Survivors Pension

The Survivors Pension benefit, which may also be referred to as Death Pension, is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

Eligibility

The deceased Veteran must have met the following service requirements:

- For service on or before September 7, 1980, the Veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, with at least one day during a war time period.
- If he or she entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally he or she must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty with at least one day during a war time period.
- Was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions.

Survivors Pension is also based on your yearly family income, which must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify.

Poverty Threshold: https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines

While an un-remarried spouse is eligible at any age, a child of a deceased wartime Veteran must be:

- Under 18, OR
- Under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, OR
- Permanently incapable of self-support due to a disability before age 18

Your yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the Survivors Pension benefit. Learn more about income and net worth limitation, and see an example of how VA calculates the Survivors Pension benefit.
Checklist

_____ Power of Attorney: VA21-22
_____ DD214
_____ Death Certificate (with cause of Death)
_____ All necessary income and asset information

AND

_____ If claiming Survivors Pension with special monthly pension
     _____ a completed VA Form 21-2680, Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent
     Need for Regular Aid and Attendance

    OR

_____ (if a patient in a) nursing home
     _____ a completed VA Form 21-0779, Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection
          with Claim for Aid and Attendance

Child?

_____ All necessary income and asset information

_____ Under 18: Birth Certificate or adoption papers

_____ Under 23:
     _____ VA Form 21-674: Request for Approval of School Attendance
     _____ Birth Certificate or adoption papers

_____ Over 23: Not eligible!

_____ Application for DIC, Survivors Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits VA Form 21P-534EZ