



## VETERANS PENSION

### WHAT IS VA PENSION?

Pension is a needs-based benefit paid to wartime Veterans, who meet certain age or non-service connected disability requirements.

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You may be eligible if:

- You were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- You served 90 days or more of active military, naval or air service with at least 1 day during a period of war time\*, **AND**
- Your countable income is below the maximum annual pension rate, **AND**
- You meet the net worth limitations, **AND**
- You are age 65 or older, **OR** are shown by evidence to have a permanent and total non-service-connected disability, **OR** are a patient in a nursing home, **OR** are receiving Social Security disability benefits.

\*Veterans who entered active duty after September 7, 1980, must also serve at least 24 months of active duty service. If the total length of service is less than 24 months, the Veteran must have completed his/her entire tour of active duty.

#### MAXIMUM ANNUAL PENSION RATE (MAPR) (EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1,2011)

If you are a...	Your yearly income must be less than...
<b>Veteran with no dependents</b>	<b>\$12,256</b>
<b>Veteran with a spouse or a child</b>	<b>\$16,051</b>
<b>(Veterans with additional children: add \$2,093 to the limit for EACH child)</b>	
<b>Housebound veteran with no dependents</b>	<b>\$14,978</b>
<b>Housebound veteran with one dependent</b>	<b>\$18,773</b>



Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

<b>Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has no dependents</b>	<b>\$20,447</b>
<b>Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has one dependent</b>	<b>\$24,239</b>

## HOW MUCH DOES VA PAY?

VA calculates annual pension by first determining for your particular circumstances the Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR), an amount set by Congress. For example, if you are a Veteran with no dependents, the MAPR is \$12,256. Next, VA determines your countable income. VA determines countable income by subtracting from your total income received in a particular 12-month period, the amount of those exclusions provided by law. VA subtracts your countable income from the MAPR; the difference is your annual pension entitlement. VA divides this amount by 12 and rounds down to the nearest dollar, this is the approximate amount of your monthly pension payment.

VA deducts certain expenses paid by you, e.g., unreimbursed medical expenses, from your annual household income, which will decrease your countable income and increase your monthly pension payment. A complete list of these exclusions is provided in section 3.272 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations. These regulations are available at the Government Printing Offices website, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title38-vol1/pdf/CFR-2011-title38-vol1-sec3-460.pdf>.

### How Can You Apply?

You may apply for pension by filling out VA Form 21-526, Veteran's Application for Compensation and/or Pension, and mailing it to the VA regional office having jurisdiction over your claim. If you do not know which regional office has jurisdiction over your claim, you may submit your request to the VA regional office closest to your current residence. A directory of VA regional offices is available at [http://w2.va.gov/directory/guide/division\\_flash.asp?dnum=3](http://w2.va.gov/directory/guide/division_flash.asp?dnum=3). You can also apply online through our web site at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp>.

