

INSTRUCTIONS

A. How can I contact VA if I have questions?

If you have questions about this form, how to fill it out, or about benefits, contact your nearest VA regional office. You can locate the address of the nearest regional office in your telephone book blue pages under "United States Government, Veterans" or call 1-800-827-1000 (Hearing Impaired TDD line 1-800-829-4833). You may also contact VA by Internet at <https://iris.va.gov/>.

B. How do I apply for a burial flag?

Complete VA Form 27-2008, and submit it to a funeral director or a representative of the veteran or other organization having charge of the funeral arrangements or acting in the interest of the veteran. You may get a flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office. When burial is in a national, State or military post cemetery, a burial flag will be provided.

C. Who is eligible for a burial flag?

Generally, veterans with an other than dishonorable discharge.

Note: This includes veterans who served in the Philippine military forces while such forces were in the service of the U.S. armed forces under the President's Order of July 26, 1941 and died on or after April 25, 1951, and veterans who served in the Philippine military services are eligible for burial in a national cemetery.

Veterans who were entitled to retired pay for service in the reserves, or would have been entitled to such pay but not for being under 60 years of age.

Members or former members of the Selected Reserve (Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Naval Reserve; Air National Guard; or Army National Guard) who served at least one enlistment or, in the case of an officer, the period of initial obligation, or were discharged for disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty, or died while a member of the Selected Reserve.

D. Who is not eligible for a burial flag?

Veterans who received a dishonorable discharge.

Members of the Selected Reserve whose last discharge from service was under conditions less favorable than honorable.

Peacetime veterans who were discharged before June 27, 1950 and did not serve at least one complete enlistment or incur or aggravate a disability in the line of duty.

Veterans who were convicted of a Federal capital crime and sentenced to death or life imprisonment, or were convicted of a State capital crime and sentenced to death or life imprisonment without parole, or were found to have committed a Federal or State capital crime but were not convicted by reason of not being available for trial due to death or flight to avoid prosecution.

Discharged or rejected draftees, or members of the National Guard, who reported to camp in answer to the President's call for World War I service but who, when medically examined, were not finally accepted for military service.

D. Who is not eligible for a burial flag? (Continued)

Persons who were discharged from World War I service prior to November 12, 1918, on their own application or solicitation by reason of being an alien, or any veterans discharged for alienage during a period of hostilities.

Persons who served with any of the forces allied with the United States in any war, even though United States citizens, if they did not serve with the United States armed forces .

Persons inducted for training and service who, before entering such training and service were transferred to the Enlisted Reserve Corps and given a furlough.

Former temporary members of the United States Coast Guard Reserve.

E. What documentation is required in order to receive a burial flag?

Provide a copy of the veteran's discharge documents that shows service dates and the character of service, such as DD Form 214, or verification of service from the veteran's service department or VA. Various information requested, is considered essential to the proper processing of the application. Ensure these areas are completed as fully as possible. *Note:* If the claimant is unable to provide documentary proof, a flag may be issued when a statement is made by a person of established character and reputation that he/she personally knows the deceased to have been a veteran who meets the eligibility criteria.

F. Who is eligible to receive a burial flag?

Only one flag may be issued for each deceased veteran. Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin as a keepsake after its use during the funeral service. The flag is given to the following person(s) in the order of precedence listed:

surviving spouse

children, according to age

parents, including adoptive, stepparents, and foster parents

brothers or sisters, including brothers or sisters of half blood

uncles or aunts

nephews or nieces

others, such as cousins or grandparents

When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making a request for it. If there is no living relative or one cannot be located, and no friend requests the flag, it must be returned to the nearest VA facility.

Note: The flag cannot be replaced if it is lost, destroyed, or stolen. Additionally, a flag may not be issued after burial unless it was impossible to obtain a flag in time to drape the casket or accompany the urn before burial. If the next-of-kin or friend is requesting the flag after the veteran's burial, he or she must personally sign the application and explain in Item 15 "Remarks" the reason that prevented timely application for a burial flag.

