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Information Paper

VA Disability Pension

VA Disability Pension benefits are designed to supplement the income of eligible war-era veterans. The basic eligibility for VA Disability Pension is as follows:

- 1) The veteran must be discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.
- 2) The veteran must have active service that includes a total of ninety days during one or more periods of war; ninety or more consecutive days, one day of which is during a period of war; or at least one day of wartime service that results in a discharge for a service-connected disability.
- 3) The veteran must have limited income and a net worth that does not provide adequate maintenance.
- 4) The veteran must be permanently and totally disabled at the time of the application for pension.
- 5) The permanent and total disability must not be due to willful misconduct of the veteran.

To view the current means test rates go to the VA website at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/pen01.htm>

The Housebound and Aid & Attendance rate are higher levels of disability. Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in addition to monthly pension. This benefit may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for A&A when:

- The veteran requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday 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 is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that

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he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, OR,

- The veteran is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, OR,
- The veteran is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.
- Housebound is paid in addition to monthly pension. Like A&A, Housebound benefits may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for Housebound benefits when:
 - The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling and due to such disability, he/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises, OR
 - The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100 percent disabling and another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling.

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