

## OTHER MEMORIAL BENEFITS

### Memorial or Burial Flags:

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably. Each family of a decedent is entitled to one flag.

### Headstone, Markers, Medallions, Urns, or Plaques\*:

The VA offers a variety of free headstones and markers for a Veteran's final resting place in either private, state, or national cemeteries. Veteran medallions are also provided free of charge for use on a headstone in a private cemetery to signify the decedent's status as a veteran. Free urns or plaques are also available for Veterans whose cremated remains have not been interred. **\*NOTE: Claimants are restricted to ONE of the above Memorial items.** Please ask our staff for more information before making a selection.

### Presidential Memorial Certificates:

VA can provide a Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) to the family of the deceased Veteran. A PMC is an engraved paper certificate signed by the current President. There is no limit to the number of Certificates which can be ordered.

### Grave Flags and Flag Holders:

American flags and holders intended to be placed at a Veteran's grave in a private cemetery are available free of charge at the Lake County Veterans Service Commission office.

## SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Upon the passing of any veteran, we strongly encourage all spouses, dependents, and next of kin to immediately contact our office to discuss the numerous VA benefits which may be available. Our staff of experienced and fully accredited County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) can help. A CVSO will assist by helping to determine eligibility for benefits, completing necessary forms, and acting as an advocate throughout the claims process.

As an office of Lake County government,  
**ALL OF OUR SERVICES ARE  
PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE**

## LAKE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

### *Veterans Serving Veterans*

Providing assistance to the men and women  
who have honorably served their Country.



### A LAKE COUNTY AGENCY

105 Main Street • Painesville, OH 44077

Lake County Administration Center  
Building C, Room 201

**Phone (440) 350-2904/2567**

[veterans@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:veterans@lakecountyohio.gov)

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

### DIRECTIONS TO THE OFFICE:

Rt.2 to Painesville/Fairport Hbr, Richmond St. exit.  
South on Richmond St. to Rt. 20, turn left (east) to St.  
Clair St., turn right. We are located on the corner of  
St. Clair and Main Streets in the Lake County Admin.  
Building, 2nd floor

### APPOINTMENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED

[www.lakecountyohio.gov/veteran-services/](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/veteran-services/)

Email: [veterans@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:veterans@lakecountyohio.gov)



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Lake County Ohio Veterans Service Office

# A GUIDE TO VETERANS BURIAL BENEFITS



*"To care for him who shall have borne  
the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."  
-Abraham Lincoln*

**Not every Veteran will qualify for all VA benefits, and some Veterans may not qualify for any benefit. Every benefit has specific eligibility requirements. Some require service during specific time periods and minimum lengths of active duty. Some are income based or require certain levels of disability. Most benefits require that the discharge was under honorable conditions. Some benefits are available only to veterans; some are also available to dependents and survivors. Our staff of fully accredited County Veteran Service Officers can help you to determine eligibility and complete the necessary forms to file for VA benefits.**



## BURIAL BENEFITS

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of the 136 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains. The nearest national cemetery is Western Reserve National Cemetery located in Rittman, OH.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

The Veterans family should make funeral or cremation arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation office will be at the family's expense.

## BURIAL ALLOWANCES

VA burial allowances are flat-rate monetary benefits. They help cover eligible Veterans' burial and funeral costs. The Veteran must have a discharge other than dishonorable. Generally, Veteran must also have met one of the following conditions:

- Death as the result of a service-connected disability
- Receiving VA pension or compensation at time of death
- Entitled to receive VA pension or compensation at time of death, but instead received full military retirement or disability pay
- Died while hospitalized by VA or while receiving care under VA contract or at a VA approved state nursing home or while traveling to VA authorized care.

## PRE-NEED BURIAL ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

The VA implemented the pre-need burial eligibility determination program to assist anyone who would like to know if they are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. Planning in advance for a Veteran's or loved-one's final resting place can eliminate unnecessary delays and reduce stress on a family at a difficult time. Veteran families will have increased confidence that their loved ones are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery at their time of need. Our staff can assist you in this process by completing VA Form 40-10007. VA will review pre-need burial applications and provide written notice of a determination of eligibility. VA will store the pre-need application, supporting documentation, and the decision letter to expedite burial arrangements at the time of need. We encourage you to keep the decision letter with supporting documentation with your important papers (including your DD 214) in a safe place and to discuss your burial wishes and final arrangements with your loved ones or other representatives. Submission of a pre-need burial eligibility application does not obligate the Veteran or family member to burial in a VA national cemetery. At your time of need, your next-of-kin, funeral home or other representative responsible for making your final arrangements should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (800) 535-1117 to request burial. VA will locate your pre-need decision letter and validate our determination. Because laws affecting VA burial eligibility and individual circumstances may change, upon receipt of a burial request, VA will verify pre-need decisions in accordance with the laws in effect at that time.

## AMOUNTS OF VA PAYMENTS \*

**For service-connected deaths:** maximum \$2,000

*If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery some or all of the costs of transporting remains will be paid.*

\*These amounts are current as of 10/1/2023 and are subject to change, usually annually. Amounts may vary based on the date of death of the Veteran. Please note there are some time limits to apply for these benefits.

**For non-service-connected deaths:**

\$948 burial allowance; \$948 for a plot\*

**For a Veteran hospitalized by VA at time of death:**

\$948 burial allowance; \$948 for a plot\*

*If death occurred while the Veteran was hospitalized by VA or VA-contracted, or VA approved state nursing home or while traveling to VA-authorized care, some or all costs of transporting the remains may also be paid.*