

Military Retiree and Veteran Survivor Checklist: The following checklist should be reviewed by military retirees, veterans and their beneficiaries on an annual basis. This checklist is designed to equip you and your loved ones with knowledge and information that may prove helpful. While it may be impossible to truly prepare for the overwhelming emotions and dilemmas that arise with the loss of a loved one, it does help when most of the below issues have been put into place.

- ___ **Create a military file** that includes your retirement orders, separation papers, medical records, DD-214/Honorable Discharge Certificate, etc. Make sure your spouse knows the location and telephone number of the nearest County Veterans' Service Office.
- ___ **Create a military retired pay file and/or VA Disability Compensation file** that includes the pertinent contact information for Defense Finance and Accounting Services and Department of Veteran's Affairs. (This file should also include the number of any VA claim still pending and the address of the VA office being used; a list of deductions currently being made from benefits; and the name, relationship and address of the person you have made the beneficiary of any unpaid retired pay at the time of death.)
- ___ **Create an annuities file.** This file should have information about the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP). Additional information regarding SBP annuity claims can be obtained from the DFAS-Cleveland office at 1-800-321-1080.
- ___ **Create a personal document file** that has copies of marriage certificates, divorce decrees, adoptions and naturalization papers.
- ___ **Create an income tax file.** Include copies of your state and federal income tax returns.
- ___ **Create a property tax file.** Include copies of tax bills, deeds and any other related information.
- ___ **Create an insurance policy file.** Include life, property, accident, liability and hospitalization policies.
- ___ **Maintain a list of all bank accounts** (joint or individual). Include the location of all deposit boxes, savings bonds, stocks, bonds and any securities owned.
- ___ **Maintain a list of all charge accounts and credit cards.** Include account numbers and mailing addresses.
- ___ **Maintain a list of all associations and organizations** of which you are a member. Some of them could be helpful to your spouse.
- ___ **Maintain a list of all friends and business associates** who may be helpful. Include name, address and phone number.
- ___ **Spend time with your spouse discussing your plans** with respect to the type and place of your funeral service. You should decide which cemetery, whether ground burial, or cremation, etc. If your spouse knows your desires, it will resolve some of the questions that might arise at a later date.
- ___ **Visit a local funeral home and pre-arrange your services.** Many states will allow you to pre-pay for services.
- ___ **Investigate the decisions** that you and your family have agreed upon.

Many states have specific laws and guidelines regulating cremation and burials at sea. Some states require a letter of authority signed by the deceased in order to authorize a cremation. Know the laws in your specific area and how they may affect your decisions. Information regarding Burials at Sea can be obtained by phoning the Office of Medical and Dental Affairs-Mortuary Affairs Division at (888) 647-6676 (option 4).

- ___ Once your decisions have been made and you're comfortable with them, **have a will drawn up** outlining all your wishes.
- ___ Insure that your will and all other documents are maintained in a secure location known by your loved ones.

Who should be notified in the event of my death?

1. Defense Finance and Accounting Service – (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955/(800) 269-5170
2. Social Security Administration (for death benefits) - (800) 772-1213
3. Department of Veterans Affairs (if applicable) – (800) 827-1000
4. Any fraternal group that you have membership with.
5. Any previous employers that provide pension or benefits.

When all the decision-making and documenting is completed, **sit back and continue to enjoy life.**

2016 - 2017 Legion Officers

Commander	Richard Feldman
1st Vice	Martin Motherway
2nd Vice	Sal Anicito
3rd Vice	Russ Hagerthy
Finance Officer	Daryl Bowie
Adjutant	Open
Historian	Open
Service Officer	Ron Zimmerman
Past Commander	Jim Burk
Sgt. at Arms	David Width
Judge Advocate	Roger Royer
Chaplain	Open
Executive Committee	Arnie Thompson, Babe Garneau, Tom Belford

Riders' Report

The Legion Riders recently held our annual elections, with the following results:

Director	Jim Burk
Asst. Director	Alan DiRobbio
Treasurer	Jim Prospieri
Sgt. at Arms	Harold Barth
Chaplain	Robin Burk
Historian	Mike Cardenas
Adjutant	Jean Gardner

Good luck to all.

We recently received a large amount of canned goods from St Bernadette's Catholic Church from a food drive they held for us. In addition the Elks lodge has made a large donation of "care" packages for our homeless feeding program. But please continue to put things in our bin at the post. More and more homeless people are showing up and the need has never been greater.

Jim Burk, Rider Director