



Over the past two months I've spent time with several legal professionals, non-profit organizations and VA service officers to better understand a little known benefit for veterans. The Aid and Attendance pension benefit may be available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses who have in-home care or who live in nursing homes or assisted-living facilities. To qualify for the benefit, claimants must be in need of regular personal assistance or help with the activities of daily living. Here is an excerpt from a press release put out by The Department for Veterans Affairs:

"The basic criteria for the Aid and Attendance benefit include the inability to feed oneself, to dress and undress without assistance or to take care of one's own bodily needs. People who are bedridden or need help to adjust special prosthetic or orthopedic devices may also be eligible, as well as those who have a physical or mental injury or illness that requires regular assistance to protect them from hazards or dangers in their daily environment."

For a veteran or surviving spouse to qualify for this pension, the vet must have served at least 90 days of active military service - one day during a period of war - and have an honorable discharge. Veterans who entered active duty after September 8, 1980 (Oct. 6, 1981 for officers) must have completed 24 continuous months of military service. Veteran's and their surviving spouses are eligible to receive between \$1,056.75 to \$1,949.67 per month depending on status.

At The Home Option, we have established a great database of contacts to help veterans and their spouses evaluate their eligibility and apply for the pension. If you know anyone who might qualify, have them give us a call.

Sincerely,

Tyler Sutliff
President

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