



# The National Association of Medical Examiners®

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October 12, 2001

## **Re: Position Statement, Veteran Status of Unclaimed Deceased Indigents**

The National Association of Medical Examiners recommends that medical examiners and coroners employ policies and procedures to determine the veteran status of unclaimed deceased individuals and to facilitate applicable burial benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

NAME recommends that when a deceased person is identified and unclaimed for burial, the responsible medical examiner or coroner should contact the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to determine whether the deceased is a veteran who may be eligible for certain death benefits. In addition to the name and social security number, a service number, if known, indicates veteran status and should also be supplied to the DVA.

Approved by the NAME Board of Directors

October 12, 2001

President: Randy Hanzlick, M.D.