

# Guide for family members of surviving spouses

Family members of surviving spouses of military retirees may not know where to turn when a death happens. This information is intended to be a general guide and is not all-inclusive.

- Notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service at 1-800-321-1080 if the surviving spouse was receiving an annuity for the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP), Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) or "Forgotten Widows Annuity."
- If the survivor was a civil service retiree or receiving an annuity from the federal government, notify the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at 1-800-767-6738, in the Washington D.C. area you can call (202) 606-0500.
- If the survivor was receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) or other compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) please contact that agency at 1-800-827-1000.
- Notify private sector or retirement custodian if the deceased received funds from an employer-sponsored plan.
- Notify financial institutions where the deceased invested, saved or maintained funds.
- Notify insurance companies.
- Contact your nearest Retired Activities Office (RAO) or Retired Services Office (RSO) for assistance. The RAO phone numbers are routinely listed in Shift Colors. Call your nearest military installation for the RSO locations.
- If the deceased was receiving Social Security benefits notify the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, toll-free TTY 1-800-325-0778.
- If the deceased participated in the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contact the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board at 1-877-968-3778, TDD 1-877-847-4385.
- If the deceased was a member of a military fraternal group, such as, the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), The Retired Officers Association (TROA), The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), The American Legion or DAV, please notify that organization.

*Editor's note:* Surviving spouses, please take note of the information above, and get with your family members or legal representative about which portion will pertain to you.

**Keep this document on file – Make sure your spouse and family members know this information. Too many retirees have passed away & spouses WERE NOT aware of who to contact for help.**

# Reporting the death of a military retiree or annuitant

The following was prepared to assist family members in reporting the death of a military retiree or annuitant. The information provided is meant to serve as a general guide.

**Notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)** at either (800) 269-5170 or (800) 321-1080. Please have the decedent's Social Security Number and the date of death when you call. Please send one photocopy of the death certificate indicating the cause of death. Send it to:

## **For Retirees**

DFAS U.S. Military Retirement Pay  
P.O. Box 7130  
London, KY 40742-7130 *Fax:* (800) 469-6559

## **For Annuitants (Spouses of a Deceased Military Retiree)**

DFAS, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay  
P.O. Box 7131  
London, KY 40742-7131 *Fax:* (800) 982-8459

DFAS will take steps to close out the pay account to prevent any overpayments.

If the deceased was a retiree enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), DFAS will initiate pay accounts for eligible survivors.

Designated beneficiaries of retirees should expect a Standard Form 1174 and, if applicable, SBP/RSFPP-related forms in the mail within seven to 10 business days of reporting the death. If assistance is needed call.

**Notify the Social Security Administration** at (800) 772-1213.

**Notify the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)** at (800) 538-9552.

If the member was receiving disability compensation or Dependency Indemnity Compensation, **notify the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** at (800) 827-1000.

If the member was a civil servant or retired civil servant, **notify the Office of Personnel Management** toll-free at (888) 767-6738.

If the member enrolled in **VA-sponsored insurance** such as National Service Life Insurance or Servicemember's Group Life Insurance, **notify them** at (800) 669-8477.

Military installations may be able to help with administrative matters through their Casualty Assistance Officer or Retired Activities/Affairs Office. Please note that these services are not available at all military installations.

## **Here are some additional toll-free numbers that may be useful:**

- Armed Forces Benefit Association (800) 776-2322
- Burial at Sea 866-787-0081
- Funeral Honors (877) 645-4667
- Military Benefit Association (800) 336-0100
- Officers Benefit Association (800) 736-7311
- Uniformed Service Benefit Association (800) 368-7021.