

# **THINGS TO DO... BEFORE A VETERAN DIES**

One of the eventualities - an unpleasant one to be sure - but necessary, that must be kept in mind by the spouses and families of veterans, is the possible death of the veteran.

The first thing to be done by all families is to have within easy access certain papers and documents. Among these are the following:

- (1) Family insurance policies.
- (2) Birth certificates of all children.
- (3) The veteran's service discharge (DD 214) or equivalent war department report of separation.
- (4) Any VA document(s), showing the veteran's VA claim number (A VA number is assigned to every veteran as soon as he files for any VA benefits, and after June 1974 the Social Security number is assigned as the claim number, even after his/her death).
- (5) Veteran's Social Security number.
- (6) A copy of marriage certificate(s) and any divorce decree(s) of both veteran and spouse.

**SURVIVOR'S WORKSHEET**

**Veteran's Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Birthdate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Place:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Security No:** \_\_\_\_\_ **VA Claim No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GI Insurance File No. (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Serial/Service No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date(s) of Entry into Active Service:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date(s) of Separation from Active Service:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Branch of Service:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Discharge Paper (or DD 214) recorded with County Clerk Office at:**

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Volume No:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Page No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Security No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Marriage:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Place:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Previous marriages of veteran (names, dates, places):**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Previous marriages of spouse (names, dates, places):**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Children (names, dates, and places of birth(s)):**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the survivor's worksheet page #2 of this pamphlet. This information will enable the Service Officer to assist with any necessary claims.

In the event of the veteran's death, prior to contacting a Service Officer for assistance please obtain a certified copy of the veteran's death certificate and all documents listed on page #1 of this pamphlet.

For assistance in applying for VA benefits please contact either one of the following:

The Local American Legion Post Service Officer  
County Veterans' Assistance Commission Office  
Local State Veterans' Service Office  
The American Legion Department of Veterans' Affairs  
& Rehabilitation Office

You may contact the VA direct at:

VA National Toll Free Number: 1-800-827-1000  
For Hearing Impaired: 1-800-829-4833

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**The American Legion, Department of Illinois  
Veterans Affairs' & Rehabilitation  
536 S. Clark St. - Room 485  
Chicago, Illinois 60605  
Phone: (312) 353-2615 or 1-800-338-4703**