

Burial Benefit Requirements

To qualify for burial benefits, the veteran must not have received a dishonorable discharge and one of the following must be true. The veteran died:

- from a service-connected disability
- while getting VA care, either at a VA facility or a contracted VA facility
- while traveling with proper authorization, and at VA's expense either to or from a facility for an examination, or to receive treatment or care.
- with an original or reopened claim for VA compensation or pension pending at the time of death, if they would have been entitled to benefits before the time of death.
- while receiving VA pension or compensation.
- while eligible for a VA Pension or compensation at their time of death, but instead received full military retirement or disability pay.

Payment Amounts:

- Service Connected Death
 - Maximum benefit: \$2,000
- Non Service Connected:
 - If the Veteran died on or after January 5, 2023
 - Burial allowance: \$893 maximum
 - Plot allowance: \$893 maximum
 - Headstone allowance: \$231 maximum
 - Please contact our office for rates prior to January 5, 2023

Time Limit to File:

- Must file within 2 years of the Veterans death.

Documents needed to file:

- Veterans DD214 or other discharge papers
- Veteran's death Certificate
- Receipts for transport of remains.
- Funeral Home itemized invoice with any unpaid balance.

Jackson County Veteran Affairs

311 W Platt St.

Maquoketa, Iowa 52060



Jackson County Veterans Affairs

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2023 Fall Newsletter



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Claim Processing Times

Due to the influx of claims from the PACT Act, the processing times for claims have increased. On average, it has been taking:

- 6-12 months for a compensation claim
- 2-4 months to get scheduled for a C&P exam
- 8-12 months for a dependency claim

How to Obtain Service Records & Medals

The national archives store all Veterans records pertaining to their military service.

What can be requested?

- DD214 or equivalent
- Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)
- Medical Records
- Dental Records
- Other
- Medal Request (every service member is entitled to one replacement set)

Who can request records?

- Veteran
- Deceased Veterans Next-of-kin
 - Must provide proof of death.

How to Request Records?

- Online at <https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html>
- Call to schedule an appointment with our office. We will need to know:
 - Full Name
 - Social Security Number
 - Birthdate
 - Dates of Service

*Note: There are some instances where a Veterans file may have been lost due to the fire in 1973. The National Archives may be able to reconstruct documents, such as a DD214, based on other information they can locate elsewhere.

Pact Act Review

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

Gulf War Veterans:

If you served in any of these locations and time periods, we've determined that you had exposure to burn pits or other toxins. We call this having a presumption of exposure.

On or after September 11, 2001, in any of these locations:

- Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, Yemen, or the airspace above any of these locations.

On or after August 2, 1990, in any of these locations:

- Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, The United Arab Emirates (UAE), or the airspace above these locations.

Presumptive Cancers & Illnesses

- Brain cancer, gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Glioblastoma, head cancer of any type, kidney cancer, lymphoma of any type, Melanoma, neck cancer of any type, Pancreatic cancer, reproductive cancer of any type, respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type.
- Asthma that was diagnosed after service, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic rhinitis, chronic sinusitis, constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, emphysema, granulomatous disease, interstitial lung disease (ILD), pleuritis, pulmonary fibrosis, sarcoidosis.

Pact Act Review continued...

Vietnam Veterans:

If you served on active duty in any of these locations, we'll automatically presume that you had exposure to Agent Orange.

We've added these 5 new locations to the list of presumptive locations:

- Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976
- Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969
- Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969
- Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 31, 1980
- Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977

Presumptive Illnesses

- High Blood Pressure (hypertension)
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)

What does it mean to have a presumptive condition due to exposure?

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition. But for some conditions, the VA automatically assumes (or "presumes") that your service caused your condition. We call these "presumptive conditions." The VA considers a condition presumptive when it's established by law or regulation. If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.