



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington, D.C. 20420

October 1, 2013

Director (00)
All VA Regional Offices and Centers

In Reply Refer To: 21PF
Fast Letter 13-24

ATTN: All Pension Management Center, Veterans Service Center, and Support Services Personnel

SUBJ: New Burial and Plot/Interment Allowance Rates and Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

Purpose

This letter provides information about the 2013 COLA rates for burial and plot/interment allowances.

Background

Public Law 111-275, the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010, increased burial/funeral allowances for certain Veterans who die while hospitalized at certain VA facilities and the plot/interment allowance for certain Veterans eligible for burial in a national cemetery. The law also authorized an annual COLA based on the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending on June 30 for these benefits. Effective October 1, 2013, the \$722 burial/funeral and plot/interment allowance is increased to \$734. Awards generated for these benefits on or after October 1, 2013, will pay at the new rates.

Additional Information

There is no COLA increase for service-connected and non-service connected (indigent or Veterans not hospitalized by VA) burial rates. The new burial rates effective October 1, 2013, are enclosed.

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Questions

Please refer questions concerning this letter to VAVBAWAS/CO/PMC.

/s/

David R. McLenachen
Director
Pension and Fiduciary Service

Enclosure

BURIAL, PLOT AND HEADSTONE/MARKER BENEFITS

Historical and Current

Note 1: The headstone/marker allowance is payable only if the Veteran died between 10/18/78 and 11/1/90. The rate payable is determined by when the headstone/marker was purchased. For example, the rate payable would be \$98 if the Veteran died on 7/1/85 and the headstone/marker was purchased on 9/29/94.

Note 2: P. L. 107-103 service-connected burial rate applies in cases where death occurred on or after 9/11/01.

Note 3: P. L. 111-275 increased funeral expenses from \$300 to \$700 for Veterans who die while properly hospitalized by VA. For nonservice-connected burial for indigent or Veterans not properly hospitalized by VA, the burial reimbursement remains \$300. The increase from \$300 to \$700 will apply to deaths occurring on or after October 1, 2011. The first annual increase (i.e. cost-of-living adjustment) was October 1, 2012. The burial COLA effective October 1, 2013, is 1.6%.

	10/1/1980	10/1/1981	10/1/1982	10/1/1983	10/1/1984	10/1/1985	10/1/1986	10/1/1987	10/1/1988	10/1/1989	10/1/1990	10/1/1991
Headstone/Marker												
PL 95-476	\$59	\$63	\$67	\$68	\$70	\$71	\$71	\$76	\$80	\$85	\$85	\$97

	10/1/1992	10/1/1993	10/1/1994	10/1/1995	10/1/1996	10/1/1997	10/1/1998	10/1/1999	10/1/2000	10/1/2001	10/1/2002	10/1/2003
Headstone/Marker												
PL 95-476	\$96	\$98	\$100	\$101	\$96	\$109	\$96	\$90	\$94	\$109	\$101	\$112

	10/1/2004	10/1/2005	10/1/2006	10/1/2007	10/1/2008	10/1/2009	10/1/2010	10/1/2011	10/1/2012 ¹	10/1/13		
Headstone/Marker												
PL 95-476	\$113	\$128	\$132	\$136	\$137	\$164	\$187	\$188	\$192	TBD		

	PL 68-242	PL 73-2	PL 79-796	PL 79-529	PL 85-674	PL 93-43	PL 95-479	PL 100-322	PL 107-103 ²
	6/7/1924	3/31/1933	10/5/1940	7/24/1946	8/18/1958	6/18/1973	10/1/1978	4/1/1988	12/1/2001
SC BURIAL	\$100	\$75	\$100	\$150	\$250	\$800	\$1,100	\$1,500	\$2,000
NSC BURIAL	\$100	\$75	\$100	\$150	\$250	\$250	\$300	\$300	\$300
PLOT ALLOWANCE						\$150	\$150	\$150	\$300
STATE CEMETERY						\$150	\$150	\$150	\$300

	PL111-275	PL111-275 COLA ³	PL111-275 COLA ³
	10/1/2011	10/1/2012	10/1/2013
SC BURIAL	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
NSC BURIAL (Veteran dies while hospitalized by VA)	\$700	\$722	\$734
NSC BURIAL (Indigent or Veterans not hospitalized by VA)	\$300	\$300	\$300
STATE CEMETERY	\$700	\$722	\$734
PLOT ALLOWANCE	\$700	\$722	\$734

