

**Henry County Veteran Affairs Benefit Assistance Policy
Date**

This policy document prescribes the Veteran Affairs Benefit Assistance Policy of Henry County, Iowa. Be it enacted by the Henry County Veteran Affairs Commission of Henry County, Iowa on _____ month _____ day _____ year.

Jim Onorato, Chairman

Malcolm Mason

Jim Cisco

Congressionally Appointed War Periods

Mexican Boarder Period May 9, 1916 thru April 15, 1917

WWI April 6, 1917 thru November 11, 1918 service in Russia April 6, 1917 thru July 1, 1921

WWII December 7, 1941 thru December 31, 1946

Korean Conflict June 27, 1950 thru January 31, 1955

Vietnam Era August 5, 1964 (February 28, 1961 for veterans who served “in country” before August 5, 1964) thru May 7, 1975

Gulf War August 2, 1990 thru a date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation

Graves Registration Records

The Commission will work closely with all funeral directors within our county in acquiring two (2) copies of graves registration records of deceased veterans buried in our county. One copy is placed in the county file, the other copy forwarded to the Iowa Commission of Veteran Affairs for a permanent State record.

Markers for Graves

The County Commission of Veteran Affairs may furnish some suitable and appropriate mental marker for the grave of each veteran, as defined in section 35.1 Code of Iowa, who is buried within the limits of the county. The marker shall be placed at the individual’s grave to permanently mark and designate the grave for memorial purposes. The expense shall be paid from any funds raised as provided in the Code of Iowa 35B. Henry County cannot allow any payment towards headstones. Mental Markers will be stored at the Henry County Courthouse and may be obtained at the Henry County Auditor’s Office located on the second floor of the Henry County Courthouse.

Iowa Veterans Home

The Commission will assist veterans in making application into the Iowa Veterans Home. Applications shall have two County Commissioners’ signatures certifying eligibility. The Commissioners will enclose two certified copies of the veteran’s separation papers, one copy of financial statement, two copies of marriage certificates if the applicant is the widow/widower of a veteran and one copy of birth certificate.

Service Organizations for Submitting Claims to the Department of Veteran Affairs

**American Legion
Federal Building
210 Walnut Street, Room 1033B
Des Moines, IA 50309**

**Disabled American Veterans
Federal Building
210 Walnut Street, Room 1033A
Des Moines, IA 50309**

**Disabled American Veterans
Federal Building
210 Walnut Street, Room 1033B
Des Moines, IA 50309**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Federal Building
210 Walnut Street, Room 1033C
Des Moines, IA 50309**

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Federal Building
210 Walnut Street, Room 1045
Des Moines, IA 50309**

**Paralyzed Veterans of America
Federal Building
210 Walnut Street, Room 1073
Des Moines, IA 50309**

Henry County Veteran Affairs may provide assistance completing the following Department of Veterans Affairs forms

Form 21-526- Application for Compensation or Pension

Compensation is a monetary award paid for injuries or diseases that were incurred in, or aggravated by active military service. Disability compensation varies with the degree of disability as determined by the 38 DFR Part 4.

To determine eligibility for Service-connected disability; the service of the veteran must have been terminated by discharge or separation under conditions that are other than dishonorable. There is no time of service requirement for purposes of filing for Service-connected disability.

Spouses of veterans who die as a result of Service-connected disabilities are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation.

For the VA to award a claim for Service-connected disability; the claim must show evidence of injury/exposure and diagnosis with treatment shown during active military service or within one year from discharge with a link to active service.

The following forms are required for an initial Service-connected Disability:

- **21-22 Appointment of a Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative**
- **21-526 Application for Compensation or Pension**
- **21-4138 Statement in Support of Claim**
- **21-4142 Request for Release of Information (for private treatment records)
Doctor's Statement (if medical records not obtained)**

Supporting Documents:

DD-214 all periods of service
Marriage certificate
Divorce decree(s) death certificate(s) for all previous marriages (veteran & spouse)
Birth certificate(s) for all children
Medical records of treatment for period since release from service
Service medical records

A veteran may reopen a compensation claim for a service-connected disability that has worsened; the veteran need simply to make the statement that the condition has worsened. In order to assure the claimant his benefit of increased compensation, it is best to provide the VA with medical evidence showing the increase in disability.

The following forms are required for reopening a previously denied claim:

- **21-22 Appointment of a Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative**
- **21-4138 Statement in Support of Claim (identifying issue to be addressed)**
- **21-4142 Request for Release of Information (private treatment records)**
- **SF-180 Request for Military Records (to request inpatient records pertaining to the claim)**

Supporting Documentation:

New Medical Evidence (for condition that was denied)
Medical Records of treatment for period since release from service

Veterans do not have to agree with any decision made by the VA. This disagreement may be based on a single issue or multiple issues associated with the decision rendered by the VA.

Non-service-Connected Pension

Non-service-connected Pension is paid to veterans with 90 days of service which one day was during a war time period as established by Congress. Veterans must have been separated from service under other than dishonorable conditions.

To be eligible veterans must be permanently and totally disabled for reasons other than their own willful misconduct. The pension program provides monetary support to eligible veteran's to bring their total income, including social security, Retirement Annuities, and other income to a level set by Congress. The veteran's total countable income for the household must be below the annual level set by Congress. Also the veteran's household net worth must be at or below the amount set by regulation.

The following forms are required for an initial Nonservice-connected Pension Claim

- **21-22 Appointment of a Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative**
- **21-526 Application for Compensation or Pension (if initial claim)**
- **21-4138 Statement in Support of Claim (identifying issue to be addressed)**
- **21-4142 Request for Release of Information (private treatment records)**
- **21-8416 Medical Expense Report (if needed to offset income with medical expenses)**
- **SDVA-6 Nursing Home Statement (if veteran or spouse are in a nursing home)**
- **SDVA-11 Doctor's Statement (if veteran or spouse are in a nursing home)**
- **SDVA-26 Reporting Unreimbursed Medical Expenses, Income & Dependency Changes (acknowledgement statement)**

Supporting Documents:

DD-214 all periods of service

Marriage certificate

Divorce decree(s) death certificate(s) for all previous marriages (veteran & spouse)

Birth certificate(s) for all children

Itemized Income Verification (Social Security, retirement, etc.)

Itemized Monthly Medical Expenses (Sitter cost, Insurance premiums, Prescriptions, etc.)

Reopening Previously Denied Pension Claim

Pension claims are generally denied due to excess income or medical conditions. In order to file to reopen a previously denied claim you must be able to show where the situation that caused the denial has been reversed, (i.e. income reduced due to medical expenses, medical condition worsens)

The following forms are required for filing to reopen a denied pension claim:

- **21-22 Appointment of a Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative**
- **21-527 Income-Net Worth and Employment Statement (to show current financial situation)**
- **21-4138 Statement in Support of Claim (identifying issue to be addressed)**
- **21-4142 Request for Release of Information (private treatment records)**
- **21-8416 Medical Expense Report (if needed to offset income with medical expenses)**
- **SDVA-6 Nursing Home Statement (if veteran or spouse are in a nursing home)**
- **SDVA-11 Doctor's Statement (if veteran or spouse are in a nursing home)**

- **SDVA-17 Examination-Aid & Attendance (if applying for A&A)**
- **SDVA-26 Reporting Unreimbursed Medical Expenses, Income & Dependency Changes (acknowledgement statement)**

Supporting Documents:

DD-214 all periods of service
Marriage certificate
Divorce decree(s) death certificate(s) for all previous marriages (veteran & spouse)
Birth certificate(s) for all children
Itemized Income Verification (Social Security, retirement, etc.)
Itemized Monthly Medical Expenses (Sitter cost, Insurance premiums, Prescriptions, etc.)

The following forms are required for filing an appeal:

- **9 Appeal to the Board of Veteran's Appeals (to be completed after receipt of the Statement of Case)**
- **21-22 Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative**
- **21-4138 Statement in Support of Claim (identifying issue to be addressed)**
- **21-4142 Request for Release of Information (for private treatment records)**
- **SF 180 Request for Military Records (to request any inpatient records pertaining to claim)**
- **Doctor's Statement (if medical record is not obtained)**

Supporting Documents:

New Evidence (for condition under appeal, if applicable)

VA Health Care

In order for veterans to receive healthcare, most will have to register with the VA Healthcare Enrollment system. Veterans will be enrolled to the extent Congressional appropriations allow. Enrollment will be reviewed each year.

When applying for medical care, all veterans will be asked to provide information pertaining to health insurance coverage, including policies held by spouses.

The following forms are required to VA Healthcare enrollment:

- **1010 EZ Application for Health Benefits**
- **DD 214 Discharge Documents**
- **Copies of Insurance Cards**

The Department of Veterans Affairs has hundreds of forms a veteran may need to access. The Henry County Veterans Affairs Commission has determined the Henry County Veterans Affairs Office may not be able to provide copies of all forms. When a request for VA forms is made at the local VA office the staff will assist by printing copies of any military forms that are available in printed format, can be accessed through the World Wide Web or through an in-house VA forms program. The veteran may be assisted by the staff at the local VA office to complete the form for submission or they may be directed to another agency that may be better qualified to assist the veteran in completing the form.