

Steps to Take When a Retired Marine Dies

1. **REPORT THE DEATH TO DFAS at 1-888-332-7411 to stop retirement pay to avoid indebtedness.** If the retired Marine was receiving pay from another source due to a disability from the VA or civil service retirement from the Office of Personnel Management, contact that agency to return the payment. If you fail to do this, you will have to repay it later. You may also report the death online at www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html. Additional information from DFAS is available at www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html.

NOTE: DFAS will forward a confirmed death listing to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMSR-6) for inclusion in an upcoming issue of this newsletter for the Taps column.
2. **REPORT SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ELECTION, if applicable.** Designated annuitants will receive notification from DFAS if the deceased retired Marine elected SBP. If you are uncertain of whether an election was made, call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080.
3. **UPDATE YOUR MILITARY ID CARD.** Your status has changed, and as the survivor of a deceased Marine, your ID card must be updated to reflect it due to the Marine's death. Access your nearest ID site at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl or call HQMC (MMSR-6) at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310 to obtain the three sites closest to you.
4. **NOTIFY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION at 1-800-SSA-1213 (www.ssa.gov)** to apply for the \$255 death benefit, *if applicable*.
5. **CONTACT THE VA at 1-800-827-1000 FOR BURIAL AND OTHER VA BENEFITS, such as VA disability payments.** While the VA does not provide burial benefits for annuitants, the annuitant may be eligible for burial in a military cemetery. A copy of the sponsor's DD 214 is required. Visit www.va.gov for more information.
6. **CONTACT THE U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL at 1-888-767-6738 or (202) 606-0500** if the sponsor was receiving civil service pay.

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES PROVIDING AID AND ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVING SPOUSES



Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000
 Gold Star Wives of America: 1-888-751-6350, www.goldstarwives.org
 Military Funeral Honors: 1-866-826-3628 or (703) 432-9524
 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society: (703) 696-4904, www.nmcrs.org
 National Military Families Association: 1-800-260-0218, www.nmfa.org
 Society of Military Widows: 1-800-842-3451, www.militarywidows.org/home.aspx
 Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors: 1-800-959-8277, www.taps.org



SOME THINGS YOU WILL NEED TO DO:

- Gather important documents for claims processing (e.g., birth certificate, will, etc.)
- Begin to make funeral and burial arrangements
- Start claim process for applicable benefits (e.g., SBP, VA life insurance, Social Security)
- Determine immediate and short-term financial needs and income sources
- Arrange for help with legal affairs of the deceased
- Notify joint account agencies (e.g., credit cards, banks, auto registration home/auto insurance)
- Review survivor's own legal documents for possible revision
- Obtain multiple certified death certificates (6-12 copies)