

## Housebound or Aid and Attendance

**Housebound/Aid and Attendance (A&A)** are enhanced or special monthly pension benefits paid in **addition** to basic pension. You may not receive enhanced or special monthly pension without first establishing eligibility for basic VA pension. However, because enhanced pension is based upon a higher income limit, a claimant ineligible for basic pension due to excessive income may be eligible for enhanced pension benefits. A Veteran/spouse may be eligible for housebound or A&A when:

He/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises

**OR**

The Veteran/spouse requires the aid of another person in order to perform his or her activities of daily living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting himself/herself from the hazards of his/her daily environment

**OR**

The Veteran/spouse is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment

**OR**

The Veteran/spouse is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity,

**OR**

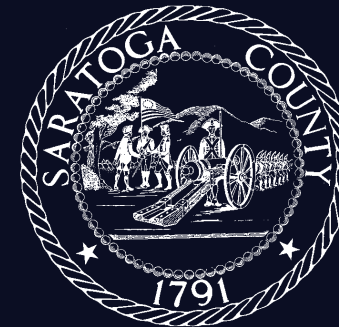
The Veteran/spouse is legally blind and has corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

### Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency

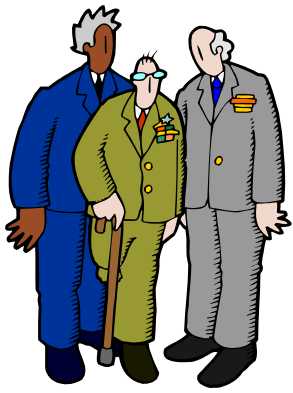
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## VA Pensions



### Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency



## Veterans Pension

*Pension* is a benefit paid to wartime Veterans who have limited or no income, and who are age 65 or older, or, under 65, and are permanently and totally disabled, or, a patient in a nursing home, or, are receiving Social Security disability payments.

### You may be eligible if:

you were discharged from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

**AND**

you served at least 90 days of active military service and at least 1 day was during a war time period. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, you must have served at least 24 months and at least 1 day was during a war time period.

**AND**

your income for VA purposes is below the maximum annual pension rate The yearly maximum annual pension rate is set by Congress.

**AND**

you are age 65 or older, **OR**, you are permanently and totally disabled, not due to your own willful misconduct, **OR**, you are a patient in a nursing home, **OR**, you are receiving Social Security disability benefits.

What is a "wartime" Veteran?

**World War II.** December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946

**Korean conflict.** June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955

**Vietnam era.** The period beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on May 7, 1975. In the case of a veteran who served **in** the Republic of Vietnam during that period. The period beginning on August 5, 1964, and ending on May 7, 1975, in all other cases

**Persian Gulf War.** August 2, 1990, through date to be prescribed by Presidential proclamation or law. (Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101(33))



## Widows Pension

*Survivors' (Death) Pension* is a needs based benefit paid to an unremarried surviving spouse, who meets certain age or disability requirements, of a deceased wartime Veteran.

### You may be eligible if:

The deceased Veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions,

**AND**

The deceased Veteran served at least 90 days of active military service and at least 1 day was during a war time period. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, you must have served at least 24 months and at least 1 day was during a war time period

**AND**

you are the unmarried surviving spouse who meets the age or disability requirements, of the deceased veteran,

**AND**

your income for VA purposes is below a yearly limit maximum annual pension rate set by law. (The maximum annual pension rate is set by Congress).



What about net worth?

*Net worth* means the net value of the assets of the Veteran and/or spouse. It includes such assets as bank accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities and trust funds and any property

other than the primary residence and a reasonable lot area. The decision as to whether a claimant's net worth is excessive depends on the facts of each individual case. All net worth should be reported and VA will determine if a claimant's assets are of a sufficient

amount that the claimant could live off these assets for a reasonable period of time. Pension is a needs-based program and is not intended to protect substantial assets or build up an estate for the benefit of heirs.