Preparing your Loved ones!

Veterans Burial Benefits and DIC

Nobody wants to think about the inevitable, but we also need to make sure that are loved ones are taken care of and are properly informed and prepared when the time comes.

**Need to know:**

1. Location of veterans DD-214 and VA award letter.
2. The Veterans POA (Service Organization that represents the veterans claim or appeal with the VA).
3. Veterans Branch of Service to include Service Dates / Deployments

\*This can be difficult for some veterans to express but a simple letter detailing events can meant the difference in DIC or Death Pension. The letter can be left unopened until the death of the veteran, surviving spouse just needs to know the location of the letter.

1. Is the veteran service connected or have a claim filed with the VA for service connection?
2. American Legion Department of Ohio, Cleveland Veterans Affairs Regional Office contact information 216-522-3504.

**What to do when the veteran passes.**

1. Notify the VA of the veteran’s death by submitting a copy of the death certificate to the veterans POA.
2. File out 21-22 for the surviving spouse this form elects a Service Organization to represent the surviving spouse or claimant on behalf of the deceased veteran.
3. If the veteran has an existing claim or appeal with the VA, a 21P-0847 should be filed within one year of the veteran’s death to allow the surviving spouse to continue the claim or appeal as if the veteran.

\*\*There is a 1-year deadline to file to protect the effective date of the veteran’s original claim or appeal.

1. The 21P-0847 can be filed after the 1-year, however the effective date of the request will be the date filed and not the date the veteran originally filed the claim or appeal.

**What other forms need to be filed with the VA?**

1. 21-534EZ Application for DIC, Death Pension and/or Accrued Benefits.
2. 21P-530 Application for Burial Benefits (this is automatic once the VA is notified of the veteran’s death). If the veteran is not married or the spouse preceded the veteran in death. The VA will pay the burial benefits to whomever files first. (most funeral homes will assist in the filing of burial benefits)
3. Obtain the veterans Burial Flag with VA Form 27-2008. (most funeral homes will assist in obtaining the Burial Flags).
4. Apply for Presidential Memorial Certificate with VA Form 40-0247. (most funeral homes will assist in obtaining PMC).

Difference Between Dependent Indemnity Compensation and Death Pension

**Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)** is a tax free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military Servicemembers who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of Veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.

**The Survivors Pension benefit**, which may also be referred to as Death Pension, is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

Addition information can be obtained by calling The American Legion Department of Ohio’s, Department Service Officers at 216-522-3504 or by visiting the VA website via google search VA DIC or Death Pension.