

# Veteran Burial Benefits Worksheet

Every benefit an eligible Texas veteran's family can claim. Step-by-step.

## Eligibility in one paragraph

To qualify for VA burial benefits, the deceased must have served in active military, naval, or air service and received a discharge other than dishonorable. National Guard and Reserve members with qualifying active-duty time also qualify. Spouses and minor dependent children of eligible veterans are also covered for most benefits.

## Benefit 1 • Burial at a national cemetery (free)

Eligible veterans can be buried at any open national cemetery, including Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas. Benefits include the gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, and a government headstone or marker — all at no cost to the family. Spouses and dependents are also eligible.

- Find nearest national cemetery at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)
- Confirm eligibility (DD-214 and discharge status)
- Submit VA Form 40-1330 (Claim for Standard Government Headstone)

## Benefit 2 • Burial allowance (cash toward funeral costs)

Up to \$948 for a service-connected death and \$2,000 for a non-service-connected death if the veteran was VA-rated as permanently and totally disabled. Smaller allowances apply in other cases. The family or funeral home files VA Form 21P-530.

- Gather: DD-214, death certificate, marriage certificate (for spouse-claimant)
- Submit VA Form 21P-530 online at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or by mail
- Vargas-Cabrera files this form for your family at no charge

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## **Benefit 3 • Headstone or marker (free)**

The VA provides a government headstone or marker for any eligible veteran's grave — regardless of whether the burial is at a national cemetery or a private cemetery. Options include upright marble, flat granite, flat bronze, or a niche cover for columbariums.

- Choose style at [www.cem.va.gov/history/hmhist.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/history/hmhist.asp)
- Submit VA Form 40-1330
- Allow 60-90 days for delivery

## **Benefit 4 • Burial flag (free)**

The VA provides a United States burial flag to drape the casket or accompany the urn during services. After the service, the flag is presented to the family.

- Request from any U.S. Post Office or VA regional office
- Submit VA Form 27-2008 if the post office or funeral home hasn't done it
- Vargas-Cabrera obtains and folds the flag for your service

## **Benefit 5 • Military honors (free)**

The VA arranges military-honors ceremonies — at minimum, a two-person uniformed detail playing 'Taps' and folding the flag. Families can request additional honors (rifle salute, bugler) through veterans' service organizations.

- Submit DD Form 2861 through the funeral home
- Vargas-Cabrera arranges this for your service at no charge

## **Benefit 6 • Presidential Memorial Certificate (free)**

An engraved certificate signed by the sitting President, honoring the veteran's service. Families can order additional copies indefinitely.

- Request at [www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items](http://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items)

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## Non-VA Texas benefits

Texas Veterans Commission offers additional benefits including property-tax exemptions for surviving spouses, educational benefits for dependents, and state cemetery interment at Texas State Veterans Cemeteries. Details at [www.tvc.texas.gov](http://www.tvc.texas.gov).

## Timeline

VA burial allowance claims can be filed immediately after the funeral. Headstone orders and burial arrangements should begin before the service. Military honors require at least 72 hours notice (weekends may require more). Vargas-Cabrera handles all coordination on your family's behalf.

## Vargas-Cabrera services for veteran families

We never charge a service fee on a veteran's funeral for VA paperwork. We prepare and submit all claim forms at no charge. Arrangement of military honors at DFW National Cemetery is our specialty — we handle the flag, the folding, and the coordination with your chosen veterans' service organization. Call (214) 738-4276 to begin.