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
- a veteran’s dependent
- a surviving spouse, child or parent of a deceased veteran
- an active duty military servicemember
- a member of the Reserve or National Guard

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

**Education & Training**
VA pays benefits to eligible veterans, reservists, and active duty servicemembers while they are in an approved education or training program. Based on the type of military service, benefit programs are:
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
- CHAMPVA 800-733-8387
- Helpline (Agent Orange & Gulf War) 800-749-8387
- Direct Deposit 877-838-2778
- Headstones (status of claims only) 800-697-6947
- Telecommunication Device for Deaf (TDD) 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:**
VA Pamphlet 21-00-1, dated January 2006

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**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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