

Sumner County Veterans

May 2021

Our office helps Veterans apply for many VA benefits!

- VA Disability Compensation
- Burial Benefits
- VA War Time Pension
- Survivor Benefits
- VA Medical
- ChampVA
- VA Education Benefits

Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

DIC is a tax exempt compensation paid to a surviving dependent of a Veteran who passed away because of a Service Connected (SC) disability, or was rated 100% P&T for 10 years. To qualify you want to make sure the Veteran's SC disability is listed on the death certificate as a contributing factor or causing factor. As long as the SC disability is listed on the death certificate the VA will grant DIC to the qualified surviving dependent. The current rate for a surviving spouse DIC is \$1,357.56 a month. VA does offer additional special monthly compensations if the surviving dependent qualifies, like aid & attendance. Dependents of retirees' who will receive Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) can receive concurrent payments for both (if they qualify). VA is working on fully implementing concurrent payment of both DIC and SBP by 2023.

VA does offer a 10 and 5 year rule; if a Veteran is 100% P&T for at least ten years, the SC disability does not need to be listed for the qualifying dependent to receive DIC. If a Veteran rates 100% P&T right after release from active duty, they must stay P&T for 5 years for the qualifying dependent to receive DIC.

If you, or your family members, have any questions please feel free to give us a call or set up an appointment and we can talk further about DIC or other survivor benefits.

Sumner County Veteran Outreach

Each month we will have an accredited representative available to assist you. Please join us at the following locations.

June 1 – VFW Hall 73 New Shackle Island

8:30-11:00 AM

June 2 – VFW Westmoreland 2605 Epperson Springs Road

8:30-11:00 AM

June 2 – Portland Public Library 301 Portland Blvd

1:00-3:00 PM

Success Story

Our office had the pleasure of working with a surviving spouse who previously tried to apply for DIC. Her late husband was 100% for 8 years, sadly he did not reach the 10 year mark before he passed. When the spouse first tried to apply for DIC she was denied because the Veterans SC was not listed on the death certificate. We were able to help guide the spouse on getting the death certificate amended to add his SC disability. Thankfully VA granted this spouse with DIC, which was a true blessing to this family.

Many families depend on a Veteran's disability check, and sadly once the Veteran dies their monthly benefits go away as well. Making sure the family understands what is needed on the death certificate can make the financial transition a little bit easier.