

**Instructions for N-644, Application  
for Posthumous Citizenship**

Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

**Instructions**

**Read these instructions carefully to properly complete this form.** If you need more space to complete an answer, use a separate sheet(s) of paper. Write your name, the decedent's name, and Alien Registration Number(s) (A-Number), if any, at the top of each sheet of paper and indicate the part and number of the item to which the answer refers.

**What Is the Purpose of This Form?**

The purpose of Form N-644 is to obtain a posthumous Certificate of Citizenship for qualifying members of the Armed Forces who died while on active duty. Section 329A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, provides that an alien or non-citizen national of the United States who dies as a result of injury or disease incurred in or aggravated by active-duty service with the U.S. Armed Forces during specified periods of military hostilities may be granted United States citizenship. If the application is approved, a Certificate of Citizenship will be issued in the name of the deceased veteran.

The certificate establishes that the deceased veteran is considered a citizen of the United States as of the date of his or her death.

Posthumous citizenship commemorates the bravery and sacrifices of the deceased veteran. It also provides for certain immigration benefits to qualifying family members of the deceased veteran.

For more information about immigration benefits for family members of deceased Armed Forces members, refer to U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) pamphlet, Survivor Benefits for Non-Citizen Relatives of Military Personnel (M-601) or visit [www.uscis.gov/military](http://www.uscis.gov/military).

**When Should I Use Form N-644?**

The application must be filed by the decedent's next-of-kin or representative within 2 years of the decedent's death.

**Who May File Form N-644?**

**You may file this form only if your relationship to the decedent was:**

- a. Spouse;
- b. Father/Mother;
- c. Son/Daughter; or
- d. Brother/Sister;

**You may also file this form if you are the decedent's representative, defined as:**

- e. Executor or administrator of decedent's estate;
- f. Guardian, conservator, or committee of decedent's next-of-kin;
- g. Service organization recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or
- h. The Secretary of Defense or the Secretary's designee with USCIS after a request by the next-of-kin.

**NOTE:** After a Certificate of Citizenship has been issued for a veteran, USCIS will **not** approve a subsequently filed N-644 application on the decedent's behalf, except in the case of an application to replace a certificate that was lost, mutilated, or destroyed.

**General Instructions**

**Step 1. Fill Out Form N-644**

1. Type or print legibly in black ink.
2. If extra space is needed to complete any item, attach a continuation sheet, indicate the item number, and date and sign each sheet. Write your name and Alien Registration Number (A-Number), if any, at the top of each sheet of paper.
3. Answer all questions fully and accurately. State that an item is not applicable with "N/A." If the answer is none, write "none."
4. **Complete only Part I** of this application. **Do not write in Parts II, III, or IV**, which are reserved for the use of the executive departments and USCIS.

**Step 2. General Requirements**

To qualify for posthumous citizenship, the decedent must have been an alien or noncitizen national of the United States who:

1. Served honorably in an active-duty status in the military, air, or naval forces of the United States:
  - A. From 09/11/2001 until terminated by Executive Order of the President; or

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- B. Any other period of military hostilities designated by Executive Order of the President for the purpose of naturalization benefits.
2. Died because of injury or disease incurred in or aggravated by that service; and
  3. Met one of the following enlistment requirements:
    - A. Entered or was enlisted, reenlisted, or inducted in the United States, Panama Canal Zone, American Samoa, or Swain's Island; or
    - B. Was admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident after enlistment or induction.

**Note:** The application must be filed by the decedent's next-of-kin or representative within 2 years of the decedent's death.

## Evidence

### Authorization Documents

1. Unless you are the spouse of the decedent or the executor or administrator of the decedent's estate, you must obtain authorization from all living next-of-kin above you in the order of succession.
2. For example, if you are the decedent's brother, you would have to obtain authorization from all living relatives in classes (A), (B), and (C) in the "**Who May File Form N-644**" section on **Page 1** of these instructions.

The authorization must be in the form of an affidavit stating the affiant's name, address, and relationship to the decedent and authorizing you to apply for posthumous U.S. Citizenship on behalf of the decedent. If the affidavit is in a language other than English, it must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

If you are in category (e) or (f) of the section "**Who May File Form N-644**" you must submit a certified copy of your letter of appointment as the executor or administrator of the decedent's estate, or as the guardian, conservator, or committee of the decedent's next-of-kin.

To facilitate certification of the decedent's military service and service connected death by the executive departments, submit a legible copy of each of the following documents, if available:

1. Form DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty;
2. Form DD1300, Report of Casualty/Military Death Certificate; or

3. Any other military or State issued certificate of the decedent's death.

Failure to submit any of these documents may not automatically result in the denial of your application, but will delay the certification process.

## Translations

Any document containing a foreign language submitted to USCIS must be accompanied by a full English language translation which the translator has certified as complete and accurate, and by the translator's certification that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English.

## Copies

Unless specifically required that an original document be filed with an application or petition, an ordinary legible photocopy may be submitted. Original documents submitted when not required will remain a part of the record, even if the submission was not required.

## Where To File?

Submit your Form N-644 to the following address:

**USCIS California Service Center**  
**P.O. Box 10360**  
**Laguna Niguel, CA 92607**

## What Is the Filing Fee?

No fee is collected for this application.

## Address Changes

If you change your address and you have an application or petition pending with USCIS, you may change your address online at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). Click on "online Change of Address" and follow the prompts or by completing and mailing Form AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card, to:

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services**  
**Change of Address**  
**P.O. Box 7134**  
**London, KY 40742-7134**

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For commercial overnight or fast freight services only, mail to:

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services**  
**Change of Address**  
**1084-I South Laurel Road**  
**London, KY 40744**

## Processing Information

**Any Form N-644 that is not signed will be rejected with a notice that your Form N-644 is deficient.** You may correct the deficiency and resubmit Form N-644. An application or petition is not considered properly filed until accepted by USCIS.

### Initial processing

Once Form N-644 has been received, it will be checked for completeness, including submission of the required initial evidence. If you do not completely fill out the form, or file it without required initial evidence, you will not establish a basis for eligibility, and USCIS may reject your Form N-644.

### Will Someone Have to Appear for an Interview? No.

However, if the application is approved and the person applying for the Certificate of Citizenship on behalf of the deceased veteran resides outside the United States, the person will be required to appear at the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate to obtain the Certificate of Citizenship.

### Decision

The decision whether the deceased veteran qualifies for posthumous citizenship will be issued in writing. If the application is approved, a Certificate of Citizenship in the name of the deceased veteran will be mailed to the address contained on the Form N-644. If the address listed on the Form N-644 is outside the United States, the decision will contain instructions about how to obtain the Certificate of Citizenship at the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate.

## USCIS Forms and Information

To order USCIS forms, call our toll-free number at **1-800-870-3676**. You can also get USCIS forms and information on immigration laws, regulations, and procedures by telephoning our National Customer Service Center at **1-800-375-5283** or visiting our Internet Web site at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

As an alternative to waiting in line for assistance at your local USCIS office, you can now schedule an appointment through our Internet-based system, **InfoPass**. To access the system, visit our Web site. Use the **InfoPass** appointment scheduler and follow the screen prompts to set up your appointment. **InfoPass** generates an electronic appointment notice that appears on the screen.

## Penalties

If you knowingly and willfully falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with this Form N-644, we will deny your Form N-644 and may deny any other immigration benefit.

In addition, you will face severe penalties provided by law and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

## Privacy Act Notice

We ask for the information on this form, and associated evidence, to determine if you have established eligibility for the immigration benefit for which you are filing. Our legal right to ask for this information can be found in the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended. We may provide this information to other government agencies. Failure to provide this information, and any requested evidence, may delay a final decision or result in denial of your Form N-644.

## Paperwork Reduction Act

An agency may not conduct or sponsor an information collection and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 1 hour and 50 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, and completing and submitting the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Regulatory Products Division, 111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., 3rd Floor, Suite 3008, Washington, DC 20529-2210. OMB No. 1615-0059. **Do not mail your application to this address.**