

SURVIVORS PENSION

Survivors pension is a needs-based benefit paid to surviving spouses and children of wartime Veterans, who meet certain age, disability, and marriage requirements.

Eligibility requirements are:

1. The deceased Veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
2. He or she served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war*, **AND**
3. You are the unmarried surviving spouse (or previously married and the marriage was terminated prior to Nov. 1, 1990); **OR**
4. You are the unmarried child of the deceased Veteran who is under 18, who became permanently helpless before 18, or is between 18 and 23 and pursuing a course of instruction at an approved educational institution, **AND**
5. Your countable income is below the limit shown in the pension rate chart, **AND**
6. You meet the net worth limitations.

*If the deceased Veteran entered active duty after Sept. 7, 1980, he or she must have served at least 24 months of active duty service. If the total length of service is less than 24 months, the Veteran must have completed their entire tour of active duty.

Annual pension is calculated using gross income and certain ongoing, unreimbursed out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Please contact our office for the current countable income limits and net worth limits, or with any questions regarding possible entitlement.

DISCHARGES RECORDED

The County Veterans Affairs Office recommends that all honorably discharged servicemen record their discharge documents with the Register & Recorder's office. This service is provided free to all eligible county veterans. The discharge is permanently on record and certified copies may be obtained at any time.

CERTIFIED COPIES OF DOCUMENTS

Veterans can obtain free certified copies of birth and death certificates, marriage licenses and divorce decrees when proper application or request is made to the County Veterans Affairs Office. These records are provided when the request is made on behalf of any honorably discharged veteran, or of any member of the armed services serving in a war or armed conflict in which the United States is engaged. These records are provided for use in connection with any claim for death benefits, compensation allowance and family or dependency allotments.

LAWRENCE COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS

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LAWRENCE COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS

Death Benefits



The people of Lawrence County are grateful for the many sacrifices each veteran has willingly made in the service of our country and for the cause of freedom throughout the world.

As a symbol of their appreciation, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners extends the services and benefits of the County Veterans Affairs Office to those veterans and their dependents.

LEGAL RESIDENCE

The term "legal residence" shall be construed as synonymous with "domicile" and is hereby defined as actual residence, coupled with intention that it shall be permanent, or a residence presently fixed with no definite intention of changing it or returning to a former residence at some future period. Legal residence is to be determined by abode of person and his/her intention to abandon his/her former domicile and establish a new one. The legal residence of a deceased service person shall be prima facie in the county where he/she made his/her abode at the time of his/her death.

BURIAL ALLOWANCE

Lawrence County extends an allowance of \$100.00 toward the funeral and/or burial of honorably discharged veterans who served during any war in which the United States was engaged, and whose legal residence at time of death was Lawrence County. One day's service during wartime fulfills the time requirement for eligibility. Application for this benefit must be made within one year after the death of the veteran.

The federal government pays allowances towards burial and plot-interment for eligible veterans. Amounts will vary. **Requirements for a non-service connected veteran are:

- 1) Must receive a monthly VA benefit at time of death or**
- 2) Passes away in a VA medical center.**

The amount of \$2,000.00 is payable towards the death of a veteran, who's death is service connected. Also, the VA will pay transportation charges towards the burial, if the veteran had died in a VA medical center. These charges include transportation from the VA medical center, to the veteran's final resting place. Some exceptions do apply.**

HEADSTONES

An individual may choose one of two allowances for a headstone.

1. Up to \$75.00 towards installation of the federal marker/headstone or medallion; or
2. Up to \$75.00 towards lettering for military inscription on a private headstone.

The County Veterans Affairs Office will furnish information concerning inscription to appear on the headstone. It is to include veteran's name, year of birth and death, rank and name of war in which service was rendered.

A federal government headstone or medallion is available for all honorably discharged veterans upon application.

****THE VA PROVIDES CERTAIN BURIAL BENEFITS, INCLUDING INTERMENT IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY AND PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR BURIAL EXPENSES.****



SPOUSE BURIAL ALLOWANCE

There is a \$100.00 allowance toward the funeral and/or burial of a spouse of a deceased wartime veteran. The spouse must have resided in Lawrence County at the time of his/her death. Application for this benefit must be made within one year from date of death of said spouse.

FLAGS & FLAG HOLDERS FOR GRAVES OF LAWRENCE COUNTY VETERANS

Lawrence County provides flags and flag holders for Memorial Day observance. These flags and holders are used to decorate the graves of veterans buried in the county. The County Veterans Affairs Office provides the holders free to various veterans organizations which will assume the responsibility of placing them on the appropriate graves. They are also available to individual families requesting them from the department.

The following are the types of flag holders available: Revolutionary War – War of 1812 – Indian War – Civil War - Spanish-American War – World War I – World War II – Korean Conflict – Vietnam Era – Persian Gulf – Iraqi Freedom.

Whoever steals or attempts to steal any veteran's grave marker is guilty of larceny, a felony, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or to undergo imprisonment for one year, or both.

Whoever buys and receives, for use as junk or scrap metal, any veteran's grave marker or emblem is also subject to the same penalties.

DATES OF SERVICE

Lawrence County death benefits are provided to veterans who had active service during one of the following periods of war.

Persian Gulf ~ 8/2/1990–ending date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation.

Vietnam Era ~ 8/5/1964 to 5/7/1975.

Also those who served in the country of Vietnam from 2/28/1961 to 8/4/1964.

Korean Conflict ~ 6/27/1950 to 1/31/1955.

World War II ~ 12/7/1941 to 12/31/1946.

World War I ~ 4/6/1917 to 11/11/1918.