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and tomorrow

# Special Benefits for World War II Veterans

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## What's inside

Introduction 1

---

Changes that must  
be reported 2

---

How to report changes 8

---

Reviewing your eligibility  
for benefits 9

---

Countries to which we  
can't send payments 10

---

If your check is lost  
or stolen 11

---

Electronic payments 12

---

Contacting Social Security 13

---



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## Introduction

In most cases, you're reading this booklet because you've just started getting special veterans benefits from Social Security. Public Law 106-169, enacted on December 14, 1999, provides special benefits to certain World War II veterans.

This booklet explains what changes you must report so that we can make sure you get all the payments you're entitled to receive. The information in these pages tells you what changes you need to report and how to report those changes. Please read this booklet carefully and keep it in a safe place for future use.

The information in this booklet isn't intended to cover all the provisions of the law relating to special veterans benefits.

### **How to contact us if you have questions**

- If you live in the Philippines, you may contact the Social Security office at the Philippine American Embassy at **63-2-5301-2000**, extension **9**, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. You may also write to or visit this office, located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita 0930 Manila. The email address is *FBU.Manila@ssa.gov*.
- If you live in American Samoa, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, Samoa,

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or the Virgin Islands, contact the nearest U.S. Social Security office.

- If you live in Mexico, contact the nearest U.S. Social Security office or the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

If you live in any other country contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Visit ***[www.ssa.gov/foreign](http://www.ssa.gov/foreign)*** for a complete list of these offices.

If you're in the United States, you also may contact any U.S. Social Security office.

## Changes that must be reported

You are responsible for reporting all changes promptly. If you fail to report a change, you may not receive a payment that you may be entitled to receive or you may receive too much money and have to pay it back.

### **Change of address**

Tell us if your address changes so that your special veterans benefits aren't lost or delayed. Also, we need your current address so we can send you important information about your special veterans benefit payments or contact you if we have a question about your benefits. You must report any changes in your home address, even if your payments are being sent to a bank.

When you report a change of address to us or the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, please type or print all of the following

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information very carefully and clearly:

- Your name.
- Your Social Security number.
- The type of benefits you receive.
- Your new address, including your country and the ZIP or postal code.
- Your telephone number.

## **Visit to or return to the United States to live**

You must tell us if you go to the United States for a visit or to live. For special veterans benefits purposes, you're in the United States if you're in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands.

## **Visit or return to the United States to live**

If you visit the United States and stay for more than a full calendar month, you won't be considered to be residing outside the United States for any month **after** the full calendar month you're in the United States. You won't be entitled to any special veterans benefit payments until you leave the United States and re-establish your residence outside the United States.

A full calendar month means every minute of every day of the month. For example: You arrive in the United States on May 25 and stay throughout the entire month of June. On July 2, you leave to return to your home outside the United States. We consider you to

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have been in the United States for the full calendar month of June. Therefore, you won't be entitled to a special veterans benefit payment for July.

There are some special circumstances under which we may consider you to be residing outside the United States, even though you have been in the United States for more than one full calendar month.

For example:

- You came to the United States and attempted to return to your home abroad, but had to remain for more than one full calendar month because of circumstances beyond your control, such as sickness, a death in the family, or a transportation strike.
- You must remain in the United States for more than one full calendar month to attend a proceeding for the appeal of a Social Security decision on a claim.

You may be paid your special veterans benefits for any month in which these special circumstances occur. If you believe this applies to you contact your local Social Security office for further information.

## **Return to the United States to live**

If you visit the United States and then later decide to live there and not to return to your home abroad, you'll no longer be considered to be residing



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outside the United States. You won't be entitled to a special veterans benefit payment beginning with the earlier of the following:

- The month after the month in which you decide to live in the United States.
- The month after the first full calendar month you were in the United States.

If you return to the United States to live, you won't be entitled to a special veterans benefit payment for any month after the month in which you leave your home outside the United States.

You must report to your local Social Security office, whether you return to the United States to live or for a visit. You also must tell us if you previously reported a visit and then decided to live in the United States. Your local Social Security office also can help you if you want to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments.

## **Death**

Your family or friends should notify us immediately if you die so that incorrect payments won't be issued. If your payments were being deposited directly into an account in a bank, the bank also should be notified of your death so that it can return any payments received after your death.

Special veterans benefits are payable for the month of your death. For example, if you die any time in the month of June,

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the payment dated June 1 is payable. However, any payments received after your death or any uncashed benefit checks must be returned to the sender, because they aren't payable to your family or estate.

### **Inability to manage funds**

Some people who receive special veterans benefits can't manage their own funds. If this happens to you someone should let us know immediately. We can arrange to send your benefits to a representative payee. A representative payee is a relative, friend, or other interested person or institution who agrees to manage and use your benefits for your well-being. That person will be required to:

- Use the payments for your current needs.
- Save any payments not currently needed.
- Account for the use of the benefits when asked by Social Security.
- Let us know when he or she can no longer continue to act as your representative payee or if you no longer need a representative payee.

### **Benefit income changes**

Your special veterans benefits may be reduced if you receive other income. Other income may include Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability benefits, workers' compensation benefits, veterans

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compensation payments, annuities and pensions, Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) pensions, and foreign pensions. Any income you designate another person to receive for you may also be included. You must report any recurring periodic payments you receive regardless of what country issues the payments. You also must report if the amounts of these payments change.

### **Removal (deportation) from the United States**

You must tell us if you're removed (deported) from the United States. If you're removed (deported) from the United States for certain reasons you can't receive special veterans benefits.

### **Outstanding arrest warrant from the United States**

You must tell us if there's an outstanding warrant for your arrest for:

- A felony crime in the United States.
- A crime that is punishable by death or imprisonment for a term exceeding one year in U.S. jurisdictions that don't define crimes as felonies.

You can't receive special veterans benefits for any month in which you have an outstanding warrant for your arrest from the United States for certain types of crimes.

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## Probation or parole violation

You must tell us if you're in violation of a condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law of the United States. You can't receive special veterans benefits for any month in which you violate a condition of probation or parole.

## How to report changes

You can contact us in person, by mail, or by telephone to report the important changes that may affect your payments. Please contact one of the offices listed in the “**How to contact us if you have questions**” section if you are outside the United States. You also may contact any U.S. Social Security office.

When you contact us be sure to include all the following information:

- Your name and Social Security number.
- The type of benefits you receive.
- The change that you are reporting.
- The date the change happened.
- Your signature, address, and phone number, if you mail your report.

## Reviewing your eligibility for benefits

We'll review your case from time to time to verify whether there have been changes in your income, place of residence, or other circumstances that

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could affect your eligibility for special veterans benefits. The reviews take place every two years for beneficiaries under age 90 and every year for beneficiaries 90 or older. We may send you a letter asking you to come to the nearest Federal Benefits Unit or the Social Security office for a review, or we may conduct your benefit review by mail. For both types of reviews you'll need to complete and sign Statement for Determining Continuing Entitlement for Special Veterans Benefits (Form SSA-2010-F6). You also may need to have certain documents.

Examples of the types of documents you may need for the review are:

- Savings account, checking account, or other bank statements.
- Pay stubs or income tax returns.
- Proof of other income you receive (pensions, annuities, unemployment compensation, worker's compensation, etc.).
- Life insurance policies.
- Burial contracts.
- Household receipts (lease, utilities, etc.).

We'll let you know what documents you need. Your cooperation in this review is important. If you don't respond to our request your benefits could stop. You

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also may need to repay any benefits you received in error or you may not receive benefits you are due.

## Countries to which we can't send payments

U.S. Treasury Department regulations don't allow us to send payments to you or to a bank or a person for you, if you're in Cuba or North Korea. You can be paid any benefits that were withheld because you were in one of these countries if:

- You're a citizen or national of the United States.
- You're qualified for those payments.
- You leave that country and go to one to which we can send payments.

However, **if you aren't a citizen or national of the United States**, you can't be paid those benefits that were withheld because you were in Cuba or North Korea, even when you leave that country.

Generally, Social Security can't send payments to people in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Also, we can't send your payments to anyone else for you. However, we make exceptions for some eligible beneficiaries in countries with Social Security restrictions in place.

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To qualify for an exception, you must agree to the conditions of payment. One of the conditions is that you must appear in person at the U.S. embassy every three months to receive your benefits. Contact your nearest Social Security office, U.S. embassy or consulate for additional information about these conditions and whether you may qualify for an exception.

If you don't qualify for payment under this special procedure you can receive all the payments for which you were eligible (but which were withheld because of Social Security restrictions) once you leave that country and go to another country where we can send payments.

## If your check is lost or stolen

Delivery of checks outside the United States usually takes longer because of the longer distances and extra handling time. Delivery time varies from country to country, and your check may not arrive the same day each month. If you don't receive your check after a reasonable waiting period or if the check is lost or stolen, contact one of the offices in the **“How to contact us if you have questions”** section. You also may contact any U.S. Social Security office.

We'll replace your check as soon as possible, but please be aware that it will take some time.

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## Electronic payments

You may wish to have your special veterans benefits deposited directly into an account at a bank or other financial institution in the country where you live or in the United States. With direct deposit, keep us informed of any change in your current address.

Direct deposit has several advantages. You never have to worry about your check being delayed in the mail, lost, or stolen.

If you didn't sign up for electronic payments when you applied for benefits you should do so immediately. If you still receive checks the U.S. Department of the Treasury will contact you about complying with the requirement to receive payments electronically.

With direct deposit you receive your payment much faster — usually one to three weeks faster — than if you're paid by check. When we send payments by direct deposit to a financial institution, you also may avoid check cashing and currency conversion fees.

The Direct Express® card is a debit card you can use to access your benefits. You don't need a bank account. With the Direct Express® card program, we deposit your federal benefit payment directly onto your card account. Your monthly benefits will be available on your payment day — on time, every time. For more information,



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please visit [www.godirect.gov](http://www.godirect.gov), [www.USDirectExpress.com](http://www.USDirectExpress.com), or call the international number (collect) at **1-765-778-6290** for Direct Express® services. In the United States, you may call **1-800-333-1795**.

To determine if direct deposit or other form of electronic payment is available in the country where you live — or to sign up for direct deposit — contact the nearest U.S. embassy or U.S. consulate or U.S. Social Security office. If you live in the Philippines, please call the Social Security office at **63-2-5301-2000**, extension **9**, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, or write or visit this office, located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita 0930 Manila. You can also email this office at [FBU.Manila@ssa.gov](mailto:FBU.Manila@ssa.gov).

## Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to do business with us from anywhere, on any device, is to visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). There are several things you can do online: apply for benefits; get useful information; find publications; and get answers to frequently asked questions.

When you open a personal *my* Social Security account, you have more capabilities. You can review your *Social Security Statement*, verify your earnings, and get estimates of future benefits. You can also print a benefit verification letter, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement

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Medicare card, get a replacement SSA-1099/1042S, and request a replacement Social Security card (if you have no changes and your state participates).

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by tele-phone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**, if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

A member of our staff can answer your call from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Fri-day. We ask for your patience during busy periods since you may experience a high rate of busy signals and longer hold times to speak to us. We look forward to serving you.

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## **Notes**

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