

Veterans must be buried in cemeteries. Burial on private land renders a veteran's grave ineligible for a VA grave marker. Spouses and dependents are only eligible for VA grave markers if buried in a national or state cemetery.

Presidential Memorial Certificate

The VA will provide, at no expense, certificates which honor the veteran's memory. These certificates are stamped with the current president's signature and can be requested for as many family members as desired.

Dependents Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

DIC is a monthly monetary benefit for dependents of veterans whose death occurred on active duty, who died of a service-connected condition or who was rated 100% permanently and totally disabled by the VA for at least 10 years at the time of death. There is a separate brochure to explain this benefit in more detail.

Death Pension

This is a monthly monetary benefit that may be paid to the veteran's widow or widower whose income is below a certain limit if the veteran served at least 90 consecutive days on active duty with at least one day served during time of war. There is a separate brochure to explain this benefit in more detail.

National and State Cemeteries

There are national and state cemeteries a veteran and his/her dependents may be buried in if they meet eligibility criteria. The three state cemeteries in Wisconsin are the Northern Cemetery, located in Spooner; the Central Cemetery, located in King (Waupaca) and the Southern Cemetery, located in Union Grove.

Other Information

If a veteran was in receipt of VA compensation or pension, all payments stop the month of death. Even if the veteran passes away the last day of the month, the VA will take back that payment. They will, however, reissue the payment in the name of the widow or widower. This is called the Month of Death payment. The Month of Death payment is only paid to a widow or widower, not children, other family members or the estate.

If a veteran was a resident of Oneida County at the time of their death, our office will always contact the next of kin if we are notified by a funeral home of the veteran's death or if we find the veteran's obituary in a newspaper and the person can be identified by us as a veteran. Feel free to contact our office, however, if you have questions or if you're not sure that we've been notified. It is of the utmost importance to us a family receives all benefits to which they're entitled. We understand this is a very difficult and often confusing time. We can help ease some of the burden by assisting you with VA benefits.



BURIAL BENEFITS



**Veterans Service Office
Oneida County
1 S. Oneida Avenue
P.O. Box 400
Rhinelander, WI 54501
Phone: (715) 369-6127
Fax: (715) 369-6267**

**Veterans Service Officer:
Tammy Javenkoski
tjavenkoski@co.oneida.wi.us**

**Assistant Veterans Service Officer:
Jason Dailey
jdailey@co.oneida.wi.us**

The VA administers a burial benefits program designed to assist claimants in meeting the funeral and burial costs of a deceased veteran. The following benefits may be available:

Burial Allowance

If a veteran's death is service connected, the VA will pay a burial allowance of up to \$2,000 for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. For deaths prior to that date, the allowance was \$1,500.

If a veteran's death is not service connected and he/she was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, the VA may make a funeral expense payment and a burial expense payment. This payment is \$300-\$700 for funeral expenses and \$300-700 for burial expenses. Effective October 1, 2011, the VA will pay \$700 for funeral expenses if a veteran was properly hospitalized at a VA facility or in a VA-authorized facility. If not, the benefit pays \$300. Effective October 1, 2011, the VA will pay \$700 for burial expenses. Prior to that date, the allowance is \$300. This benefit is paid if:

- The veteran was in receipt of VA pension or compensation at the time of death, or
- The veteran was, at the time of death, receiving military retired pay in lieu of compensation, or
- The veteran had, at the time of death, an original or reopened claim pending and had been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death, or

- The veteran's death occurred in a VA facility, or

- The veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment or care, or

- The veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at an approved state nursing home or while residing in an approved state nursing home, is transferred to a non-VA facility for acute medical care, and then dies at that location, or

- The veteran's remains are being held by a state or political subdivision of a state, there is no next of kin or other person claiming the body and the veteran's estate does not have enough resources to cover the cost of the funeral and burial and the veteran served during wartime or was released from active service for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Payment may be made to the creditor who provided services or furnished merchandise in connection with burial, funeral, transportation, plot or interment; or the person or persons whose personal funds were used to pay such expenses; or the representative of the estate of the deceased veteran when estate funds were used to pay the expenses.

Flag

The VA shall furnish one United States flag at no cost to the family of a veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces or for Reservists or National Guard members who:

- Completed at least one enlistment or, in the case of an officer, completed the period of initial obligated service, or

- Was discharged before completion of the initial enlistment for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or

- Who died while an active member.

Grave Markers

Prior to November 1, 1990, the VA will furnish a grave marker for eligible veterans' graves if they are not marked with a private marker. For deaths occurring on or after that date, the VA will furnish a grave marker for eligible veterans' graves even if they are marked with a private marker. Eligible veterans are veterans who:

- Served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. After September 7, 1980, the veteran must have served for a minimum of 24 months or the full period for which the veteran was called to active duty unless special circumstances make them otherwise eligible such as the veteran died on active duty, or

- Reservists or National Guard members who, at the time of death, were entitled to retired pay or would have been entitled but for being under the age of 60, or

- Reservists or National Guard members who died while on active duty or as a result of training. Members who only have active duty service for training are not eligible.