

This fact sheet provides information to help you understand the provisions of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), but is not a contract document. The basic statutory provisions of the SBP law are in **Chapter 73, Title 10, United States Code**.

Annuity for 'Forgotten Widows'

A small Survivor Benefit Plan annuity may be payable to qualified surviving spouses of members of the Uniformed Service who (1) retired from active duty before Sept. 21, 1972 and died before March 21, 1974; or (2) members of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces who had received their 20-year letter (qualified for retired pay, but for the fact that they were younger than 60) and died before Oct. 1, 1978.

The large majority of these forgotten spouses are widows although there may be a few widowers.

Surviving Spouse Qualifications

A qualified surviving spouse for purposes of this benefit is one who:

-- Was legally married to the member on the date of death AND was married to the member at the time of the member's retirement; or if married to the member after retirement, was married to the member for at least one year before the date of death; or was the parent of a child born of the marriage to the member.

and

-- Has never remarried.

Application Procedure

Payment of this annuity is not automatic. A properly completed DD Form 2769, Application for Annuity, Certain Military Surviving Spouses, has to be submitted with proper documentation which includes:

-- A certified true copy of the marriage certificate to the deceased member;

-- A certified true copy of the deceased member's death certificate;

-- A copy of the deceased retiree's final DD Form 214 (Certificate of Discharge), or a copy of a retirement order or copy of Notice of Retirement Eligibility, or other official service document showing the deceased member's retired status;

-- Other documents the applicant may feel pertinent.

Additional documents may be requested later if deemed necessary to adjudicate the claim. Mailing addresses are listed on the reverse of the application form and

depend upon the deceased member's branch of service.

Annuity Payable

If the application is approved, the annuity payable as of Dec 1, 2018 is \$262.96 per month; however, the amount of the annuity payable will be reduced by any amount paid to that surviving spouse for the same period under any of the following:

- Minimum Income Widow's allowance.

- Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan or SBP annuity based on the military service of this or any other deceased retiree.

- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs.