MilitaryFinalExpense

FREE CHECKLIST

First week checklist after a veteran's death

Calls and papers, in the order that saves time

Tick each box as you go. Dates and phone numbers go in the spaces. Keep this sheet with the discharge papers.

Day one

- [ ] Call the funeral home you chose, or ask a relative to help choose one
- [ ] Find the DD214 or other discharge papers
- [ ] Ask the funeral director to request a burial flag and military honors, if wanted
- [ ] Tell the family member who will keep the folder of papers
- [ ] Write down who called, and when

Days two and three

- [ ] Ask the funeral home for its general price list in writing
- [ ] Order several certified copies of the death certificate
- [ ] Give the funeral director the details the VA asks for: full name, date of birth, Social Security or service number, date of death and next of kin
- [ ] If burial is in a VA national cemetery, confirm the date with the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117
- [ ] Keep every receipt, since a VA burial allowance repays the person who paid

General education, not insurance, legal or tax advice. Figures are examples unless a source is named. Prices and rules vary by state and insurer.

The first week

- [ ] Call each life insurer and ask what the claim needs
- [ ] Call the VA about any survivor benefit that may apply
- [ ] If the veteran retired, tell the pay office and ask about any survivor plan
- [ ] Contact SGLI or VGLI, if the veteran held it
- [ ] Cancel or redirect automatic payments and mail

Papers to gather

Paper	Who asks for it	Where it is
DD214 or separation papers	The VA	
Certified death certificates	The VA, insurers, banks	
Marriage certificate	The VA, for a spouse	
Insurance policy and form	The insurer	
SGLI, VGLI or VALife paperwork	The VA	
Retirement and survivor papers	The pay office	
Price list and receipts	The family, for a VA claim	

What an insurer usually asks for

A certified death certificate, a claim form and the policy number. Most companies explain the rest on the first call, and pay the named beneficiary directly.

Phone numbers and notes

Funeral home

National Cemetery Scheduling Office, 800-535-1117, confirmed date

Insurer and policy number

Person keeping the folder

> If a step is unclear, call the VA before you pay for something you think it covers.

General education, not insurance, legal or tax advice. Figures are examples unless a source is named. Prices and rules vary by state and insurer.

Sources

- VA: Schedule a burial for a Veteran or family member
  www.va.gov/burials-memorials/schedule-a-burial/
- VA: Eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery
  www.va.gov/burials-memorials/eligibility/
- VA: Veterans burial allowance and transportation benefits
  www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/
- VA: Get your military service records
  www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/

Ready to see real prices? Ask for a free quote from a licensed agent.

militaryfinalexpense.com/quote or call (888) 635-3511

General education, not insurance, legal or tax advice. Figures are examples unless a source is named. Prices and rules vary by state and insurer.