

Q&A About VA's Medallion Benefit

Q: What is a medallion?

A VA furnished medallion is a device made of bronze that can be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker for veterans interred in a private cemetery. Its purpose is to signify the deceased's status as a Veteran. The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches, and 1 ½ inches. Each medallion will be inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the branch of service at the bottom.

Q: Who is eligible for a medallion?

The medallion may be furnished in lieu of a traditional government headstone or marker for all deceased other than dishonorably discharged Veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Q: Can I receive both a medallion and a headstone/marker?

Eligible Veterans are entitled to either a traditional government-furnished headstone or marker, or the medallion, but not both.

Q: How will the medallion be affixed on the private headstone?

The medallion is mailed without charge to the Veterans' next of kin or authorized representative. Appropriate affixing adhesives, hardware and instructions are included with the medallion. VA is not responsible for costs to affix the medallion on the privately purchased headstone or marker.

Q: What are the advantages of ordering a medallion in lieu of a headstone/marker?

- 1) Made of bronze, will not be damaged during shipment
- 2) No setting fee – the medallion can be easily affixed to a privately purchased headstone by anyone
- 3) Some cemeteries only allow one headstone per grave, thus eliminating a standard marker to be used as a footstone. The medallion is another option of identifying a grave as that of a Veteran.

Q: How do I order a medallion?

For family members of eligible Veterans interested in submitting a claim for the new medallion, instructions on how to apply for a medallion will be updated on National Cemetery Administration's web site at www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp. Until a new form specifically for ordering the medallion is available, use VA Form 40-1330; Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker. Fill the form out completely with the exception of blocks 11 (Type of Headstone or Marker Requested) and 27 (Remarks). Leave block 11 blank. In block 27 put the word Medallion followed by the size requested. For example; use "Medallion 5 inch" to request a 5 inch medallion.

Q: Who can apply for the medallion?

The Veterans' next-of-kin (NOK), a person authorized in writing by the NOK or a personal representative authorized in writing by the deceased veteran.

Q: Can one or more medallions be affixed on the same privately purchased headstone?

If there are two veterans interred, two medallions can be affixed to the privately purchased headstone.

6/20/2010



Navy



Army