

VA



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 or a VA-funded State or Tribal Veterans' 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 or VA-grant funded State or Tribal Veterans' cemetery.

WHAT – VA will reimburse the actual cost of a casket or urn, not to exceed an established average annual cost, for a 20-gauge metal casket or a durable plastic urn. The maximum allowable reimbursement payable in calendar year 2019 is \$2,681 for a casket and \$162 for an urn.

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, or to the State or Tribal Veterans' 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.

For information on other benefits available to provide Unclaimed Veterans with a dignified burial please see the Unclaimed Veteran Remains Fact Sheet.

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