

A MESSAGE FROM
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL
LISA MADIGAN



If you are the survivor of a veteran or military service-member, you may be entitled to burial benefits that will assist you with burial expenses and ensure the proper recognition of the

deceased veteran's service to his or her country.

This brochure explains what burial benefits are available and how to obtain them. Bereavement counseling is also available to all family members of a servicemember who died while serving on active duty.

For assistance in obtaining these benefits or for more information, please contact my office's Military and Veterans Rights Hotline at 1-800-382-3000 (TTY: 1-800-964-3013).

Sincerely,

Lisa Madigan
Attorney General

LISA MADIGAN

ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

For more information regarding burial benefits for Illinois veterans and servicemembers, please call the Military and Veterans Rights Hotline or visit our website.

Military and Veterans Rights Hotline

1-800-382-3000

TTY: 1-800-964-3013

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov

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This material is available in alternate format upon request.



**Burial Benefits
for
Illinois Veterans**



LISA MADIGAN
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

FEDERAL BURIAL BENEFITS

BURIAL ASSISTANCE, PLOT AND INTERNMENT ALLOWANCE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides assistance with burial and funeral expenses of deceased veterans.

Eligibility: Eligibility is established if the veteran was entitled at the time of death to pension or compensation benefits, or if the veteran died while hospitalized or domiciled in a VA facility or other facility at VA expense.

Veteran's Death Is Non Service-Connected:

Survivors may receive up to \$300 toward funeral and burial expenses.

Veteran's Death Is Service-Connected: Survivors may receive up to \$2,000 toward funeral and burial expenses.

Application: Survivors may apply by submitting a completed VA Form 21-530, *Application for Burial Benefits*, to their nearest VA or Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) office.

BURIAL IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY

Burial in a national cemetery is available for eligible veterans. Spouses who have not remarried or whose remarriage has ended and dependent children of eligible veterans are eligible for burial in a national cemetery even if the veteran is not buried in one. For veterans, this benefit includes a flag and military honors. Family members and others may also request a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

BURIAL FLAGS

A ceremonial U.S. flag is provided to drape the casket or accompany the urn of any honorably discharged veteran who served after January 31, 1955, or any wartime veteran who served prior to January 31, 1955, after which it may be presented to the next of kin, friend, or close associate of the deceased veteran.

Application: Survivors may apply by submitting a completed VA Form 21-2008, *Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes*, to their nearest VA or IDVA office.

GRAVE MARKER OR HEADSTONE

The VA provides a headstone or marker at no charge for the unmarked grave of a veteran buried in either a private or national cemetery.

Application: Survivors may apply by submitting completed VA Form 40-1330, *Application for Government Headstone or Marker*, to their nearest VA or IDVA office.

BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING

VA Vet Centers provide bereavement counseling to all family members of servicemembers who died while serving on active duty. Survivors can find a local Vet Center online at www.vetcenter.va.gov or by contacting 1-877-WAR-VETS (927-8387).

ILLINOIS BURIAL BENEFITS

SETTING FEES

When the VA has furnished a headstone or marker, the IDVA shall pay up to the allowable reimbursement amount of \$100 for the setting of the marker in Illinois.

Application: The next of kin may apply by submitting a completed VA Form 3 WVGR to their local IDVA office.

GRAVE REGISTRATION

The IDVA maintains a "Roll of Honor" for all veterans buried in Illinois. Every cemetery or burial place is required to keep a permanent record of the burial of each U.S. veteran.

ASSISTANCE FOR INDIGENT VETERANS

A County Veterans Assistance Commission or an individual Illinois county can provide up to \$900 toward burial expenses for an honorably discharged veteran of a qualifying conflict who was a resident of the county petitioned.

SERVICE RECORDS

Survivors will need to submit the service records of the deceased along with the necessary applications for burial benefits. Survivors can request copies of the required service records, discharge papers, or DD 2-14 from the National Archives.