

## Department of Veterans Affairs

## § 3.1606

(a) *Death enroute.* When a veteran while traveling under proper prior authorization and at Department of Veterans Affairs expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of:

- (1) Examination; or
- (2) Treatment; or
- (3) Care

dies enroute, burial, funeral, plot, interment, and transportation expenses will be allowed as though death occurred while properly hospitalized by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Hospitalization in the Philippines under 38 U.S.C. 631, 632, and 633 does not meet the requirements of this section.

(b) *Transportation.* Except for retired persons hospitalized under section 5 of Executive Order 10122 (15 FR 2173; 3 CFR 1950 Supp.) issued pursuant to Pub. L. 351, 81st Congress, and not as Department of Veterans Affairs beneficiaries, the cost of transportation of the body to the place of burial in addition to the burial and plot or interment allowance will be provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs where death occurs:

(1) Within a State or the Canal Zone (38 U.S.C. 101 (20)) while the veteran is hospitalized by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the body is buried in a State or the Canal Zone; or

(2) While hospitalized within but burial is to be outside of a State or the Canal Zone, except that cost of transportation of the body will be authorized only from place of death to port of embarkation, or to border limits of United States where burial is in Canada or Mexico.

(c) *Extended entitlement.* Entitlement extends to the following persons who die while properly hospitalized by the Department of Veterans Affairs:

- (1) Discharged or rejected draftees; or
- (2) Members of the National Guard who reported to camp in answer to the President's call for World War I, World War II, or Korean service, but who when medically examined were not finally accepted for active military service; or
- (3) A veteran discharged under conditions other than dishonorable from a period of service other than a war period.

(d) *Persons properly hospitalized.* A person properly hospitalized who dies:

(1) While on authorized absence which has not exceeded 96 hours at time of death;

(2) While in a status of unauthorized absence for a period not in excess of 24 hours; or

(3) While absent from the hospital for a period totaling 24 hours of combined authorized and unauthorized absence (all other cases in which such absence arises at the expiration of an authorized absence are not included);

is considered as having died while hospitalized.

(e) *Persons not properly hospitalized.* Where a deceased person was not properly hospitalized, benefits will not be authorized under this section.

[26 FR 1621, Feb. 24, 1961, as amended at 26 FR 7738, Aug. 18, 1961; 31 FR 5757, Apr. 14, 1966; 32 FR 3743, Mar. 4, 1967; 36 FR 22144, Nov. 20, 1971; 38 FR 30107, Nov. 1, 1973; 44 FR 22722, Apr. 17, 1979; 48 FR 41162, Sept. 14, 1983]

### § 3.1606 Transportation items.

The transportation costs of those persons who come within the provisions of §§ 3.1600(g) and 3.1605 (a), (b), (c), and (d) may include the following:

(a) *Shipment by common carrier.* (1) Charge for pickup of remains from place hospitalized or place of death but not to exceed the usual and customary charge made the general public for the same service.

(2) Procuring permit for shipment.

(3) *Shipping case.* When a box purchased for interment purposes is also used as the shipping case, the amount payable may not exceed the usual and customary charge for a shipping case. In any such instance any excess amount would be an acceptable item to be included in the burial allowance expenses.

(4) Cost of sealing outside case (tin or galvanized iron), if a vault (steel or concrete) is used as a shipping case and also for burial, an allowance of \$30 may be made thereon in lieu of a separate shipping case.

(5) Cost of hearse to point where remains are to be placed on common carrier for shipment.

(6) Cost of transportation by common carrier including amounts paid as Federal taxes.

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(7) Cost of one removal by hearse direct from common carrier plus one later removal by hearse to place of burial.

(b) *Transported by hearse.* (1) Charge for pickup of remains from place hospitalized, or place of death and

(2) Charge for one later removal by hearse to place of burial. These charges will not exceed those made the general public for the same services.

(3) Payment of hearse charges for transporting the remains over long distances are limited to prevailing common carrier rates when common carrier service is available and can be easily and effectively utilized.

[26 FR 1622, Feb. 24, 1961, as amended at 36 FR 22144, Nov. 20, 1971; 38 FR 27354, Oct. 3, 1973; 41 FR 55875, Dec. 23, 1976; 42 FR 26205, May 23, 1977]

#### § 3.1607 Cost of flags.

No reimbursement will be authorized for the cost of a burial flag privately purchased by relatives, friends, or other parties but such cost may be included in a claim for the burial allowance.

[26 FR 1622, Feb. 24, 1961]

#### § 3.1608 Nonallowable expenses.

No reimbursement will be allowed for:

(a) *Accessory items.* Such as items of food and drink.

(b) *Duplicate items.* Any item or cost of any item or service, such as casket, clothing, etc., previously provided or paid for by any Federal agency (including the Department of Veterans Affairs).

[26 FR 1622, Feb. 24, 1961]

#### § 3.1609 Forfeiture.

(a) Forfeiture of benefits for fraud by a veteran during his lifetime will not preclude payment of burial and plot or interment allowance if otherwise in order. No benefits will be paid to a claimant who participated in the fraud which caused the forfeiture by the veteran.

(b) Burial and plot or interment allowance is not payable based on a period of service commencing prior to the date of commission of the offense where either the veteran or claimant

has forfeited the right to gratuitous benefits under § 3.902 or § 3.903 by reason of a treasonable act or subversive activities, unless the offense was pardoned by the President of the United States prior to the date of the veteran's death.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5904(c)(2), 5905(a))

CROSS REFERENCE: Effect of forfeiture after veteran's death. See § 3.904.

[38 FR 30107, Nov. 1, 1973, as amended at 41 FR 55875, Dec. 27, 1976]

#### § 3.1610 Burial in national cemeteries; burial of unclaimed bodies.

The statutory burial allowance and permissible transportation charges as provided in §§ 3.1600 through 3.1611 are also payable under the following conditions:

(a) Where burial of a deceased veteran is in a national cemetery, provided that burial in a national cemetery is desired by the person or persons entitled to the custody of the remains for interment and permission for burial has been received from the officers having jurisdiction over burials in national cemeteries; or

(b) Where the body of a deceased veteran is unclaimed by relatives or friends (see § 3.1603), the Director of the regional office in the area in which the veteran died will immediately complete arrangements for burial in a national cemetery or, at his or her option, in a cemetery or cemetery section meeting the requirements of § 3.1604(d)(1)(ii)-(iv), provided that the total amount payable for burial and transportation expenses (including the plot allowance, if entitlement is established) does not exceed the total amount payable had burial been in a national cemetery.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1501(a))

[57 FR 29025, June 30, 1992; 57 FR 40944, Sept. 8, 1992]

#### § 3.1611 Official Department of Veterans Affairs representation at funeral.

When requested by the person entitled to the custody of the body of a deceased beneficiary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, official representation at the funeral will be granted provided an employee is available for the