



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE  
474 SOUTH COURT STREET  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

Date:

SEP 5 1973

In Reply

Refer to: 322(212)

XC 12 653 998  
BURWELL, Edwin D.

Mrs. Helen P. Burwell  
1405 E. Olive Dr. S.E.  
Huntsville, AL 35805

IMPORTANT  
Read the back of this letter

We are sincerely sorry to learn of the veteran's death. We realize this is a difficult adjustment period for the veteran's family and wish to offer assistance to his widow, children and parents in applying for benefits to which they may be entitled. The benefits are explained in the enclosed application form, which when completed and returned to us will be given prompt and careful consideration. It is important that the completed application be returned within one year of the date of the veteran's death.

The filing of the claim does not necessarily mean that the benefits applied for will be allowed, as certain eligibility requirements must be met. You can help us process your claim sooner if you send with your application evidence to establish your relationship to the veteran. Please refer to the boxes checked below. If evidence is indicated as required, please submit it promptly. If any of the boxes have not been checked, the evidence we need may already be of record.

- a. Proof of your marriage to the veteran.
- b. The veteran's birth record.
- c. A certified copy of the public record of the veteran's death.
- d. The birth record for each of the children listed on your application.

ACCRUED BENEFITS

An accrued benefit may be payable based on the veteran's award or pending claim at date of death. A completed VA Form 21-534 or 21-535 will be considered as a claim for this benefit. It must, however, be filed within one year from the date of death.

  
DOROTHY L. BIGGIO

Adjudication Officer

Encl. VA Form

- VA Form 21-534
- VA Form 21-535

FL 21-15  
APR 1973(RS)

Show veteran's full name, VA file number, and social security number on all correspondence.

You may obtain help in preparing your claim from any Veterans Administration office or by writing to us. Even if you have filed an application with the Social Security Administration for benefits, you should complete the enclosed form and return it to this office as soon as possible. This will furnish us with additional information which we will need to take action on your claim. If you have already filed the form we are furnishing, please disregard this letter.

Where evidence is required to establish death, birth, marriage, etc., the proof outlined below should be submitted.

1. **DEATH.** A copy of the public record of death certified by the custodian of such records, or a duly certified copy of a coroner's report of death, or a verdict of a coroner's jury.
2. **BIRTH.** A copy of the public record of birth or the church record of baptism showing the name of the child, the date of birth and the names of the parents, certified by the custodian of such records. If neither of these records exists it is not necessary to establish one for the purpose of this claim; instead, submit the affidavit of the physician or midwife in attendance at birth, or the affidavits of two or more persons, preferably disinterested, who should state the name, date and place of birth of the person concerning whom the affidavit is made and the names of the parents of such person. If establishing birth of a legally adopted child, a copy of the court order of adoption certified by the custodian of such record should be furnished.
3. **MARRIAGE.** A copy of the public or church record of marriage certified by the custodian of such records. (The church record of marriage should show the names of the parties to the marriage, their prior marital status, if available, the date of marriage, the name of the person who performed the marriage and the name and location of the church where the marriage was performed). If neither of these records is obtainable, furnish either the affidavit of the clergyman or magistrate who performed the ceremony, or the original certificate of marriage, or the affidavits of two or more eye witnesses to the ceremony.
4. **AFFIDAVITS.** If affidavits are submitted in place of certified copies of public or church records, such affidavits should be signed before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths for general purposes, whose official seal must be shown, or before a properly designated employee of the Veterans Administration. Persons making affidavits should state their ages, post office addresses, and means of knowledge of the facts in the affidavits.

*NOTE: Certified copies of public records required by the Veterans Administration to determine eligibility for benefits, are furnished without charge in many states. Your request to the Custodian of Public Records should be accompanied by this letter.*