

About VA

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers a wide range of benefits for our Nation's Veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

Who Is Eligible

You may be eligible for VA benefits if you are a:

- ☐ Veteran
- ☐ Veteran's dependent
- ☐ Surviving spouse, child or parent of a deceased Veteran
- ☐ Uniformed servicemember

Benefits and Services Available:

Compensation

VA can pay you monthly compensation if you are at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service.

Pension

You can receive a monthly pension if you are a wartime Veteran with limited income, and you are permanently and totally disabled **or** at least 65 years old.

Time Limits: There is no time limit to apply for Compensation and Pension benefits.

Health Care

VA provides a number of health care services.

- ☐ Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services
- ☐ Domiciliary, nursing home, and community-based residential care
- ☐ Sexual trauma counseling
- ☐ Specialized health care for women Veterans
- ☐ Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless Veterans
- ☐ Readjustment counseling
- ☐ Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- ☐ Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service in the Gulf War, or exposure to Agent Orange, radiation, and other environmental hazards

Combat Veterans - VA provides free health care for Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, for any illness possibly related to their service in that theater.

Time Limits: You have five years from the date of your discharge from active duty on or after January 28, 2003. You have until January 27, 2011, if you were discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, and were not enrolled as of January 28, 2008.

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment

VA provides assistance to Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment. For Veterans with serious service-connected disabilities, VA also offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible. There are five service delivery options available:

- ☐ **Reemployment**
- ☐ **Rapid Access to Employment**
- ☐ **Self-Employment**
- ☐ **Employment through Long Term Services, and**
- ☐ **Independent Living**

Assistance to Veterans may be provided in the form of job search, vocational evaluation, career exploration, vocational training, educational training and supportive rehabilitation services.

Time Limits: Generally, Veterans have 12 years from the date VA informs them that they have at least a 10% rating for a service-connected disability.

Education & Training

VA pays benefits to eligible Veterans and servicemembers while they are in an approved education or training program. Based on the type of military service, primary benefit programs are:

☐ **Active Duty Service:** Persons with 90 days or more of active duty on or after 9/11/01 are generally eligible under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33). Those who first entered active duty after June 30, 1985, are generally eligible under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) (Chapter 30).

☐ **Reserve/Guard Service:** MGIB –Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606) is available for those who signed a six-year commitment after June 30, 1985, are actively drilling, and in good standing with their unit. The Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607) is for those who were activated under Federal authority for a contingency operation and served 90 continuous days or more after September 10, 2001.

Time Limits: Time limits vary from 10-15 years from either the date of release from active duty or the date eligibility was established, depending upon the benefit.

Home Loans

VA offers a number of home loan services to eligible Veterans, some military personnel, and certain surviving spouses.

☐ **Guaranteed Loans:** VA can guarantee a portion of a loan made by a private lender to help you buy a home, a manufactured home, a lot for a manufactured home, a condominium unit, or a unit in a cooperative dwelling. VA also guarantees loans for building, repairing, and improving homes.

☐ **Refinancing Loans:** If you have a VA mortgage, VA can help you refinance your loan at a lower interest rate. You may also refinance a non-VA loan.

☐ **Special Grants:** Certain disabled Veterans and military personnel can receive grants to adapt or acquire housing suitable for their needs.

Time Limits: There is no time limit for a VA home loan.

Life Insurance

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) provides coverage up to \$400,000 for servicemembers. Coverage ends 120 days after discharge, but can be extended for up to two years if the member is totally disabled.

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) is an automatic feature of SGLI that provides payments of up to \$100,000 for servicemembers who suffer losses such as amputations, blindness, and paraplegia, due to traumatic injuries.

Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) allows servicemembers to convert their SGLI to lifetime renewable term coverage. VGLI must be applied for within one year and 120 days of discharge. If applied for within 120 days of discharge, there are no good health requirements.

Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) provides up to \$10,000 of coverage for service-connected veterans. If totally disabled, they are eligible for an additional \$20,000. Veterans must apply within two years of being rated service connected for a new condition.

Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)

Provides coverage of up to \$90,000 for severely disabled Veterans and servicemembers who have received a specially adapted housing grant from VA.

Dependents & Survivors

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is payable to certain survivors of:

- ☐ Servicemembers who died during active service
- ☐ Veterans who died from service-related disabilities
- ☐ Certain Veterans who were being paid 100% VA disability compensation at time of death.

Death Pension is payable to some surviving spouses and children of deceased wartime Veterans. The benefit is based on financial need.

Parents' DIC is payable to some surviving parents. The benefit is based on financial need.

VA Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA) shares the cost of medical services for eligible dependents and survivors of certain Veterans.

Dependents & Survivors Education & Training:

Some family members of disabled or deceased Veterans are eligible for education and training benefits.

Home Loans: Certain surviving spouses may be eligible for this benefit.

Time Limits: For education and training benefits, spouses and surviving spouses have 10 years from the date VA first finds them eligible, and surviving spouses of servicemembers who died while on active duty have 20 years. Children are eligible from age 18 to 26. These time limits can sometimes be extended. There are no time limits to apply for the other benefits described above.

Burial

VA offers certain benefits and services to honor our Nation's deceased Veterans.

- **Headstones and Markers:** VA can furnish a monument to mark the grave of an eligible Veteran.
- **Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC):** VA can provide a PMC for eligible recipients.
- **Burial Flag:** VA can provide an American flag to drape an eligible Veteran's casket.
- **Reimbursement of Burial Expenses:** Generally, VA can pay a burial allowance of \$2,000 for Veterans who die of service-related causes. For certain other Veterans, VA can pay \$300 for burial and funeral expenses and \$300 for a burial plot.
- **Burial in a VA National Cemetery:** Most Veterans and some dependents can be buried in a VA national cemetery.

Time Limits: There is no time limit to claim reimbursement of burial expenses for a service-related death. In other cases, claims must be filed within two years of the Veteran's burial.

Toll-Free Service

Benefits Information & Assistance

For more information about specific benefits, visit the nearest VA regional office or call

1-800-827-1000

Special Toll-Free Numbers

Health Care	877-222-8387
Education & Training	888-442-4551
VA Life Insurance	800-669-8477
Office of SGLI	800-419-1473
CHAM PVA	800-733-8387
Helpline (Agent Orange & Gulf War)	800-749-8387
Direct Deposit	877-838-2778
Headstones (<i>status of claims only</i>)	800-697-6947
Telecommunication	
Device for Deaf (<i>TDD</i>)	800-829-4833

Internet

For detailed information about all VA benefits and services, visit

www.va.gov

Survivors: Information specific to survivors is available. Select "Benefits," then "Survivors' Benefits."

Applications: Apply for Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Education, or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment benefits by selecting "Apply Online."

Inquiries: A "Contact VA" link is available for e-mail inquiries.

"...to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan..."

- Abraham Lincoln -

RESCISSION:
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

Veterans Benefits
Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20420



A Summary Of VA Benefits

Putting Veterans First

VA
pledges to:

- ✓ Treat you with courtesy, compassion and respect at all times
- ✓ Communicate with you accurately, completely and clearly
- ✓ Provide timely service to you
- ✓ Make our services accessible to you
- ✓ Fully answer your questions and concerns

www.va.gov

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