

**Department of Veterans Affairs** **APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES FLAG FOR BURIAL PURPOSES**

RESPONDENT BURDEN: VA may not conduct or sponsor, and respondent is not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you have comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, call 1-800-827-1000 for mailing information on where to send your comments.

**IMPORTANT - Postmaster or other issuing official: Submit this form to the nearest VA Regional Office. Be sure to complete the stub at the bottom.**

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME-MIDDLE NAME OF DECEASED <i>(Print or type)</i>	
2. BRANCH OF SERVICE <i>(Check box)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> ARMY <input type="checkbox"/> NAVY <input type="checkbox"/> AIR FORCE <input type="checkbox"/> MARINE CORPS <input type="checkbox"/> COAST GUARD <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <i>(Specify)</i>	3. VETERAN'S SERVICE <i>(Check box)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> SPANISH AMERICAN <input type="checkbox"/> WWI <input type="checkbox"/> WWII <input type="checkbox"/> KOREAN CONFLICT <input type="checkbox"/> AFTER 1-31-55 <input type="checkbox"/> VIETNAM ERA <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <i>(Specify)</i>
4. CONDITION UNDER WHICH VETERAN WAS RELEASED FROM SERVICE <i>(Check box)</i> <i>(See Item 2, Instructions on Reverse)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> A. VETERAN OF A WAR, MEXICAN BORDER SERVICE, OR OF SERVICE AFTER 1-31-55, DISCHARGED OR RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE <input type="checkbox"/> B. DISCHARGED FROM OR RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY IN U.S. ARMED FORCES UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE, AFTER SERVING AT LEAST ONE <input type="checkbox"/> C. BY DEATH IN ACTIVE SERVICE AFTER MAY 27, 1941, AND FLAG NOT FURNISHED BY THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT <input type="checkbox"/> D. SEPARATED FROM PHILIPPINE MILITARY FORCES, UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE, AFTER SERVING WITH THE UNITED STATES IN SUCH FORCES UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S ORDER OF JULY 26, 1941, AND DIED ON OR AFTER APRIL 25, 1951	
5. NAME OF PERSON ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FLAG	6. ADDRESS OF PERSON ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FLAG
7. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED <i>(See Item 1, Instructions on Reverse)</i>	

**PERSONAL DATA OF DECEASED *(To be completed if possible)***

8. VA FILE NUMBER	9. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	10. SERVICE SERIAL NUMBER	
11. DATE OF ENLISTMENT	12. DATE OF DISCHARGE	13. DATE OF BIRTH	14. DATE OF DEATH
15. DATE OF BURIAL	16. PLACE OF BURIAL <i>(Name of cemetery, city, and State)</i>		
17. REMARKS			

**I CERTIFY** that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made above are correct and true, the deceased is eligible, in accordance with instructions on reverse for issue of a United States flag for burial purposes, and such flag has not previously been applied for or furnished.

18. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>(Sign in INK)</i>	19. ADDRESS OF APPLICANT <i>( Number and street or rural route, city or P.O., and ZIP Code)</i>	20. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED	21. DATE SIGNED
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**PENALTY - The law provides that whoever makes any statement of a material fact knowing it to be false shall be punished by a fine or both imprisonment or both.**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF FLAG**

**I CERTIFY** that the flag requested by the applicant will be used to drape the casket of the deceased in whose honor it is issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and that Item 6 of the Instructions will be complied with.

SIGNATURE OF PERSON RECEIVING FLAG <i>(Sign in INK)</i>	DATE FLAG RECEIVED
NAME AND ADDRESS OF POST OFFICE OR OTHER FLAG ISSUE POINT	<b>FOR VA USE</b>
	DATE NOTIFICATION FORWARDED TO SUPPLY      INITIALS OF RESPONSIBLE VA EMPLOYEE

VA FORM 21-2008  
SEP 1999

EXISTING STOCK OF VA FORM 2008, SEP 1993(R), WILL BE USED.

**This stub is to be completed by the POSTMASTER or other issuing official. Upon receipt the VA Regional Office will detach and forward it to the appropriate Supply Officer.**

NOTIFICATION OF ISSUANCE OF FLAG		
DATE FLAG ISSUED	SIGNATURE OF POSTMASTER OR OTHER ISSUING OFFICIAL	ADDRESS OF POST OFFICE OR OTHER FLAG ISSUE POINT
<b>FOR VA USE</b> ▶	DATE OF REPLACEMENT	

VA FORM 21-2008  
SEP 1999

EXISTING STOCK OF VA FORM 2008, SEP 1993(R), WILL BE USED.

SEE REVERSE

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. No flag may be issued unless a completed application form has been received (38 U.S.C. 901). The person filling out the application must state under Item 7, "Relationship to Deceased" whether he/she is: (a) A relative, and degree of relationship (e.g., "Brother"); (b) the funeral director; (c) a representative of a veterans' or other organization having charge of the burial (e.g., "The American Legion"; (d) other person having a knowledge of the facts, and acting in the interest of the deceased or his/her family (e.g., "Friend"; "Det. Clerk").

2. One of the lettered conditions listed in Item 4, "Condition Under Which Veteran Was Released From Service" must be evidenced, normally by a document such as a discharge paper (Form DD 214), before a flag may be issued.

(a) The phrase "veteran of a war" in Item 4A requires showing that the deceased was in service in the United States armed forces during a war period. The phrase "Mexican border service" means active service during the period beginning on January 1, 1911, and ending on April 5, 1917, in Mexico, on the borders thereof, or in the waters adjacent thereto. The phrase "service after January 31, 1955" relates to veterans with active military, naval, or air service after the date.

(b) The phrase "under conditions other than dishonorable" in Items 4A, 4B, and 4D requires a showing of discharge or release from active duty under honorable conditions. These must be ("Honorable" or "General") from the indicated period of service in the United States armed forces. In the absence of such discharge or release from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable, there must be a determination by the Department of Veterans Affairs that discharge or release from active duty was "under conditions other than dishonorable."

(c) The phrase in Item 4B "at least one enlistment" is construed to include service of a commissioned officer whose service, computed from date of entrance into commissioned status to date of separation from service, terminated under honorable conditions, and in all cases, relates to peacetime service before June 27, 1950.

(d) In Item 4B when the deceased was honorably discharged for disability, it may be assumed that the disability was "incurred in line of duty."

(e) Issue of a flag in in-service cases Item 4C is required only when deceased was interred outside the United states, or remains not recovered, or where service department cannot supply flag in time for burial. Explanation should be included under "Remarks."

3. When the applicant is unable to furnish documentary proof, such as a discharge under honorable conditions ("Honorable" or "General"), an application may be accepted and a flag issued when statement is made by a person of established character and reputation that he/she personally knows the deceased to have been a veteran of a war, the Mexican border service, or of service after January 31, 1955, discharged or released from active duty, under honorable conditions, or to have been a person discharged from, or released from active duty in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard under honorable conditions after serving at least one complete peacetime enlistment, before June 27, 1950, or for

disability incurred in line of duty; or that the deceased was in active service at the time of death and a flag was not obtainable from a military or naval establishment in time for burial.

4. The following classes of persons are ineligible for issue of a burial flag:

(a) A discharged or rejected draftee, or a member of the National Guard, who reported to camp in answer to the President's call for World War I service but who, when medically examined, was not finally accepted for military service.

(b) A person who was discharged from World War I service prior to November 12, 1918, on his/her own application or solicitation, by reason of being an alien, or any person discharged for alienage during a period of hostilities.

(c) A person who served with any of the forces allied with the United States in any war, even though a United States citizen, if he/she did not serve with the United States armed forces.

(d) A person inducted for training and service who, before entering upon such training and service, was transferred to the Enlisted Reserve Corps and given a furlough.

(e) A former temporary member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve.

(f) A reservist who served only on active duty for training unless he/she was disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty.

5. Flags will not be issued subsequent to burial, except where circumstances render it impossible to obtain a flag in time to drape the casket of a deceased veteran prior to final interment. The applicant must personally sign the application and include (under "Remarks") a statement explaining the circumstances preventing the requesting of a burial flag prior to final interment.

6. The flag will be disposed of as follows:

(a) When actually used to drape the casket of the deceased, it must be delivered to the next of kin (or to a close friend or associate when no claim is made by next of kin) following interment or inurnment. If there is no living relative, or one cannot be located, and no friend or associate requests the flag, it must be returned to the nearest Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) The phrase "next of kin," for the purpose of disposing of the flag, is defined as follows with preference to entitlement in the order listed below:

(1) Widow or widower

(2) Children, according to age (minor child may be issued a flag on application signed by guardian).

(3) Parents, including adoptive, stepparents, and foster parents

(4) Brothers or sisters, including brothers or sisters of the halfblood

(5) Uncles or aunts

(6) Nephews or nieces

(7) Others - cousins, grandparents, etc.

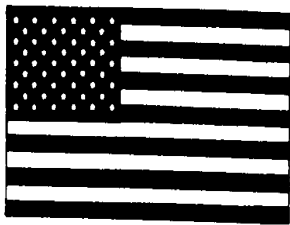
(c) The phrase "close friend or associate" means any person who establishes by evidence that he/she was a close friend or an associate of the deceased.

ISSUING OFFICIAL WILL DETACH THIS SHEET AND PRESENT IT TO THE RECIPIENT OF THE FLAG

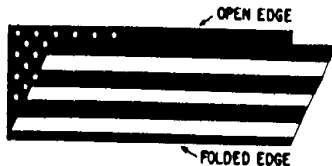
## USE OF THE FLAG

1. This flag is issued on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs to honor the memory of one who has served our country.
2. When used to drape the casket, the flag should be placed as follows:
  - (a) **Closed Casket** - When the flag is used to drape a closed casket, it should be so placed that the union (blue field) is at the head and over the left shoulder of the deceased.
  - (b) **Half Couch (Open)** - When the flag is used to drape a half-couch casket, it should be placed in three layers to cover the closed half of the casket in such a manner that the blue field will be the top fold, next to the open portion of the casket on the deceased's left.
  - (c) **Full Couch (Open)** - When the flag is used to drape a full-couch casket, it should be folded in a triangular shape and placed in the center part of the head panel of the casket cap, just above the left shoulder of the deceased.
3. During a military commitment ceremony, the flag which was used to drape the casket is held waist high over the grave by the pallbearers and, immediately after the sounding of "Taps," is folded in accordance with the illustration below.
4. Folding the flag (see illustration below):
5. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground. When taken from the casket, it should be folded as shown (see illustration).
6. The flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of the unveiling of a statue or monument, but it should never be used as a covering for the statue or monument.
7. The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stowed in such a manner as will permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
8. The flag should never have placed upon it, nor any part of it, nor attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
9. The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
10. The flag, when badly worn, torn, or soiled should no longer be publicly displayed, but privately destroyed by burning in such a manner as to convey no suggestion of disrespect or irreverence.

## CORRECT METHOD OF FOLDING THE UNITED STATES FLAG



(a) Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.



(b) Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.



(c) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the stripe corner of the folded edge to the open edge.



(d) Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.



(e) Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape of a cocked hat with only the blue field visible.

