

Veterans Pension Rate Table: Effective 12-1-2018

Veteran Alone & With Dependents

Date of Cost-of-Living Increase:
12-1-2018

Increase Factor: 2.8%

Standard Medicare Deduction:
Determined by SSA based on
individual income.

***Net Worth Limit** Effective
12-1-2018: **\$127,061**

(Penalty Period Rate: \$2,230)

Maximum Monthly Pension Rate Category	Amount
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Veterans Pension

Without Spouse or Child	\$1,127
With 1 Dependent	\$1,477

Housebound (HB) Without Dependents	\$1,378
With 1 Dependent	\$1,727

Aid & Attendance (A&A) Without Dependents	\$1,881
With 1 Dependent	\$2,230

Survivors Pension

Without Dependents	\$756
With 1 Dependent	\$990

Housebound (HB) Without Dependents	\$924
With 1 Dependent	\$1,157

Aid & Attendance (A&A) Without Dependents	\$1,209
With 1 Dependent	\$1,442

Presented as a public service by:

DANIEL HOOPER SMITH, ESQ.
VA Accredited Attorney



Law Offices of
Advocates in Aging®
IRA STEWART WIESNER, P.A.
Board Certified Elder Law Attorney

Phone: **(941) 365-9900**

Address: 328 N. Rhodes Ave.
Sarasota, Florida 34237

Email: advocates@wiesnerlaw.com

Web: www.wiesnerlaw.com

Fax: (941) 365-4479




Veteran Benefits

For Non-service
Connected Disability

Getting the help
you've earned
when you need long-term care

Information for
Veterans and
their Spouses and
Surviving Spouses

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

<p>Q. Is there a VA benefit for me if I don't have a service connected disability?</p>	<p>Q. What is "Aid & Attendance"?</p>	<p>Q. How does VA calculate the Pension?</p>
<p>A. YES. The VA provides 2 broad categories of Pension benefit programs: 1) <i>Veterans Pension</i>, a tax-free monetary benefit paid to low-income Veterans, & 2) <i>Survivors Pension</i>, a tax-free monetary benefit paid to low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried children of a deceased Veteran. In addition, Veterans & Survivors who require assistance with ADLs or are housebound may be eligible for an additional monetary amount, called <i>Aid & Attendance (A&A)</i> and <i>Housebound (HB)</i>, respectively.</p>	<p>A. Aid and Attendance (A&A) is an increased monthly pension amount which may be added to the claimant's monthly pension if the claimant meets one of the following conditions: 1) is blind; 2) is bedridden; 3) lives in a nursing home; or 4) lives in an Assisted Living Facility; or, a) unable to dress/undress or keep self clean and presentable; or, b) unable to attend to wants of nature; or, c) has a physical or mental incapacity that requires assistance on a regular basis to protect the claimant from daily environmental hazards.</p>	<p>A. The annual pension is calculated by first totaling all your countable income which includes income received by the claimant. Then any deductions are subtracted from that total. These deductions include unreimbursed medical expenses as well as amounts paid to others (including family members) who are providing care. The remaining countable income is deducted from the appropriate annual pension limit which is determined by the number of your dependents. This amount is then divided by 12 and rounded down to the nearest dollar. This gives you the amount of your monthly payment.</p>
<p>Q. What are the eligibility criteria?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ELIGIBLE WARTIME PERIODS:</p> <p>Under current law, VA recognizes the following wartime periods to determine eligibility for VA Pension benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WORLD WAR II: December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946 ➤ KOREAN CONFLICT: June 27, 1950 - January 31, 1955 ➤ VIETNAM ERA: February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period; otherwise August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975 ➤ PERSIAN GULF WAR: August 2, 1990 - through date to be determined 	<p>Q. Is there an asset and income test for Pension eligibility?</p>
<p>A. The basic eligibility requirements are: 1) The veteran must have at least 90 consecutive days of active duty service, one of which must have been during a wartime period (<i>see chart</i>); 2) discharge other than dishonorable; 3) the claimant must have limited income and assets; & 4) the claimant must be age 65+ or have a permanent and total disability at the time of application.</p>		<p>B. YES. There is a new "net worth" limit (currently \$127,061), which includes the claimant's assets plus annual income. Generally, it includes all personal and real property excluding the primary residence and vehicles. There is also a new asset transfer lookback period of 36 months, and a new penalty period of up to 5 years. Eligible unreimbursed medical expenses can be deducted from the income calculation.</p>
<p>Q. Are there VA Pension Benefits for a Surviving Spouse and Dependent Children?</p>		<p>Q. Can a knowledgeable attorney help if my net worth exceeds the eligibility criteria?</p>
<p>A. YES, provided the surviving spouse is un-remarried and the children are under the age of 18. The application is subject to the same net worth limit.</p>	<p>A. Yes. There are several planning options that can enable you to qualify for the pension AND maximize the amount you receive.</p>	
<p>Q. What is the "Housebound Pension"?</p>	 <p>ADVOCATES IN AGING[®] LAW OFFICE OF IRA STEWART WIESNER</p>	
<p>A. Housebound (HB) Pension is an increased amount added when the claimant is substantially confined to his/her home because of permanent disability.</p>		