

Survivor's Benefits Practice Questions

1. Jimmy Chance was a Vietnam veteran who served 9 years in the Marine Corps. During his enlistment, he deployed twice to Vietnam and years later developed Parkinson's disease. He passed away on June 3, 2019 and on his death certificate the primary cause of death was listed as a stroke with Parkinson's disease listed as a secondary cause. His daughter and her husband are in your office today asking if they are entitled to any benefits as they were his only family members. He did not have a claim pending at the time of his death but has been rated 100% P&T for Parkinson's disease since 2007.

What benefit(s) would you recommend filing for if any?

What form(s) would need to be submitted if any?

2. Tameka Smith is a Gulf War veteran who called you asking what benefits her husband will receive once she passes since she is severely disabled. She has been service connected for heart disease, PTSD, hyperhidrosis, and sinusitis with an overall rating of 90% with IU since May 2009. She also has a claim pending for an increase of her PTSD rating that was filed in April 2019.

What benefit(s) would Mr. Smith be eligible for?

What form(s) would need to be submitted if any?

3. Mary Huggins is on the phone asking when she needs to file a claim for burial benefits for her brother John. He passed away on August 22, 2018 due to non-service connected reasons and was rated 30% at the time of his death.

What is the deadline for Mary to submit a burial allowance claim?

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4. John Smalls is a widower of a veteran who served from 1976 – 1991. He has fallen on some hard times and is wanting to file for survivor's pension. He has a home valued at \$220,000, a savings account with about \$26,000 in it, and his only income is a \$1500 a month retirement check. His medical bills equal approximately \$900 per month and he has no dependents.

Does John qualify to receive survivor pension benefits? Why or Why not?

BONUS QUESTION:

If a veteran's death certificate does not have a service connected disability as a cause of death and the veteran was not rated 100% P&T at the time of their death, is there anything that a surviving spouse could do to become eligible for DIC?
