies in the line of duty regardless of years of service. Benefits of up to 55% of the retired pay. This payment is offset by any DIC received by the spouse.

Transportation of Remains

Cost of transporting remains to the nearest VA national cemetery is paid if a veteran dies of service-connected causes or dies in a VA facility. Military will transport remains or pay for transportation when a military retiree dies in a military hospital.

Veterans Group Life Insurance

Five-year renewable term insurance available to members of uniformed services separated or released from active duty. Convertible to an individual commercial policy at the end of each 5-year term without evidence of insurability.

Death Pension

Payable when the death of a veteran with wartime service is not due to service, provided income is within applicable limits. www.va.gov