

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 unmarked 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. Veteran/surviving spouse may be entitled to the State of Michigan \$300 burial allotment, must be a resident of St Joseph County prior to death.
- ★ **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.

Services Available From the VA

Requesting Military Discharge
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund
Vocational Rehab & Employment
Education & Training Benefits
Health Care Benefits
Disability Benefits
Burial Benefit
Home Loans
Life Insurance
Address Change

For more information call

ST Joseph County Veterans Services

125 W Main, PO Box 189

Centreville, MI 49032

Office Phone: (269) 467-5557

Fax: (269) 467-5628

E-mail: riskor@stjosephcountymi.org

Veteran Service Officer- Rose Risko

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
by appointment

Closed Legal Holidays

St. Joseph County Veterans Services



You may be eligible for VA benefits if you are:

- ★ A veteran
- ★ A veteran's dependent
- ★ A surviving spouse or child of a deceased veteran
- ★ A member of the military Reserves or National Guard
- ★ An active duty military service member

For Veterans Benefit information please call

269-467-5557

Separation Document (DD-214)

A certified copy of your DD-214 is needed to verify military service for benefits. To safeguard your DD-214 you can file it with the St. Joseph County Clerk's Office (located in the County Courthouse) where your document will be recorded and you will receive the original and a certified copy free of charge.

If your DD-214 is lost or destroyed, you can request a copy from the National Personnel Records Center. Request forms may be obtained at our office.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

Temporary assistance granted by the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) for emergencies or hardships is available to eligible wartime veterans and their families, residing in Michigan.



Vocational Rehab & Employment

The VA helps veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for, find and keep suitable employment. For veterans with serious service-connected disabilities, the VA also offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

Time Limits: You generally have 12 years from the date the VA tells you in writing that you have at least a 10 percent rating for a service-connected disability.

Health Benefits

You may be eligible for VA *health care benefits* if you are a veteran. The 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 military service exposure including Gulf War, Agent Orange, radiation, or other environmental hazards.

Aid and Attendance Benefits

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in addition to monthly pension. This benefit may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran or spouse may be eligible for A&A when:

- ★ The veteran or spouse requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, OR
- ★ The veteran or spouse is bedridden, OR
- ★ The veteran or spouse is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, OR
- ★ The veteran or spouse is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less home due to mental or physical incapacity.

Disability Benefits

The VA administers two disability programs. Both pay monthly benefits to disabled veterans.

- ★ **Disability Compensation:** The VA can pay you compensation if you are at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service.
- ★ **Disability Pension:** The VA can pay you a pension if you are a wartime veteran with limited income, and you are no longer able to work or are age 65 or older.
- ★ **Time Limits:** There is no deadline for applying for disability benefits.

Dependents & Survivors

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

- ★ Service members who died on active duty.
- ★ 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.

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

Time Limits: There are no time limits to apply for the benefits described above.