

It Is Important To...

1. Contact your funeral director for burial arrangements.
2. Contact the Pastor of your church.
3. Furnish the funeral director a copy of the veteran's discharge, separation notice DD Form 214, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claim number, if known, and the veteran's Social Security number.
4. The funeral director will apply for the amount allowed from the VA toward burial expenses (if any), and also the death benefit amount from Social Security.
5. The funeral director will apply for the U.S. Flag to drape the casket, or contact local postmaster.
6. When the veteran is a member of The American Legion, the Post Commander should be contacted for the ritual service (firing squad if the Post has such an organization) and casket bearers, if needed. If it is the desire of the family to have the U.S. Flag presented to the next of kin during the graveside services, the Post Commander should be contacted.
7. The American Legion Post, County Service Officer, or one of The American Legion Department Service Officers located in the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office, will assist you or inform you of the benefits you may be entitled to through the VA such as:
 - (a) Surviving spouse or childrens compensation
 - (b) Surviving spouse or childrens pension
 - (c) VA death benefits:
 - (1) \$300.00 death benefits
 - (2) \$300.00 Burial Plot Allowance
 - (3) Headstone or Grave Marker
8. Important documents to have available when applying for assistance:
 - (a) Honorable Discharge from the Armed Forces or DD Form 214, Report of Separation from Service.
 - (b) Marriage License

- (c) Birth certificates of children
- (d) Death certificate
- (e) Veteran's Social Security card and number and claim number (if applicable) with the VA.
- (f) Divorce paper (if applicable)
- (g) Adoption papers (if applicable)

9. When contacting your Social Security office, the following information will be needed:
 - (a) Discharge & DD Form 214
 - (b) Proof of Marriage (License)
 - (c) Proof of age and birth of children
 - (d) Divorce paper (if applicable)
 - (e) Adoption papers (if applicable)

Insurance

A death certificate is always required to receive payment. The Post or County Service Officer can offer assistance in supplying and completing forms for GI Insurance. Many Nebraska Legionnaires carry life insurance on an individual basis under the following American Legion Life Insurance Plans:

Union Fidelity Life Ins. Co.
500 Virginia Dr.
Fort Washington, PA 19034
1-800-523-5758

Marsh Affinity Group Services
1776 West Lakes Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50398
1-800-542-5547

There are also many Nebraska Legionnaires who carry supplemental insurance other than life insurance through the Legionnaire Insurance Trust that may have benefits due to a beneficiary. After death, these benefits should be claimed by writing to:

Legionnaire Insurance Trust
P. O. Box 9060
Phoenix, AZ 85068-9060
1-800-882-0220

If life insurance is carried with other commercial companies, contact the agent of the company that insured the veteran.

Burial In National Cemetery

Any honorably discharged veteran is entitled to be buried in a National Cemetery, and under certain conditions, the privilege extends to the spouse and children. Applications should be made to the Superintendent of the National Cemetery where burial is desired. Any Department of Veterans Affairs or American Legion Service Officer will assist in handling the request and establishing entitlement.

Headstone or Grave Marker

The government will furnish without cost a headstone or marker to be placed at the unmarked or marked grave of a deceased veteran. Where burial is in a National Cemetery, these are furnished without application. Otherwise, application must be made to the VA office having jurisdiction over the burial claim. Although the headstone is shipped by prepaid freight, the government will not bear the expense or responsibility of its placement.

Additional Comments

This pamphlet briefly outlines some of the benefits available to dependents of veterans. There may be additional benefits available, such as the Nebraska Veterans Aid (NVA) Fund, County Veterans Aid, etc. Persons should contact their Post or County Service Officer for further information. Persons may also write to the Department Service Officer, The American Legion, 5631 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68516 for information.

THE AMERICAN LEGION CARES!

Write or Call
Department Adjutant
The American Legion, Department of Nebraska
P.O. Box 5205, Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0205
(402) 464-6338

(9/06)

Things to do...

**WHEN
A
VETERAN
DIES!**



**A Guide for the
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY**