

WHAT ARE V.A. PENSION BENEFITS?

VA offers two categories of Pension benefit programs:

Veterans Pension: Tax-free monetary benefit payable to low-income wartime Veterans.

Survivors Pension: Tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

Veterans and survivors who are eligible for Pension benefits and are **housebound** or require the **aid and attendance** of another person may be eligible to receive **additional** monetary amounts.

WHAT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW WHEN APPLYING FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) PENSION BENEFITS <> VA's pension program provides monthly benefit payments to certain wartime Veterans with financial need, and their survivors. As Veterans and survivors consider applying for these benefits, VA would like to share important information about the pension program and organizations offering assistance with pension applications.

PENSION is a needs-based benefit paid to a wartime Veteran and his/her survivor(s). A Veteran may generally be eligible if he/she: [1] was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND** [2] served 90 days or more of active military, naval or air service with at least 1 day during a period of war*, **AND** [3] his/her countable income is below the maximum annual pension rate, **AND** [4] meets the net worth limitations, **AND** [5] is age 65 or older, **OR** is shown by evidence to have a 'permanent and total' non-service-connected disability, **OR** is a patient in a nursing home, **OR** is receiving Social Security disability benefits.

*Veterans who entered active duty after September 7, 1980, must also have served at least 24 months of active duty service. If the total length of service is less than 24 months, the Veteran must have completed his/her entire tour of active duty. (continued)

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