

IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED

DISCHARGE FROM SERVICE INFORMATION

It is extremely important to have a copy of your discharge/DD214 available family members and your funeral director for benefit application.

(In case of an accident or emergency you may not always be capable of communicating and this form is vital in obtaining services from the VA hospital systems)

NOTE: Discharge/DD214 – before 1950 the term “discharge” was used for both WD AGO 53-55 or discharge certificate and the back side of the discharge form with the important information on it. After 1950, the form is a DD214. A “Certificate of Military Service” is NOT proof of service.

WAR TIME DATES DETERMINE BENEFITS

Certain benefits require service during war time. Under the law, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs recognizes these war periods:

World War II: December 7, 1941- December 31, 1946

Korean War: June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

Vietnam War: August 5, 1965 (February 28, 1961, for veteran who served “in country” before August 6, 1964), through May 7, 1975.

Gulf War: August 2, 1990, through a date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation.
Important Documents Needed to Expedite.

Congress has not enacted legislation that would make the periods covering the 1983-1984 Lebanon crisis or the invasions of Grenada and Panama wartime service.

In addition, veterans may be eligible for certain NYS Veterans benefits, depending on circumstances.

LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Ulster County:

5 Development Court
Kingston, NY 12401
Phone: (845)340-3197
Fax: (845)340-3194

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE NEEDED FOR VA CLAIMS AND OTHER PERSONAL MATTERS

- Birth Certificate of Veteran
- Burial Plot Deed for private cemetery funerals
- DD214 or Copies of discharge papers
- Award of Disability Compensation or Pension document
- SGLI or Government Insurance Policies
- Marriage Certificate
- Birth Certificates for dependents
- Adoption papers for dependents
- Death Certificate (previous spouse)
- Divorce papers (if applicable)
- Death Certificate – 1 certified copy is provided at no charge. There is a \$10 charge for each additional copy.

MOST COMMONLY USED NATIONAL CEMETERIES IN OUR AREA*

Gerald B. H. Solomon
Saratoga National Cemetery
200 Duell Road
Schuylerville, NY 12871
Phone: (518) 581-9128

Calverton National Cemetery
210 Princeton Boulevard
Calverton, NY 11933
Phone : (631) 727-5410
Or
(631) 727-5770

Burial in National Cemeteries

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible Veterans, spouses and dependents at no cost and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For Veterans, benefits may also include a burial flag (with case for active duty), and military funeral honors.

Surviving spouses of Veterans who died on or after Jan. 1, 2000, do not lose eligibility for burial in a national cemetery if they remarry. Unmarried dependent children of Veterans who are under 21 years of age, or under 23 years of age if a full-time student at an approved educational institution, are eligible for burial. Unmarried adult children who become physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before age 21, or age 23 if a full-time student, also are eligible.

VA's National Cemetery Scheduling Office or local national cemetery directors verify eligibility for burial. A copy of the Veteran's discharge document that specifies the period(s) of active duty and character of service is usually sufficient to determine eligibility. A copy of the deceased's death certificate and proof of relationship to the Veteran (for eligible family members) may be required.

*there are other National Cemeteries in NY as well as the USA (some are full or have special requirements) Please contact us for further information.

ULSTER COUNTY VETERANS CEMETERY AT NEW PALTZ RURAL CEMETERY*

New Paltz Cemetery Association
81 Plains Road
New Paltz, NY 12561
845-255-0835

Ulster County now offers to Ulster County Veterans a Veterans Cemetery with in the grounds of New Paltz Rural Cemetery. The primary benefit are the grave and grave opening and closing is at no charge to the veteran, all other fees and requirements apply. There are not any benefits available to spouses and dependents buried in a Ulster County Veterans Cemetery

BURIAL IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY*

Burial benefits available for Veterans buried in a private cemetery include a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. There are not any benefits available to spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery.

*Certain additional benefits are available if death occurs in a VA hospital and/or the veteran has a service connected disability. Private cemeteries would include religious cemeteries.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

In Ulster County we are fortunate to have several VFW and American Legion Posts that provide full military honors, which includes taps, 3 rifle volley and presentation of the flag. All eligible veterans are entitled to active duty representatives of the armed force they served in. Generally active duty personnel provide Taps and Flag Presentation, it does not include rifle volley. *(The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. Upon the family's request, every single veteran must receive a military funeral honors ceremony which includes the folding and presenting of the Unites States bural flag and the playings of "Taps.")*

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFCATE

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 include the deceased Veterans' next-of-kin, relatives and friends, or an authorized service representative acting of their behalf.