

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
VA FORM LETTER 29-596, STATEMENT OF HEIRS FOR
PAYMENT OF CREDITS DUE ESTATE OF DECEASED VETERAN
2900-0046

A. JUSTIFICATION:

1. This form letter is used to obtain information for payment of credits due the estate of a deceased veteran. The information requested is authorized by law, Title 38 U.S.C. Section 1917, and 38 CFR Sections 6.56 and 8.54.
2. The information collected on this form letter is used by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish entitlement to the refundable credits.
3. VA Form Letter 29-596 is available on the One-VA web site in a fillable electronic format. VBA is currently hosting this form on a secure server and does not currently have the technology in place to allow for the complete submission of this form. Validation edits are performed to assure data integrity. Efforts within VA are underway to provide a mechanism to allow the information to be submitted electronically with a recognized signature technology. There currently is no utility process in place that will allow the data submitted on the form to be incorporated with an existing centralized legacy database.
4. The information is not contained in any other VA records. Similar information is not available elsewhere.
5. The information does not involve any small businesses.
6. The form letter is designed for use by the insured's heirs to establish eligibility to refundable credits due the veteran's estate.
7. There are no special circumstances requiring that the collection be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR Section 1320.6.
8. The Department notice was published in the Federal Register on August 31, 2010, page 53378, No comments were received in response to this notice.
9. The information collected is supplied by the respondent. No remuneration is made.
10. The information collection conforms with the Privacy Act of 1974 and is subject to the conditions of disclosure contained therein. The records are maintained in the system identified as 36VA00, "Veterans and Armed Forces Personnel United States Government Life Insurance Records - VA" as contained in the Privacy Act Issuances, 1993 Compilation.
11. There are no questions of a sensitive nature.
12. We estimate that approximately 312 form letters a year will be received. We also estimate that it will take approximately 15 minutes to complete this form letter. We arrived at this estimate by initiating a trial with a VA staff member unfamiliar with the form letter. The annual burden is 78 hours.

13. This submission does not involve any record keeping costs.

14. Cost to Government:

\$280.48	Estimated mailing cost (312 X 2 minutes per form X \$15.51/hour (average salary for station mail personnel) plus 312 forms X 38.2 cents each (presort discount)).
\$145.00	Estimated cost for collections (312 X 2 minutes per form X \$13.98/hour (average salary of station collections personnel)).
\$3,093.00	Estimated cost for processing (312 forms X 30 minutes per form X \$19.83/hour (Average salary for reviewers)).
\$30.00	Estimated printing costs (1,000 X \$30/1,000 forms).
\$3,548.48	Total cost to the Government.
\$1,170.00	Cost to reporting public (78 hours X \$15/hour).

15. There is no change in respondent burden.

16. The information is collected for insurance purposes only and there are no plans for publication.

17. The collection instrument, VAFL29-596, may be reproduced and/or stocked by the respondents and veteran service organizations. This VA form does not display an expiration date, and if required to do so would result in unnecessary waste of existing stock of this form. This form is submitted to OMB for approval every three years. As such, this date requirement would also result in an unnecessary burden on the respondents and would delay Department action on the benefit being sought. VA also seeks to minimize its cost to itself of collecting, processing and using the information by not displaying the expiration date. For the reasons stated, VA continues to seek an exemption that waives the displaying of the expiration date on this VA Form Letter.

18. There are no exceptions to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of OMB Form 83-I.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection of information does not employ statistical methods.