

### **Meeting with your Veteran Service Officer – Burial and/or Survivor Benefits**

Our sincerest condolence on the loss of your veteran and our deepest gratitude for the veterans' service to our country. If this is your first visit, you will want to bring the following documentation with you to determine eligibility for benefits.

#### **You will need the following items to file your claim:**

- Original or certified copy of veteran's discharge papers (DD-214 or other)
- Copy of veterans' death certificate
- Power of Attorney as executor of Estate if applying for burial benefits and are NOT the next of kin

#### **For Survivors Benefits (Pension or DIC)**

- Copy of all marriage certificate(s) for veteran and surviving spouse
- Copy(s) of birth certificate(s) for each claimed dependent, including spouse
- Copy(s) of all divorce decree(s) for veteran and spouse
- Copy of guardianship document/court letters
- Copy of Social Security award letters showing current benefit rate
- Copy of pension or annuity award letter showing current benefit rate
- Any correspondence from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Social Security numbers for each claimed dependent
- Bank account and routing numbers (required for direct deposit of VA payments)

***NOTE: All documents (especially DD-214) should be either originals or certified copies. A claim may be filed without all of the required documents; however, all of the above information relevant to the claim will be needed before a decision can be made on your claim. Claims received without full information may take longer to process or be denied until the information is received. Claims based on a non-service-connected disability or death generally require active duty during a recognized wartime period. The CVSO can help request these documents if needed.***