

reserved for burial of persons eligible for burial in a national cemetery, owned by the State or such agency or political subdivision, or to any person prescribed by Administrator for burial of an eligible veteran in a cemetery other than one so reserved for provisions authorizing Administrator in his discretion to pay up to \$150 as an interment allowance to any person he prescribed.

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-581 inserted “, nursing home,” after “hospital” and substituted “611(a)” for “611” in provisions preceding par. (1).

1973—Pub. L. 93-43, in revising text, substituted reference to section “611” for “611(a)” in opening text of subsec. (a), designated existing provisions of subsec. (a) as first part of par. (1) of such subsec. (a), incorporated provisions of former subsec. (c) as second part of par. (1) of subsec. (a), redesignated former subsec. (b) as par. (2) of subsec. (a), and added subsec. (b).

1966—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 89-358 struck out last sentence including the Canal Zone in the term “State” for purposes of subsec. (b), now incorporated in section 101(20) of this title.

1961—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 87-99 substituted “a State” and “in the same, or any other State” for “the continental United States or Hawaii” and “in the continental United States or Hawaii”, respectively, and defined State to include Canal Zone.

1960—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 86-624 substituted “continental United States or Hawaii” for “continental United States (including Alaska)” in two places.

1959—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 86-70 substituted “continental United States (including Alaska), the Administrator shall transport the body to the place of burial in the continental United States (including Alaska)” for “continental United States, the Administrator shall transport the body to the place of burial in the United States, or to the place of burial within Alaska if the deceased was a resident of Alaska who had been brought to the United States as a beneficiary of the Veterans’ Administration for hospital or domiciliary care”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2021 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 116-315 applicable to deaths that occur on or after the date that is two years after Jan. 5, 2021, see section 2202(d) of Pub. L. 116-315, set out as a note under section 113 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-182 effective on the date described in section 101(b) of Pub. L. 115-182, see section 144(b) of Pub. L. 115-182, set out as a note under section 1712 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-275, title V, § 501(d), Oct. 13, 2010, 124 Stat. 2881, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall apply with respect to deaths occurring on or after October 1, 2011.

“(2) PROHIBITION ON COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012.—No adjustments shall be made under section 2303(c) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (c), for fiscal year 2012.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2001 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-103, title V, § 501(b)(2), Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 994, provided that: “The amendments made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall apply to deaths occurring on or after December 1, 2001.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-419, title III, § 333(b), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1857, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to the burial of persons dying on or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 1, 2000].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-508, title VIII, § 8042(b), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-349, provided that: “This section [amending this section] shall apply to deaths occurring on or after November 1, 1990.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1982 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 97-306, title IV, § 404(b), Oct. 14, 1982, 96 Stat. 1443, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to deaths occurring after September 30, 1982.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENTS

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-479 effective Oct. 1, 1978, see section 401(a) of Pub. L. 95-479, set out as a note under section 1114 of this title.

Pub. L. 95-476, title II, § 205, Oct. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 1506, provided that:

“(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the amendments made by this title [enacting section 1008 [now 2408] of this title and amending sections 902, 906, and 1798 [now 2302, 2306, and 3698] of this title] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 18, 1978].

“(b) The amendment made by section 202(a) of this title [amending this section] shall take effect on October 1, 1978.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-581 effective Oct. 21, 1976, see section 211 of Pub. L. 94-581, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 93-43, § 10(b), June 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 88, provided that: “Clause (1) of section 5(a) [amending this section] shall take effect on the first day of the second calendar month following the date of enactment of this Act [June 18, 1973].”

PLOT AND INTERMENT ALLOWANCES FOR VETERANS BURIED BEFORE MARCH 15, 2022, IN CEMETERIES ON TRUST LAND OWNED BY, OR HELD IN TRUST FOR, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

Pub. L. 117-355, § 2, Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6278, provided that: “The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall pay a plot or interment allowance under paragraph (1) of section 2303(b) of title 38, United States Code, for a veteran if—

“(1) the veteran was buried, before March 15, 2022, in a cemetery, or in a section of a cemetery, that is on trust land owned by, or held in trust for, a tribal organization;

“(2) the tribal organization that is responsible for operating and maintaining the cemetery, or the section of cemetery, applies for such allowance;

“(3) a plot or interment allowance was not already paid for the burial of such veteran under paragraph (2) of such section; and

“(4) the burial of the veteran otherwise meets the requirements under paragraph (1) of such section.”

§ 2304. Claims for reimbursement

Applications for payments under section 2303 of this title regarding veterans described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2) of such section must be filed within two years after the burial of the veteran. If the burial allowance was not payable at the death of the veteran because of the nature of the veteran’s discharge from the service, but after the veteran’s death the veteran’s discharge has been corrected by competent authority so as to reflect a discharge from the service under conditions other than dishonorable, then the burial allowance may be paid if a claim is filed within two years from the

date of correction of the discharge. If a claimant's application is incomplete at the time it is originally submitted, the Secretary shall notify the applicant of the evidence necessary to complete the application. If such evidence is not received within one year from the date of such notification, no allowance may be paid.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1170, §904; Pub. L. 88-3, Apr. 2, 1963, 77 Stat. 4; Pub. L. 91-24, §7, June 11, 1969, 83 Stat. 34; Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, §701(51), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3295; Pub. L. 101-237, title III, §313(b)(1), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2077; renumbered §2304 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406; Pub. L. 116-315, title II, §2202(b)(1)(A), Jan. 5, 2021, 134 Stat. 4985.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 116-315 substituted “Applications for payments under section 2303 of this title regarding veterans described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2) of such section” for “Applications for payments under section 2302 of this title”.

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 904 of this title as this section and substituted “2302” for “902”.

1989—Pub. L. 101-237 substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator”.

1986—Pub. L. 99-576 substituted “the veteran’s” for “his” in three places.

1969—Pub. L. 91-24 substituted “two years from the date of correction of the discharge” for “two years from whichever last occurs, the date of correction of the discharge or the date of enactment of this sentence”.

1963—Pub. L. 88-3 authorized payment of a burial allowance in cases where it was not payable at death because of the nature of the veteran’s discharge, where such discharge has been corrected by competent authority to reflect conditions other than dishonorable, and the claim is filed within two years from whichever last occurs, the date of correction of the discharge or the date of enactment of Pub. L. 88-3 [approved Apr. 2, 1963].

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2021 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 116-315 applicable to deaths that occur on or after the date that is two years after Jan. 5, 2021, see section 2202(d) of Pub. L. 116-315, set out as a note under section 113 of this title.

§ 2305. Persons eligible under prior law

The death of any person who had a status which would, under the laws in effect on December 31, 1957, afford entitlement to the burial benefits and other benefits provided for in this chapter, but who did not meet the service requirements contained in this chapter, shall afford entitlement to such benefits, notwithstanding the failure of such person to meet such service requirements.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1170, §905; renumbered §2305, Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 905 of this title as this section.

§ 2306. Headstones, markers, and burial receptacles

(a) The Secretary shall furnish, when requested, appropriate Government headstones or markers at the expense of the United States for the unmarked graves of the following:

(1) Any individual buried in a national cemetery or in a post cemetery.

(2) Any individual eligible for burial in a national cemetery (but not buried there), except for those persons or classes of persons enumerated in section 2402(a)(4), (5), and (6) of this title.

(3) Soldiers of the Union and Confederate Armies of the Civil War.

(4) Any individual described in section 2402(a)(5) of this title who is buried in a veterans’ cemetery owned by a State or a veterans’ cemetery owned by a tribal organization or on land owned by or held in trust for a tribal organization.

(5) Any individual who at the time of death was entitled to retired pay under chapter 1223 of title 10 or would have been entitled to retired pay under that chapter but for the fact that the person was under 60 years of age.

(b)(1) The Secretary shall furnish, when requested, an appropriate memorial headstone or marker for the purpose of commemorating an eligible individual whose remains are unavailable. Such a headstone or marker shall be furnished for placement in a national cemetery area reserved for that purpose under section 2403 of this title, a veterans’ cemetery owned by a State, a veterans’ cemetery of a tribal organization or on land owned by or held in trust for a tribal organization, or, in the case of a veteran, in a State, local, or private cemetery.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), an eligible individual is any of the following:

(A) A veteran.

(B) An individual who dies on or after November 11, 1998, who is the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran, or the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty under conditions other than dishonorable, as shown by a statement from a general court-martial convening authority, at the time of the spouse’s death if such death occurs before October 1, 2024.

(C) An individual who dies on or after November 11, 1998, who is an eligible dependent child of a veteran, or the eligible dependent child of a member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty under conditions other than dishonorable, as shown by a statement from a general court-martial convening authority, at the time of the child’s death if such death occurs before October 1, 2024.

(3) For purposes of paragraph (1), the remains of an individual shall be considered to be unavailable if the individual’s remains—

(A) have not been recovered or identified;

(B) were buried at sea, whether by the individual’s own choice or otherwise;

(C) were donated to science; or

(D) were cremated and the ashes scattered without interment of any portion of the ashes.

(4) For purposes of this subsection:

(A) The term “veteran” includes an individual who dies in the active military, naval, air, or space service.