



Planning Ahead...

We realize this is a difficult time for you and your family. We would like to assist you with end of life planning so you can spend quality time with your loved one.

1. **Burial in a Veterans Cemetery** – All veterans are eligible for burial in a VA cemetery. Please note that Arlington National Cemetery is run by the Army and has different criteria related to eligibility. Please contact them directly for further information. Also state veterans cemeteries also often have residency requirements in the state in which they are located in. There is no cost for burial in a Veterans' Cemetery and burial also includes a headstone or marker.
2. **Headstone, Marker or Medallion** – All veterans discharged under honorable conditions who served prior to September 7, 1980 are eligible for a headstone, marker, or medallion. Those who served after September 7, 1980 they must have served at least 24 months continuous active duty. Veterans are eligible even if they already have a privately furnished marker. Veterans are also eligible for a memorial headstone or marker in a cemetery to commemorate a veteran whose remains have been scattered, donated or not recovered.
3. **Burial Benefits** – Veterans are eligible for a burial reimbursement to help in covering some of the costs of burial. The amount varies based on a number of circumstances including location of death, service connection and cause of death. Once you complete the burial benefits application, attach necessary documentation (death certificate, funeral and burial receipts, copy of DD214) and mail to the address below. For those already receiving a VA pension, service connection or other monthly allotment from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs please contact VA Benefits at **800-827-1000** after death to stop this payment as well as to request your reimbursement over the phone. You should not need to complete a paper application.

**VA REGIONAL OFFICE/PENSION MANAGEMENT CENTER
(310/21P) P.O. BOX 8079
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19101**

4. **Survivors Pension or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation** – For some surviving dependents (spouse or child) they may be eligible for monthly allotment. Please contact VA Benefits at **800-827-1000** or The Richmond Benefit Field Office at 804-675-6546 to schedule an appointment.

5. **Military Funeral Honors** – Veterans who served on active duty and were discharge under other than dishonorable conditions and other select conditions are eligible for Military Funeral Honors free of charge. The funeral director will arrange this service.

6. **How do I contact the Details Clerk?** The details clerk is responsible for logistics within McGuire relating to your loved one’s passing. Located in the front entrance of the VA Medical Center, Details clerk office hours are M-F, 8am-4pm. You can schedule an appointment by calling **804-675-5530**. After hours, details clerk is located in the Emergency Room, 804-675-5529.

When a veteran passes ***within*** the VA Medical Center, the details clerk is the point of contact between the medical center and funeral home. They will also assist with completing necessary end of life paperwork and death certificate. It is important to contact the details clerk once you have chosen a funeral home, as they will complete as much of this paperwork in advance to be able to coordinate with the funeral home. This can only be done with your permission, by signing the Funeral Arrangements Form with the details clerk.

When a veteran passes ***outside*** of the VA Medical Center (either at home, outside hospital or nursing facility), the details clerk will need a copy of the death certificate for veteran’s records her at McGuire and to cancel future appointments that may already be scheduled.

7. **How do I request a DD-214?** For many of these benefits you will need to provide a copy of the veterans military discharge papers (DD-214). If you do not have a copy one can be requested either by completing form SF-180 or online at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>.

****As always, you may contact your primary care social worker, _____ at 804-675-5000 ext. _____ for assistance and bereavement support. We thank you for allowing us to care for you and your loved one at this difficult time. Providing excellent care to our Veterans that ensures comfort and dignity is our priority, supporting you helps us accomplish that goal****

