

VETERANS PLANNING GUIDE

“I guess most folks who know me would describe me as ‘tough.’ It’s a good thing I’m tough, because it saw me through some bad times during World War II. We went to the Pacific with an entire division, and only seven men from the original division came back. I hope nobody ever again has to go through what we did.

The Dignity Memorial network looks out for veterans. I prearranged with a Dignity Memorial provider because they offer special products and services for vets.”

CECIL E. LEWIN
U.S. Navy, 1942-1945

Dignity™
MEMORIAL

For more information about the Dignity Memorial network of funeral, cremation and cemetery providers or to find the closest Dignity Memorial provider near you call 1-800-Dignity (1-800-344-6489) or go to www.DignityMemorial.com

VETERANS PLANNING GUIDE

Honoring Those Who Served



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*“You cannot escape the
 responsibility of tomorrow
 by evading it today”*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
 16th president of US (1809 - 1865)

Dear Veteran:

Dignity Memorial® providers are devoted to celebrating the significance of lives that have been lived, which is why we have always made service to veterans and their families a priority. That’s because recognition of your military service and your sacrifice for your country is an honor you justly earned and deserve. Dignity Memorial providers have a rich heritage of serving veterans and are proud to have handled arrangements for seven U.S. Presidents and thousands of rank-and-file veterans from coast to coast.

Dignity Memorial Network, Inc. has the endorsement of some of the most prominent veteran organizations in the nation. In fact, membership in a participating veteran’s service organization qualifies you to receive exclusive savings and benefits when you use the services of a Dignity Memorial provider. If you are not yet a member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans or Veterans of Foreign Wars, we have included information and applications on how to become one.

We are proud of our commitment to veterans with three exclusive initiatives that set the Dignity Memorial network of funeral, cremation and cemetery providers apart from the rest:

- **The Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program**, in partnership with numerous Veterans organizations, helps ensure that eligible veterans who are destitute receive the honors in death that their service in life merited at no cost.
- **The Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall** is a three-quarter-scale traveling replica that allows visitors across the country to experience the impact of the national memorial in Washington D.C. Local exhibitions are sponsored across the country by Dignity Memorial providers in partnership with area veterans groups and civic organizations.
- **The 24-Hour Compassion Helpline®** is a confidential telephone helpline where active and non-active military personnel and their families can receive support and guidance from professional counselors.

Many of the men and women who protected our freedoms do not receive the proper respect they are entitled to at their passing. Sometimes this is because their families and funeral providers may be unaware of the veteran benefits available. Or it may be because that they simply did not know what their service member’s final wishes were. That is why we are pleased to provide you this Veterans Planning Guide. By reading the enclosed information, and completing the appropriate forms, you will take an important step for your future peace of mind and help you secure all the Veterans burial benefits you are entitled to.

Sincerely,

Chris Sasso
 Vice President
 Dignity Memorial Network, Inc.



The Dignity Memorial brand name is used to identify a network of licensed funeral, cremation and cemetery providers that comprise the Dignity Memorial network. The Dignity Memorial network includes affiliates of Service Corporation International, 1929 Allen Parkway, Houston, Texas, as well as many other fine independently owned and operated establishments.

While you may qualify as a veteran for certain burial benefits, they do not come automatically.

In most cases someone must request them, and this can take considerable time and effort for your family. This is why veterans who participate in this program receive personal assistance to secure these benefits from the Veterans Administration.

1. U.S. Department Of Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits Do Not Cover All the Funeral Or Cremation Arrangements Of Honorably Discharged Veterans.

There is a common belief that the VA pays for all the funeral or cremation arrangements of an honorably discharged veteran. There are certain monetary, recognition and service benefits that may be available. However, reimbursement for funeral or cremation service expenses is limited, and usually only applies to veterans who:

- retire from the Armed Services, or
- were disabled due to a service-related injury, or
- died in a VA hospital or while in a nursing home under VA contract.

Standard guidelines are provided as an overview, but only the VA can rule on your exact benefits.

NOTES: _____

2. You Will Need Documentation To Verify Military Service.

A “Report of Separation From the Armed Forces of the United States” (discharge papers) is normally required to verify military service.

In most cases, this report is the “DD 214.” If this report or its equivalent is not available, a “Request Pertaining To Military Records, Standard Form 180” can be sent to the Military National Personnel Record Center. A copy of the Report of Separation will be mailed to the veteran, deceased veteran’s next of kin or other persons or organizations that are authorized to receive it.

If your family does not have form DD 214 at the time of death, any Dignity Memorial provider will be glad to help secure one.

NOTES: _____

3. A Veteran’s Family Must Request A United States Flag.

A flag is provided at no cost to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran. Generally, the flag is given to the next of kin. Only one flag may be provided per veteran.

Upon the request of the family, an “Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes” (VA Form 21-2008) must be submitted along with a copy of the veteran’s discharge papers. Flags may be obtained from VA regional offices and most U.S. Post Offices.

For your family’s convenience, any Dignity Memorial provider will be glad to help them request your flag.

NOTES: _____

4. Military Funeral Honors Ceremonies Must Be Scheduled In Advance.

Upon the family’s request, the law requires that every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, which includes the folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of “Taps.”

The ceremony is performed by a military funeral honors detail consisting of two or more uniformed military persons and at least one person who is a member of the veteran’s branch of the Armed Forces.

This Department of Defense program calls for the funeral director to request military funeral honors of behalf of the veteran’s family.

Your Dignity Memorial provider works with various veterans’ organizations to assist in the provision of military funeral honors.

NOTES: _____

5. Veterans’ Caskets Are Not Free.

As a standard policy, neither the VA nor the various branches of service provide a free casket for a deceased veteran, unless death occurs while on active duty.

As part of our service to veterans, Dignity Memorial provides caskets at a discounted price.

NOTES: _____

6. A “Presidential Memorial Certificate” Must Be Requested.

Initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, a “Presidential Memorial Certificate” is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged, deceased veterans.

Eligible recipients of the certificate include the deceased veteran’s next of kin and loved ones. More than one certificate may be requested.

Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail.

Any local Dignity Memorial provider can assist your family in obtaining this certificate.

NOTES: _____

7. If You Choose Not To Be Buried In A VA National Cemetery, Monetary Burial Benefits Are Limited.

Veterans buried in a private cemetery may be eligible to receive a partial reimbursement for their burial costs. For non-service related deaths, a burial expense allowance (up to \$300) and a plot allowance (up to \$300) may be given. If a death is service related, benefits up to \$2,000 may be paid for burial expenses.

In order to be eligible to receive a VA burial allowance you must meet the following conditions:

- payment for the veteran’s burial was made without any reimbursement from a government agency or other source, and
- the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- the veteran died because of service-related disability, or
- the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation, or
- the veteran died in a VA hospital or nursing home under VA contract.

In order to determine the final reimbursement amount, an “Application for Burial Benefits” (VA Form 21-530) must be submitted within two years from the date of the veteran’s permanent burial.

If your family does not have the form 21-530 at the time of death, any Dignity Memorial provider will be glad to help secure one.

NOTES: _____

8. There Are Eligibility Requirements For Burial In A VA National Cemetery.

In general, any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies while on active duty or any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable is entitled to burial in a VA National Cemetery. Under certain conditions, the unremarried surviving spouse and minor children of an eligible person are also entitled to this benefit.

Burial in a VA National Cemetery includes:

- an assigned gravesite (if space is available)
- opening and closing of the grave
- a grave liner for casketed remains
- a Government headstone or marker
- perpetual care at no cost to the family

Cremated remains are buried or inurned in VA National Cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

You May Not Reserve Space In A VA National Cemetery Ahead Of Time.

VA national cemeteries only allow arrangements to be made at the time of death. So if you are not choosing burial in a private cemetery, there is no guarantee that spouses or other family members will be interred side-by-side – or even nearby.

Burials In VA National Cemeteries Are Usually Not Conducted On Weekends.

When there are relatives or funeral dignitaries who are attending from out of town, it is important to note that the weekend arrangements private cemeteries will almost always make are not generally provided by VA National Cemeteries.

Your local Dignity Memorial provider will assist you in selecting a cemetery location anywhere in America.

NOTES: _____

9. Headstones Or Markers For A Burial Space In A Private Cemetery Must Be Requested.

Any deceased veteran discharged under conditions other than dishonorable is eligible for a standard Government headstone or marker. The VA, upon request and at no charge to the applicant, will furnish a Government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world.

Upright headstones are available in granite and marble, and flat markers are available in granite, marble and bronze. The style must be consistent with existing monuments or markers at the place of burial. Niche markers for cremated remains are also available.

An "Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veteran's Cemetery" (VA Form 40-1330) must be submitted.

If your family does not have form 40-1330 at the time of death, any Dignity Memorial provider will be glad to help secure one.

NOTES: _____

10. The Issuance Or Replacement Of Military Service Medals, Awards And Decorations Must Be Requested In Writing.

Military service medals, awards and decorations are available from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), which is under the jurisdiction of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Family members may request medals and awards for living veterans only if they have obtained their signed authorization. For deceased veterans, requests will be accepted from the next-of-kin (unremarried widow or widower, son or daughter, father or mother, brother or sister of the deceased veteran.)

Requests should be submitted in writing to the appropriate military service branch division of the NPRC. Standard Form (SF 180), available through the VA, is recommended to submit your request. Generally, there is no charge for medal or award replacements. For more information, or for the mailing address of the military branch office to submit your request to, please call 1-86-NARA-NARA (1-866-272-6272) or visit the NPRC website at www.archives.gov.

If your family does not have form SF 180 at the time of death, any Dignity Memorial provider will be glad to help secure one.

NOTES: _____

"When my wife passed away, Dignity Memorial took care of me in such a way that I would recommend them for anybody, anywhere. We veterans are close knit and I don't think anybody in this country deserves better treatment than families and folks who have put their lives on the line.

"I sure don't want my services to be a problem for my kids and so I have set things up with a Dignity Memorial provider to be easier of them.

I was very pleased and I highly recommend Dignity Memorial – I can say that without holding back."

CHARLES PHILL
U.S. Air Force 1966-1987

About Military Funeral Honors

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the Nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. This ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration of a grateful Nation can provide to our veterans' families.



The tradition of providing Military Funeral Honors, in some form, began in ancient Greece and Rome. The funeral honors protocol of today traces its roots to these ancient ceremonies as well as to historical American experience.

Military Funeral Honors have always been provided whenever possible. However, the law now mandates the rendering of Military Funeral Honors for an eligible veteran if requested by the family, provided at no cost by the Department of Defense.

As provided by law, an honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the parent Service of the deceased veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps. Taps will be played by a bugler, if available, or by electronic recording.

Please note that today there are so few buglers available that the Military Service often cannot provide one. Should there be a need, any Dignity Memorial provider can provide an official recording of Taps or assist in locating area musicians.

Who is eligible?

- Military members on active duty
- Military retirees
- Members and former members of the Selected Reserve
- Eligible U.S. veterans of any war
- Other U.S. veterans who served at least one term of enlistment and separated under conditions other than dishonorable

Who is not eligible?

- Individuals discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions
- Individuals sentenced to death or life imprisonment without parole for a federal or state capital offense
- Other explicit circumstances

If you have eligibility questions, or would like to learn more about Military Funeral Honors, please visit www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil.

The Benefits Of Planning Your Funeral Or Cremation Service



Whether it's a military operation, a family vacation or a remodeling project, you know how important it is to plan in advance.

A funeral or cremation service is no different. There are dozens upon dozens of decisions that must be made, and by making them now you have added peace of mind that everything will be right.

Many people do everything they can to protect their family from events that may happen, such as purchasing fire or theft insurance, but ignore the one event in life that we know will happen with certainty. Planning today will help protect your family from some of the emotional and financial burdens that often occur after the loss of a loved one.

The greatest gift that you can give your family.

When a death occurs, it often happens unexpectedly. Many decisions have to be made in a short period of time leaving many families feeling overwhelmed. Often, these decisions must be made when a family is grieving and least prepared. By planning your funeral or cremation service today, you can make life much easier for those who will have to handle your affairs.

You will have the opportunity to become informed about your options and their various costs, in an unpressured environment, when you have time to think things through. You're in full control, and you can select and specify funeral or cremation services that will truly have meaning to you and your family while properly honoring your military service.

Remember, planning benefits your survivors the most. When a funeral or cremation service is not planned ahead of time, someone – who may not be aware of your wishes – will have to make all of the decisions. Unfortunately, survivors often have their decision-making ability clouded by grief and other emotions. Knowing that your wishes will be carried out will bring comfort, peace of mind, and relief to surviving family members and friends.

A service personalized to reflect your wishes.

Like any event, such as a wedding, birthday or anniversary, a funeral or cremation service gives your family and friends time to support each other, to share memories, and an opportunity to celebrate your life. And today, no two ceremonies are alike. You can and should plan your service to include photographs, favorite music, special readings, and the involvement of family members, friends and military comrades.

Get protection from rising costs.

Because you are likely to face out-of-pocket expenses — as government burial benefits for veterans are limited — it also makes wise financial sense to plan your funeral or cremation service today.

By acting now you benefit from purchasing at today's prices, free from inflationary pressures of the future. Once you have determined the costs, you can make an objective decision regarding affordability. You may decide to spend less or more, but the decision remains yours.

Planning now also enables you to purchase the services you select in a planned and managed fashion. It helps you keep your financial commitment to a comfortable level, while eliminating the financial burden placed on your surviving family members.

Planning with a Dignity Memorial provider assures nationwide coverage.

By making an informed decision today, you'll gain greater peace-of-mind knowing that you've taken care of most of the details and expenses during what will be a very difficult time for your survivors. And should you wish to change locations, selecting a Dignity Memorial provider makes your choice even easier, because it's the only veteran program that allows you to transfer your planned funeral or cremation services anywhere within its network of funeral, cremation, and cemetery providers.

Keep in mind that the Dignity Memorial network of funeral, cremation and cemetery providers is North America's largest network serving more than 250,000 families each year, including over 80,000 veterans and their spouses. Which means by the numbers, we are the people more veterans trust.

Veterans and their families can rely on their local Dignity Memorial provider for assistance that includes:

- The exclusive 100% Service Guarantee that ensures your family's complete satisfaction with the services provided.
- Expert advanced funeral planning by licensed professionals to meet the needs and budget of every family.
- Funeral plans made in advance are transferable to any Dignity Memorial provider throughout North America, so if you move, your benefits move with you.
- Family members can take advantage of a Bereavement Travel Program, 24-hour Veterans Compassion Helpline®, extensive grief management library and more.

The Decisions You Make Today Should Include:

- Would you like a traditional or a simple, less elaborate service?
- What military protocols or traditions, if any, would you wish incorporated into your service?
- Do you prefer cremation or burial?
- Would you like the service in a funeral home chapel or at a place of worship?
- Will it be a private family service or open to all?
- What type of casket or cremation container would you prefer?
- Will the casket be opened or closed?
- Will there be visitation for family and friends or a private family gathering?
- How much would you like to pay for your services?
- What type of permanent memorial would you prefer?

To find a Dignity Memorial provider nearest you, please call **1-800-DIGNITY** (1-800-344-6489) or visit us on the web at **www.dignitymemorial.com**

It's Easy To Start Planning Your Funeral Or Cremation Service

"I joined the 4th Infantry Division on the front line treating wounded soldiers, until we were surrounded and I was sent to POW camps in Germany. I sum up my time as a prisoner this way – 'All For One and One for All'. When I retired I got involved with a lot of veterans organizations where we try to help each other get whatever is needed.

"Being prepared, so my wife and I can focus on our work, is why we prearranged our funeral and cemetery plans at a Dignity Memorial provider. In fact, I was proud to serve on the Steering Committee for the traveling Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall memorial."

WARREN G. KING
U.S. Army 1943-1945

While you may qualify for VA burial benefits, securing them may take you or your family some time and effort. Your Dignity Memorial provider will be glad to help you secure the benefits for which you are eligible.



Congratulations...

on taking this important step for your family's peace of mind!

Section 2:

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

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American Legion

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Many are called, but few are chosen. That applies to many things in life. As a fellow American, you chose to give service to your country when you joined the military.

For those of us who have served in time of war, there is a bond that cannot be broken. Our lives and our backgrounds can be as different as night and day, but we are joined by battle, by service and by experiences that are uniquely ours. And we are joined, too, by an organization, founded to serve us only with privileges and benefits we have earned with blood, sweat and courage.

In 1919, the United States Congress approved the charter of The American Legion as an organization of veterans. Some American legion members served overseas during wartime while others served stateside. Yet all served during periods defined by Congress as wartime service.

The support your American Legion membership gives to our brave young men and women on active duty is paramount. As more veterans return home from the War On Terror, some will need immediate help while others will need help down the road.

Membership entitles you, active-duty personnel and families to:

- Professional help in obtaining full medical, educational, and insurance benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Assistance in preparing VA claims and getting accurate information concerning financial services
- Professional representation of veterans' interests in Congress by staff in Washington, D.C., who are fighting for legislation that protects the benefits of all veterans and their families

The American Legion is one of the nation's most influential, effective and dependable advocate of veteran affairs. Your membership in the Legion will strengthen the fight for better active duty pay, improved housing for active-duty families, and help insure that the VA's medical system can properly care for the sick and wounded returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Plus, membership in the Legion gives you added savings, discounts and family-protection benefits including:

- Job placement assistance
- A full year's subscription to the monthly American Legion Magazine
- Discount rates at thousands of hotels and motels, on car rental, and with moving expenses
- Full eligibility to participate in Legion Members-only insurance plans
- Additional discounts through the American Legion's new prescription drug plan

Legionnaires are also heavily involved with community activities ranging from hospital services and blood drives to youth programs such as Boy Scouts, American Legion Baseball, scholarships and the annual American Legion Boys State/Boys Nation programs.

More important than material benefits, your membership in The American Legion is a tangible way to honor the other men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country. It's one of the best ways to help preserve programs that benefit you, our nation and our fellow veterans.

The true value of joining The American Legion can't be measured in dollars and cents. It is a unique way of being a part of something bigger than any individual.

The Legion is veterans just like you, nearly 3 million strong, who care about America, veterans and their families and our nation's youth. The Legion is a powerful voice in Washington dedicated to preserving the rights we've all earned - and were promised - by service to our nation in uniform.

Membership brings an impressive array of benefits. The American Legion is always there for you and your family - in Washington and nearly 15,000 local posts throughout America and abroad. Just like you, the Legion is "Still Serving America!"

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

You can become a member of The American Legion if you are on active duty today, serving honorably, anywhere in the world, or have served honorably during any eligible war eras:

- April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 (World War I)
- December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (World War II)
- June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955 (Korean War)
- February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War)
- August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada)
- December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990 (Panama)
- August 2, 1990 to today (Gulf War/War On Terrorism)

**Please See Page 27, For The American Legion Membership Form
Or visit: <http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/mbrapp.pdf>**



Disabled American Veterans

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

What Is The History Of The DAV?

The beginnings of Disabled American Veterans followed the wake of World War I, when thousands of American doughboys came home to an America that was not prepared to care for the carnage of war. More than 4.7 million Americans served, 53,500 were lost in combat. Accidents and illnesses (mostly from the deadly Spanish flu pandemic) took the lives of 63,000. More than 200,000 soldiers were wounded during the war.

America was not prepared to go to war or face its aftermath, especially caring for the sick and wounded. Months after returning home, half of the 4 million soldiers were released from military service. With the country drained of its economic resources due to the war, there was little funding available to help war veterans in search of employment and medical care. Within a year, 4 million Americans were jobless, broke and past hope. Recession and unemployment crippled the American economy. As a result, veterans were left to fend for themselves, especially those who were disabled. Jobs were almost nonexistent for these men.

The few government agencies charged with responsibility for veterans were under funded, often working at cross-purposes and required veterans seeking help to complete an abundance of bureaucratic paperwork, much to the dismay of veterans. Many gave up, finding themselves having to look to each other for help. It was in this environment that groups of disabled veterans gathered together across the country, some for social purposes, others working to raise money and create jobs for their comrades.

The Ohio Mechanics Institute (OMI), a training school for disabled veterans, asked for help from

celebrated disabled veterans. Enter Cincinnati-born Captain Robert S. Marx, a wounded veteran who upon recovery returned to his law practice in Cincinnati, won a Superior Court judgeship and became the champion of the disabled veterans cause. He was an exceptional organizer, a captain of industry and a natural born leader.

In 1920 he was instrumental in the establishment of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War (DAVWW). A year later he called a caucus of disabled veteran groups from around the nation. The caucus of 250 veterans met in Cincinnati and created a national organization, which was divided into state and local chapters. Judge Marx traveled to some 32 states to build local chapters.

His tireless efforts in this endeavor earned him the title of the "Father of the DAV." The history of the DAV is the story of victory and defeat, success and near disaster, but always the commitment to build better lives for disabled veterans and their families. By holding to this single purpose the DAV is one of the finest veterans service organization in the world—offering free services to millions of veterans each year.

Why Is DAV Membership So Important?

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has a mission. Helping eligible veterans receive all the benefits and services they have earned through their sacrifices for their country.

Well over half of all veterans eligible for DAV membership have already joined the ranks. Asked why they joined, members overwhelmingly cite DAV service. Helping disabled veterans and their families is what DAV does—and does it well because you deserve the best.

Veterans like the fact that the DAV is not a government agency and receives no government funding. They know the DAV is on their side. That's why more than 200,000 veterans and members of their families seek out professional DAV services every year. These services include help with disability compensation, VA pension, death benefits, VA medical care, Social Security disability benefits, veterans' job programs, and much, much more.

You can count on DAV service from DAV National Service Officers (NSOs) in 69 offices nationwide when you need help. DAV NSOs are highly trained, professional experts who have undergone the stiffest training program in veterans' affairs. An all-new, high-tech training program is making sure DAV NSOs will remain among the best. DAV NSOs also represent more clients than all other veterans' groups combined at the highest level of appeal within the Department of Veterans Affairs. What's more, all services provided by DAV NSOs are free of charge.

With threats to your benefits coming on hot and heavy year after year, you need representation before Congress, the White House, and other government bodies - strong, effective representation. The DAV's legislative specialists in Washington, D.C., are among the best in veterans' affairs. But they must be backed up by strength. The strength that comes from numbers. That's why your membership in the DAV is so important.

One veteran summed up the feelings of so many DAV members in this way: As one person we can't do very much, but as a group we have power. Disabled veterans know the power of numbers. That's where your membership really counts.

How Does Your DAV Membership Benefit Benefit You?

As a DAV Member, in addition to DAV programs and services, members are entitled to a Member Benefits Package, which gives you access to a variety of important programs, products, and services. Also included with your membership is a FREE subscription to DAV Magazine.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Any man or woman, who was wounded, gassed, injured or disabled in the line of duty during time of war, while in the service of either the military or naval forces of the United States of America, and who has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service, or who may still be in active service in the armed forces of the United States of America is eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans. Others who are disabled while serving with any of the armed forces of any nations associated with the United States of America as allies during any of its war periods, who are American citizens and who are honorably discharged, are also eligible.)

What Is The DAV's Dues Structure?

Life membership is permanent. Life membership dues are as follows and may be paid in interest-free installments following a minimum \$40.00 down payment.

80 or older:	FREE
71 - 79:	\$140.00
61 - 70:	\$180.00
41-60:	\$230.00
40 or younger:	\$250.00

Help the DAV in its effort to help you. Sign up for membership today

Please See Page 29, For The DAV Membership Form

Or visit: http://www.dav.org/membership/documents/membership_application.pdf



Veterans of Foreign Wars

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Originally founded in 1899 as the American Veterans of Foreign Service, the VFW continues to be a voice for veterans, currently deployed members of our Armed Forces, and their families.

About The VFW

The 2.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliaries are located in 8,500 VFW Posts around the world. It is at heart an organization dedicated to providing a place for all of those who have sacrificed in our nation's conflicts abroad. While VFW is a national organization, it expresses this dedication through local posts and programs to support veterans, service members, and their families.

VFW Mission

The VFW's mission is to support those who sacrifice so much for this country — veterans, those currently serving in our US Armed Forces, and their families.

Veteran Advocacy: Full-Time Support for Veterans

National Veteran Service: The VFW provides full-time support to veterans and their families. VFW Veteran Service Officers are professional, full-time advocates who are expert at helping veterans (members and non-members alike) with their Veterans Administration claims. They can be found at every VA medical center and can also be reached at 1-800-VFW-1899. VFW Veteran Service Officers help veterans claim over a billion dollars annually in VA benefits. Every veteran (including those in the process of leaving the military) should speak to a Veteran Service Officer to ensure he or she is receiving the benefits they deserve.

National Legislative Services: The VFW works for veterans on Capitol Hill. The VFW Washington, D.C., office has a full-time staff to monitor, lobby, and report on legislation that directly impacts the veteran community.

Support to Troops and Families: Answering the Call to Assist Our Nation's Defenders

National Military Services: The VFW offers support and assistance to the military community through a variety of programs. The VFW launched Operation Uplink in 1996 to connect active-duty troops and hospitalized veterans with their loved ones. Contributions from supporters purchase phone cards that are sent to those serving this great nation. In total, VFW Operation Uplink has distributed more than 8.5 million phone cards. In 2006, the VFW also began hosting "Free Call Days." On holidays throughout the year, troops can call home—at no charge—from Internet cafes throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. Free talk time has already totaled more than 5 million minutes!

VFW Unmet Needs helps service members and their families who face unexpected financial difficulties, often as a result of unexpected or extended deployments. Military families can apply for grants of up to \$2,500 to cope with emergencies and get through tough times.

VFW Military Assistance Program works to give troops and military families the help they need during long deployments and when they return. The program sponsors numerous morale-boosting sendoffs and homecomings for troops and their families. The events—which often include free entertainment, food and other festivities—are held at military bases across the nation, as well as at local VFW Posts.

Community Programs: Giving Back to Towns and Neighborhoods

The VFW promotes programs that help build local communities. Though VFW maintains a national presence, it is a grass-roots organization. A VFW Post is not a building—it is the people inside. VFW programs are geared toward developing tomorrow's leaders and recognizing those who are building that future today.

VFW gives out over \$3.6 million annually through Voice of Democracy scholarships to high-school students and Patriots Pen savings bonds to junior high and middle-school students. Candidates for these awards are nominated at the Post level and compete at the state and national levels. Finalists are invited to VFW ceremonies in Washington, D.C. The VFW recently added the VFW Military Family Scholarship for veterans and their families. Applicants apply to VFW National Headquarters for this award.

Community service takes many forms, from volunteering at local VA hospitals to volunteering in community clean-ups. VFW members volunteer over 13 million hours annually in their communities. The VFW also offers recognition to leaders in the community. These awards go to teachers, police officers, firefighters, and emergency response personnel who have distinguished themselves through their dedication and service.

Please See Page 31, For The VFW Membership Form
Or visit: <https://www.vfw.org/mbrship/MailMemberApp.pdf>

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

There are three requisites for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States:

- Citizenship
- Honorable military service; and
- Service entitling the applicant to the award of a recognized campaign medal or as set forth in the Congressional Charter and/or VFW bylaws.

Checking eligibility is comparatively simple, assuming the first two requirements are met. A potential applicant must have served overseas and earned a campaign, service medal or insignia recognized by the VFW as meeting the requisite for VFW membership. (The only exceptions are a combat action ribbon, imminent danger pay or for service in Korea after June 30, 1949, until present.)

Discharges during and immediately after World War II have a section on the back listing earned medals and decorations. Persons discharged later received a DD-214, "Report of Separation" form, which has a space showing medals and decorations. Lost separation documents can be replaced by completing and submitting Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining to Military Records" which is enclosed in this Veterans Planning Guide. Contact VFW National Membership if you feel you have qualifying experience not listed.



Campaign Medals	Military Service	Qualifying Dates	Campaign Medals	Military Service	Qualifying Dates
<u>Expeditionary</u>	Navy/Marine Corps	Feb. 12, 1874 - Open	Germany (<i>West Berlin</i>)		May 9, 1945 - Oct. 2, 1990
<u>Spanish Campaign</u>	Army Navy	May 11, 1898 - Aug. 16, 1898 Apr. 20, 1898 - Dec. 10, 1898	Korea		Sep. 3, 1945 - Jun. 29, 1949
<u>Army of Cuba Occupation</u>	Army	Jul. 18, 1898 - May 20, 1902	Japan		Sep. 3, 1945 - Apr. 27, 1952
<u>Army of Puerto Rico Occupation</u>	Army	Aug. 14, 1898 - Dec. 10, 1898	<u>Navy Occupation Service Medal</u>		
<u>Philippine Campaign</u>	Army Navy	Feb. 4, 1899 - Dec. 31, 1913 Feb. 4, 1899 - Sep. 15, 1906	Italy		May 8, 1945 - Dec. 15, 1947
<u>China Relief Expedition</u>	Army Navy	Jun. 20, 1900 - May 27, 1901 Apr. 5, 1900 - May 27, 1901	Trieste		May 8, 1945 - Oct. 26, 1954
<u>Cuban Pacification</u>	Army Navy	Oct. 6, 1906 - Apr. 1, 1909 Sep. 12, 1906 - Apr. 1, 1909	Germany (<i>except West Berlin</i>)		May 8, 1945 - May 5, 1955
<u>Mexican Service</u>	Army Navy	Apr. 12, 1911 - Jun. 16, 1919 Apr. 12, 1914 - Feb. 7, 1917	Austria		May 8, 1945 - Oct. 25, 1955
<u>First Nicaraguan Campaign</u>	Navy	Jul. 29, 1912 - Nov. 14, 1912	Asiatic Pacific		Sep. 2, 1945 - Apr. 27, 1952
<u>Haitian Campaign</u>	Navy	Jul. 9, 1915 - Dec. 6, 1915 Apr. 1, 1919 - Jun. 15, 1920	<u>Korean Service Medal</u>		
<u>Dominican Campaign</u>	Navy	May 4, 1916 - Dec. 5, 1916	Army, Navy, Air Force		Jun. 27, 1950 - Jul. 27, 1954
<u>World War I Victory</u> (with battle or service clasp incl. <i>Siberia and European Russia</i>)	Army Navy	Apr. 6, 1917 - Apr. 1, 1920 Apr. 6, 1917 - Mar. 30, 1920	<u>Navy & Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal</u>		
<u>Army Occup. of Germany</u>	Army	Nov. 12, 1918 - Jul. 11, 1923	Cuban Military Operation		Jan. 3, 1961 - Oct. 23, 1962
<u>Second Nicaraguan Campaign</u>	Navy	Aug. 27, 1926 - Jan. 2, 1933	Thailand Military Operation		May 16, 1962 - Aug. 10, 1962
<u>Yangtze Service</u>	Navy	Sep. 3, 1926 - Oct. 21, 1927 Mar. 1, 1930 - Dec. 31, 1932	Iranian, Yemen & Indian Ocean Operation		Dec. 8, 1978 - Jun. 6, 1979 Nov. 21, 1979 - Oct. 20, 1981
<u>China Service</u>	Navy	Jul. 7, 1937 - Sep. 7, 1939 Sep. 2, 1945 - Apr. 1, 1957	Lebanon		Aug. 20, 1982 - May 31, 1983
<u>American Defense Service</u> (with foreign service clasp)	Army-Navy	Sep. 8, 1939 - Dec. 7, 1941	Libyan Expedition		Jan. 20, 1986 - Jun. 27, 1986
<u>European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign</u>	Army-Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 - Nov. 8, 1945	Persian Gulf		Feb. 1, 1987 - Jul. 23, 1987
<u>American Campaign</u> (30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty outside continental limits of the U.S.)	Army-Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 - Mar. 2, 1946	Panama (pre and post invasion)		Apr. 1, 1988 - Dec. 19, 1989 Feb. 1, 1990 - Jun. 13, 1990
<u>Asiatic-Pacific Campaign</u>	Army-Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 - Mar. 2, 1946	Operation Sharp Edge - Liberia		Aug. 5, 1990 - Feb. 21, 1991
<u>Army of Occupation</u> (30 consecutive days of duty)			Operation Distant Runner - Rwanda (11th Marine Exped. Unit USS Peleliu)		Apr. 7-18, 1994
Italy		May 9, 1945 - Sep. 15, 1947	<u>Vietnam Service Medal</u>		
Germany (<i>except West Berlin</i>)		May 9, 1945 - May 5, 1955	Jul. 4, 1965 - Mar. 8, 1973		
Austria		May 9, 1945 - Jul. 27, 1955	<u>Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal</u> (30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty)		
			Lebanon		Jul. 1, 1958 - Nov. 1, 1958
			Taiwan Straits		Aug. 23, 1958 - Jan. 1, 1959
			Quemoy & Matsu Islands		Aug. 23, 1958 - Jun. 1, 1963
			Vietnam		Jul. 1, 1958 - Jul. 3, 1965
			Congo		Jul. 14, 1960 - Sep. 1, 1962
			Laos		Apr. 19, 1961 - Oct. 7, 1962
			Berlin		Aug. 14, 1961 - Jun. 1, 1963
			Cuba		Oct. 24, 1962 - Jun. 1, 1963



Campaign Medals	Military Service	Qualifying Dates	Campaign Medals	Military Service	Qualifying Dates
Congo		Nov. 23-27, 1964	Operation Desert Thunder - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea support.		Nov. 11, 1998 - Dec. 22, 1998
Dominican Republic		Apr. 23, 1965 - Sep. 21, 1966	Operation Desert Fox - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, USN Red Sea support.		Dec. 16, 1998 - Dec. 22, 1998
Korea		Oct. 1, 1966 - Jun. 30, 1974	<u>Southwest Asia Service Medal</u>		
Cambodia		Mar. 29, 1973 - Aug. 15, 1973	Operation Desert Shield/ Operation Desert Storm (combat areas of operation only)		Aug. 2, 1990 - Nov. 30, 1995
Thailand (only those in direct support of Cambodia)		Mar. 29, 1973 - Aug. 15, 1973	Personnel assigned to support units serving in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Jordan.		Jan. 17, 1991 - Apr. 11, 1991
Operation Eagle Pull - Cambodia (includes evacuation)		Apr. 11-13, 1975	<u>Kosovo Campaign Medal</u>		
Operation Frequent Wind - Vietnam (includes evacuation)		Apr. 29-30, 1975	Operation Allied Force - Kosovo Air Campaign		Mar. 24, 1999 - Jun. 10, 1999
Mayaguez Operation		May 15, 1975	Kosovo Defense Campaign - Ground Action		Jun. 11, 1999 - Open
El Salvador		Jan. 1, 1981 - Feb. 1, 1992	<u>Combat Infantryman Badge & Combat Medical Badge</u>		
Lebanon		Jun. 1, 1983 - Dec. 1, 1987	Army		Dec. 6, 1941 - Open
Operation Urgent Fury - Grenada		Oct. 23, 1983 - Nov. 21, 1983	<u>Combat Action Ribbon</u>	Navy, Marine, Coast Guard	Dec. 6, 1941 - Open
Eldorado Canyon - Libya		Apr. 12-17, 1986	<u>Combat Action Badge</u>	Army	Sep. 18, 2001 - Open
Operation Earnest Will - Persian Gulf (only those participating in, or in direct support)		Jul. 24, 1987 - Aug. 1, 1990	<u>SSBN Nuclear Deterrent Patrol Breast Insignia</u>		
Operation Just Cause - Panama (USS Vreeland & other SVS-designated aircrew mbrs. outside the Conus in direct support)		Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990	Navy		Jan. 21, 1961 - Open
United Shield - Somalia		Dec. 5, 1992 - Mar. 31, 1995	<u>Korea Duty</u> Service on the Korean Peninsula or in its territorial waters for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty.		
Operation Restore Hope - Somalia		Dec. 5, 1992 - Mar. 31, 1995	Jul. 28, 1954 - Open		
Operation Uphold Democracy - Haiti		Sep. 16, 1994 - Mar. 31, 1995	<u>Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal</u>		
Operation Joint Endeavor - Bosnia, Croatia, the Adriatic Sea & airspace.		Nov. 20, 1995 - Dec. 19, 1996	Sep. 11, 2001 - Open		
Operation Vigilant Sentinel - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, & Persian Gulf.		Dec. 1, 1995 - Feb. 15, 1997	<u>Afghanistan Campaign Medal</u>		
Operation Southern Watch - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Persian Gulf, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Gulf of Oman W of 62° E Long., Yemen, Egypt, & Jordan.		Dec. 1, 1995 - Mar. 18, 2003	<u>Iraq Campaign Medal</u>		
Operation Maritime Intercept - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman W of 62° E Long., Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, & Jordan.		Dec. 1, 1995 - Mar. 18, 2003	<u>Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with GOLD BORDER</u>		
Operation Joint Guard - Bosnia, Croatia, Adriatic Sea & airspace.		Dec. 20, 1996 - Jun. 20, 1998	Apr. 2004 - Open		
Operation Northern Watch - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Persian Gulf W of 56° E Long., and Incirlik AB, Turkey (only pers. TDY to ONW)		Jan. 1, 1997 - Mar. 18, 2003	<u>Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay</u>		
Operation Joint Forge - Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Adriatic Sea & airspace.		Jun. 21, 1998 - Open	This information is to be used for guideline purposes only. The separation document or DD 214 MUST reflect campaign medal service to establish eligibility. Service in Korea without the issuance of a campaign medal can be established with additional, support documentation. Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay can be established with pay records.		

Section 3:

VETERANS FORMS

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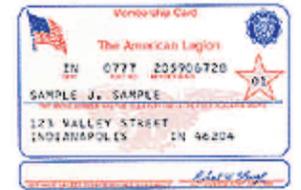
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American Legion Membership Mail-In Application

Please return completed application to:

The American Legion
IT / Data Services
P.O. Box 7017
Indianapolis, IN 46207



IMPORTANT: When submitting this application, please send a copy to:
Dignity Memorial Veterans Benefit Program
c/o Chris Marsh – Room 428
1929 Allan Parkway, Houston, Texas 77019

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

D88NET

YES! I'll help my fellow veterans by becoming a member of The American Legion. I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked below and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably. Please send my current membership card and my free "Branch of Service" lapel pin.

Please check method of payment:

- My \$25.00 check or money order is enclosed.
- Bill my credit card for \$25.00.
(See box at right)

VISA® MasterCard®

Account Number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Expiration Date:

Please check applicable "Dates of Service" and "Branch of Service":

Dates of Service	Branch of Service
<input type="checkbox"/> AUG 2, 1990—OPEN	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. ARMY
<input type="checkbox"/> DEC. 20, 1989—JAN. 31, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. NAVY
<input type="checkbox"/> AUG. 24, 1982—JUL. 31, 1984	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. AIR FORCE
<input type="checkbox"/> FEB. 28, 1961—MAY 7, 1975	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. MARINES
<input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 25, 1950—JAN. 31, 1955	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. COAST GUARD
<input type="checkbox"/> DEC. 7, 1941—DEC. 31, 1946	
<input type="checkbox"/> APR. 6, 1917—NOV. 11, 1918	
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. MERCHANT MARINE — DEC. 7, 1941—DEC. 31, 1946	

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Birth Date _____

Signature _____

Please tell us how/where you heard about The American Legion:
