



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20420

In Reply Refer To: (216B)

Dear Coroner or Medical Examiner:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is conducting a survey to learn about the current methods used by Coroners and Medical Examiners to identify unclaimed decedents as veterans. Our goal is to improve our outreach efforts and make it easier for you to contact VA in order to verify the veteran status of unclaimed decedents. Your participation in this survey is very important to us.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

We are trying to establish procedures that make it easier for Coroners and Medical Examiners to contact us to verify the veteran status of identified unclaimed decedents.

PREVIOUS EFFORTS BY OUR REGIONAL OFFICES

In August 2001, our regional offices conducted preliminary outreach to Coroners and Medical Examiners.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY

What we hope to accomplish with this survey are better ways for VA to improve its outreach procedures that will help you in your efforts to identify unclaimed decedents as veterans.

WHAT WE NEED YOU TO DO

We are asking that you complete the questionnaire on the reverse of this letter. Please return it via fax to 1-301-608-3888 or if you prefer, use the self-addressed envelope.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SURVEY

VA has asked Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc. (SRBI) to conduct this survey. If you have any questions, please call a representative from Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc. at 1-800-659-5432, ext. 9755.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VA currently has a website about the Burial of Unclaimed, Indigent Veterans located at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Topics/Indigent/index.htm>. There is a direct link to VA's Program Manager for any feedback regarding this site or overall comments on the VA Burial of Unclaimed, Indigent Veteran Program. You can also reach VA by calling our toll-free number at 1-800-827-1000 to verify veteran status and for additional information in your local area.

Thank you for your participation.

Department of Veterans Affairs



QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CORONERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: VA will use the information you provide on this form to enhance outreach efforts to identify unclaimed deceased veterans. Information is requested by this form under the authority of 38 U.S.C. Chapter 23. The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). This form is completed on a voluntary basis. VA may disclose the information that you provide outside VA only if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22 Compensation, Pension, Education, and Rehabilitation Records - VA, published in the Federal Register.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: VA may not conduct or sponsor, and respondent is not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you have comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, call 1-800-827-1000 for mailing information on where to send your comments.

1. FROM **JANUARY 1997 TO AUGUST 2001**, HOW OFTEN DID YOUR OFFICE ATTEMPT TO VERIFY THE VETERAN STATUS OF IDENTIFIED, UNCLAIMED DECEDENTS? *(Check one)*

- ALL OF THE TIME *(If checked, skip to Item 3)*
 SOME OF THE TIME
 NEVER
 MOST OF THE TIME
 RARELY

2. PLEASE TELL US WHY WAS THE DETERMINATION OF VETERAN STATUS WAS NOT ATTEMPTED IN ANY/ALL IDENTIFIED, UNCLAIMED DECEDENTS DURING THIS PERIOD? *(Please specify)*

3. DURING THE **PAST 12 MONTHS**, APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY CASES OF IDENTIFIED, UNCLAIMED DECEDENTS DID YOU HAVE?

4. DURING THE **PAST 12 MONTHS**, APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY OF THE IDENTIFIED, UNCLAIMED DECEDENTS REFERRED TO IN ITEM 3 WERE VERIFIED AS VETERANS?

5. DOES YOUR OFFICE **CURRENTLY** KEEP RECORDS ON IDENTIFIED, UNCLAIMED DECEDENTS?

- YES
 NO

6. HOW LONG DO YOU KEEP RECORDS ON IDENTIFIED, UNCLAIMED DECEDENTS?

_____ MONTHS OR _____ YEARS

7. DOES YOUR OFFICE **CURRENTLY** ATTEMPT TO VERIFY VETERAN STATUS ON IDENTIFIED, UNCLAIMED DECEDENTS?

- YES
 NO *(If "No," skip to Item 9)*

8. WHO DOES YOUR OFFICE USUALLY CONTACT TO VERIFY VETERAN STATUS?

A	ORGANIZATION NAME	
B	TELEPHONE NUMBER <i>(Include Area Code)</i>	
C	NAME OF PRIMARY CONTACT <i>(If any)</i>	
D	CITY AND STATE <i>(If known)</i>	

9A. NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION

9B. YOUR NAME AND TITLE

9C. YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER *(Include Area Code)*

Please return the completed questionnaire as soon as possible
either by **fax** to 1-301-608-3888 or **mail** using the enclosed self-addressed envelope.