

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

CLAIM FOR COMMEMORATIVE URN OR PLAQUE FOR VETERANS' CREMAINS NOT INTERRED

RESPONDENT BURDEN

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it has a valid OMB number. Your response (per OMB guidance) is voluntary, however, your response is required to obtain benefits. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the VA Clearance Officer (005R1B), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please DO NOT send claims for benefits to this address.

PRIVACY ACT

VA considers the responses you submit confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). VA may only disclose this information outside the VA if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 48VA40B, published in the Federal Register. VA considers the requested information relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law.

BENEFIT PROVIDED

- a. **COMMEMORATIVE URN:** a container that signifies the deceased individual's status as a veteran, in which the individual's cremated remains may be placed at private expense.
- b. **COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE:** a commemorative plaque means a tablet that signifies the deceased individual's status as a veteran.

WHO CAN BE COMMEMORATED BY AN URN OR PLAQUE

A deceased Veteran who has been cremated with no portion of the remains interred* at any location at the time of application, and who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable on or after April 6, 1917, or any Servicemember of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty whose remains have been cremated and is NOT interred at any location. **Service after September 7, 1980, must be for a minimum of 24 months continuous active duty or be completed under special circumstances, e.g., death on active duty.** Persons who have only limited active duty service for training while in the National Guard or Reserves are not eligible unless there are special circumstances, e.g., death while on active duty, or as a result of training. Reservists and National Guard members who, at time of death, were entitled to retired pay, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60, are eligible; please submit a copy of the Reserve Retirement Eligibility Benefits Letter with the claim. Reservists called to active duty other than training and National Guard members who are Federalized and who serve for the period called are eligible.

* *Interment means the burial or entombment of casketed or cremated remains, including the placement of cremated remains in a columbarium niche.*

BENEFITS FORFEITED IF VETERAN IS COMMEMORATED BY A COMMEMORATIVE URN OR PLAQUE

Once VA issues an urn or plaque, the Veteran or Servicemember will no longer be eligible for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery, nor may the VA issue a government headstone, marker, or medallion to mark the grave of, and/or memorialize the Veteran. Many Veterans and family members consider these benefits, which will be forfeited, to be of significant monetary and symbolic value. While there is no legal prohibition against interment in a non-VA cemetery, the family should also consider how the interment policy of these cemeteries may change if VA does not provide a government headstone, marker, or medallion at no cost for placement in these cemeteries. For these reasons, it is critical that the family member consider the ultimate final disposition of the Veterans remains and be certain of the decision to apply for an urn or plaque before applying.

WHO MAY APPLY FOR AN URN OR PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE A VETERAN

The family member who holds the entirety of the cremated remains and is authorized to make decisions about the disposition of the Veteran. Family members include the decedent's spouse or individual who was in a legal union as defined in 38 CFR 3.1702(b)(1)(ii) with the decedent; a child, parent, or sibling of the decedent, whether biological, adopted, or step relation; and any lineal or collateral descendant of the decedent.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CLAIM

Please attach a copy of the deceased Veteran's discharge certificate (DD Form 214 or equivalent), the VA Pre-Need Eligibility Determination letter, or a copy of other official document(s) establishing qualifying military service. If you are unable to locate copies of military records, apply anyway, as VA will attempt to obtain records necessary to make an eligibility determination. **Do not send original documents;** they will not be returned.

ELECTRONICALLY submit your claim and supporting documents by using Quick Submit at access.va.gov. You will be instructed to register during your first sign-on attempt.

If you prefer, you may
MAIL claims to: NCA FP Evidence Intake Center
PO Box 5237
Janesville, WI 53547

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Should you have questions when filling out this form, you may contact our Applicant Assistance Unit toll free at: 1-800-697-6947, or ask.va.gov. No fee should be paid in connection with the preparation of this claim.

TRANSPORTATION AND DELIVERY OF URN OR PLAQUE

VA will ship the commemorative urn or plaque without charge to the applicant designated in block 10a of the claim. The applicant must provide the full delivery address and telephone number. If you fail to include the required address and telephone number, we will not deliver the urn or plaque. Upon receipt, a signature will be required. Unless the urn or plaque was damaged during shipping, VA will not replace the product.

