

## **Free Advice on VA Pensions for Veterans or Survivors**

If you meet any of the following Non-service Connected Pension categories, especially those living in a Nursing Home or Assisted Living facility, please read to see if you may be eligible for this benefit.

Pension is a benefit paid to **wartime Veterans**, who have **limited or no income**, and who are **age 65 or older**, or, **if under 65, who are permanently and totally disabled**. Survivors of wartime Veterans may also be eligible for this program (with different criteria, however). Veterans and survivors who are more seriously disabled may qualify for **Aid and Attendance** OR **Housebound** benefits. These are benefits that are paid in addition to the basic pension rate.

### **What are Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits?**

**Aid and Attendance (A&A)** is a benefit paid in **addition** to monthly pension. This benefit may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for A&A when:

- The veteran requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting himself/herself from the hazards of his/her daily environment, **OR**,
- The veteran is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, **OR**,
- The veteran is a patient in a nursing home (and sometimes assisted living) due to mental or physical incapacity, **OR**,
- The veteran is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

**Housebound** is paid in addition to monthly pension. Like A&A, Housebound benefits may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for Housebound benefits when:

- The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, due to such disability, he/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises, **OR**,
- The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling.

\*A veteran cannot receive both Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits at the same time.

**Do not work with anyone who charges for these services and are not accredited Department of Veterans Affairs representatives.** The Better Business Bureau reminds Veterans, military personnel and their families to be wary of purchasing products or services that they can obtain *for free*.

**If you wish to find out more information for no charge on these programs or on any Veterans benefit, call the Eau Claire County Veterans Service Office (715-839-4744) for an appointment. Our representatives are fully accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs.**