

## Steps to Take When a Retired Marine Dies

1. REPORT THE DEATH TO DFAS at **(888) 332-7411** to stop retirement pay and avoid indebtedness. If the retired Marine was receiving pay from another source due to a disability from the VA or civil service retirement from the Office of Personnel Management, contact that agency to return the payment. If you fail to do this, you will have to repay it later.

You may also report the death online at [www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html). Additional information from DFAS is available at [www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html).

For families located overseas, the commercial number is **(216) 522-5955**, select option 3 to be directed to the appropriate representative.

NOTE: DFAS will forward a confirmed death listing to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMSR-6) for inclusion in an upcoming issue of this newsletter under the TAPS column.

2. Within 7-10 business days after reporting the death to DFAS, you should receive a letter containing the following documents:
- a. SF1174 Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of the Uniformed Service
  - b. Annuity account forms and instructions (if the decedent was enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan)
  - c. W-4P Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments
  - d. Direct Deposit form

Complete the forms you received with your letter and return them with a copy of the retiree's death certificate that includes cause of death to:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Retired Pay  
8899 E 56th Street  
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

If you need assistance completing your claim forms, please call (800) 321-1080.

3. REPORT SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ELECTION, *if applicable*. Designated annuitants will receive notification from DFAS if the deceased retired Marine elected SBP. If you are uncertain whether an election was made, call DFAS at (800) 321-1080.
4. UPDATE YOUR MILITARY ID CARD. Your status has changed, and as the survivor of a deceased Marine, your ID card must be updated to reflect it due to the Marine's death. Access your nearest ID site at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco> or call HQMC (MMSR-6) at (800) 336-4649 or (703) 784-9310 to obtain the sites closest to you..
5. NOTIFY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION at (800) SSA-1213 ([www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)) to apply for the \$255 death benefit, *if applicable*.
6. CONTACT THE VA at (800) 827-1000 FOR BURIAL AND OTHER VA BENEFITS, *such as VA disability payments*. A copy of the sponsor's DD 214 is required. Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for more information.
7. CONTACT THE U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT at (888)-767-6738 if the sponsor was receiving civil service pay.