

Burial Benefits

NORTH DAKOTA DEPT. OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

Entitlement – S/C Related Death

- ▶ Death from a Service Connected Condition
 - ▶ Family is entitled to \$2000 or total cost of funeral, burial, and transportation (whichever is less)
 - ▶ An additional separate amount is available for transportation, if the veteran is to be buried in a National Cemetery (Based on place of death and location of National Cemetery)
 - ▶ There is no time limit to file for these allowances

Entitlement – Non-S/C Related Death

- ▶ Non-Service Connected related death
 - ▶ Burial Allowance of \$300 or \$700 if passed in a VAMC or under VA care
 - ▶ Additional \$300 for plot or internment
- ▶ Additional Allowance for transportation to a National Cemetery if the Veteran passes in a VA facility or under VA authorization
- ▶ If passing happens in State Approved Nursing Home and the Veteran is not eligible for any other entitlement, \$300 is payable

Eligibility – Non-S/C Related Death

- ▶ Meeting any one of these requirements makes the Deceased Veteran eligible for Non-S/C Burial and Plot Allowance:
 1. The Veteran was in receipt of compensation or pension, or was entitled to either benefit but waived military retired pay.
 2. The Veteran, at the time of death, had a claim pending for compensation or pension that would have entitled him or her to payment.
 3. The Veteran served during a period of war and the body is unclaimed.

Eligibility – Non-S/C Related Death

4. The Veteran died while hospitalized at a DVA Medical Center or while receiving care at a non-DVA medical facility under contract.
5. The Veteran died while traveling under DVA authorization and expense to or from a specified place for examination, treatment, or care.
6. After October 6, 1996, the veteran died while a patient at an approved state nursing home.

Indigent or Unclaimed Veterans

- ▶ Certification by state or local official stating that the unclaimed veteran has no Next of Kin or other person to claim the body and the veterans estate does not have sufficient funds to cover the cost of funeral and burial
- ▶ Order of Precedence of claimant(s) for payment of the burial, plot, and transportation allowance is:
 1. The Funeral Director if any portion of the funeral bill is unpaid
 2. The person or entity from whom the plot was purchased or who provided internment services (other than the funeral director) if any portion of the bill for such is unpaid
 3. The person whose personal funds were used to pay the expenses of the funeral, transportation, and burial
 4. The administrator or executor of the Veteran's estate or the estate of the person who paid the expenses of the Veteran's burial or provided such services

Grave Markers

- ▶ The DVA furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a head stone or marker to mark the gravesite of an eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. There is no time limit for ordering the marker
- ▶ Headstones are provided for eligible spouses and dependents when buried in a national, military, or State Veterans cemetery.
 - ▶ Dependents buried in a private cemetery are not eligible for a head stone

Grave Markers

- ▶ Any deceased veteran discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces under conditions other than dishonorable conditions is eligible to receive the grave marker.
 - ▶ Military service after September 7, 1980, required a minimum of 24 months of service except for special circumstances.
- ▶ National Guard and Reserve
 - ▶ Individuals with 20 or more years of service in the NG or Reserves, entitled to retirement pay subsequent to October 27, 1992, are entitled to a grave marker

Flags

- ▶ The Department of Veteran Affairs furnishes flags to drape the caskets of Veterans, certain members of the National Guard, and the Selected Reserve (not inactive reserves).
 - ▶ Veterans must be discharged or released from military service under conditions other than dishonorable
 - ▶ Law amended to allow DVA to provide a burial flag for each deceased member or former member of the Selected Reserve who is not otherwise eligible for a flag
- ▶ Reserves
 - ▶ The Deceased Veteran must have completed at least one enlistment or period of initial obligation as a member of the Selected Reserve
 - ▶ Exceptions: Discharged for injuries incurred or aggravated while in line of duty or have died while a member of the Selected Reserve

The Presidential Memorial Cert. Program

- ▶ Initiated by President John F. Kennedy to honor the service of Honorably discharged, deceased veterans
- ▶ The DVA administers the program by preparing the certificate that bears the President's signature and expresses the country's grateful recognition of the Veteran's service in the United States Armed Forces
- ▶ Need to complete the Form Letter to including names and addresses of those wishing to receive certificates and mail to Memorial Programs.

Documentation

- ▶ The following forms may be considered as acceptable service verification:
 - ▶ Copies of orders transferring a service member to the inactive reserve
 - ▶ NGB Form 22
 - ▶ Copies of orders indicative of sufficient and honorable service
 - ▶ Promotion warrants, Award Citations, Good Conduct Medals, Longevity Medals/Awards
 - ▶ Certifications indicating completion of leadership or advanced skill-training courses
- ▶ Not an all inclusive list

Implementation of Military Funeral Honors

- ▶ DoD Funeral Honors
 - ▶ Consists of folding and presentation of the flag and the playing of TAPS for every eligible veteran upon request
 - ▶ The detail to perform honors will consist of two or more uniformed members with at least one from the service in which the deceased veteran served
 - ▶ Reimbursement authorized for Veteran Service Organizations and other authorized organization for expenses when they participate with the military in the delivery of military funeral honors
 - ▶ A kit is available for VSO's and funeral directors at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/>

The National Cemetery System

- ▶ Operated by the DVA
- ▶ Burial in a National Cemetery includes:
 - ▶ Gravesite
 - ▶ Headstone
 - ▶ Opening and Closing the Grave
 - ▶ Perpetual Care
- ▶ Eligibility requirements same as markers

The National Cemetery System

- ▶ Spouses, surviving spouses, dependent children, and adult, handicapped children are eligible for burial with eligible veteran
- ▶ One gravesite is authorized for all eligible members of a family
- ▶ A gravesite is not reserved before it is needed for burial
- ▶ Burial Honors are not provided by the DVA. It is a DoD Program

Arlington National Cemetery

► Eligibility for Interment (Ground Burial)

Veteran's last period of active duty must have ended honorably and meet one of the following criteria:

- a. Any active duty member of the Armed Forces (except those members on active duty for training only)
- b. Any Veteran who is retired from active military service with the Armed Forces
- c. Any Veteran who is retired from the Reserves is eligible upon reaching age of 60 or and drawing retirement pay; and who served a period of active duty (other than for training)
- d. Any former member of the Armed Forces separated honorably prior to October 1, 1949 for medical reasons and who was rated at 30% or greater disabled effective from the day of discharge

Arlington National Cemetery

- e. Any former member of the Armed Forces who has been awarded one of the following decorations:
 1. Medal of Honor
 2. Distinguished Service Cross (Navy Cross or Air Force Cross)
 3. Distinguished Service Medal
 4. Silver Star
 5. Purple Heart Medal

- f. The President of the United States or any former President of the United States

Arlington National Cemetery

- g. Any former member of the Armed Forces who served on active duty (other than for training) and who held any of the following positions:

 - g. An elective office of the U.S. Government
 - h. Office of the Chief Justice of the United States or of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the U.S.
 - i. An Office listed, at the time the person held the position, in 5 USC 5312 or 5313 (Levels I and II of the Executive Schedule)
 - j. The chief of a mission who was at any time during his/her tenure classified in Class I under the provisions of 411, Act of 13 August 1946, 60 Stat. 1002, as amended (22 USC 866) or listed in State Department memorandum dated March 21, 1988

Arlington National Cemetery

- h. Any former Prisoner of War who, while a Prisoner of War, served honorably in the active military, naval, or air service, whose last period of military , naval, or air service terminated honorably and who died on or after November 30, 1993

- i. The Spouse, widow or widower, minor child, or permanently dependent child, and certain unmarried adult children of any of the above eligible veterans

- j. The Widow or Widower of:
 1. A member of the Armed Forces who was lost or buried at sea or officially determined to be Missing in Action
 2. A member of the Armed Forces who is interred in a US military cemetery overseas that is maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission
 3. A member of the Armed Forces who is interred in Arlington national Cemetery as part of a group burial

Arlington National Cemetery

- k. The surviving spouse, minor child, or permanently dependent child of any person already buried in Arlington National Cemetery.
- l. The parents of a minor child, or permanently dependent whose remains, based on eligibility of a parent, are already buried in ANC. A spouse divorced from the primary eligible, or widowed and remarried, is not eligible for interment.
- m. Provided certain conditions are met, a former member of the Armed Forces may be buried in the same grave with a close relative who is already buried and is the primary eligible

For More Information

More information about Arlington National Cemetery is available at:

http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org/funeral_information/guide.interment.html

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Address and Website:

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park

1825 46th St, Mandan, ND 58554

(701) 667-1418

<http://www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/benefits/veteranscemetery/Pages/default.aspx>

Questions?

Thank You!