

## **VA Aid and Attendance Benefit**

The Veterans Aid and Attendance benefit is a solution for veterans overwhelmed with the cost of long-term care. A wartime veteran or their surviving spouse with limited income may be eligible to receive a non-service connected pension for care.

Unique HomeCare Services is here to assist you. As a service to our veteran clients and their surviving spouses, we will assist you in determining your Aid and Attendance eligibility and your application at no cost to you.

### **VA Pensions**

#### **There are three levels of VA Pensions:**

- **Basic Pension / Improved Income:** For healthy veterans over the age of 65 with low incomes.
- **Aid and Attendance (A&A):** For veterans over the age of 65 that require assistance with their Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) The need for care does not have to be related to their military service.
- **Housebound:** For veterans with a disability rating of 100% that prevents them from leaving their home. The need for care does not have to be related to their military service.

The Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits provide additional monthly income over and above the Basic Monthly pension. To be eligible for either of these benefits, one must also meet the requirements for the Basic Pension.

Veterans cannot receive both VA Disability compensation and the VA Aid and Attendance Pension. However, they can receive the higher benefit of these two programs.

### **Eligibility for the Aid and Attendance Benefit**

The basic requirements for Aid and Attendance eligibility are:

- Active duty service for at least 90 consecutive days, including at least one full day during a time of war. Service in a combat zone is not a requirement.
- Qualifying for the VA Basic Pension.
- Meeting the clinical requirements.
- Meeting the financial requirements.

- Veterans cannot have been dishonorably discharged.

Widowed spouses of eligible veterans may also qualify if they meet the clinical and income requirements and have not remarried.

### **How Is Wartime Service Defined?**

Congress defines the wartime dates that the VA uses to determine if veterans qualify for benefits such as Aid and Attendance.

#### **These wartime dates are:**

- World War II: December 7, 1941 — December 31, 1946
- Korean Conflict: June 27, 1950 — January 31, 1955
- Vietnam Era: February 28, 1961 — May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period; otherwise August 5, 1964 — May 7, 1975
- Gulf War: August 2, 1990, through a future date, to be set by Presidential proclamation or by law. For VA benefits purposes, this time of war is still in effect.

Service in a combat zone is not a requirement. To qualify for Aid and Attendance only 1 day of active service is needed during any of the above wartime periods.

### **Basic Pension Requirements**

**In addition to 90 days active duty and at least one day of wartime service requirements, eligible veterans must also meet at least one of these criteria to qualify for the Basic Pension:**

- A) Veterans or their surviving spouses must be at least 65 or officially disabled if younger.
- B) Have a permanent and total disability. Veterans are eligible without a disability, but a higher benefit is available to those who are disabled.
- C) Receive Supplemental Security Income.
- D) Receive Social Security Disability Insurance.
- E) Reside in a nursing home.

**For more information please contact Unique HomeCare Services. We are headquartered in Norwood, Massachusetts and serve the surrounding communities with a full range of in-home care services.**