



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration

**Unclaimed Veteran Remains
Casket or Urn Reimbursement Program**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will reimburse for the purchase of a casket or urn used to inter a deceased, Unclaimed Veteran in a VA national cemetery if the Veteran died with no identifiable next of kin and insufficient resources to pay for a casket or urn.

WHO – Any individual or entity that pays for a casket or urn used to inter an eligible Unclaimed Veteran, in a VA national cemetery, who died on or after January 10, 2014 and was interred on or after May 13, 2015. For eligible, Unclaimed Veterans who died on or after January 10, 2014 and were interred in a VA National Cemetery prior to May 13, 2015, special instructions apply*.

WHAT – VA will reimburse the actual cost of a casket or urn, not to exceed an annually established average cost. The reimbursement payable in calendar year 2015 is \$1,967 for a casket and \$172 for an urn. The reimbursement amount will be adjusted for inflation on annually.

HOW – Applicants must submit [VA Form 40-10088, Request for Reimbursement of Casket/Urn. Part I](#) should be submitted with documentation of qualifying military service to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office (NCSO). **Part I** may be faxed (toll-free) to 1-866-900-6417, emailed to nca.scheduling@va.gov, or mailed to PO Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

Applicants (who may differ from the individual or entity that requested burial), must submit **Part II** of [VA Form 40-10088](#) with the required reimbursement documentation to NCSO at the time of the burial request, **OR** to the VA national cemetery before the actual interment.

Required documentation for reimbursement purposes includes the following:

- Invoice or bill of sale showing model number and cost of casket or urn.
- Completed and signed FSC Vendor File Request Form ([VA Form 10091](#)) or previously assigned Vendor ID.

CASKET AND URN STANDARDS (A VA National Cemetery official will verify that caskets and urns meet these standards at the interment):

A **casket** must be of at least 20-gauge metal (thickness), designed to contain human remains and include a gasketed seal and external fixed rails or swing arm handles.

An **urn** must be made of a durable material, such as plastic, wood, metal, or ceramic, designed to hold cremated human remains, and include a secure closure to contain the cremated remains.

*The special instructions for retroactive reimbursements are available in the VA fact sheet entitled "[Retroactive Casket or Urn Reimbursement Requests](#)." The fact sheet is also available at any VA national cemetery.

For information on other benefits available to assist with providing Unclaimed Veterans a dignified burial please see the [Unclaimed Veteran Remains Fact Sheet](#).

