THINGS TO DO WHEN A VETERAN DIES

* Contact the Funeral Director of your choice to arrange for internment.
* Contact the appropriate person for religious services you desire.
* Bring the Funeral Director a copy of the Veteran’s Form DD214, Discharge Papers, VA Claim Number (if known) and Social Security Number.
* The Funeral Director will apply for any burial entitlements from the Department of Veterans affairs toward burial expenses and allowances from Social Security.
* The Funeral Director will provide the American flag to drape the casket.
* If the Veteran is a member of the VFW, the Post Commander should be contacted for Ritual Services and casket bearers, if needed.
* If the Veteran had commercial insurance, contact the company claims agent.
* The surviving spouse should contact the Social Security Office to file for entitlements due them self and family.
* The County Service Officer, (973) 285-6866, will assist the family in obtaining any entitlements such as survivor’s death benefits from Department of Veterans Affairs and headstone if burial is in a private cemetery. The following should be provided when applying for benefits:
  + - Certified copy of Veterans service record (discharge papers).
    - Department of Veterans Affairs Claim Number (if there is one).
    - Social Security Number of deceased, spouse and dependent children.
    - G.I. Insurance policy (if there is one).
    - Certified copies of Marriage license, birth certificates of children and, if appropriate, a prior marriage existed and dissolution of that marriage (divorce or death).
    - Certified copy of death certificate.

Having this information available will ease the stress that accompanies the loss of a loved one and the Veteran’s knowledge that there is less of a burden placed on the family.