

Montgomery County, MD - Veterans Network Directory

Survivor and Dependent Benefits

Montgomery County, Maryland ('the County') cannot guarantee the relevance, completeness, accuracy, or timeliness of the information provided on the non-County links. The County does not endorse any non-County organizations' products, services, or viewpoints. The County is not responsible for any materials stored on other non-County web sites, nor is it liable for any inaccurate, defamatory, offensive or illegal materials found on other Web sites, and that the risk of injury or damage from viewing, hearing, downloading or storing such materials rests entirely with the user. Alternative formats of this document are available upon request.

This is a project of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs. To submit an update, add or remove a listing, or request an alternative format, please contact: DHHSWebsite@montgomerycountymd.gov, 240-777-1246 (V), MD Relay 711.

Benefit information for surviving spouses and dependents of military personnel who died while in active military service and to the survivors of veterans who died after service.

[Federal Benefits for Veterans Dependents and Survivors](#)

Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)

Chief Business Office Purchased Care
CHAMPVA
P.O. Box 409028
Denver, CO 80206

Customer Service Call Center:
1-800-733-8387 (Toll Free)
8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST

www.va.gov/purchasedcare/programs/dependents/champva/index.asp

Provide coverage for unmarried surviving spouses and children of veterans who:

- died of a VA-rated service-connected disability, or
- were permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability at the time of death, or
- died in service in the line of duty, and the dependents are not eligible for Department of Defense TRICARE benefits.

Restoration of Entitlement: Entitlement may be restored for a surviving spouse who remarried after the veteran's death if the remarriage ended in death, divorce, or annulment. A surviving spouse that remarries at age 57 or older, or at age 55 or older for CHAMPVA entitlement, generally retains entitlement to DIC, home loan guaranty, and education and training benefits.

Death Benefit to Surviving Spouse or Estate of Maryland Resident Killed in Action – State of Maryland

John Flynn, Executive Director, Human Resources
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Death Benefit Program
6776 Reisterstown Road, Suite 309
Baltimore, MD 21215-2341
E-mail: jnflynn@dpscs.state.md.us

410-585-3408 (V)

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is awarding up to \$125,000.00 to the surviving spouse, children, dependent parents, or estate of a Maryland resident who is killed in action in Afghanistan or its contiguous airspace or Iraq or its contiguous waters or airspace. The beneficiary, or an individual or agency applying on behalf of the beneficiary, must submit a letter of application to the above address. Call for list of documents that are required.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Baltimore Regional Benefit Office
31 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, MD 21201
www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/

1-800-827-1000 (Toll Free)

DIC is a tax-free benefit for the surviving spouse, dependent children or parents. A spouse's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity is reduced by any DIC amount received. Usually an application for DIC benefits is completed by the Casualty Assistance Officer and submitted on behalf of the survivor - [VA Form 21-534a, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for a Surviving Spouse or Child](#). Parent's DIC is a monthly benefit amount for the dependent's parents that it is based on income - [VA Form 21-535, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parents](#), and mail to the VA Baltimore Regional Center.

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) – Montgomery County Service Center

Montgomery College Service Center
Joseph Thornton, Veterans Benefits Specialist (VBS)
900 Hungerford Drive, Mannakee Building, Room MK251
Rockville, MD 20850
E-mail: joseph.thornton@maryland.gov

240-567-5405 (V)
240-567-4361 (FAX)

EFFECTIVE January 6th, 2020: Mr. Thornton works at the Montgomery College Service Center weekdays, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Outreach Hours:** Mr. Thornton is at the Silver Spring Vet Center (2900 Linden Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910) the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Please note:** while walk-ins are accepted at all locations, to ensure you are seen please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

Phil Munley, Director of Program Services
E-mail: pmunley@va.gov
www.veterans.maryland.gov

410-230-4444 x 6457 (V)

Veterans Benefits Specialists (VBS) provide assistance to the men and women who served in the Uniformed Services of the United States, their dependents, and survivors in obtaining benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, State of Maryland and other programs for veterans and their families. Staff are authorized to represent veterans and their dependents before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as provide general information to those seeking assistance, regardless of representation.

Military OneSource – Casualty Assistance Program

www.militaryonesource.mil/casualty

Provides comprehensive resources to ill or injured service members and their families and to the families of deceased service members. This program can help you to better understand and access important benefits and can provide information and support throughout the grieving and healing process. A new interactive online survivor benefits report will be available for survivors of all service members who have died on active duty that can be accessed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) of the USA

P.O. Box 49
Annandale, VA 22003
www.purpleheart.org/ServiceProgram/Default.aspx

703-642-5360 (Services)

William Jackson, National Service Officer
31 Hopkins Plaza Room 1237
Baltimore, MD 21201
E-mail: william.jackson20aa44@va.gov

410-230-4460 (V)

Mary Kelly, Regional Field Supervisor
MOPH, VA Regional Office
20 Washington Place, Room 441
Newark, NJ 07103
E-mail: mary.kelly5@va.gov

973-297-3389 (V)

Assist all veterans, their dependents, widows and orphans in working with the VA and filing claims for the many benefits that are available. You do not need to be a member to seek assistance. Provide veterans' benefits experts at various veterans administration regional offices, hospitals, vet centers, and state and county veteran facilities. Process veterans' claims for compensation, pension, medical care, education, job training, employment, veterans preference, housing, death and burial benefits. Educate veterans on their benefits and entitlements. Provide quality and professional representation for veterans whose benefits have been denied at the local VA regional office.

Office of Survivors Assistance - Department of Veterans Affairs

E-mail: officeofsurvivors@va.gov
www.va.gov/survivors

1-800-827-1000 (Call Center)
202-461-1077 (V)

Serves as a resource regarding all benefits and services furnished by the Department to survivors and dependents of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces. Promote the use of VA benefits, programs and services to survivors.

Property Tax Exemption – Maryland State Department of Taxation

Montgomery County Assessments
B. Marie Green, Supervisor of Assessments
30 W. Gude Drive, Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20850
E-mail: sdat.mont@maryland.gov

240-314-4510 (V)
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A property tax exemption is available to the following individuals, for their primary residence located in the State of Maryland:

- surviving spouse of active duty military personnel who died in the line of duty
- surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran
- a spouse who receives the dependency and indemnity compensation

Use the links below to download the appropriate form.

- **Property Tax Exemption - Surviving Spouse of 100% Disabled Veteran**
www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/veteransp.pdf
- **Property Tax Exemption - Surviving Spouse of Active Duty Military Personnel Killed in the Line of Duty**
www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/casualtypsp.pdf

Servicemembers' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance – Death Benefits – Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance
80 Livingston Avenue
Roseland, New Jersey 07068
E-mail: osgli.claims@prudential.com

1-800-419-1473 (Toll Free)
1-888-243-7351 (Benefits Financial Counseling)
1-877-832-4943 (FAX)

Beneficiaries should complete form [SGLV 8283, Claim For Death Benefits](#) and submit it to OSGLI. Offer free [Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services \(BFCS\)](#). This service provides a one-on-one counseling session, a detailed step-by-step financial plan, and access to financial counselors for one year.

Silver Spring Vet Center

Wayne Miller, Team Leader/Director
Silver Spring Vet Center
2900 Linden Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910
E-mail: Wayne.Miller3@med.va.gov
www.vetcenter.va.gov

301-589-1073 (V)
202-273-9116 (Bereavement Counseling)

Hours: Open Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Closed Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays. Walk-ins are permitted during these hours, but appointments are requested. After hours appointments as needed. Veterans must show proof of service. The center provides benefits counseling and assistance with navigating the VA and paperwork, as well as employment counseling, counseling on PTSD and sub-PTSD, substance abuse counseling, family and marital counseling, psychological counseling related to readjustment, coordination and referral with doctors, employment related issues, assistance with basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing, medical and legal referrals, homeless assistance and will work with Montgomery County to find shelter placement, sexual trauma counseling, community outreach, bereavement counseling, and more. All services are provided at no cost to the veteran

and their family. Veterans do not need to be enrolled with the Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Centers to use the Vet Center. Veterans do not need a disability rating or service connection for injuries from either the Department of Veteran Affairs or the Department of Defense, to use the Vet Center. View [Vet Center Eligibility Criteria](#). If you live outside of Montgomery County [view a list of other locations](#) that may be closer to you. **Directions:** The Vet Center is located near the intersection of Seminary Road/Capitol View Avenue. You can also take the #5 Ride On Bus from either the Silver Spring Metro Station or the Twinbrook Metro Station and be dropped off at the Capitol View Avenue stop.

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA) - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Eastern Regional Office
P.O. Box 4616
Buffalo, NY 14240
www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/DEA.asp

1-888-442-4551 (Toll Free)

Dependent's Educational Assistance provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course. If you are a son or daughter and wish to receive benefits for attending school or job training, you must be between the ages of 18 and 26. If you are a spouse, benefits end 10 years from the date VA finds you eligible or from the date of death of the veteran.

Eligibility requirements - You must be the son, daughter, or spouse of:

- A veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces.
- A veteran who died from any cause while such permanent and total service-connected disability was in existence.
- A servicemember missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force.
- A servicemember forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.
- A servicemember who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability.

Obtain and complete [VA Form 22-5490, Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance](#). Send it to the VA Eastern Regional Office listed above. If you are a son or daughter, under legal age, a parent or guardian must sign the application. For more information, please read the [Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program \(Pamphlet\)](#).

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

3033 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 630
Arlington, VA 22201
E-mail: info@taps.org
www.taps.org

202-588-8277 (Programs)
1-800-959-8277 (24-Hour Military Survivor Helpline)

Provide comfort and support to all who are grieving the loss of a loved one in military service. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Services include a national network of peer-based emotional support, case work assistance, crisis intervention, and grief and trauma resources. All services are provided free of charge to surviving families.

VA Home Loan Guaranty Benefits for Surviving Spouses

VA Loan Eligibility Center
210 Franklin Road, SW
Roanoke, VA 24011
www.vba.va.gov/bln/dependents/SpouseIgy.htm

1-800-933-5499 (Toll Free)

The spouse of a Veteran can also apply for home loan eligibility under one of the following conditions:

- Unremarried spouse of a Veteran who died while in service or from a service connected disability, or

- Spouse of a Servicemember missing in action or a prisoner of war
- Surviving spouse who remarries on or after attaining age 57, and on or after December 16, 2003
(Note: a surviving spouse who remarried before December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age 57, must have applied no later than December 15, 2004, to establish home loan eligibility. VA must deny applications from surviving spouses who remarried before December 6, 2003 that are received after December 15, 2004.)
- Surviving Spouses of certain totally disabled veterans whose disability may not have been the cause of death

You will need to complete [VA Form 26-1817 - Request for Determination of Loan Guaranty Eligibility - Unmarried Surviving Spouse](#).

Work-Study Employment - VA GI Bill

VA Regional Processing Office
P.O. Box 4616
Buffalo, NY 14240

1-888-442-4551 (Toll Free)
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST

www.gibill.va.gov/resources/education_resources/programs/work_study_program.html

This program is available to eligible survivors while pursuing a program of education or training under Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA). If you're a full-time or 3/4-time student in a college degree program, or a vocational or professional program, you can "earn while you learn" with a VA work-study allowance. For forms and information, call your VA Regional Office, Vet Center, local representative, or Reserve Education and Incentive Officers. Download the [application for Work-Study Allowance](#). To obtain information on other sources of assistance, contact the financial aid office at your school.