

THINGS TO DO WHEN A VETERAN DIES

1. Contact the funeral director of your choice to arrange for internment. If the burial is at a National Cemetery, request a military funeral and honor guard from the National Cemetery or local VFW Post.
2. Contact your church to arrange for the services you desire.
3. Bring to the funeral director a copy of the veteran's discharge, separation notice or DD 214; VA Claim Number if known; and veteran's social security number.
4. The funeral director should apply for any burial entitlement from the Department of Veterans Affairs and also the allowance from Social Security for burial.
5. The funeral director should apply for the United States Flag to drape the casket.
6. If the veteran is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Post Commander should be contacted for the Ritual Service, firing squad, if any, and casket bearers if needed.
7. If the veteran had GI Insurance, contact the VFW Service Officer for assistance in completing the forms. If it is commercial insurance, contact an agent of that company.
8. Veteran's spouse should contact Social Security office to file for benefits that may be available for self and for children.
9. The Department Service Officer will assist the spouse and children in obtaining any benefits to which they may be entitled such as survivor's death benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and headstone if burial is in a private cemetery. Bring to the Department Service Officer the following information when applying for benefits:
 - a. A certified copy of the deceased veteran's discharge from active duty.
 - b. The Department of Veterans Affairs Claim Number if known.
 - c. Social Security numbers of the deceased veteran, spouse and dependent children.
 - d. G.I. Insurance policies, if any.
 - e. Certified copies of marriage certificate, birth certificates of children, and if any prior marriages existed, the information regarding when, where and how dissolved. (death or divorce).
 - f. Certified copy of death certificate of veteran.

If the claimant resides in the Anchorage area, it may be more convenient to visit the VFW Department Service Officer at:

Veterans of Foreign Wars Service Office
1201 N. Muldoon Road, Suite 2A220
Anchorage, AK 99504
Phone: Anchorage area (907) 257-4801
Toll Free: (800) 888-353-7574 extension 4801
FAX: (907) 257-4831

Date _____

VETERAN'S DATA RECORD

(please print)

Full Name _____ Social Security # _____

Home address _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of birth _____ Place of birth _____
City _____ County _____ State _____

Spouse's full name _____ Date of birth _____

Present marriage _____
Date _____ City _____ County _____ State _____

Location of marriage certificate _____

Children's names _____

Previous marriages (names, dates, places) _____

Branch of service _____ Service Number or Serial Number _____

Date of enlistment _____ Place _____

Date of discharge _____ Place _____

Type of discharge _____ Recorded at _____

VA Claim Number _____ Receiving comp. \$ _____ Pension \$ _____

Personal records located at _____
Home – Bank – Safety deposit box

Date of will _____ Location of will _____

Government Life insurance policy # _____ amount \$ _____

Commercial life insurance policy # _____ amount \$ _____

Bank Name _____ Account number _____

Mortgage Company Name and address _____

Miscellaneous information _____

You have earned the right to certain veteran's entitlements. This form will make it easier for your family to file for those entitlements in case of emergency. Retain a copy of this form where it is readily accessible.