Get Help Filing VA Benefit/Disability Claims:

Office Hours (both offices): Monday – Friday, 9 am – 4 pm (closed Noon – 1 pm daily) – **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Local Veteran Service Officer Representatives – INDIAN RIVER – Vero Beach (call to schedule an appointment):
Melissa Arndt (Veterans Services Manager), John Birhanzl (VSO), Carri Henry (VSO)
Indian River County Veterans Services – Vero Beach Office
2525 St. Lucie Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960
Phone: (772) 226-1395 Fax: (772) 770-5038
E-mail: marndt@indianriver.gov

Local Veteran Service Officer Representatives – INDIAN RIVER – Sebastian (call to schedule an appointment):
Michelle Auton (VSO), Barbara Gines (VSO)
Indian River County Veterans Services – Sebastian Office
1921 US Hwy 1, Sebastian, FL 32958
Phone: (772) 226-1145 Fax: (772) 581-4988
E-mail: mauton@indianriver.gov

Items needed for VA benefit Appointment:
-DD214 form (military record)
-Marriage certificate
-Veteran's date of birth, place and state of birth, and Social Security number
-Surviving spouse's date of birth and Social Security number
-Form VA 21-2680 - to be signed (and/or completed) by her primary physician (form attached below)
-Blank Deposit Slip or bank info for her checking account, for direct deposit.
-Copy of recent bank statements
-Copy of current social security award letter
*If in an Assisted Living Facility (ALF):
-Copy of entire lease packet
-Form 21-2680, completed by the ALF Dr. or Nurse Practitioner

Additional avenues for VA filing:

Web Links:
https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/
https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vso-search
https://indianriver.gov/services/general_services/veterans_services.php

Apply for VA Pension: *Online, Mail, or local VA benefits office…*

FL VA Benefits Office: VA Regional Benefit Satellite Office at Lake Baldwin VA Clinic
5201 Raymond St., Orlando, FL 32803
800-827-1000 or https://ask.va.gov

Aid & Attendance funds can be used to help with the cost of assisted living, memory care, nursing home, or in-home care services. [Aid & Attendance: Pays up to $3,845/month in 2026]

Veterans Pension:	Complete VA Form 21-527EZ
Special Monthly Pension:	Complete VA Form 21-2680 (Determine eligibility & apply for aid & attendance or household benefits for Veterans) – can be completed by any Dr or ARNP.
Survivors Pension:	Complete VA Form 21-534EZ (Spouse/Child)
Respondent Burden:	Complete VA form 21-0779 (Eligibility for pension and aid & attendance benefits based on nursing home status)
Total Disability:	Complete VA form 21-8940 (based on individual unemployment)
VA Pension Eligibility:	1) honorable discharge, ***and*** 2) family annual max income limits and net worth (assets, savings, retirement) cannot exceed $163,699 (house, car & most furnishings excluded), ***and*** 3) Wartime veteran with at least 1-day active duty, ***or*** served at least 24 months on active duty as enlisted person after 9/7/1980, ***or*** were an officer and started active duty after 10/16/81, ***and*** 4) At least 65, ***or*** have permanent and total disability, ***or*** you're a patient in a nursing home for long-term care because of disability, ***or*** you're getting Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income *Those receiving 100% VA benefits will not qualify for Aid and Attendance
VA Requirements:	-Proof of income and net worth info (bank statements, paystubs) -Private medical treatment records (VA medical center) -Completed pension program applications (forms above)

What wartime periods do you recognize for pension benefits?

Under current law, we recognize these wartime periods to decide eligibility for pension benefits and only need to serve in active war 1 day to qualify for veteran benefits, honorable discharge:

- Mexican Border period (May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or in adjacent waters)
- World War I (April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918)
- World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
- Korean conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)
- Vietnam War era for Veterans who served **in the Republic of Vietnam** (November 1, 1955, to May 7, 1975)

- Vietnam War era for Veterans who served **outside the Republic of Vietnam** (August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975)
- Gulf War (August 2, 1990, through a future date to be set by law or presidential proclamation)

Monthly Pension Amounts 2026 (effective Dec. 1, 2025 – Nov. 30, 2026):

Veteran:

Aid & Attendance (no dependents)	$2,424.00
Aid & Attendance (1 dependent)	$2,874.00

Surviving Spouse:

Aid & Attendance (no dependents)	$1,558.00

Veteran Married to Veteran:

Aid & Attendance (no dependents)	$3,845.00

**VA pension rates are adjusted every December 1. Amounts above will change on December 1, 2026.*