

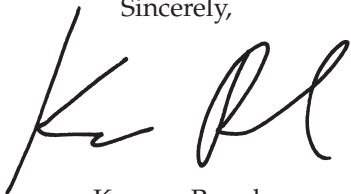
A Message from
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL
KWAME RAOUL

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 service member 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 Helpline at 1-800-382-3000 (7-1-1 relay system).

Sincerely,



Kwame Raoul
Attorney General



KWAME RAOUL
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

**Military and Veterans Rights Bureau
Main Page**

<https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights-of-the-people/military-and-veterans-rights/>

**Military and Veterans Rights Helpline
1-800-382-3000**

Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.

Military and Veterans Rights Bureau
Office of the Attorney General
201 West Pointe Drive, Suite 7
Belleville, IL 62226

Military and Veterans Rights Bureau
Office of the Attorney General
115 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60603

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov



**Burial Benefits
for
Illinois Veterans**



FEDERAL BURIAL BENEFITS

There are benefits and programs offered to survivors by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

Burial Assistance, Plot And Internment Allowance

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

Veteran's Death is Service Connected:

Survivors may receive up to \$2,000 toward funeral and burial expenses.

Veteran's Death is Non-Service Connected:

Survivors may be eligible for burial and plot allowances based on when and where the death occurred.

Unclaimed Remains:

If a veteran's remains are unclaimed upon his death, the entity who handles the veteran's burial may receive up to \$300 to go toward expenses.

Application:

Survivors or individuals acting on behalf of the veteran may apply for benefit by submitting a completed VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits.

Burial in a National Cemetery

Burial in a national cemetery is available for eligible veterans, spouses and dependents. Veterans would receive a flag and military honors. Eligible spouses and dependent children of eligible veterans may be qualified for burial in a national cemetery even if the veteran is not buried in one. On behalf of the veteran, a Presidential Memorial Certificate can be requested.

Bereavement Counseling

VA Vet Centers provide free and confidential bereavement counseling to families who have lost a service member while serving on active duty, and to families of a reservist or National Guardsman

who dies while on duty. Survivors can find Vet Centers at www.vetcenter.va.gov or by contacting 1-877-927-8387.

Burial Flags

A veteran who was not dishonorably discharged may be eligible to receive a ceremonial American flag if they meet any of the following requirements:

- Veteran who served during wartime
- Veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941
- Veteran who served after January 31, 1955
- Peacetime Veteran discharged or released before June 27, 1950
- Certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951
- Certain former members of the Selected Reserves

Application:

A survivor or funeral director may apply for the flag by submitting a completed VA Form 27-2008, Application for United States Flags for Burial Purposes. Family members can acquire a flag through the postal service, but should note that not every post office location provides service.

Grave Marker or Headstone

Veterans discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and service members who die on active duty may be eligible for a grave marker or headstone provided by the VA.

Application:

Survivors or individuals acting on behalf of a veteran may apply for the gravestone or memorial marker by submitting a completed VA Form 40-1330, Application for Government Headstone or Marker, to the VA.

ILLINOIS BURIAL BENEFITS

Setting The Marker Or Headstone In Illinois

When the VA has furnished a headstone or marker, the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) shall pay up to the allowable reimbursement amount of \$125 for the setting of the marker in Illinois.

Application:

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

Illinois Grave Registration

The IDVA maintains a "Roll of Honor" for all veterans buried in Illinois. Survivors and cemeteries help IDVA maintain the "Roll of Honor" by informing them of the burial of U.S. veterans.

Assistance for Indigent Veterans

County boards are required by state law to provide a burial allowance up to \$900 and appoint a suitable person to coordinate the burial for an honorably discharged indigent veteran and their direct family (mother, father, spouse, minor children) who are without sufficient means to cover the funeral expenses.

Obtain Records to Apply

Survivors will need to submit the service records of the deceased veteran along with the necessary supporting documents and applications for federal and state burial benefits. Survivors can request copies of the required service records, discharge papers, or DD-214 from the National Archives.

Additional information regarding burial benefits can be found in the Benefits for Illinois Veterans booklet, published by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. An electronic copy can be found on the Military and Veterans Rights Website at https://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/Benefits_for_IL_Veterans.pdf to: https://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/Page-Attachments/Benefits_for_IL_Veterans.pdf. Individuals can request a hard copy by calling the Military and Veterans Rights Helpline at 1-800-382-3000.