



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

1 January 2021
Volume 2, Issue 1

VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/ Calendar



Second Economic Impact (Stimulus) Payment

You may be eligible to get a second Economic Impact Payment. In most cases, the IRS will automatically send you a payment.

Use Get My Payment to:

- Confirm that the IRS sent your second stimulus payment.
 - Confirm your payment type: direct deposit or mail.
- Data is updated once per day overnight, so there's no need to check back more than once per day.

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>

\$600 SECOND STIMULUS CHECK INCOME LIMITS

	AGI to receive full amount (both stimulus checks)	Second stimulus check upper income limit (AGI)	First stimulus check upper income limit (AGI)
Single tax filer	Under \$75,000	\$87,000	\$99,000
Head of household	Under \$112,500	\$124,500	\$146,000
Married, filing jointly	Under \$150,00	\$174,000	\$198,000

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<https://www.vfw.org/>



Congress has passed legislation making several changes to benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and sent it to President Donald Trump's desk to be signed into law.

The legislation, known as the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvements Act of 2020, makes several changes to existing benefit programs.

Here are some of the changes that may affect you:



Expansion of Medal of Honor Pension

The monthly pension paid to Medal of Honor awardees will be paid to their surviving spouse upon the death of the service member. Surviving spouses receiving Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) are not eligible. The current Medal of Honor pension is \$1,388.68 a month; it changes annually based on inflation.

Life Insurance

Beginning in 2023, the VA will be getting into the life insurance business.

The new law requires the VA to offer all disabled veterans under age 81 a whole-life policy by that date. The program will be similar to Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI); however, veterans must sign up for VGLI within 16 months after leaving the service. The new insurance program will have no such time limit.

Policies will be limited to a \$40,000 payout for most veterans when the program begins.

Home Loans for National Guard Members

National Guard members without active-duty service will be eligible to receive a VA home loan beginning in 2021. The new law makes Guard and Reserve members who have at least 90 days of service eligible for the home loan program. Thirty of those days must have been consecutive.

Currently, only Guard and Reserve members who had at least 90 days of active service are eligible for home loans.

Memorial Benefits

Within two years of the bill becoming law, the VA will begin paying the costs to transport a deceased veteran's remains to state and tribal veterans cemeteries. Currently, the VA will pay only to transport a deceased veteran's remains to a national veterans cemetery.

In two years, the VA will begin furnishing urns for storing the cremated remains of deceased veterans. Families will have the option of receiving a free headstone or burial urn, but not both. Currently, most veterans are eligible to receive a free headstone upon their death, but not an urn.

Also, veterans who receive the free VA-issued headstone and are buried in either a state or private cemetery will be able to have their spouse's name engraved on the headstone at no cost. Currently, the family must pay to have the spouse's name engraved on a VA-issued headstone. This will be effective for deaths going back to Oct. 1, 2019.

Native Americans and VA Copay

Within one year of the law becoming effective, all Native Americans will be exempt from any VA copay for health care or medication, regardless of whether the individual has a service-connected disability.



VA suspended copays, debt for some vets during pandemic. Those bills are due in January.

The Department of Veterans Affairs suspended copays for some veterans during the coronavirus pandemic. But those copays weren't waived -- they were only deferred until early next year.

That means veterans will likely receive a bill from VA in January, if they haven't already, which will outline the unpaid copays for medical care or prescriptions that will then be due in full.

Starting on April 6, VA stopped requiring veterans who normally would pay copays for appointments or prescriptions to pay for their part of that care. But VA didn't stop charging the veterans, merely pausing collection of those payments until a later date. Congress still requires they collect those debts, and it would likely take an effort from lawmakers to extend any debt relief further.

In emails to veterans this week, VA announced it would begin billing veterans in January 2021 for those deferred copays.

"The recovery of these copayments in January 2021 may cause a financial burden for our veterans," the emails read.

Veterans don't have to make those payments until January, but they can make them now if they want.

In January, veterans should receive a patient statement that includes new copay charges for any care or prescriptions from April 6, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2020, and any unpaid copays from before April 2020.

Veterans who can't make the payments when billing starts again are asked to call VA at 866-400-1238 or 844-698-2311 (TTY: 711). Department officials said they can work with veterans to determine debt relief options.

As of April 3, VA also suspended collecting newly established veteran debt and make it easier for vets to request extended repayment plans.

The president in April ordered VA to postpone all debt collection from veterans during the pandemic.

Those with questions about debt related to VA benefits are asked to contact the VA Debt Management Center at 800-827-0648 and those with debt related to VA health care can contact the Health Resource Center at 866-400-1238.



January 2021

February 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9
10	11 VFW Meeting	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.	19	20	21	22	23
24 VFW TX Mid-Winter	25	26	27 VPR - Vietnam Peace Accord	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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February 2021

March 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Super Bowl Sunday	8 VFW Meeting	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day) VPR - Sinking of the USS Maine	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 VPR - Operation Desert Storm	1	2	3	4	5	6

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