

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?

Please use VA Form 40-1330M, Claim for Government Medallion for Placement in a Private Cemetery.

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.