

“Honor the Dead by Helping the Living”



Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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Department Veterans Service Committee

David W. “Spike” Gyger, Commander
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John B. Getz, Jr. Adjutant/Quartermaster
Charles “Chuck” Beattie, Chairman
Jessica King, Committee Member



Service Officer Bulletin

Fall 2023 Issue

FLU VACCINATIONS

BERKS VA CLINIC

Sunday, September 17

Drive-thru, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- Thursday, October 5
Walk-in, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- Monday, October 16
Walk-in, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

CUMBERLAND VA CLINIC

- Saturday, October 7
Drive-thru, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Saturday, October 21
Walk-in, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Monday, October 23
Walk-in, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Erie VA Medical Center and our County VA Clinics proudly announce drive-thru flu clinics, beginning Saturday, September 16, 2023.

ERIE VAMC FLU SCHEDULE:

Saturday drive-thru flu shot clinics held in Erie VAMC south parking lot. Veterans must enter from Old French Road and exit to East 38th Street.

- September 16 | 8:00 a.m. to noon
- September 23 | 8:00 a.m. to noon

County VA Clinics in Ashtabula, Crawford, McKean, and Venango offering vaccine:

- September 23 | 8:00 a.m. to noon

LANCASTER VA CLINIC

- Sunday, September 24
Drive-thru, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Thursday, October 12
Walk-in, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- Thursday, October 26
Walk-in, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

LEBANON VAMC

All flu clinics: Building 24 - Gymnasium

- Monday through Friday
September 18 - December 15
Walk-in, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 19, 26 and October 3
Walk-in, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Saturday, September 23, 30 and October 7
Walk-in, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SCHUYLKILL VA CLINIC

Saturday, September 30

Drive-thru, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

- Wednesday, October 11
Walk-in, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1p.m.-3 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 25
Walk-in, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

WARREN COUNTY VA CLINIC:

September 16 | 8:00 a.m. to noon

YORK VA CLINIC

Saturday, September 23

Walk-in, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m.

- Thursday, October 19
Walk-in , 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION CLAIMS

There is an increase in filing claims for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for surviving spouse and dependent children or parent(s) of a veteran who died or died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness. Post Members need to immediately contact their accredited VSO in the Area and make an appointment for the Family. **Post Service Officers** are not authorized to sign any forms related to any type of claim.

STATE VFW POST OFFICER TRAINING SESSIONS – REGIONAL EVENTS

Training for Post Service Officers will take place in the upcoming year and is mandatory for all Post Service Officers. The State will be divided into (3) three areas to allow maximum attendance at training. The first (1st) training session will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference January 19th thru January 21st in Cranberry, PA

VFW ACTION CORPS

The VFW Action Corps is what gives the VFW its strength in advocating for benefits for our nation's heroes. The VFW Action Corps Weekly is an e-newsletter published every Friday to help keep patriotic Americans, that care about the military and veterans' communities, well informed of significant changes and updates to care and benefits for service members, veterans, and their families. Sign up or scan the QR code below:

<https://www.vfw.org/ActionCorpsSignup>



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VA HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT FORM VA10-10EZ

The current objective is to have all eligible veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care system. Completing the VA10-10EZ form that can be downloaded from the <https://www.va.gov> website, once the form is completed it can be taken to the nearest VA Hospital or Clinic you along with your DD-214 to enroll or reach out to a local Service Officer/Claims Consultant that can help you submit it.

REQUEST TO ADD AND/OR REMOVE DEPENDENTS FORM VA21-686 c

Veterans are reminded that if they are married, they need to check to ensure they are being paid for their dependents. To be paid Veterans with dependents are required to complete VA21-686c <https://www.va.gov> Form and provide marriage license, birth certificate for spouse and children. Once the children reach 18 years of age and are not enrolled in school they will be removed. If the children are enrolled in school the payments will continue. If a Veteran gets divorced, they must also complete this form to remove their spouse. Please reach out to your Service Officer/Claims Consultant for help with this form.

REQUEST FOR MILITARY RECORDS AND/OR UPDATED MILITARY RECORDS

To obtain your DD-214 or an update to your records such as a DD-215 you must complete form SF-180 please follow below:

There are several ways to obtain an SF-180. You can:

Download and print a copy of the [SF-180 in PDF format](#).

You need access to a printer and the Adobe Acrobat Reader software (see link below). The form is a total of 3 pages.

- **National Personnel Records Center**
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Other Ways to Obtain the SF-180:

- From the Department of Defense
- From Federal Information Centers
- From local Veterans Administration Offices
- Our Department Service Officers/ Claims Consultants are available to assist you to complete these forms.

The SF-180 may be photocopied as needed. Please submit a separate SF-180 for each individual whose records are being requested.

VETERANS TO RECEIVE COST OF LIVING INCREASE

On June 14, 2023, President Joe Biden signed into law the Veterans Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2023, which directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a cost-of-living adjustment for Veterans Benefits in 2024 equal to the COLA applied to Social Security benefits, as determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The increase is to be announced October 10, 2023.

VA BURIAL BENEFITS

September 22, 2023, VA announced that Veterans, and their families, caregivers, and survivors now have access to expanded burial benefits to help with end-of-life expenses related to a Veteran's gravesite, burial, funeral, and transportation of remains to their final resting place. Burial benefits are available to individuals who pay for a Veteran's burial and funeral costs that are not reimbursed by any other organization. The updated burial benefits are:

- Expanded reimbursement of transportation expenses, to include costs for transporting remains, to state or Tribal Veterans' cemeteries in addition to previously eligible national cemeteries.
- Instituted a more generous single payment rate for non-service-connected burial benefits.
- Extended the VA plot or interment allowance to Tribal organizations.

"Last fiscal year, VA delivered more than 84,000 burial benefits to families of Veterans," said **VA Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs**. "Expanding burial benefits means we are able to ensure Veterans are honored in their final resting place, and assist their family, caregivers, and survivors during the difficult time of their loved one's passing."

VA provides burial benefits for all legal burial types, including cremation, burial at sea, and donation of remains to a medical school. Eligible individuals include a surviving spouse or legal partner, surviving child, parent, or executor of the Veteran's estate. Additionally, VA may pay burial benefits to a funeral home or third party who handled burial arrangements for a Veteran whose remains are unclaimed.

Veterans are encouraged to plan with end-of-life benefits provided by VA. These benefits include VA life insurance, care preferences, survivor benefits, and burial benefits that can be applied for in advance of a Veteran's passing. Visit www.va.gov/plan-ahead to learn more.

There is no time limit to file for a service-connected burial, plot or interment allowance, or the transportation benefit. However, claims for non-service-connected burial benefits must be filed within two years of the Veteran's burial or cremation. A non-service-connected burial benefit is one where the cause of death was not related to military service.