VA Burial Benefits

What the VA Pays (For Non-Service-Connected Deaths):

- Burial Allowance: $948
- Plot/Interment Allowance: $948
- Total Possible Reimbursement: $1,896

What You Need to Apply:

- VA Form 21P-530 (Burial Benefits Application)
- DD-214 (Proof of honorable discharge)
- Death certificate
- Paid funeral bill in your name

How to Apply:

- Submit online at www.va.gov/burials-memorials
- Or mail the form and documents to your regional Pension Management Center
- Claims typically take **2–6 months** to process

Scenario 1: Spouse with Life Insurance

- $10,000 life insurance used to pay funeral costs
- Spouse pays nothing out-of-pocket
- Submits documents to VA
- Receives $1,896 from VA (up to 6 months later)

- Net result: No out-of-pocket cost

Scenario 2: Pre-Need Approval no Burial insurance

- Pre-Need Eligibility approved by VA (cemetery reserved)
- Sibling arranges funeral & pays ~$9,000 out-of-pocket
- Burial in VA cemetery is free (grave, headstone, etc.)
- Sibling submits documents to VA
- Receives $1,896 back (up to 6 months later)

- Net result: Still out ~$7,000 for funeral services

Information Citations

1. **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Burial Benefits Overview**
   https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/
2. **VA Form 21P-530 (Application for Burial Benefits)**
   https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-21p-530/
3. **National Cemetery Scheduling Office (VA Cemetery Info)**
   https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/
4. **VA Pension Management Centers (Where to Send Forms)**
   https://www.benefits.va.gov/PENSION/resources-contact.asp
5. **VA Burial and Funeral Benefits Fact Sheet (PDF)**
   https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf
6. **Pre-Need Eligibility Application (VA Form 40-10007)**
   https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/
7. **Request Military Records (DD-214)**
   https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records