

# **VA Life Insurance Programs for Veterans and Servicemembers**



**Department of Veterans Affairs  
Insurance Service  
Philadelphia, PA  
March 2020**

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***Insurance Service  
Mission, Vision,  
and Goals***

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# **Insurance Service Mission and Vision**

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**The Department of Veterans (VA) Insurance Service mission is to provide high-value universally available life insurance to Servicemembers and their Dependents and to offer life insurance to service-connected Veterans who may not be able to obtain affordable coverage in the marketplace.**

**Our vision is to provide insurance services and products that are equal to or superior to those provided by commercial insurance companies at a cost that is competitive or less whenever possible. We also seek to provide fast and convenient service to all of our policyholders and their beneficiaries. Finally, our vision requires maintaining a diverse and knowledgeable workforce that is committed to providing courteous, prompt, and professional customer service that meets or exceeds insurance industry standards and norms.**

## **VA Insurance Service Core Values**

**VA Insurance Service shares VA’s five core values: integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence. The core values define “who we are,” our culture and how we care for Veterans. Our values are more than just words – they affect outcomes in our daily interactions with Veterans, Servicemembers, and their beneficiaries. The first letter of each word - Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence - creates a powerful acronym, “I CARE.” The I CARE acronym is a constant reminder of Insurance Service employees’ important role and commitment to those we serve.**

**The core values shape our strategy, guide the execution of our mission, and influence key decisions.**

## Administered Insurance Program Goals

### Fiscal Year 2019\* Customer Service Goals and Results:

Customer Service Goals For Fiscal Year 2019	Fiscal Year 2019 Actual
Disbursements (e.g. death claims, loans, etc.) will be processed on average within <b>4.0</b> workdays.	<b>3.7</b> workdays
Disbursements will be at least <b>99%</b> accurate.	<b>98.6%</b> accurate
Abandoned call rate will be no more than <b>2%</b> .	<b>1.5%</b> of calls were abandoned
Toll-free telephone blockage (busy signals) will be no more than <b>.05%</b> of call attempts.	<b>0.0%</b> of calls were blocked on the first try
Callers hold time for Insurance Specialist will not be more than <b>20</b> seconds.	<b>18</b> seconds hold time
High Veterans' satisfaction ratings on at least <b>95%</b> of services delivered.	<b>93.3%</b> of Veterans surveyed said they were satisfied or very satisfied
Low Veterans' satisfaction ratings on no more than <b>3%</b> of Veterans' ratings.	<b>2.8%</b> of Veterans surveyed said they were unsatisfied or very unsatisfied

\* October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

### Fiscal Year 2020\*\* Customer Service Goals:

Customer Service Goals For Fiscal Year 2020	
Disbursements will be processed on average within <b>4.0</b> workdays.	<p><b>Fiscal Year 2020 Actuals will be available at the end of 2020 and will be reported in the January 2021 edition of this booklet.</b></p>
Disbursements will be at least <b>99%</b> accurate.	
Abandoned call rate will be no more than <b>2%</b> .	
Toll-free telephone blockage (busy signals) will be no more than <b>.05%</b> of call attempts.	
Callers hold time for Insurance Specialist will not be more than <b>20</b> seconds.	
High Veterans' satisfaction ratings on at least <b>95%</b> of services delivered.	
Low Veterans' satisfaction ratings on no more than <b>3%</b> of Veterans' ratings.	

\*\* October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020

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# *Insurance Program Information*

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## **Important Note:**

All information, premium rates, etc.  
are up-to-date as of January 1, 2020.

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# Life Insurance Facts

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## What Is Life Insurance?

Life insurance is protection against financial loss resulting from death. It is an insurance company's promise to pay a beneficiary a specific amount of money in exchange for timely payment of premiums when an insured dies.

## What Is It Intended To Do?

Life insurance is intended to offer security in the event of the insured's death. Life insurance offers financial protection to survivors. It provides dependents with the necessary funds to settle financial obligations and to cover the loss of income created by the insured's death. Life insurance policies are usually purchased with a specific intention to cover financial losses such as a mortgage or an estate, educational costs, or retirement.

## Why Is Life Insurance Necessary?

People carry life insurance for many reasons. Among the most common are to pay off a mortgage, or personal debts (such as a car loan or credit cards), educational costs for young children, for beneficiaries to be able to maintain their current standard of living, for child care, for immediate financial needs, and/or to pay medical or funeral costs.

## How Might Life Insurance Needs Change Over Time?

If an individual has finished raising their family, has paid off their mortgage and no longer has major financial obligations, their life insurance needs will be lower and therefore they may choose to no longer carry life insurance; Or, they may elect to reduce their coverage amount to a level just sufficient to ensure that their survivors have enough money to pay final expenses (such as burial, medical, estate taxes, etc.). Conversely, a single individual leaving the uniformed services may think they do not need life insurance; however, major life events like marriage and children can make it necessary. It is important to be aware of application deadlines and eligibility requirements in order to ensure proper coverage.



## How Does Private Life Insurance Work?

All aspects of life involve risk, e.g., fire, theft, auto accidents, injury, and death. Insurance provides a means of transferring the financial consequences of certain risks from the individual to an insurance company. When an individual buys life insurance, they are grouped together with other people who are similar in age, sex, and health. Actuaries calculate how many people in each group are likely to die within a period of time. The more deaths there are in a group, the more

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money will be needed to pay death claims, and therefore, more money will have to be collected as premiums. Since younger people are less likely to die than older people, insurance premiums are generally lower at younger ages.

The insured pays the insurance company for their insurance policy each year. This money is called a premium. The insured also informs the insurance company who should get the insurance money if they (the insured) die. This is called designating a beneficiary. If the insured dies while their policy is active, the insurance company will pay the beneficiaries the policy amount. The “risk” of death is spread out among many people to prevent a financial loss. Considering many more people pay premiums as compared to the small number of people that die each year, Insurance companies are able to offer this financial security to their designated beneficiaries.

## **How Does VA Life Insurance Work?**

VA Insurance provides universally available life insurance to Veterans, Servicemembers, and their families at reasonable amounts and competitive premium rates, including traumatic injury protection insurance for Servicemembers. VA life insurance coverage is accessible to Veterans that may not be able to obtain insurance from the private insurance industry due to lost or impaired insurability as a result of their military service.

## **Individual vs. Group Policies**

Group life insurance is purchased by a well-defined group, such as a company or a professional organization. In the case of a company, employers own the group policy and offer coverage to eligible employees. Group insurance rates are based on the makeup of the group of employees or members who are covered and do not consider the health issues of any particular individual. Individual life insurance is most often purchased to insure one life. Individual life insurance can be temporary (for example, term) to cover a certain number of years, or permanent (for example, whole or universal life), which is intended to provide coverage until a person’s death.

The Individual life insurance programs that are administered by the Insurance Service cover Veterans who served prior to October 8, 1940, World War II, Korean Conflicts, and disabled Veterans of all eras. The Group Policy is administered by Prudential Insurance Company of America, and covers post-Vietnam Veterans, active duty and reserve, and members of the uniformed services and their families.

## **What Is An Actuary?**

An actuary is a person who is professionally trained in the technical aspects of insurance, particularly in the mathematics of insurance, such as calculating premiums, dividends, and proper policy reserves. Actuaries assist in estimating the cost of implementing new benefits or benefit enhancements. They also conduct statistical and financial studies. Life Insurance actuaries in the U.S. achieve professional status by passing a set of examinations given by the Society of Actuaries (SOA).

## **Where Does The VA Insurance Program Get Its Actuarial Expertise?**

The Insurance Service Actuarial Staff is located in Philadelphia. They are responsible for the financial management and actuarial soundness of the life insurance programs that are administered and supervised by VA Insurance Service.

The Actuarial Staff's responsibilities include the determination of premiums and dividends, determining policy values, developing mortality and insurance experience studies, setting appropriate reserve levels, and financial reporting. The Actuarial Staff is also responsible for the evaluation of the financial impact of legislative proposals that will affect VA life insurance programs. The Actuarial Staff prepares the financial statements for each VA life insurance program. These statements present the financial position of each program. Each year, independent auditors audit these statements to ensure that the statements accurately reflect the financial position of the programs. A favorable audit opinion means that the life insurance programs are able to meet their obligations to policyholders and that all policyholders are being treated equitably. For every fiscal year since 1992, the VA Insurance program has received an unqualified (favorable) audit opinion. This means that the independent auditors have determined that the financial statements accurately reflect the financial position of the insurance programs.

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# History of VA Life Insurance Programs

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## War Risk Insurance Act (1914)

The United States Government first became involved in the insurance business when war broke out in Europe in 1914. Although President Wilson declared America neutral, commercial merchant ships supplied war materials to the allies in the war against Germany. Owners of these merchant ships could not get marine insurance from private companies. Congress passed the War Risk Insurance Act on September 2, 1914, providing marine insurance protection for merchant ships supplying the allies.

America entered the war against Germany in April 1917. Life insurance issued by private life insurers either excluded protection against the extra hazards of war, or if such protection was included, the premium rates were much higher than the normal rate. The War Risk Insurance Act was amended on June 12, 1917, to cover merchant marine personnel. The Act was again amended on October 6, 1917, authorizing for the first time issuance of government life insurance to members of the armed forces. Over 4 million policies were issued during World War I.

## United States Government Life Insurance (1919-1951)

The United States Government Life Insurance program (USGLI) was established in 1919 and replaced War Risk policies. Individuals could keep this coverage after separation from service.

## National Service Life Insurance (1940-1951)

The National Service Life Insurance program (NSLI) was established in 1940 to meet the insurance needs of World War II military personnel and Veterans. Like USGLI coverage, insureds could keep their NSLI coverage after discharge from service.

## Servicemen's Indemnity Insurance (1951-1956)

In 1951, NSLI was replaced by Servicemen's Indemnity Insurance, which automatically covered active duty Servicemembers for \$10,000 at no cost to the individual. Servicemembers remained covered for 120 days after their discharge.

## Veterans' Special Life Insurance (1951-1956)

Discharged Servicemembers who had Servicemen's Indemnity Insurance could replace their coverage with Veterans' Special Life Insurance (VSLI). VSLI was established in 1951 to meet the insurance needs of Veterans who served during the Korean Conflict and the post Korean period through January 1, 1957.

In the early 1950's, private life insurance companies began to view the government's life insurance programs for Veterans as competition for their business and began lobbying Congress to remove the government from the life insurance business. As a result, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance program was closed to new issues at the end of 1956.

## **Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (1951-Present)**

The only new insurance issued between 1957 and 1965 to either Servicemembers or Veterans was Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI). This insurance was (and still is) available to Veterans with a VA service-connected disability.

## **Veterans' Reopened Insurance (1965-1966)**

Veterans' Reopened Insurance (VRI) was opened in 1965 to provide coverage for certain classes of disabled Veterans, mainly from World War II and the Korean Conflict. Members who had dropped their NSLI or VSLI coverage and who had a service-connected disability, or a non-service-connected disability that made them uninsurable, had a one-year period to apply for \$10,000 of coverage.

## **Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (1965-Present)**

To meet the insurance needs of Vietnam Era Servicemembers, the government entered into a cooperative effort with the private insurance industry. In 1965, the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program was established. This program provides low-cost term insurance protection to Servicemembers through a group policy issued by a private life insurance company. Under this policy, the government agrees to pay the claim costs resulting from the extra hazards of service. All of VA's and the private insurance company's costs are covered by the premiums deducted from Servicemembers' pay.

The SGLI program was expanded in 2001 to provide Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) and again in 2005 to provide Traumatic Injury Protection Insurance (TSGLI).

## **Veterans' Group Life Insurance (1974-Present)**

In 1974, the Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) program became available. Term life insurance protection is available after separation to Veterans who had SGLI while in the service.

## **Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (1971-Present)**

This program was established to provide mortgage protection life insurance to severely disabled Veterans who have received VA grants for the purchase of specially-adapted housing.

On July 30, 2008, VMLI coverage was extended to disabled active duty Servicemembers.

# Program Administration

## The Department of Veterans Affairs Insurance Service

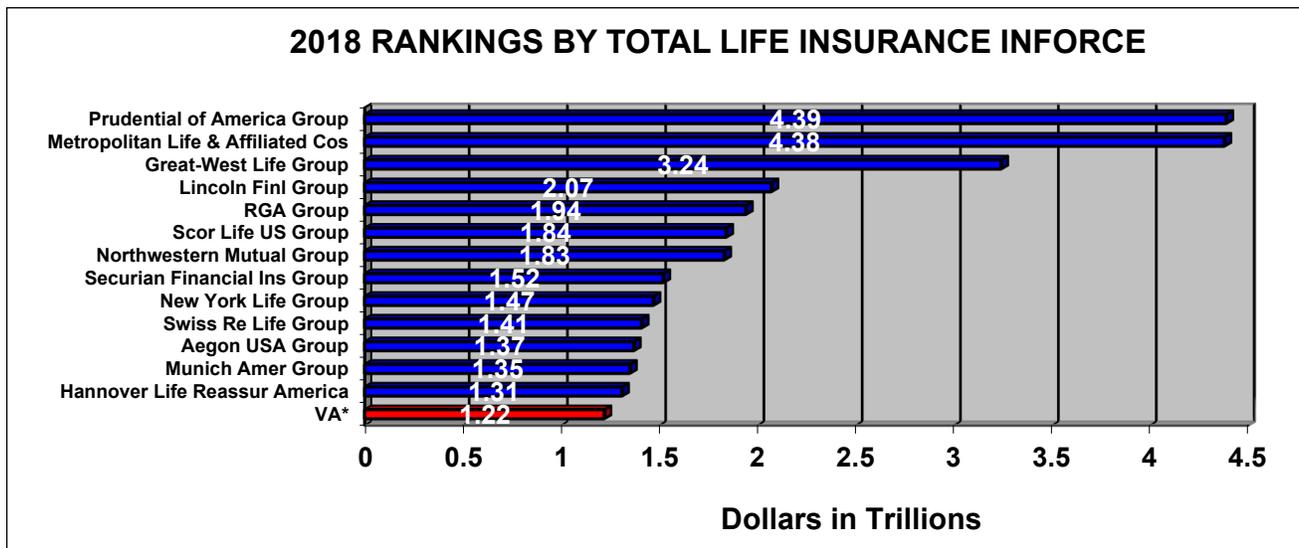
The Department of Veterans Affairs Insurance Service manages the six government life insurance programs (USGLI, NSLI, VSLI, VRI, S-DVI, and VMLI). Insurance Service is responsible for:

- Issuing new policies
- Ensuring premium collection
- Processing policy actions (change of address, loans, cash surrenders, etc.)
- Paying death and disability claims
- Providing toll-free telephone service
- Performing all actuarial functions
- Formulating policy, plans, and procedures and
- Evaluating performance of the insurance programs

**Note:** Designing, developing, installing, and maintaining application software, which supports the life insurance programs, is performed by the Transition Release and Support staff of the Office of Information and Technology, which is co-located with VA Insurance Service.

Insurance Service also supervises the SGLI and VGLI programs. SGLI and VGLI group life insurance policies are issued by Prudential Insurance Company of America to the Secretary of VA. SGLI and VGLI provide coverage for members of the uniformed services (including family members), reservists, and post-Vietnam Veterans. The Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI) is an administrative office created by Prudential to administer the day-to-day operations of SGLI and VGLI and is located in Roseland, New Jersey,

## Size of VA Insurance Programs



According to the most recent data available (calendar year 2018), VA was the **14<sup>th</sup> largest insurer** in the country with 5.9 million individuals insured for \$1.22 trillion. This figure includes the coverage provided under all of the Insurance programs for which VA is responsible.

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# *Insurance Program Descriptions*

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- **Individual Policies** are administered by VA Insurance Service.
  - United States Government Life Insurance
  - National Service Life Insurance
  - Veterans' Special Life Insurance
  - Veterans' Reopened Life Insurance
  - Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance
  - Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance
  
- **Group Policy** programs are administered on behalf of VA by the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.
  - Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance
    - ◇ Members of the Uniformed Services
    - ◇ Traumatic Injury Protection
    - ◇ Spouse and Child Life Insurance
  - Veterans' Group Life Insurance

## INSURANCE SUMMARY (As of September 30, 2019)

Program	Policy Prefix	Open Era Issue Dates	Number of Individuals Insured	Average Age	Deaths per 1,000	For More Information See Page
<b>INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS</b>						
USGLI	K	January 1, 1919 to April 24, 1951	6	99.5	426.7	17
NSLI	V	October 8, 1940 to April 24, 1951	142,185	90.6	176.5	19
	H	August 1, 1946 to December 31, 1949	N/A	N/A	N/A	
VSLI	RS, W	April 25, 1951 to December 31, 1956	72,524	87.1	113.4	21
VRI	J, JR, JS	May 1, 1965 to May 2, 1966	5,589	91.3	196.8	23
S-DVI	RH	April 25, 1951 to Present	250,082	63.6	38.9	25
VMLI	N/A	August 11, 1971 to Present	2,592	59.8	114.0	29
<b>GROUP PROGRAMS</b>						
<b>SGLI</b>						
Member	N/A	September 29, 1965 to Present	2,137,500	29.7	0.72	32
Spouse	N/A	November 1, 2001 to Present	945,000	33.5	0.59	41
Child	N/A	November 1, 2001 to Present	1,680,000	8.3	0.63	41
TSGLI	N/A	December 1, 2005 to Present	2,055,500	29.7	N/A	38
VGLI	N/A	August 1, 1974 to Present	432,940	53.5	8.97	45
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS INSURED</b>					<b>5,668,418*</b>	
<b>TOTAL FACE AMOUNT OF INSURANCE</b>					<b>\$1,173,876,252,207**</b>	

\*TSGLI is a traumatic injury protection rider under SGLI and is, therefore, already included in the total number of individuals insured.

\*\*Total Face Amount of Insurance includes TSGLI coverage.

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# United States Government Life Insurance - USGLI (Policies Prefixed by K)

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## History of the USGLI Program

The United States Government Life Insurance program was the government's first venture into life insurance. During WWI, the U.S. provided Marine Insurance to protect the interests of ship owners and merchants who were providing supplies to the allies in Europe. USGLI was the natural outgrowth of this Marine Insurance. The program was established to meet the needs of World War I Servicemembers and Veterans but remained open to Servicemembers and Veterans until October 8, 1940. The government became a self-insurer since private insurance companies were unwilling to assume the unpredictable risks associated with war. By establishing this program, Congress intended to avoid the financial burden imposed on the government by the pension programs that were established after previous wars. The government became the largest life insurer in the U.S with the coverage provided by this program.

## Premiums Are No Longer Paid

The USGLI program operates from a strong financial position.

- We currently have \$2.0 million in trust fund reserves set aside.
- These funds are invested in U.S. Treasury Securities and policy loans. The rate of return on investments as of September 30, 2019 was 2.00%.
- Because of the strong financial position of this program, all USGLI policies were declared paid-up as of January 1, 1983. *VA Insurance Service no longer collect premiums from policyholders in the USGLI program.*

## Dividends Paid to USGLI Policyholders

Dividends will be paid on the six remaining USGLI policies in 2020.

- Reserves set aside in the trust funds continue to earn interest each year in excess of what is needed to pay future claims, allowing us to pay dividends.
- In 2020, we will pay approximately \$400 in dividends to USGLI policyholders. This is an average of \$67 per Veteran.

## Disability Provisions

USGLI policies contain a provision that matures the policy upon the insured's total permanent disability. Under this provision:

- Proceeds are payable in installments of \$5.75 monthly per \$1,000 of insurance, as long as the insured remains totally and permanently disabled, with 240 payments guaranteed.
- If the insured dies before all guaranteed installments have been paid, the balance is payable to his or her named beneficiary.
- No additional premium is charged.
- There is no limit as to the age at which a disability may occur.

As of September 30, 2019, there are no longer any USGLI policyholders receiving monthly payments under this provision.

<b>USGLI Historical Information</b>	
Opened _____	January 1, 1919
Closed (Non-WWI Veterans) _____	October 8, 1940
Closed (WWI Veterans) _____	April 24, 1951
Number of Policies Issued ( <i>new issues and conversions from War Risk Insurance</i> ) _____	1,153,000
Face Value of Policies Issued _____	\$4,857,600,000
Average Face Value of Policies Issued _____	\$4,213
<b>USGLI Current Information</b>	
Number of Veterans Insured _____	6
Total Amount of Insurance in Force _____	\$17,000
Average Coverage Per Veteran _____	\$2,833
Average Attained Age _____	99.5
Average Annual Death Rate _____	426.7 per 1,000
Total Investments of the USGLI Fund _____	\$1,981,616
Rate of Return on Investments _____	2.00%
Total Disbursements FY 2019 _____	\$913,725
Dividend Distribution 2020 _____	\$400
Average 2020 Dividend Per Veteran _____	\$67

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## **National Service Life Insurance - NSLI (Policies Prefixed by V or H)**

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### **History of the NSLI Program**

Most of the policyholders who have insurance under this program served during World War II. The program opened October 8, 1940, when it became clear that large-scale military inductions were imminent. Over 22 million policies were issued under the NSLI program. This program remained open until April 25, 1951, when two new programs were established for Korean War Servicemembers and Veterans.

The NSLI program provides for:

- A maximum amount of \$10,000 of basic insurance coverage;
- Individual policies issued to each policyholder;
- Certain contractual rights whereby a policyholder can bring a suit against VA in a U.S. District Court. Administrative decisions of the Board of Veterans Appeals can be appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

### **Premium Rates “Capped” For Term Policies**

NSLI “V” term policies can be renewed indefinitely. At the older ages, premium rates increase significantly to cover the higher death rates at those ages. Although we continually encouraged term policyholders to convert to a permanent plan of insurance (which has fixed premium rates), many policyholders retained their term coverage.

As term policyholders reached their sixties and seventies, they found it difficult to pay the high premium rates. This situation received much Congressional interest as policyholders petitioned their representatives for financial relief. In 1984, the Actuarial Staff developed a partial solution to the problem by “capping” premium rates at the age 70 rate. Capping means that a term policyholder’s premium rate will never increase, in this case for policyholders, over the age of 70.

Effective September 11, 2000, “capped” NSLI term policies receive a termination dividend if a policy lapses, or if the policyholder voluntarily cancels their policy. The termination dividend will be used to purchase paid-up additional whole life insurance.

### **Dividends Paid to NSLI Policyholders**

After the reserve level requirements are determined by the Actuarial Staff, any surplus funds are returned to policyholders as a dividend.

- In 2020, a total of \$28.0 million in dividends will be distributed to NSLI policyholders, an average dividend of \$211 per Veteran.
- The 2020 average dividend is almost 12% higher than that paid in 2019.

## Disability Provisions

All NSLI policies provide for

- A waiver of premiums at no extra cost if the insured became totally disabled for six months or longer prior to age 65.
- An optional Total Disability Income Provision covering disability before age 65, providing a monthly income of up to \$100 per month, as long as total disability continues.

### NSLI Historical Information

Opened _____	October 8, 1940
Closed _____	April 24, 1951
Number of Policies Issued _____	22,177,000
Face Value of Policies Issued _____	\$173,765,000,000
Average Face Value of Policies Issued _____	\$7,835

### NSLI Current Information

Number of Veterans with 5-year Term Policies _____	34,046
Number of Veterans with Permanent Plan Policies _____	108,139
Total Amount of Insurance in Force _____	\$2,055,534,381
Average Coverage Per Veteran _____	\$14,457
Average Attained Age _____	90.6
Average Annual Death Rate _____	176.5 per 1,000
Total Investments of the NSLI Fund _____	\$2,541,932,484
Rate of Return on Investments _____	3.66%
Total Disbursements FY 2019 _____	\$727,831,552
Dividend Distribution 2020 _____	28,200,000
Average 2020 Dividend Per Veteran _____	\$211

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## **Veterans' Special Life Insurance - VSLI (Policies Prefixed by RS or W)**

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### **History of the VSLI Program**

This Insurance program was established in 1951 to meet the insurance needs of Veterans who served during the Korean Conflict and the post-Korean period through January 1, 1957. During this period, all Servicemembers on active duty were covered for \$10,000, at no cost, under a program known as Servicemen's Indemnity. They remained covered for 120 days after their discharge. The VSLI program allowed these newly discharged Veterans to apply for \$10,000 of contract term insurance. Application had to be made during the 120-day period during which they remained covered by Servicemen's Indemnity. It was during this time that representatives of the commercial insurance industry began a major lobbying effort to get the government out of the insurance business because the programs were viewed as competition. As a result, the VSLI program was closed to new issues at the end of 1956 and coverage for individuals in the services was terminated. Approximately 800,000 VSLI policies were issued between 1951 and 1957.

### **Features of "RS" and "W" Policies**

There are two types of VSLI policies:

#### **RS - five-year level premium term policies:**

- These were the original policies available in this program.
- RS policies can remain in force as 5-Year Level Premium Term beyond the age of 50.
- To provide financial relief from the high premium rates at advanced ages, RS term premiums were capped at the age 70 renewal rate effective May 1, 1989. This means that the annual premium for these policies will not exceed \$68.16 per \$1,000 of coverage.
- Effective September 11, 2000, "capped" VSLI term policies receive a termination dividend if a policy lapses, or if the policyholder voluntarily cancels their policy. The termination dividend will be used to purchase paid-up additional whole life insurance.

#### **W - five-year level premium term policies:**

- A 1959 legislative change permitted RS policyholders to convert to permanent plans or to exchange their policies for a special lower premium term policy. These newer policies are identified by the prefix W.
- To avoid W term policyholders from keeping their policies into advanced ages (when premiums are very high), these policies had to be converted to permanent plans before age 50, or coverage ceased. There are no longer any W term policyholders.

## Dividends Paid to VSLI Policyholders

In 2020, a total of \$15.1 million in dividends will be distributed to VSLI policyholders.

- This is an average dividend of \$215 per Veteran.
- The 2020 average dividend is 14% lower than that paid in 2019.

## Disability Provisions

All VSLI policies provide for:

- A waiver of premiums at no extra cost based on the insured's total disability lasting six months or longer and starting before age 65.
- An optional Total Disability Income Provision covering disability before age 65, providing a monthly income of \$10 per \$1,000 of insurance, was available at an extra cost.

### VSLI Historical Information

Opened _____	April 25, 1951
Closed _____	December 31, 1956
Number of Policies Issued _____	803,111
Face Value of Policies Issued _____	\$7,349,178,500
Average Face Value of Policies Issued _____	\$9,151

### VSLI Current Information

Number of Veterans with 5-year Term Policies (RS) _____	4,287
Number of Veterans with Permanent Plan Policies (W) _____	68,237
Total Amount of Insurance in Force _____	\$1,188,795,925
Average Coverage Per Veteran _____	\$16,392
Average Attained Age _____	87.1
Average Annual Death Rate _____	113.4 per 1,000
Total Investments of the VSLI Fund _____	\$1,414,925,031
Rate of Return on Investments _____	4.07%
Total Disbursements FY 2019 _____	\$217,133,842
Dividend Distribution 2020 _____	\$15,100,000
Average 2020 Dividend Per Veteran _____	\$215

**QUESTIONS?**

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## Veterans' Reopened Insurance - VRI (Policies Prefixed by J, JR, or JS)

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### History of the VRI Program

In 1964, Congress enacted legislation providing for a limited reopening of NSLI and VSLI. Beginning May 1, 1965, Veterans who had been eligible to obtain insurance between October 8, 1940 and January 1, 1957, could once again apply for government life insurance. They had one year to apply for this “reopened” insurance that was available *only* to disabled Veterans. Approximately 228,000 VRI policies were issued. No term insurance policies were issued in this program, and there are no longer any JS policies in force.

### Premium Rates

Premium rates for this insurance depend on the nature and severity of the disability.

If the disability is:	The premium rate:
Service-connected	varies from standard to a maximum of two to three times the standard
Non-service-connected but serious	varies from two to three times the standard to a maximum of \$50 per month plus the standard monthly premium rate per \$1,000 of insurance

Favorable claim rates and rising interest levels made possible the following premium changes and reductions:

Effective Date	VRI Premium Rate Changes
October 1970	Premium rates were reduced by an average of 18 percent for all policies with "J" prefixes (those policies issued at standard rates).
October 1976	Premium rates were reduced by an average of 22 percent for all "J" policies and 34 percent for all "JR" policies.
October 1977	All premium paying "JS" policies were declared fully paid-up.
May 1989	The administrative cost premium of 42 cents a month per policy was eliminated. This additional premium was designed to fund the administrative costs of the program. However, when the excess earnings of the program became sufficient to fund the program costs, the additional premium was no longer necessary.

### Dividends Paid to VRI Policyholders

The VRI program began paying dividends in 1980 to more equitably distribute the surplus earnings of the program.

- In 2020, a total of \$1.0 million in dividends will be paid to VRI policyholders. This is an average of \$193 per Veteran.

**QUESTIONS?**

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## Disability Provisions

VRI policies provide for:

- A waiver of premium at no extra cost based on the insured's total disability lasting six months or longer and starting prior to age 65.
- An optional total disability income benefit covering disability occurring before age 65 for "J" policyholders. (This is *not* available on policies prefixed by "JR" or "JS".) Payments are made at the rate of \$10 monthly per \$1,000 of coverage, as long as the insured remains totally disabled.

### VRI Historical Information:

Opened _____	May 1, 1965
Closed _____	May 2, 1966
Number of Policies Issued _____	227,882
Face Value of Policies Issued _____	\$1,601,504,500
Average Face Value of Policies Issued _____	\$7,028

### VRI Current Information:

Number of Veterans Insured _____	5,589
Total Amount of Insurance in Force _____	\$66,436,044
Average Coverage Per Veteran _____	\$11,887
Average Attained Age _____	91.3
Average Annual Death Rate _____	196.8 per 1,000
Total Investments of the VRI Fund _____	\$86,552,963
Rate of Return on Investments _____	3.85%
Total Disbursements FY 2019 _____	\$22,865,490
Dividend Distribution 2020 _____	\$1,020,000
Average 2020 Dividend Per Veteran _____	\$193

QUESTIONS?

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## Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance - S-DVI (Policies Prefixed by “RH” or “ARH”)

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### History of the S-DVI Program

In addition to Veterans' Special Life Insurance, which was provided to healthy Veterans, the Insurance Act of 1951 also established the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) program for Veterans with service-connected disabilities. S-DVI is open to Veterans **separated from the service on or after April 25, 1951, who receive a service-connected disability rating of 0% or greater.** New policies are still being issued under this program. During fiscal year 2019, 14,074 new S-DVI policies were issued.

### Eligibility Requirements For S-DVI Insurance (“RH”)

To be eligible for S-DVI, a Veteran must have:

1. Received other than a dishonorable discharge.
2. Been released from active duty on or after April 25, 1951.
3. **RECEIVED A VA RATING FOR A *NEW* SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY WITHIN THE LAST 2 YEARS.**
  - The Veteran does not need to have a 100% rating to be eligible. Veterans who receive a new rating of even 0% are eligible for the coverage.
  - The Veteran must apply for the insurance within two years from the date they are notified that VA service-connection has been established.

### Eligibility Requirements for Supplemental S-DVI (“Supplemental RH”)

The Veterans’ Benefit Act of 2010, which was enacted on October 13, 2010, provided an increase in the maximum amount of Supplemental Service-Disabled Veterans’ Insurance from \$20,000 to \$30,000, effective October 1, 2011. All eligible Veterans were able to increase their coverage amounts. ***Premiums may not be waived on this supplemental coverage.*** S-DVI policyholders are eligible for this supplemental coverage if:

1. They are granted a waiver of premiums on their S-DVI policy due to total disability.
2. They apply for the coverage within one year from notice of the grant of waiver.
3. They are under age 65.

Between December 1992 and September 2019, VA has approved 56,612 applications for “Supplemental RH.”

## Gratuitous S-DVI ("ARH")

Congress enacted legislation in 1959 to protect Veterans who become incompetent from a service-connected disability while eligible to apply for S-DVI, but who die before an application is filed.

"ARH" insurance is:

1. Issued posthumously.
2. Payable to a preferred class of the Veteran's relatives and,
3. Payable in a lump sum only.

The conditions for eligibility and payment of Gratuitous S-DVI are discussed in greater detail on page 80.

## Premiums for S-DVI Insurance

To provide financial relief from the high premium rates at advanced ages, "RH" term premiums were "capped" at the age 70 renewal rate effective November 1, 2000. This means that the annual premium for these policies will not exceed \$69.73 per \$1,000 of coverage.

Premiums charged for S-DVI coverage are:

- Based on the rates a healthy individual would have been charged when the program began in 1951.
- Waived for totally disabled Veterans (52% of S-DVI policies are on premium waiver).
- Insufficient to pay all the claims because the program insures many Veterans with severe disabilities.
- Supplemented on an annual basis by Congressional appropriations.

There are no reserves or surplus funds in this program. Therefore, dividends are *not* paid.

## Disability Provisions

S-DVI policies (except supplemental coverage) provide for a waiver of premiums benefit at no extra cost. To qualify for this waiver, the insured must incur a total disability that lasts six months or longer and starts before age 65.

Additionally, waiver can still be obtained even if the total disability commenced prior to the effective date of the policy, provided that the total disability is service-connected. This latter provision is only applicable to S-DVI policies. The optional Total Disability Income Provision is not available under this program.

## Apply for S-DVI Insurance Online

Veterans can apply for Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance by going to the VA website at [www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/s-dvi/](http://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/s-dvi/).

- Veterans should scroll down the page until they get to the “How do I get these benefits?” section and click the link “Apply for basic S-DVI online.”

The application will walk the Veteran through the application step-by-step. The Veteran can review different insurance plans and calculate premiums. The website application will help the Veteran determine if they are eligible for this insurance. The application can be saved on our secure server if the Veteran is not able to complete it in one session. The application is submitted electronically via our secure server. The application can also be printed and mailed or faxed to us.

## Application Forms

The forms listed below are to be used in the following situations:

<i>If the Veteran</i>	<i>The Veteran should file</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• would like to apply for S-DVI coverage</li> <li>• has a service-connected disability <i>and</i></li> <li>• is applying for S-DVI within two years of the granting of that disability</li> </ul>	VA Form 29-4364 (Application for Service-Disabled Insurance)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has been awarded S-DVI coverage</li> <li>• became totally disabled (unable to work) prior to his/her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday</li> <li>• would like to apply for a Waiver of Premiums</li> </ul>	VA Form 29-357 (Claim for Disability Insurance Benefits)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has been awarded S-DVI coverage</li> <li>• is receiving a waiver of premiums</li> <li>• is under age 65 and within one year of the granting of waiver of premiums <i>and</i></li> <li>• would like up to an additional \$30, 000 in coverage (“Supplemental RH”)</li> </ul>	VA Form 29-0188 (Application for Supplemental Service Disabled (RH) Life Insurance)

*To expedite the processing of their application, the Veteran should include a copy of the latest rating decision if they have received it from VA.*

Each form is available on the VA insurance website by locating “I Want To” and clicking “Download Insurance Forms.”

## S-DVI Historical Information

Opened _____	April 25, 1951
Number of Policies Issued _____	694,957
Face Value of Policies Issued _____	\$7,011,634,619
Average Face Value of Policies Issued _____	\$10,089

## S-DVI Current Information

Number of Veterans with 5-year Term Policies _____	49,845
Number of Veterans with Permanent Plan Policies _____	200,237
Total Amount of Insurance in Force _____	\$2,934,149,913
Average Coverage Per Veteran _____	\$11,773
Average Attained Age _____	63.6
Average Annual Death Rate _____	38.9 per 1,000
Total Disbursements FY 2019 _____	\$226,883,231
Percentage of Policies on Premium Waiver _____	52%

**QUESTIONS?**

Visit our Website: [www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)  
Call us Toll Free: 1-800-669-8477

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# Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance

## VMLI

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### History of the VMLI Program

The Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) program began in 1971 and was designed to provide financial protection to cover eligible Veterans' home mortgages in the event of death. Effective July 30, 2008, the program was expanded to offer coverage to disabled active duty Servicemembers and Veterans who suffer from a severe burn injury. In the strict sense of the word, this is mortgage insurance. VMLI is issued to those severely disabled Veterans and Servicemembers who have received grants for Specially-Adapted Housing from VA. These grants are issued to Veterans and Servicemembers whose movement is substantially impaired because of their disability.

The Veterans' Benefit Act of 2010, which was enacted on October 13, 2010, increased the maximum amount of VMLI allowed an eligible Veteran or Servicemember from \$90,000 to \$200,000. The increase to \$200,000 became effective on January 1, 2012. All eligible Veterans were able to increase their coverage amounts. The insurance is payable if the insured dies before the mortgage is paid off. We will pay the amount of money still owed on the mortgage up to \$200,000. *The insurance is payable only to the mortgage lender.*

### Eligibility for VMLI

The insurance is restricted to those Veterans or Servicemembers who receive grants for the purchase of Specially-Adapted Housing under the authority of title 38, US Code, chapter 21. Grants are available to Veterans who are entitled to compensation for service-connected, permanent and total disabilities for one or more of the following conditions:

- 1) Loss or loss of use of both legs;
- 2) Blindness in both eyes plus the loss or loss of use of one leg;
- 3) Loss or loss of use of one leg with residuals of organic disease or injury that affects balance or propulsion;
- 4) Loss or loss of use of one leg together with the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity that affects balance or propulsion;
- 5) Severe Burn Injury.

On December 6, 2002, Congress passed legislation allowing insureds to retain their VMLI coverage past age 70. Previously VMLI coverage ceased when the insured reached age 70.

**Note:** Coverage cannot be issued after age 69.

## Coverage Amounts

VMLI coverage decreases as the insured's mortgage falls below \$200,000. This reduced coverage cannot be reinstated. For example, if the insured has a \$250,000 mortgage on his or her home, then:

- The maximum amount of VMLI insurance coverage is \$200,000.
- Coverage will remain at \$200,000 until the mortgage balance goes below \$200,000, at which time the insurance coverage will begin decreasing at the same rate as the mortgage amount.
- As the mortgage balance decreases below \$200,000, the difference between \$200,000 and the mortgage balance is "used up" and cannot be reinstated for that particular home.
- If the home is sold and a new home is purchased, the Veteran becomes eligible once again for the maximum amount of coverage.

## Payment of VMLI proceeds

- The insurance is payable at the death of the Veteran or Servicemember *only to the mortgage holder*.
- No insurance is payable if the mortgage is paid off before the death of the insured or if it was paid off by other mortgage insurance before the VMLI payment is made.
  - \* This is important to consider if the Veteran or Servicemember is thinking of purchasing mortgage insurance in addition to VMLI, or if he or she has obtained a mortgage through a state Veterans program that requires them to enroll in the state's insurance program (California and Oregon have such programs). Some mortgage insurance programs will pay the outstanding mortgage balance first and *then* pay any remaining money directly to a named beneficiary. Others, like VMLI, will pay the outstanding mortgage balance only to the mortgage company - no further payments are made. Therefore, if there is duplicate coverage, a Veteran's or Servicemember's next of kin would be encouraged to contact VA **first** for the payment of VMLI benefits and *then* file a claim with other programs. However, there is no guarantee of an additional payment even if the VMLI insurance is paid first.
- If title to the property is shared by the Veteran or Servicemember in any ownership other than joint ownership (such as tenancy in common, or fractional shares), then the insurance coverage is only for the percentage of the title that is in the insured's own name.

The insurance will be canceled for any of the following conditions:

- 1) The mortgage is paid in full.
- 2) Termination of the insured's ownership of the property securing the loan.
- 3) The request of the insured to cancel the VMLI coverage.
- 4) Failure of the insured to submit required information.
- 5) The insured stops paying the premiums.

## VMLI Premium Rates

Effective October 1, 2005, VMLI premiums were automatically reduced for virtually all VMLI policyholders by an average of 35 percent.

VMLI premiums are determined by the insurance age of the Veteran or Servicemember, the outstanding balance of the mortgage at the time of application, and the remaining length of time left on the mortgage. Veterans or Servicemembers who desire insurance will be advised of the required premium when it is determined.

Premiums *must* be paid by deduction from the Veteran's monthly compensation or pension payments, if the Veteran is receiving such payments. If such payments are not being received, the Veteran or Servicemember may make direct payments on a monthly, quarterly, semiannual, or annual basis to the VA Insurance Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

VMLI Program	
Opened _____	August 11, 1971
Number of Insureds _____	2,592
Total Amount of Insurance in Force _____	\$358,481,444
Average Coverage Per Insured _____	\$138,303
Average Attained Age _____	59.8
Average Annual Death Rate _____	114.0 per 1,000

QUESTIONS?

Visit our Website:

[www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)

Call us Toll Free:

1-800-669-8477

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# Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance SGLI

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## History of the SGLI Program

The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program was established in 1965 for Vietnam Era Servicemembers. Unlike the previously described life insurance programs whose day-to-day operations the Department of Veterans Affairs Insurance Center administers, the SGLI program is supervised by VA, but is administered by Prudential Insurance Company of America's Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance or OSGLI, under the terms of a group insurance contract. This program provides low-cost term insurance protection to Servicemembers.

## Eligibility for SGLI

Full-time coverage is available for:

- Active duty members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.
- Commissioned members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Public Health Service.
- Cadets or midshipmen of the four United States Service Academies.
- Cadets or midshipmen of the Reserve Officers Training Corps engaged in authorized training and practice cruises.
- Ready Reservists or National Guard scheduled to perform at least 12 periods of inactive training per year.
- Members of the Individual Ready Reserves who volunteer for assignment to a mobilization category.

Part-time coverage is available for eligible members of the Reserves and ROTC who do not qualify for full-time coverage.

The participation rate for fiscal year 2019 was 99% for active duty and 94% for the Ready Reserves/National Guard.

## Coverage Amounts

Effective September 1, 2005, the maximum SGLI coverage was increased to **\$400,000**. This coverage is:

- Automatic at the time of entry into a period of active duty or reserve status.
- Available only in \$50,000 increments up to the maximum of \$400,000 of insurance.

Members with full-time SGLI may decline coverage or may elect reduced coverage through the SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES). Part-time SGLI members should complete form SGLV-8286 to make coverage changes. However, if such a member later wishes to obtain or increase coverage, proof of good health will be required.

**Note:** Reservists called to active duty are **automatically** insured for \$400,000 regardless of whether or not they had previously declined coverage or elected a lesser amount of coverage while on reserve duty.

## SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES)

Servicemembers with full-time SGLI coverage no longer have to complete the paper form SGLV-8286 to make changes to their coverage or beneficiary elections. Now Servicemembers can use the online system, SOES, to manage the amount of SGLI and Spousal coverage and to designate or update beneficiaries.

To access SOES, go to [www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect), sign-in, and follow the link “Benefits - Life Insurance SOES – SGLI Online Enrollment System.” Servicemembers can log-in with their CAC or DS Logon. Servicemembers can check their SGLI coverage and beneficiaries to make sure they are up-to-date.

## SGLI Premium Rates

Effective July 1, 2019, the basic SGLI premium rate was decreased from 7.0 cents per month per \$1,000, to 6.0 cents per month per \$1,000.



The tables below show premium rates for both full-time and part-time Active Duty and Reservists:

Active Duty/Reservists Full-Time Coverage <u>Monthly</u> Premium* (All Ages)		Active Duty/Reservists Part-Time Coverage <u>Annual</u> Premium* (All Ages)	
Amount of Insurance	Effective July 1, 2019	Amount of Insurance	Effective July 1, 2019
\$50,000	\$3.00	\$50,000	\$3.00
\$100,000	\$6.00	\$100,000	\$6.00
\$150,000	\$9.00	\$150,000	\$9.00
\$200,000	\$12.00	\$200,000	\$12.00
\$250,000	\$15.00	\$250,000	\$15.00
\$300,000	\$18.00	\$300,000	\$18.00
\$350,000	\$21.00	\$350,000	\$21.00
\$400,000	\$24.00	\$400,000	\$24.00

QUESTIONS?

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Call OSGLI Toll Free:

[www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)  
1-800-419-1473

- \* These premiums **do not** include the \$1.00 premium for TSGLI coverage. To calculate the total premium that would be due, add \$1.00 to each rate shown (e.g., for \$200,000 of insurance coverage the premium would be \$13 and for \$400,000 of insurance coverage the premium would be \$25, etc.)

## Coverage Periods

Full-time coverage is effective:

- Throughout a member's period of active duty or qualifying reserve status.
- For a 120-day free period following separation or release from active duty or reserve status.

Part-time coverage is effective:

- Only on the days of active duty or active duty for training and for periods of travel to and from such duty.
- For a free period of 120 days following the Reservist/National Guard active or inactive period during which a disability is incurred or aggravated

## SGLI Disability Extension

If a Servicemember is totally disabled at the time of separation and has full-time SGLI coverage, they can apply to extend the coverage up to a maximum of two years.

**Note:** *An extension of SGLI due to total disability is not automatic. A Servicemember must apply to the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance for the disability extension.*

To be considered totally disabled, you must have a disability that prevents you from being gainfully employed OR have one of the following conditions, regardless of your employment status:

- Permanent loss of use of both hands
- Permanent loss of use of both feet
- Permanent loss of use of both eyes
- Permanent loss of use of one hand and one foot
- Permanent loss of use of one foot and one eye
- Permanent loss of use of one hand and one eye
- Total loss of hearing in both ears
- Organic loss of speech (lost ability to express oneself, both by voice and whisper, through normal organs for speech - being able to speak with an artificial appliance is disregarded in determination of total disability)

SGLI coverage for discharged Servicemembers who are approved for the SGLI Disability Extension is converted to Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) at the end of the disability period, subject to the payment of VGLI premiums.

It is recommended that members apply for the SGLI Disability Extension within 240-days from discharge so that if they are found ineligible for the SGLI Disability Extension they will be considered for Veterans' Group Life Insurance coverage without any health review. Members who apply for the SGLI Disability Extension after 240-days and who are not approved for the coverage, may not qualify for Veterans' Group Life Insurance if they have serious health problems.

## Beneficiary Selection

Any **beneficiary** can be named. If none is selected, then the insurance is distributed, by law, in the following order:

- 1) spouse, or if none,
- 2) children, or if none,
- 3) parents, or if none,
- 4) executor of estate, or if none,
- 5) other next of kin.

In an effort to protect spouses of Servicemembers, on September 1, 2005, Public Law 109-80 became effective and requires the member's branch of service to notify a spouse of a Servicemember if the member chooses not to be insured under SGLI or to be insured for less than the maximum amount. The law also requires the member's branch of service to notify a spouse if the Servicemember names someone other than the spouse or child of the member as the beneficiary. However, the notification does not include the name of the beneficiary.

## Payment of Policy Proceeds

SGLI proceeds can be paid with the affirmative election of one of four payment options:

- Lump Sum Electronic Funds Transfer
- Lump Sum paid via a single check
- Lump Sum paid via the Alliance Account\*
- 36 equal monthly installments

\*If the beneficiary does not select an option, the insurance will be paid via the Alliance Account.

The Alliance Account is not available for payments less than \$5,000, payments to individuals residing outside the United States and its territories, and certain other payments. These will be paid by check.

**Note:** Beneficiaries cannot deposit additional funds into the Alliance Account.

**Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services (BFCS)** is a benefit that offers free, personalized and objective financial advice to a beneficiary upon the death of a Servicemember or Veteran, or to a Servicemember upon receipt of a Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI) Traumatic Injury Protection payment, or a spousal coverage payment under FSGLI.

The beneficiary/Servicemember has lifetime 24/7 toll-free or email access to professional financial counselors to get answers to any of their financial questions. They can also request a detailed personalized financial plan by completing an online financial questionnaire or meeting face-to-face with a counselor. Once a claim is paid, a beneficiary or recipient can receive free professional financial advice provided by FinancialPoint by calling toll-free at 1-888-243-7351 (SGLI or VGLI) or 1-800-428-3416 (TSGLI).

### **Online Will Preparation**

Effective October 1, 2012, SGLI and FSGLI spousal coverage beneficiaries and TSGLI recipients have access to free Online Will Preparation. The Online Will Preparation allows beneficiaries to create a will online utilizing simple-to-follow questions that guide the user through the creation process. The end result is a legally binding will in all states.

**Accelerated Benefits Option (ABO)** gives terminally-ill SGLI, FSGLI, and VGLI members access to a portion of the death benefits of their policies before they die. This is a one-time benefit only. The member may receive up to 50 percent of the face value of the insurance in a lump-sum payment subject to the following:

- This money will be available in increments of \$5,000.
- A member must have a medical prognosis of life expectancy of nine months or less.
- A member must be mentally competent to apply for the benefit.

## **Insurance Options After Separation From Service**

When released from active duty, Reserves, or the National Guard, members with full-time SGLI coverage can convert their coverage to Veterans' Group Life Insurance *or* to an individual permanent plan commercial life insurance policy with any one of 11 participating commercial insurance companies.

Members with part-time SGLI coverage may continue coverage under VGLI, if the member has a disability that was incurred or aggravated during service, which renders them uninsurable at standard premium rates. The member should contact OSGLI before the end of the 120-day eligibility period. OSGLI will furnish the necessary information to the member on how to obtain VGLI coverage.

## SGLI Program – Member Coverage

Opened _____	September 29, 1965
Number of Members Covered _____	2,137,500
Total Amount of Insurance in Force _____	\$773,951,300,000
Average Coverage Per Member _____	\$362,082
Average Attained Age _____	29.7
Average Annual Death Rate _____	0.72 per 1,000

**QUESTIONS?**

**Visit our Website:**

**[www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)**

**Call OSGLI Toll Free:**

**1-800-419-1473**

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# SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection Program TSGLI

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## History of the TSGLI Program

The SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) Program became effective December 1, 2005. TSGLI is automatic coverage for those covered under SGLI. It provides payments to members who suffer certain serious traumatic injuries in service. The purpose of the program is to provide short-term financial assistance to traumatically injured Servicemembers in order to lessen the economic burden on them and their families during an often extensive recovery and rehabilitation process.

Effective November 26, 2008, VA increased the number of traumatic injuries covered under TSGLI and liberalized the criteria for other injuries as a result of an extensive “TSGLI Year-One Review” (YOR) of the program. The YOR regulation added new benefits for uniplegia, limb salvage, facial reconstruction, and partial amputation of the foot and hand. In addition, the qualifying criteria for the degree of severity for burns and the duration of loss of sight were expanded. Another important change was the provision of a benefit for members who are hospitalized for a period of 15 consecutive days as a result of a traumatic injury. Effective December 2, 2011, genitourinary losses were added as a new benefit.

The Veterans’ Benefit Act of 2010 allows TSGLI benefits to be paid retroactively to any member who suffered a qualifying traumatic injury between October 7, 2001 and December 1, 2005, whether or not they had SGLI coverage at the time of their injury. This expanded eligibility, which was previously limited to traumatic injuries incurred in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. The expansion of individuals qualifying for retroactive TSGLI benefits became effective on October 1, 2011.

## Eligibility for TSGLI Coverage

### Who is covered under TSGLI?

All Servicemembers who have SGLI coverage are automatically covered by TSGLI. It is not optional coverage. TSGLI coverage applies to active duty members, reservists, National Guard members, funeral honors duty, and one-day muster duty.

**Note:** Members with full-time SGLI are covered under TSGLI 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, both on and off duty. Members with part-time SGLI are also covered under TSGLI during periods when SGLI coverage is in full effect. Unlike SGLI, TSGLI coverage does not continue during the 120-days following separation. TSGLI coverage ends at midnight of the day the member separates from service. If a member suffers a traumatic event prior to midnight of the day of separation, they can still qualify for TSGLI payment as long as they incur a scheduled loss within two years of the traumatic event and meet the other eligibility criteria.

### Who is not covered under TSGLI?

This coverage does *not* apply to spouses and children covered under Family SGLI, nor to those covered under the VGLI program.

QUESTIONS?

Visit our Website:  
Call OSGLI Toll Free:

[www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)  
1-800-419-1473

## How to Apply for TSGLI

A member who wants to file a claim for the traumatic injury benefit should contact their uniformed service to begin the certification process (go to [www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/tsgli/](http://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/tsgli/) for more information) and use form SGLV 8600 to apply for benefits. Each uniformed service will determine a member's eligibility for traumatic injury protection benefits and will provide certification for payment to the member.

## Coverage Amounts

TSGLI payments will range from \$25,000 to a maximum of \$100,000, depending on the type and severity of injury. Certain losses can be combined up to the maximum payment of \$100,000.

## TSGLI Premiums

Premiums for full-time traumatic injury coverage are \$1.00 per month and are deducted from the Servicemember's pay. Premiums for Reservists or National Guard members with part-time coverage are \$1.00 per year and deducted from the Servicemember's pay.

## Injuries Covered by TSGLI

TSGLI covers certain specific losses at certain payment amounts as listed in the "TSGLI Schedule of Losses" (go to [www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/tsgli.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/tsgli.asp) for this schedule). These losses include the following categories and certain combinations thereof:

- Total and permanent loss of sight, speech, or hearing or loss of sight that lasts at least 120-days
- Amputation of hand (includes loss of four fingers on the same hand or loss of thumb)
- Amputation of foot (includes loss of all toes)
- Loss of four toes on the same foot or loss of big toe
- Limb salvage
- Quadriplegia, paraplegia, hemiplegia, or uniplegia
- Burns (2nd degree or more covering 20% or more of the body or 20% or more of the face)
- Facial reconstruction
- Coma resulting from traumatic injury
- Inability to carry out at least two activities of daily living due to traumatic brain injury or other traumatic injury
- Continuous 15-day inpatient hospital care due to traumatic injury
- Permanent loss of use or anatomical loss of penis or testicle
- Permanent loss of use or anatomical loss of vulva, uterus, ovary, or vaginal canal
- Total and permanent loss of urinary system function

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## Losses Excluded From TSGLI Payment

The following losses are excluded from TSGLI payment:

- 1) Losses caused by:
  - a) a mental disorder
  - b) a mental or physical illness or disease, unless the illness or disease is caused by
    - (1) a pyogenic (pus forming, generally from a wound) infection, biological, chemical, or radiological weapon, or
    - (2) accidental ingestion of a contaminated substance.
  - c) attempted suicide,
  - d) self-inflicted wounds,
  - e) diagnostic procedures, preventive medical procedures such as inoculations, medical or surgical treatment, or any complications arising from such procedures or treatment, or
  - f) the member's willful use of an illegal or controlled substance, unless administered or consumed on the advice of a medical professional.
- 2) Injuries sustained while committing, or attempting to commit, a felony.

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# Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Family Coverage FSGLI

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## History of the FSGLI Program

The Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvements Act of 2001 extended life insurance coverage to spouses and children of members insured under the SGLI program.

## Eligibility for SGLI Family Coverage

Family coverage is available for the **spouses** and **dependent children** of:

- Active duty Servicemembers and
- Members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard of a uniformed service

**Note:** *Family coverage is available only for members insured under the SGLI program. Family coverage is not available for those insured under the VGLI program.*

## Military Member Married to Military Member

All members of the uniformed services who married other members of the uniformed services on or after **January 2, 2013** will **not** be automatically insured under Family SGLI. Servicemembers with full-time SGLI coverage should use the SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES) to apply.

Applying through SOES will require proof of insurability. To access SOES, go to <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/> and go to the Benefits Tab, Life Insurance SOES-SGLI Online Enrollment System.

## Coverage Amounts

FSGLI coverage for spouses and dependent children is issued automatically except for “Members Married to Members” as described above. See chart below for coverage amounts.

Group Covered	Coverage Amounts
Spouse	Up to \$100,000 maximum coverage for a spouse in increments of \$10,000. SGLI coverage for a spouse may not be greater than the amount of the Servicemember's coverage. For example, if the Servicemember has \$50,000 of SGLI coverage, the spouse can only be covered for up to \$50,000.

Members may decline coverage or may elect reduced coverage for their spouse by utilizing SOES. If such a member later wishes to obtain or increase coverage for their spouse, the member must request coverage in SOES and will require proof of insurability (i.e., good health) of the spouse.

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## SGLI Spousal Coverage Premiums

Premiums for SGLI spousal coverage are automatically deducted from a Servicemember's pay and will continue to be deducted from pay until the Servicemember's separation from service or the member declines the coverage. Coverage will continue, at no extra cost, for 120-days following separation from service.

**Effective July 1, 2019**, premiums for SGLI spouse coverage were reduced for all age groups. This is the fourth reduction in premium rates since the FSGLI program began in 2001. The table below shows the monthly premiums for a spouse based on age and amount of coverage.



Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance - Spouse Coverage Monthly Premium Rates							
Amount of Insurance	Age of Spouse						
	34 & Below	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 & Over
\$100,000	\$4.50	\$5.30	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$17.00	\$29.50	\$45.00
90,000	4.05	4.77	6.30	9.00	15.30	26.55	40.50
80,000	3.60	4.24	5.60	8.00	13.60	23.60	36.00
70,000	3.15	3.71	4.90	7.00	11.90	20.65	31.50
60,000	2.70	3.18	4.20	6.00	10.20	17.70	27.00
50,000	2.25	2.65	3.50	5.00	8.50	14.75	22.50
40,000	1.80	2.12	2.80	4.00	6.80	11.80	18.00
30,000	1.35	1.59	2.10	3.00	5.10	8.85	13.50
20,000	0.90	1.06	1.40	2.00	3.40	5.90	9.00
10,000	0.45	0.53	0.70	1.00	1.70	2.95	4.50

Because premiums are deducted from the member's pay for spouse coverage and the existence of children for claim purposes are both determined from military records, **it is important that the information in the member's personnel and payroll files concerning their spouse and children is accurate and up-to-date.** Servicemembers are strongly encouraged to update their personal information recorded in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting Systems (DEERS). Failure to record a spouse could cause the member to accrue a debt. Spousal coverage premiums are based upon the age of the spouse listed in DEERS.

## Termination of Spousal Coverage

Coverage for a **spouse** will end 120-days after any of the following events:

- The date the Servicemember elects in writing to terminate their spouse's coverage.
- The date the Servicemember elects in writing to terminate their own SGLI coverage.
- The date of the Servicemember's death.
- The date the Servicemember separates from service.

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- The date of the Servicemember’s divorce from spouse.

## Conversion of Spousal Coverage

A spouse may elect to convert his or her coverage to an individual permanent plan life insurance policy with any one of 11 participating commercial insurance companies within 120 days following one of the “termination of family coverage” events listed previously. Spouses wishing to exercise this conversion privilege should contact OSGLI at their toll-free number to obtain a conversion package with the appropriate information. There are no conversion options available to children.

Group Covered	Coverage Amount
Children	<p>Dependent children of active duty Servicemembers, Reservists, or National Guard members insured under SGLI are automatically covered for \$10,000 at no additional cost. Child coverage is automatic with basic SGLI member coverage and does not require spousal coverage.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>The maximum benefit under family coverage for any one child is \$10,000. This means that if both parents are insured under SGLI, the maximum payment upon death of the child is \$10,000.</i></p>

## Coverage for Stillborn Children

The Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-389) was enacted on October 10, 2008. This law provides coverage for stillborn children as insurable dependents under the FSGLI program. Previously, child coverage under SGLI had by law excluded stillborn children from coverage. This change applies only for stillbirths on or after October 10, 2008, the effective date of PL 110-389.

## Termination of Child Coverage

Coverage for a **child** will end 120 days after any of the following events:

- The date the Servicemember elects in writing to terminate their own coverage
- The date the Servicemember separates from service
- The date of the Servicemember’s death
- The date the Servicemember’s child is no longer their dependent. A child is considered a dependent if:
  - The child is unmarried and is under the age of 18. This includes all natural-born children, legally adopted children and stepchildren who are members of the Servicemember’s household.
  - The child is unmarried, between the ages of 18 years and 22 years and is enrolled and pursuing a course of instruction at an approved educational institution.

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- o The child is unmarried and becomes permanently incapable of self-support before the age of 18.

## Payment of Policy Proceeds

Payments of Family SGLI proceeds are made as follows:

For the death of:	Proceeds are paid to:
A spouse	The Servicemember
A child of one SGLI participant	The Servicemember
A child of two SGLI participants	The Servicemember who was eligible for SGLI coverage the longest, unless the other parent has custody of the child.

It is important to understand that family insurance coverage belongs to the SGLI insured member and not to the spouse.

SGLI Program – Family Coverage	
Opened _____	November 1, 2001
Number of Spouses Covered _____	945,000
Total Amount of Spouse Insurance in Force _____	\$93,074,100,000
Average Attained Age of Spouses _____	33.5
Average Annual Death Rate of Spouses _____	0.59 per 1,000
Number of Children Covered _____	1,680,000
Total Amount of Child Insurance in Force _____	\$16,800,000,000
Average Attained Age of Children _____	8.3
Average Annual Death Rate of Children _____	0.63 per 1,000

*For more information on SGLI Family Coverage, please visit our website at: [www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/fsgli/](http://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/fsgli/)*

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# Veterans' Group Life Insurance

## VGLI

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### History of the VGLI Program

In 1974, the Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) program became available. VGLI, like SGLI, is supervised by the Department of Veterans Affairs, but is administered by the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI). VGLI provides for the conversion of SGLI coverage to a renewable term policy of insurance protection after a Servicemember's separation from service.

### Eligibility for VGLI

Full-time coverage is available for the following members:

- Full-time SGLI insureds who are released from active duty or the Reserves/National Guard.
- Ready Reservists/National Guard members who have part-time SGLI coverage, and who, while performing active duty or inactive duty for training for a period of less than 31 days, incur a disability or aggravate a preexisting disability that makes them uninsurable at standard premium rates.
- Members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Inactive National Guard (ING).

Members are also eligible to apply for VGLI if they had part-time SGLI and suffered an injury or disability on duty that rendered them uninsurable at standard premium rates. This includes travel directly to and from duty.

### Coverage Amounts

Effective September 1, 2005, the maximum amount of VGLI increased to \$400,000. VGLI is issued in multiples of \$10,000 up to the maximum \$400,000 but not for more than the amount of SGLI coverage the member had in force at the time of separation from active duty or the reserves.

The opportunity for Veterans to "buy-up" their VGLI coverage is offered under the following guidelines:

- The additional coverage must be requested during the 120-day period prior to the 1-year anniversary and subsequent 5-year VGLI anniversaries of the policy. For example, on the policy anniversary at year-1, year-6, year-11, year-16, and so forth.
- The member does not have to answer any medical questions.
- The total amount of coverage cannot exceed \$400,000.
- The member must be under age 60 on the coverage effective date of the increased coverage. The premium rates, beneficiary designations, and the renewable coverage options are the same as those for the current basic VGLI coverage.
- The member's VGLI coverage must be in an active status (i.e. not in pre-lapse/lapse).

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**Amounts available for this additional coverage:**

- If the coverage amount is less than \$375,000, the insured can purchase an additional \$25,000 of VGLI coverage. Amounts less than \$25,000 are not allowed if coverage is less than \$375,000.
- If the coverage is more than \$375,000, the insured can purchase the amount that increases the coverage to \$400,000.

## **VGLI Renewal or Conversion**

VGLI coverage renews automatically as long as premium are current.

Rather than renew, a member also has the right at any time to convert VGLI to an individual permanent plan life insurance policy with any one of 11 participating private insurance companies. The member can convert their VGLI in \$10,000 increments. Conversion means that the company is obligated to sell the member a policy at standard rates, without regard to their health status.

## **How to Apply for VGLI**

### **Application by Mail**

Generally, notifications of SGLI to VGLI conversion mailings are sent to separating Servicemembers based on data received from the Department of Defense and utilizing the following schedule:

- 1st Mailing: A postcard is mailed to separating Servicemembers (soon after separation through 60-days after separation) with information for applying online.
- 2nd Mailing: A letter is mailed to separating Servicemembers fourteen days after the first mailing.
- 3rd Mailing: A second postcard is mailed to separating Servicemembers 180 days from separation
- 4th Mailing: A second letter and full application (with health questions) is mailed to separating Servicemembers 55-weeks (about a one year and a month) from separation.

Separating Servicemembers who do not receive a mailing should not wait to apply. Rather, they should apply online or obtain a paper application at [www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/vgli.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/vgli.asp).

Notifications are mailed to the address shown on the member's DD Form 214 or equivalent separation orders. ***It is the member's responsibility, however, to apply within the time limits, even if they do not receive an application in the mail.*** Applications for VGLI coverage should be mailed to The Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, P.O. Box 41618, Philadelphia, PA 19176-1473. Questions and general correspondence should be mailed to the above address as well.

## Online Application

Veterans can apply for VGLI coverage through the VGLI Online Access portal on the VA Insurance website. The Veteran is walked through each step of the application process, from retrieving data automatically if OSGLI already has it on file, to presenting medical questions, if necessary, which can be completed online. Applications are evaluated instantly, and the Veteran is informed that his or her coverage is approved pending receipt of payment, and if required, proof of SGLI coverage. To apply online, go to the VA Insurance website, click the link “Apply for VGLI/Convert to SGLI” under “I WANT TO” at the top right of the page. Then click “Apply for VGLI online.”

## Time Limits to Apply for VGLI

To be eligible, a member must apply for VGLI within the following time limits:

- A member may submit an application *without evidence of insurability* (good health) to OSGLI with the required premium *within 240-days following separation from service*.
- If an application or the initial premium has not been submitted within 240 days following separation from service, VGLI may still be granted if the member submits an application, the initial premium and *evidence of insurability* (good health) to OSGLI *within 1 year and 120 days following separation from service*. *Applications will not be accepted after one year and 120 days*.
- If a member is *totally disabled* (unable to work due to a disability or has certain statutory conditions) at the time of separation from active duty *and* is granted extended free SGLI coverage by OSGLI, he or she will be enrolled in VGLI at the end of the disability extension period as long as the first VGLI premium is paid by the end of the extension period. If the Veteran wants to retain VGLI, he or she will have to begin making premium payments. No additional application for VGLI is required.
- Individuals who are assigned to the IRR and ING have 240-days after assignment to apply, without evidence of good health, and one year and 120-days from assignment with evidence of good health. **Note:** The application period begins upon placement in the IRR/ING and not after separation from the IRR/ING.

An application for an incompetent member may be made by a court-appointed representative (e.g. guardian, committee, conservator, curator) or submitted by a VA fiduciary or Power of Attorney.

## Payment of Premiums

Once a VGLI application is approved, the OSGLI will send the member a certificate of coverage and will begin billing the member monthly. There are several options available for the payment of premiums. A premium discount is available for some of these options.

Frequency of Payment	Methods of Payment Available	Premium Discount Rate
Monthly	VGLI Auto-Pay recurring deduction from checking or savings	No Discount
	Allotment from military retirement pay	
	Deduction from VA compensation payments	
	Check	
	On-demand deduction from credit card	
Quarterly	Check	2.50% Discount
	On demand deduction from credit card	
Semi-annually	Check	3.75% Discount
	On demand deduction from credit card	
Annually	Check	5.00% Discount
	On demand deduction from credit card	

## VGLI Premium Rates

VGLI premium rates are determined by age group and amount of insurance. VGLI is available in \$10,000 increments.

Sample rates are shown below:

VGLI Monthly Premium Rates						
Age	Amount of Insurance					
	\$400,000	\$300,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$10,000
Thru 29	\$32.00	\$24.00	\$16.00	\$8.00	\$4.00	\$0.80
30 thru 34	40.00	30.00	20.00	10.00	5.00	1.00
35 thru 39	52.00	39.00	26.00	13.00	6.50	1.30
40 thru 44	68.00	51.00	34.00	17.00	8.50	1.70
45 thru 49	88.00	66.00	44.00	22.00	11.00	2.20
50 thru 54	144.00	108.00	72.00	36.00	18.00	3.60
55 thru 59	268.00	201.00	134.00	67.00	33.50	6.70
60 thru 64	432.00	324.00	216.00	108.00	54.00	10.80
65 thru 69	600.00	450.00	300.00	150.00	75.00	15.00
70 thru 74	920.00	690.00	460.00	230.00	115.00	23.00
75 & Over	1,840.00	1,380.00	920.00	460.00	230.00	46.00

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## Cost of additional VGLI coverage

Insureds wishing to increase their coverage can purchase an additional \$25,000 of VGLI coverage. The premium rates are the same as those for basic VGLI.

Monthly VGLI Premium for Additional Coverage	
Age	Cost Per \$25,000
29 and under	\$2.00
30-34	\$2.50
35-39	\$3.25
40-44	\$4.25
45-49	\$5.50
50-54	\$9.00
55-59	\$16.75
60 and over*	N/A

\*The insured must be under age 60 at the time he/she reaches the 1-year or five-year anniversary date.

- If coverage is \$375,000 or less, an additional \$25,000 of coverage can be purchased.
- Amounts less than \$25,000 are not allowed if the current coverage is less than \$375,000.

## Reduce VGLI Cost at Older Ages

To lessen the increasing cost of term insurance at the older ages, Veterans should consider gradually reducing the amount of their VGLI coverage as they get older, since insurance needs usually lessen as individuals reach ages 65 and above. The following is a sample coverage reduction schedule that would allow the Veteran to maintain approximately the same premium while reducing coverage:

Age Group	Coverage Level	Premium
65-69	\$150,000	\$225
70-74	\$100,000	\$230
75 & over	\$50,000	\$230

Following this schedule, the Veteran’s monthly premium would increase slightly to \$230 after age 70.

## Beneficiary Selection

Any **beneficiary** can be named. If none is selected, the insurance is distributed, by law, in the following order:

- 1) spouse, or if none,
- 2) children, or if none,
- 3) parents, or if none,
- 4) executor of estate, or if none,
- 5) other next of kin.

**Please note:** A Divorce Decree cannot compel change in the named beneficiary. If a Trust is named, simply listing the name of the trust does not *create* the trust, the member needs to establish the Trust *before* naming the trust as beneficiary.

## Payment of Policy Proceeds

VGLI proceeds can be paid with the affirmative election of one of four payment options:

- Lump Sum Electronic Funds Transfer
- Lump Sum paid via a single check
- Lump Sum paid via the Alliance Account\*
- 36 equal monthly installments

If the beneficiary does not select an option, the insurance will be paid via the Alliance Account.

\* The Alliance Account is not available for payments less than \$5,000, payments to individuals residing outside the United States and its territories, and certain other payments. These will be paid by check.

**Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services (BFCS)** is a benefit that provides free financial advice to a beneficiary upon the death of a Servicemember or Veteran, or to a Servicemember upon receipt of a Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection payment or a spousal coverage payment under FSGLI.

Please see page 36 for a detailed description of BFCS.

**Accelerated Benefits Option (ABO)** gives terminally-ill SGLI and VGLI policyholders access to the death benefits of their policies before they die. This is a one-time benefit only. The member may receive a portion of the face value of the insurance in a lump-sum payment subject to the following:

- Terminally ill insureds will have access of up to 50 percent of the face amount of their coverage during their lifetime.
- This money will be available in increments of \$5,000.
- An insured must have a medical prognosis of life expectancy of nine months or less.

## Online Policy Access

VGLI members can access their account information online by going to the VA Insurance website at [www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/) and following the “Access My Policy Online” link. Members can then scroll down the page until they reach “Veterans’ Group Life Insurance (VGLI)” section and click on the “VGLI Online Policy Access” link or eBenefits. First-time users can enter their Social Security Number and last name. After submitting this information, they then have the opportunity to create their own User ID and Password. The member will then have access to his/her Veteran's Group Life Insurance record. Members can view and verify account information, such as status of their coverage, payment and billing information, and beneficiary information. Address changes, name changes, and changes to coverage amounts can also be completed online. In addition, Veterans whose coverage has lapsed due to non-payment of premiums can apply online to have their coverage reinstated.

## VGLI Web Chat Feature

OSGLI introduced VGLI Web Chat to improve service for Veterans covered by VGLI. VGLI Web Chat allows VGLI policyholders to interact in real time with a Customer Service Associate online. To start a VGLI Web Chat session, VGLI members are required to sign in to their VGLI Online account and click “Chat Now” on the “Contact Us” page. Additional features of VGLI Web Chat include scheduling a call with a Customer Service Associate, requesting information on premium options and premium reduction, as well as other account actions, such as paying a bill or updating beneficiaries.

<b>VGLI Program</b>	
Opened _____	August 1, 1974
Number of Veterans Covered _____	432,940
Total Amount of Insurance in Force _____	\$77,897,437,500
Average Coverage per Veteran _____	\$179,927
Average Attained Age _____	53.5
Average Annual Death Rate _____	8.97 per 1,000

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## **Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA)**

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### **History of the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act**

Congress and state legislatures have long recognized that military service can often place an economic and legal burden on Servicemembers. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1918 was passed to protect the rights of Servicemembers while serving on active duty. Servicemembers were protected from such things as repossession of property, bankruptcy, foreclosure, or other such actions while serving in the military. This Act remained in effect until shortly after World War I when it expired. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 (SSCRA) was passed to protect the rights of the millions of Servicemembers activated for World War II. The SSCRA has remained in effect until the present day and has been amended many times since 1940 to keep pace with the changing military. In December 2003, Congress passed legislation renaming SSCRA as the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA). The SCRA updates and strengthens the civil protections enacted during World War II.

### **Eligibility for Protection of Life Insurance Coverage under SCRA**

Under SCRA, VA will protect, from default for nonpayment of premiums up to \$400,000 of commercial life insurance for Servicemembers called to active duty. The protection provided by this legislation applies during the insured's period of military service and for a period of two years thereafter. The following are conditions for eligibility for protection:

- The policy must be whole life, endowment, universal life, or term insurance.
- The policy must have been in force on a premium-paying basis for at least six months at the time the Servicemember applies for benefits and prior to the date of the insured's entry into military service.
- Benefits from the policy cannot be limited, reduced, or excluded because of military service. Policies for which an additional amount of premium is charged due to military service are not eligible for protection under SCRA.

**The Servicemember must apply for protection of their life insurance by filing VA Form 29-380 "Application For Protection Of Commercial Life Insurance Policy" with his/her insurance company and forwarding a copy of the application to VA.**

#### **Important!**

*SCRA does not apply to insurance policies described in this booklet.  
This provision applies only to commercial policies.*

## Benefits and Limitations of SCRA Life Insurance Protection

Once the Servicemember has applied for protection of their life insurance policy and VA determines that the policy is eligible for protection under SCRA:

- The Servicemember is still responsible for making premium payments. However, the policy will not lapse, terminate, or be forfeited because of the Servicemember's failure to make premium payments or to pay any indebtedness or interest due during their period of military service or for a period of two years thereafter.
- The right of the Servicemember to change their beneficiary designation or select an optional settlement for a beneficiary is not affected by the provisions of this Act.
- Premium payments are only deferred, not waived. **During this period, the government does not pay the premiums on the policy but simply guarantees that the premiums will be paid at the end of the Servicemember's period of active duty.**
- A Servicemember cannot receive dividends, take out a loan, or surrender the policy for cash without the approval of VA. (Dividends or other monetary benefits shall be added to the value of the policy and will be used as a credit when final settlement is made with the insurer.)
- If the policy matures as a result of the insured's death, or any other means, during the protected period, the insurance company will deduct any unpaid premiums and interest due from the settlement amount.

## Termination of Period Under SCRA

The Servicemember has up to two years after their military service terminates to repay the unpaid premiums and interest to the insurer. If the amount owed is not paid before the end of the two years, then:

- The insurer treats the unpaid premiums as a loan against the policy.
- The government will pay the insurer the difference between the amount due and the cash surrender value (if the cash surrender value of the policy is less than the amount owed.)
- The amount the United States government pays to the insurance company under the SCRA Act becomes a debt due the government by the insured.
- If the policy matures as a result of the insured's death, or any other means, during the protected period, the insurance company will deduct any unpaid premiums and interest due from the settlement amount.

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# *Individual Program Policy Provisions*

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For policies directly **administered** by VA:  
USGLI, NSLI, VSLI, VRI, S-DVI, VMLI  
pages 19-31

For information about group policies  
**supervised** by VA: SGLI, FSGLI, TSGLI,  
VGLI pages 32-51

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# Plans of Insurance

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Some of the features of the different insurance plans are described below:

## 5-Year Level Premium Term

- Available on all programs except "J," "JR," and "JS"
- Provides low cost protection at younger ages but premiums increase substantially at the older ages
- Renewable every five years
- May be converted to a permanent plan
- Provides payment upon death only and has no cash or loan values
- When premiums are not paid, the protection stops\*

## Modified Life at Age 65

- Available on all programs except "K"
- Can only be purchased before the insured attains insurance age 61
- Affords a permanent plan of insurance at a premium that is lower than the Ordinary Life Plan premium
- Provides an automatic reduction by ½ of the face amount of the insurance on the day before the insured's 65th birthday. (The premium remains the same. The decreased amount of insurance may, without medical examination, be replaced with an Ordinary Life policy at an additional premium by making application no later than the day before the insured's 65th birthday.)

\* Effective September 11, 2000, "capped" NSLI and VSLI term policies receive a termination dividend that protects against the lapse of the policy. For more information see page 19 for NSLI policies and page 21 for VSLI policies.

## Modified Life at Age 70

- Available on all programs except "K"
- Has the same provisions as the Modified Life at Age 65 plan, except that reduction happens on the day before the insured's 70th birthday
- Conversion to this plan can be made through insurance age 69

## Ordinary Life ("Whole Life")

- Available on all programs
- Premiums remain constant
- Premiums are payable for the lifetime of the insured

## 30-Payment Life

- Available on all programs
- Premiums are slightly higher than on Ordinary Life
- Premiums are payable for 30 years from the effective date of the policy

## 20-Payment Life

- Available on all programs
- Premiums are higher than on 30-Payment Life
- Premiums are payable for 20 years

## 20-Year Endowment

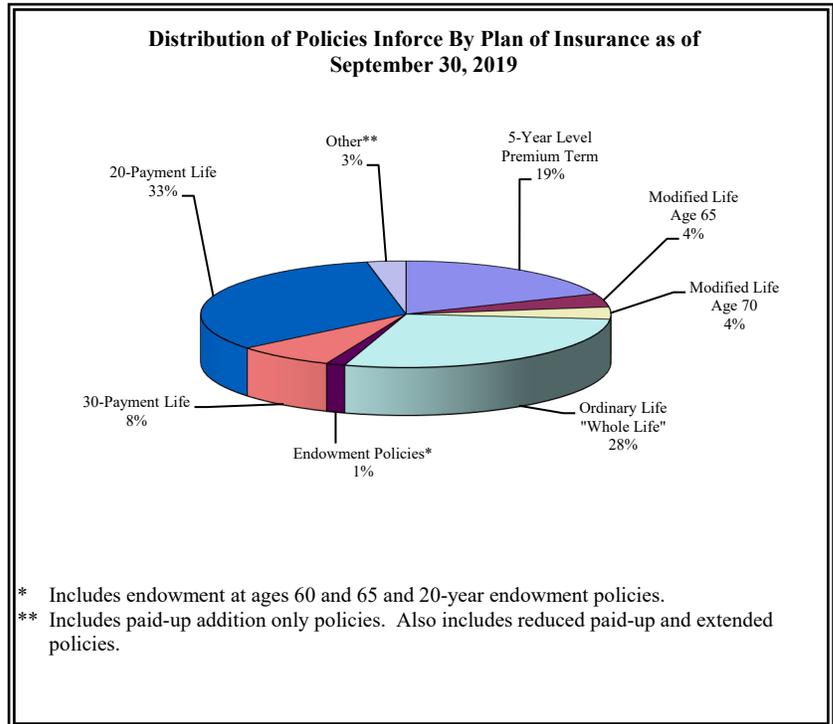
- Available on all programs
- Premiums are payable for 20 years from the effective date of the policy
- Provides for payment of the face amount of the policy (less any indebtedness) to the policyholder at the end of the 20 years
- Policy proceeds paid in lump sum or on an installment basis

## Endowment at Age 60

- Available on all programs except "K"
- Provides for the payment of the face amount (less any indebtedness) on the anniversary date nearest the insured's 60th birthday

## Endowment at Age 65

- Same as Endowment at Age 60, except proceeds are payable on the anniversary date nearest the insured's 65th birthday



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## **Cost of NSLI “V” Term Insurance For Older Policyholders**

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The high cost of term insurance for older Veterans has long been a concern of the Insurance Program. Many World War II Veterans chose to retain the NSLI term coverage they obtained while in service, but unfortunately failed to convert it to a permanent plan of insurance. Term insurance becomes very expensive at older ages. As of September 2019, there are approximately 34,000 NSLI Veterans who have term policies.

### **The “Capping” of VA Term Policies**

In 1984, a VA regulation was approved which “capped” premiums on NSLI term policies at the age 70 rate.

- When the insured Veteran renews at age 70 or older, the capped rate of \$61.80 per month for \$10,000 of insurance goes into effect.
- This rate will remain level for the remaining lifetime of the policy.

### **Dividends on VA Term Policies With “Capped” Premiums**

One consequence of “capping” premiums on term policies is a reduction in dividends that a policyholder receives. Dividends are a refund of excess premiums paid that are not needed to pay for the costs of death claims. Since term policyholders over the age of 70 had their premiums reduced by “capping,” fewer premiums are received. For this reason, dividends paid on term policies that have had their premiums capped had to be reduced. This reduction was made to offset the loss of premium income to the NSLI trust fund. However, it should be noted that term policyholders are better off after premium “capping” than before premium “capping.” The premium savings realized as a result of premium “capping” at the age 70 rate is greater than the amount by which dividends are reduced.

### **Long-term Cost of Term Policies**

NSLI term policies have been in effect for more than 75 years.

- The total amount of premiums paid, or net premiums paid (premiums minus dividends), very often exceeds the face amount of insurance, which is not unusual for term insurance.
- It should be noted, however, that in return for their premiums, those insureds received many years of insurance protection.

## The Importance of “Net” Payment Cost of Insurance

When looking at the cost of a term policy, the following should be kept in mind:

1. The premiums paid on the policy over the years.
2. The dividends received on the policy over the years.

The “net” payment on the policy is the premiums paid on the policy minus the dividends received on the policy.

Consider the following typical NSLI term policy:

Veteran’s Age	Amount of Insurance	Number of Years Policy is in Effect	Total Premiums Paid on Policy	Total Dividends Received on Policy	“Net” Payments on Policy
91	\$10,000	71 years	\$25,000	\$10,400	\$14,600

The resulting “net” payment on this policy (premiums minus dividends) is \$14,600. This policyholder received 71 years of insurance protection for a net cost of \$14,600, an average of \$206 per year.

## Excess Revenues Returned as Dividends

- The law specifies that NSLI be operated as a Trust Fund. Its revenues are used exclusively for the benefit of its policyholders and may not be used for any other government program.
- VA does not make any profit on NSLI.
- Any excess revenues resulting from favorable experience are returned to NSLI policyholders in the form of dividends.

## The Cost of Declaring All NSLI Term Policies “Paid-up”

The VA Insurance has examined the option of declaring all NSLI term policies “paid-up.” In other words, policyholders would no longer have to pay premiums. However:

- The federal outlay which would be required to accomplish this is approximately \$68 million. There are currently about 34,000 NSLI term policyholders.
- Since the NSLI program is, by law, self-supporting, it appears unlikely that these policies will be declared paid-up, due to the large cost involved.

## Paid-Up Insurance Provided for Capped VA Term Policies

In 2000, the Department of Veterans Affairs began providing paid-up insurance on capped term policies. Veterans who have NSLI capped term insurance (renewal age 71 or older) and decide to stop paying premiums on their policies are given a termination dividend that is used to purchase a reduced amount of paid-up insurance.

- This paid-up insurance insures the Veteran for life and no premium payments are required.
- The amount of insurance remains level.
- The amount of paid-up insurance depends on the age of the Veteran at the time he stops paying his term premiums. A Veteran age 85 with \$10,000 of insurance would receive almost \$6,000 of paid-up life insurance. (See table below)
- This paid-up insurance has cash value, which increases each month.
- This paid-up insurance continues to pay dividends.
- The insured can cash surrender these paid-up additions at any time.

The following table illustrates the termination dividend and amount of PUA that the termination dividend can purchase at various attained ages for such an insured.

Insured's age at policy lapse	Basic insurance amount at policy lapse	Termination dividend at date of lapse*	Amount of PUA purchased with the termination dividend*
80	\$10,000	\$2,798	\$3,877
85	10,000	4,699	5,997
90	10,000	6,469	7,682
95	10,000	9,158	9,616

*\*All figures are rounded to whole dollars.*

**QUESTIONS?**

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# Payment of Premiums

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## Methods of Payment

An insured has several options for paying premiums:

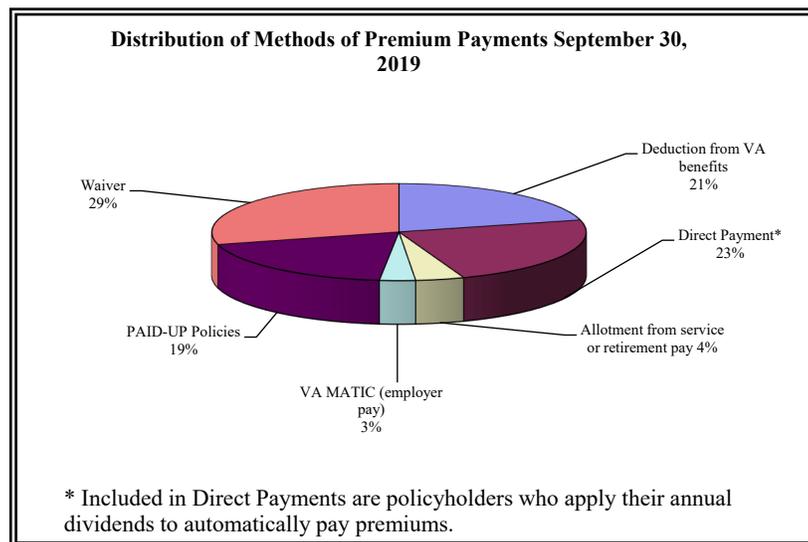
- Direct payment (a check or money order payable to the Department of Veterans Affairs)
- Allotment from military retirement pay
- Deduction from VA benefits (if they are receiving VA pension or compensation)
- Deduction from the insured's checking account (VA MATIC)

\* Paying premiums by allotment,

deduction or VA MATIC protects against lapse. These options also save premium payment costs such as checks or money orders and postage.

- Applying annual dividends to automatically pay premiums.

\* Insureds who apply their dividends to pay premiums also receive the same lapse protection and payment savings, provided their dividend is sufficient to pay the full annual premium. If it is not, the insured is billed for the difference.



## Other Payment Options Available

An insured may provide for advance premium payments to be made quarterly, semiannually, annually, or as far in advance as the insured wishes. Insureds that pay premiums in advance benefit from:

- a premium discount
- a reduction of the insured's risk of lapse due to non-payment of premiums
- a savings in premium payments costs

## Premium Due Dates

Premiums are due the same day of the month as the day the policy became effective as shown on the insurance policy (called the "anniversary date"). If the policy was effective on the first day of the month, premiums are due on the first day of the month. For any month not having a date corresponding to the effective date of a policy (i.e. 29th, 30th, or 31st), the due date is always the last day of the month.

## Grace Period

Insureds are allowed 31 days after the due date to pay any premium except the first one. If the insurance becomes a claim (insured dies) during the grace period, the unpaid premium will be deducted from the amount payable to the beneficiary.

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# Waiver of Premiums

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## Waiver of Premiums

A *waiver of premiums* provision is included, at no extra cost, on the following policies:

- NSLI
- USGLI (except endowment at age 96)
- VSLI
- VRI
- S-DVI policies (except supplemental S-DVI coverage)

As of September 30, 2019, there were 133,941 Veterans whose premiums were being waived.

## Eligibility for Waiver of Premiums

To qualify for a waiver of premiums:

- The insured must be totally disabled; this means they have a mental or physical disability that prevents them from engaging in substantially gainful employment.
- The total disability must begin **before** the insured's 65th birthday and must continue for at least six consecutive months.
- The total disability may not begin prior to the effective date of the policy. (Exception: waiver may be granted if total disability commenced prior to the effective date only on S-DVI policies, **provided** the total disability is due to a service-connected disability.)

## Application for Waiver of Premiums

To apply for a waiver of premiums an insured should:

- File VA Form 29-357, *Claim for Disability Insurance Benefits*. (However, any communication that shows intent to apply for the benefit, either expressed or implied, will be accepted as an informal claim.)
- Although total disability must begin before the insured's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, the application for waiver can be made at any age, but you should file promptly because, in most cases, premiums can only be waived up to one-year prior to receipt of a claim.
- The only instance when premiums can be waived beyond one year is if the evidence shows circumstances beyond the insured's control prevented the filing of a timely claim. This usually means a mental disability.

Once waiver is granted, it is subject to review at regular intervals. The waiver can be terminated at any time if the insured returns to gainful employment, recovers from his or her disability, or fails to cooperate in the review procedure.

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# Dividend Options

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The amount of dividend paid to a Veteran depends on the age of the Veteran, the type of insurance, and the length of time the policy has been in force. Dividends are paid on the following programs:

- United States Government Life Insurance (“K”)
- National Service Life Insurance (“V”)
- Veterans’ Special Life Insurance (“RS” and “W”)
- Veterans’ Reopened Insurance (“J” and “JR”; there are no longer any “JS” policies in force))

## Dividend Options Available

A policyholder may choose from several dividend options that are available:

- **Cash:** Paid to the policyholder by U.S. Treasury check or directly deposited into the policyholder’s bank account.
- **Credit:** Held in an account for the insured with interest.
  - Can be used to prevent policy lapse
  - Will be refunded upon the insured’s request
  - Will be included in the award to the beneficiary(ies) at the time of the insured’s death
- **Deposit:** Held in an account for the insured with interest.
  - Available only on permanent plan policies
  - Can be used, with the net cash value, to purchase reduced paid-up insurance, or extended insurance if the policy lapses - *except* for "K" or "JS" policies
  - Will be refunded upon the insured’s request
  - Will be included in the award to the beneficiary(ies) at the time of the insured’s death
- **Premium:** Applied to pay premiums in advance.

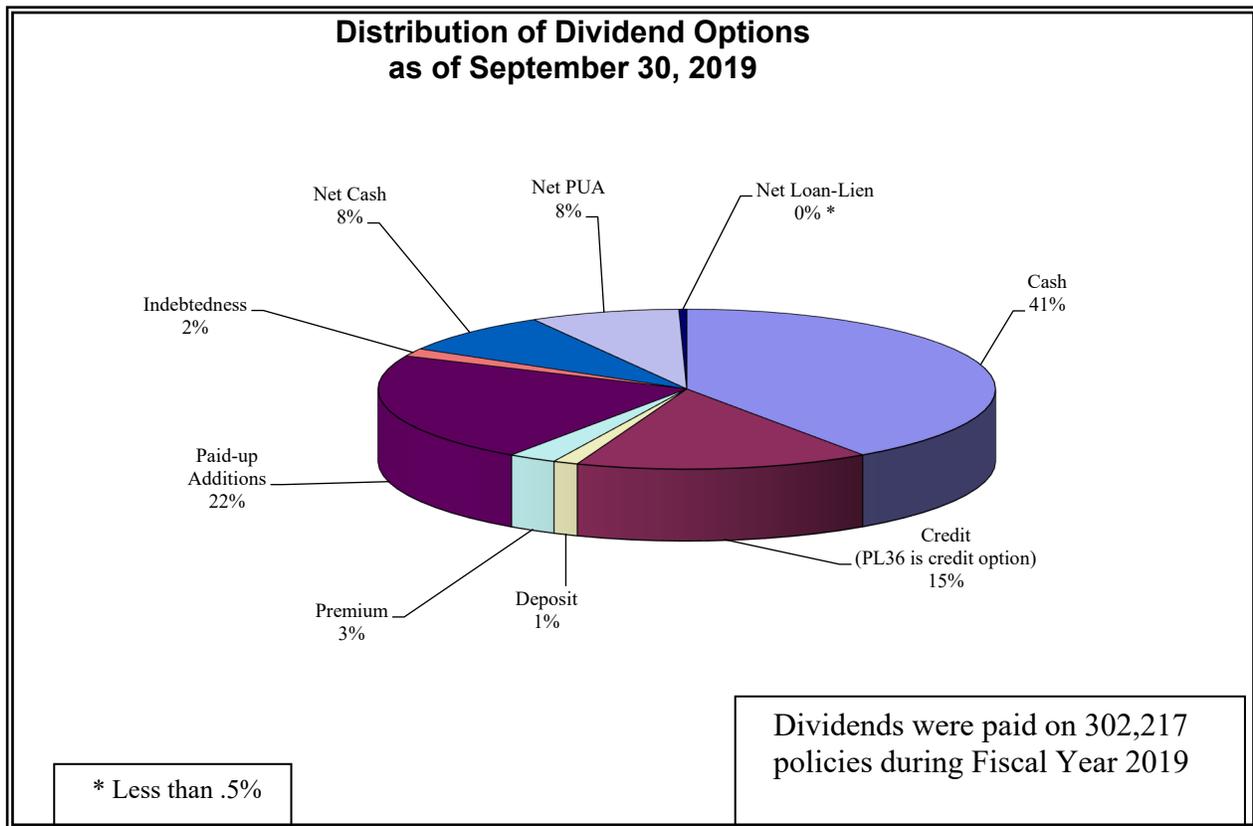
### Dividend Credit and Deposit Interest Rates

<u>Program</u>	<u>2020</u>
USGLI (K)	3.50%
NSLI (V)	3.25%
VSLI (RS & W)	3.75%
VRI (J, JR, JS)	3.50%

- **Paid-up Additions (PUA):** Used as a net single premium to purchase additional paid-up insurance.
  - Available only on “V,” “RS,” “W,” “J,” and “JR” policies
  - Will be whole life if the basic insurance is a term or whole life policy
  - Will be endowment if the basic insurance is an endowment policy

As of September 30, 2019, 82,848 Veterans have policies with paid-up additions totaling \$1,777,072,174.

- **Indebtedness:** Applied toward a loan or lien on a policy.
- **Net Cash:** Used to pay an annual premium with any remainder paid to the policyholder under the cash option.
- **Net PUA:** Used to pay an annual premium with any remainder used to purchase paid-up additional insurance.
- **Net Loan-Lien:** Used to pay an annual premium with any remainder used to reduce an outstanding loan or lien.



**ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF 2020 DIVIDENDS BY STATE OF RESIDENCE**

	USGLI		NSLI		VS LI		VRI		TOTAL	
	NO. OF INSUREDS	AMOUNT OF DIVIDENDS*								
Alabama	0	\$0	1,727	\$384	697	\$155	54	\$12	2,478	\$551
Alaska	0	0	174	39	68	16	5	1	247	56
Arizona	0	0	3,180	696	1,459	317	115	23	4,754	1,036
Arkansas	0	0	987	208	405	88	37	8	1,429	304
California	0	0	13,823	3,032	6,419	1,421	429	92	20,671	4,545
Colorado	1	0	2,313	499	1,015	217	64	17	3,393	733
Connecticut	0	0	2,278	455	1,319	282	108	21	3,705	758
Delaware	0	0	493	105	253	51	13	2	759	158
D. of Columbia	0	0	223	53	102	21	7	1	332	75
Florida	1	0	11,661	2,525	6,139	1,347	543	102	18,344	3,974
Georgia	0	0	3,019	678	1,413	313	85	17	4,517	1,008
Hawaii	0	0	1,093	312	824	204	44	9	1,961	525
Idaho	0	0	685	149	320	71	25	6	1,030	226
Illinois	0	0	5,158	1,049	3,788	827	142	28	9,088	1,904
Indiana	0	0	1,895	364	1,135	234	55	11	3,085	609
Iowa	0	0	1,579	332	906	210	42	8	2,527	550
Kansas	0	0	1,269	258	622	136	43	8	1,934	402
Kentucky	0	0	1,216	256	580	122	47	10	1,843	388
Louisiana	0	0	1,373	301	667	154	53	10	2,093	465
Maine	0	0	728	150	414	85	29	7	1,171	242
Maryland	1	0	2,738	611	1,267	276	88	15	4,094	902
Massachusetts	0	0	3,695	677	2,338	474	319	58	6,352	1,209
Michigan	0	0	3,859	740	2,406	485	126	26	6,391	1,251
Minnesota	0	0	3,365	688	1,593	341	125	22	5,083	1,051
Mississippi	0	0	906	202	322	70	20	3	1,248	275
Missouri	1	0	2,494	499	1,399	295	85	14	3,979	808
Montana	0	0	580	124	258	58	14	2	852	184
Nebraska	0	0	945	194	452	107	34	5	1,431	306
Nevada	0	0	994	216	456	95	30	5	1,480	316
New Hampshire	0	0	790	162	456	95	26	3	1,272	260
New Jersey	0	0	4,195	838	3,279	709	306	58	7,780	1,605
New Mexico	0	0	858	189	370	81	33	6	1,261	276
New York	0	0	8,016	1,635	5,545	1,191	569	103	14,130	2,929
North Carolina	0	0	3,324	728	1,706	388	119	20	5,149	1,136
North Dakota	0	0	360	72	183	37	13	2	556	111
Ohio	0	0	5,121	1,015	2,563	527	182	32	7,866	1,574
Oklahoma	0	0	1,350	292	495	109	30	8	1,875	409
Oregon	0	0	1,850	389	777	166	46	11	2,673	566
Pennsylvania	0	0	7,613	1,474	4,224	843	335	66	12,172	2,383
Rhode Island	0	0	596	112	346	72	41	5	983	189
South Carolina	0	0	1,942	430	965	208	50	9	2,957	647
South Dakota	0	0	424	88	269	61	17	3	710	152
Tennessee	0	0	2,023	436	976	216	70	14	3,069	666
Texas	0	0	7,685	1,723	3,111	680	200	43	10,996	2,446
Utah	0	0	1,007	194	466	98	38	7	1,511	299
Vermont	0	0	335	70	189	39	8	1	532	110
Virginia	1	0	3,919	913	1,561	340	114	22	5,595	1,275
Washington	1	0	3,234	687	1,181	253	90	18	4,506	958
West Virginia	0	0	574	117	376	76	30	4	980	197
Wisconsin	0	0	3,106	638	1,696	360	119	26	4,921	1,024
Wyoming	0	0	275	60	113	25	5	1	393	86
U.S. Possess.	0	0	208	54	75	16	42	13	325	83
Canada	0	0	104	26	54	13	3	0	161	39
Philippines	0	0	6	1	2	0	0	0	8	1
Foreign	0	0	237	61	100	25	9	2	346	88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>133,602</b>	<b>\$28,200</b>	<b>70,114</b>	<b>\$15,100</b>	<b>5,276</b>	<b>\$1,020</b>	<b>208,998</b>	<b>\$44,320</b>

\* *AMOUNT OF DIVIDENDS is in thousands of dollars*

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# Guaranteed Values

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An important feature of permanent plan policies is that the premiums the policyholder pays build up a reserve (cash) value. This provides the policyholder with extra protection and more financial flexibility. Permanent plan policies have the following guaranteed values:

- **Cash Value**

The cash value is the reserve plus any dividends held on deposit less any indebtedness. If a policyholder is considering surrendering their policy for its cash value, they should **first** consider the alternative of taking a policy loan, since policies that are surrendered for cash **cannot** be reinstated.

After premiums have been paid or waived for at least one year, the policyholder may apply for the cash value by submitting a completed VA Form 29-1546, *Application for Cash Surrender Value or Policy Loan*, or by applying for a loan via the VA insurance website, or by submitting a written request stating the insured's wish to surrender the policy for the cash value.

- **Loan Value**

Policy loans may be granted up to 94 percent of the cash value, less any indebtedness. We suggest applying for a policy loan rather than the cash surrender value if a policyholder needs cash and the policy is not lapsed. After premiums have been paid or waived for at least one year, the policyholder may apply for a loan by submitting VA Form 29-1546, *Application for Cash Surrender Value or Policy Loan*, or by applying for a loan via the VA insurance website, or by submitting a written request for a policy loan, specifying the amount desired. (See pages 65-66 for loan rates and how to apply for a loan.)

- **Extended Insurance**

A permanent plan policy that lapses after being in force for at least three months will automatically be extended as term insurance. Under this insurance the policyholder will be protected for a limited period of time as determined by the amount of the net cash value of the policy. The amount of the extended insurance will be the face amount of the policy less any indebtedness.

- **Reduced Paid-Up Insurance**

A policyholder may use the net cash value (cash value minus any indebtedness) to buy a reduced amount of paid-up insurance if the policy is not lapsed. This insurance will remain in force for the life of the policyholder, or to the end of the endowment period. No further premium payments are required. The cash value continues to increase, and dividends continue to be earned. The policyholder may cash surrender the paid-up insurance for less than the face value of the policy, depending on the length of time the policy has been in effect. The policyholder can also obtain a loan on the policy at any time.

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# Policy Loans

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Policy loans are available on permanent plans of insurance.

- The policyholder can take **up to 94%** of the reserve (cash) value of their policy less any indebtedness.
- The policy cannot be lapsed, and premiums must be paid or waived at least one year before a policy has loan value.

## Loan Interest Rates

- As of November 2, 1987, all new policy loans have a variable interest rate with a **minimum** rate of 5% and a **maximum** rate of 12%.
- Rate changes are tied to the “ten-year constant maturities,” a U.S. Treasury securities index.
- Each year the U.S. Treasury securities index is reviewed. If required, because of a change in the index, loan rates are adjusted effective October 1.

**The current loan interest rate is 5% (until at least September 30, 2020).**

Interest Rates on NSLI Policy Loans*	
Prior to Jan. 11, 1971	4%
Jan. 11, 1971 - Jul. 28, 1981	5%
Jul. 29, 1981 - Nov. 1, 1987	11%
Nov. 2, 1987 - Sept. 30, 1992	8%
Oct. 1, 1992 - Sept. 30, 1993	7%
Oct. 1, 1993 - Sept. 30, 1995	5%
Oct. 1, 1995 - Sept. 30, 1998	6%
Oct. 1, 1998 - Sept. 30, 2000	5%
Oct. 1, 2000 - Sept. 30, 2001	6%
<b>Oct. 1, 2001 - Sept. 30, 2020</b>	<b>5%</b>

**\*Interest on USGLI ("K" prefix) loans is fixed, by law, at 5%.**

## Applying for a Policy Loan

A policyholder can apply for a loan through two methods:

1. File VA Form 29-1546, *Application for Policy Loan*.

This application can either be **faxed toll-free** to 1-888-748-5828 or **mailed** to:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Insurance Center  
P.O. Box 7327  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

- We recommend all loans be direct deposited to ensure proper and timely processing of requests. Insureds should provide a copy of a voided check showing the checking or savings account information along with the transit routing number.
2. Apply on the VA Insurance Website.
    - Policyholders can apply for a policy loan by going to [www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/) and click the section “Access My Policy Online,” following the link to “VA Life Insurance Online Policy Access.”
    - All new online users will be required to create a User ID and Password through Single Sign On. Veterans who wish to view their policy information and apply for a loan will be required to answer several questions to prove their identity. Current policyholders with PINs will not have to re-verify their identity, they will only have to register a User ID and Password for the Single Sign On.

See page 92 for more information on “Online Policy Access.”

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# Conversions

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## Advantages of Converting to a Permanent Plan

Term insurance is attractive at young ages because it provides low-cost financial protection. However, it becomes very expensive at older ages, making the premiums difficult to pay. Policyholders who think they will want insurance protection at the older ages should consider converting to a permanent plan of insurance at as young an age as possible. Although the premium rates are initially higher than for term policies issued at the same ages, permanent plan premiums stay the same throughout the life of the policy.

Policyholders who are considering converting to a permanent plan should consider the following:

- Their present and future needs for life insurance
- Their ability to pay present or future premiums
- The earlier they convert to a permanent plan, the lower the premium will be
- Their ability to build up reserve value which they can borrow or cash surrender for cash

(Permanent plans that are available for conversion from a term plan are discussed on page 56.)

The guaranteed conversion of a term policy to a permanent plan policy is an important feature for policyholders, especially for those policyholders who have health problems. A policyholder can convert from a term policy to a permanent plan policy without providing evidence of good health.

## Application for Conversion

A policyholder can apply for conversion by submitting VA Form 29-0152, *Application for Conversion*, or a written request for conversion specifying the plan desired and the amount of insurance to be converted.

If the term policy is lapsed but eligible for reinstatement, the policyholder must apply for reinstatement and meet the health requirements. The applications for reinstatement and conversion should be submitted at the same time.

Term insurance may be converted to permanent plan insurance in multiples of \$500 but not less than \$1,000. A policyholder can convert either a portion of their term coverage or the total amount.

## Payment of Premiums

If the policyholder pays by check, at least one monthly premium for the new plan should accompany the conversion application.

If premiums are paid by deduction from VA benefits, allotment from retired pay, or by deduction from the insured's checking account (VA MATIC), VA will take care of any change in deduction or allotment that is needed. If the new premium exceeds the amount available by deduction or allotment, future premiums must be paid by check or other remittance.

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# Paid-Up Additional Insurance

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## Availability of Paid-Up Additional Insurance (Paid-Up Additions)

Since July 1, 1972, policyholders with participating policies can apply their annual dividends to purchase paid-up additional insurance (PUA). Paid-up additions are available on the following programs:

- National Service Life Insurance (“V”)
- Veterans’ Special Life Insurance (“RS” and “W”)
- Veterans’ Reopened Insurance (“J” and “JR”)

Annual Insurance Policy Statements are mailed to policyholders each year on the anniversary date of their policy. In addition to policy information, the annual statement reflects any new paid-up additions credited to the policyholder's account.

See page 72 for more information on the Annual Insurance Policy Statement.

## Paid-Up Additional Insurance: A Way of Increasing Coverage

Purchasing paid-up additions is the only way policyholders can increase their coverage (except for supplemental S-DVI). It is therefore a very popular dividend option. Approximately 83,000 Veterans have policies with paid-up additions, representing \$1.8 billion of extra coverage.

Paid-up additions have cash and loan values and earn dividends that can be used to purchase more paid-up coverage.

## How PUA Works

If an insured chooses this option, his or her annual dividend is automatically applied as a single premium to purchase an amount of paid-up insurance. The amount of paid-up insurance is determined by:

- The age of the policyholder, *and*
- The plan of basic insurance in force, *and*
- The amount of the dividend.

The following table illustrates the amount of paid-up additional insurance that can be purchased using the same dividend amount but at different attained ages:

Attained Age	Dividend Amount	Amount of Whole Life PUA Purchased	
		“V”, “RS”, “W”, “J”	“JR”
75	\$200	\$306	\$289
80	\$200	\$277	\$266
85	\$200	\$255	\$249

The paid-up additional coverage purchased is of the same type as the basic coverage:

If the basic coverage is:	the PUA coverage purchased is:
endowment	paid-up endowment insurance which matures at the same time as the basic contract
all other plans (including term)	paid-up whole life insurance

The PUA dividend option is especially desirable for:

- **Disabled policyholders** who often cannot obtain private life insurance or must pay high premiums for coverage. In many cases, this is the only means by which they can obtain additional life insurance.
- **Policyholders who do not need extra coverage but want to lower their premiums** by periodically reducing their basic insurance as new paid-up additions are purchased. (They keep the same amount of coverage but pay premiums on a smaller portion of that coverage).
- **Term policyholders** whose premiums continue to rise as they become older. (They too can reduce their basic insurance and replace it with paid-up additions, thereby paying premiums on a smaller portion of coverage).

Since the PUA dividend option first became available in July 1972, a NSLI policyholder (now age 93) with a \$10,000 Ordinary Life policy issued in 1945 could have purchased \$69,648 of extra coverage.

## Changes in PUA Amounts and Cost

Because reserves on paid-up additions had earned higher interest rates, the following changes were made at no cost to the policyholders:

- In 1987, and again in 1990, the cost to purchase paid-up additions with annual dividends was lowered, i.e., more PUA could be purchased with the same amount of dividends. These decreases resulted in approximately a 25 percent reduction in the cost to purchase paid-up additions with annual dividends.
- Also, existing paid-up additions were automatically increased by approximately 25 percent (over \$770 million) overall. The increase for individual policies depended on the policyholder’s age and plan of insurance.

QUESTIONS?

Visit our Website:  
Call us Toll Free:

[www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)  
1-800-669-8477

# Annual Insurance Policy Statement

The Annual Insurance Policy Statement provides an insured with information about their VA insurance including:

- The type of policy and effective date of the policy
- Amount of insurance (Basic and Paid-Up Additions)
- Cash and loan values
- Outstanding indebtedness
- Premium information
- Dividend information
- Date of the latest beneficiary designation

An Annual Statement is mailed to the insured on the policy anniversary date of each policy.

THIS IS NOT A BILL			
 Department of Veterans Affairs		ANNUAL INSURANCE POLICY STATEMENT	
POLICYHOLDER	FILE NUMBER	POLICY NUMBER	MAILING DATE
JOHN Q VETERAN	F V 0000 00 00	V 0000 00 00	01/17/20
2020 POLICY INFORMATION			
PLAN	ORDINARY LIFE Basic \$10,000 Paid-Up Additions - Whole Life - \$39,836		Effective Date 1/21/59  TOTAL COVERAGE \$ 49,836
CASH/LOAN VALUES	Values As Of 02-20-20 Basic Policy \$ 6,806.37 Paid Up Additions \$ 24,903.48 TOTAL NET CASH VALUE \$ 31,709.85 TOTAL NET LOAN VALUE \$ 29,807.26		The current estimated amount to be paid to survivors is shown below:  Survivor Benefit \$ 49,836.00
PREMIUMS	Basic PREMIUM \$124.20	MODE Annual	HOW PAID Direct
OTHER DATA	A. LOANS/LIENS TYPE Loan INTEREST RATE 5% PRINCIPAL \$ 3,596.99 TOTAL PRINCIPAL \$ 3,596.99		
B. DIVIDEND OPTION	Current option: NET PUA Your 2020 dividend of \$1,374.84 paid 1/17/20 was applied under the Net PUA option. A letter regarding payment of this dividend was sent under separate cover. INSURANCE DIVIDENDS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO FEDERAL INCOME TAX		
C.	We added new features to our web site, <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/">www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/</a> . You may now access your beneficiary designation and apply for a policy loan online. You may also access current information about your policy. Click on the section, "Access My Online Policy."		
D.	The current interest rate for new loans, and existing variable rate loans is 5%. This rate will remain in effect until October 1st, when it is subject to change. To apply for a loan, send a request over your signature to: P.O. Box 7327, Philadelphia, PA 19101-7327.		
BENEFICIARY INFORMATION			
Your last beneficiary designation of record was made in 2018.			
If you have any questions, visit us at <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/">www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/</a> or call 1-800-669-8477			
VA FORM 29-0258 JAN 1994			

QUESTIONS?

Visit our Website:  
Call us Toll Free:

[www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)  
1-800-669-8477

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# Beneficiary and Option Designations

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## Beneficiary Selection

An insured may select any person, firm, corporation or other legal entity (including his or her estate) as beneficiary, either individually or as trustee. If no beneficiary survives the insured, payment is made to the insured's estate in one sum. The insured also has the right to select how the insurance proceeds will be paid to his or her beneficiary(ies).

## The Insured has the Right to Name and Change a Beneficiary

The insured is the sole owner of his or her policy. This ownership means:

- The insured can at any time change his or her beneficiary(ies), without the knowledge or consent of the current beneficiary(ies).
- A state court order, property settlement, or divorce decree cannot compel an insured to name or change his or her beneficiary(ies).
- Ownership of the policy may not be transferred to any other person or entity, including a trust. *However, a trust may be designated as beneficiary.*
- A beneficiary change **cannot** be made by Last Will and Testament.
- A beneficiary designation cannot contain language that restricts the insured's right to change the beneficiary or remove the insured as owner of the insurance policy.

## Settlement Options Available for Payment of Policy Proceeds

The insured has the right to select how the insurance proceeds will be paid to his or her beneficiaries. An option change **can** be made by Last Will and Testament. Most VA Forms contain a preprinted "Lump Sum" in the option block because most insureds choose this option. If the insured wants the beneficiary to receive monthly installments rather than a lump sum, the "Lump Sum" must be crossed off and replaced by the desired option (2, 3, or 4). The settlement options available for payment of policy benefits are:

<b>Option 1:</b>	Lump sum payment for the face amount of the policy less any indebtedness.
<b>Option 2:</b>	Equal monthly installments with interest over 36 to 240 months. (The insured selects the number of monthly installments in multiples of 12, such as 36, 48, 60, 72, etc.)
<b>Option 3:</b>	A monthly life income with 120 payments guaranteed (240 for USGLI policies).
<b>Option 4:</b>	Equal monthly installments are made until the face amount of the policy less any indebtedness is paid. If the principal beneficiary lives beyond this period, payments continue throughout their lifetime.

It should be noted that although payments under Option 3 may be higher than those under Option 4, if payments are being made under Option 3 and the principal beneficiary dies soon after the guaranteed payments are made, no further payments will be made to a contingent beneficiary, *even if* the full face amount of the policy less any indebtedness has not been paid. However, under option 4, payments would continue to the contingent beneficiary until the face amount of the policy has been paid.

QUESTIONS?

Visit our Website:  
Call us Toll Free:

[www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)  
1-800-669-8477

## If a Beneficiary Dies Before Receiving the Insurance Proceeds

### General information:

If a beneficiary survives the insured but dies before he or she receives some or all of the proceeds, the following rules apply:

- If the proceeds were payable under an installment option, and the beneficiary dies before all of the guaranteed installments are paid, the present value of the unpaid installments is payable in one sum to the insured's estate (NSLI policies) or to the estate of the last surviving beneficiary (USGLI policies).
- If the proceeds are payable in a lump sum payment, the proceeds are paid to the beneficiary's estate. To allow the proceeds to be paid to the contingent beneficiaries in a "common disaster" situation, rather than to the principal beneficiary's estate, the phrase "provided the principal beneficiary survives me for \_\_\_ days" may be added. Any number of days up to a maximum of 30 may be shown.

### Special circumstances involving children of a beneficiary:

If the insured designated more than one principal beneficiary or designated both principal and contingent beneficiaries, the share of a beneficiary who predeceases the insured will be paid to the surviving beneficiaries according to the pre-printed phrase on the application "or to the survivor(s)." ***If this automatic distribution is not desired, the insured can cross it out or designate that the share of a deceased beneficiary go to that beneficiary's "issue" (children). This is referred to as a "per stirpes" distribution.*** These situations are illustrated below:

4. BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION				
A. SHOW FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH BENEFICIARY ENTERED IN THE PRINCIPAL AND CONTINGENT BENEFICIARY AREAS BELOW	B. BENEFICIARY'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. (If known. See instruction No. 5 on reverse)	C. RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED	D. SHARE TO EACH (Use fractions, such as 1/2, 2/3, or "all")	E. OPTION FOR EACH
<b>PRINCIPAL</b>				
<i>Ann Jones 123 Any Street Anywhere, USA 00000</i>	000-00-0000	<i>Daughter</i>	1/2	LUMP SUM
<i>Bill Smith 123 Any Street Anywhere, USA 00000</i>	000-00-0000	<i>Son</i>	1/2	LUMP SUM
<b>OR TO SURVIVOR(S)</b>				LUMP SUM
<b>CONTINGENT</b> <small>(Person(s) who get proceeds if all of the Principal Beneficiaries die before the insured. If none, write "none")</small>				
<i>None</i>				
<b>OR TO SURVIVOR(S)</b>				LUMP SUM
5. REMARKS (Include any additional information which will clarify your intent regarding the payment of your insurance. Also, list the policy number of any other policy on which the beneficiary is not to be changed)				
<i>In the event my children predecease me I would like their share to go to their children</i>				

An insured designates his children, Ann and Bill as his beneficiaries, each getting 1/2 of the insurance benefits. Ann has one child and Bill has two children. If Ann dies *before* the insured and *before* Bill, then

IF the insured crossed out the phrase "or to the survivor(s)" and wrote "the share of a deceased beneficiary go to his or her children", then

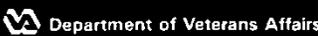
- Ann's child will get half of the insurance benefits
  - Bill will get half of the insurance benefits
- (this is the ***"per stirpes" distribution***)

IF the insured ***DID NOT*** cross out the phrase "or to the survivor(s)" nor did he write "the share of a deceased beneficiary go to his or her children", then

- Bill will get all of the insurance benefits

# Designation of Beneficiary and Optional Settlement (Completing the Form)

It is important that the insured submit a properly completed and updated beneficiary and option designation. If the insured is uncertain about his or her beneficiary and option designation, he or she can obtain the information from the Insurance Center in Philadelphia. The submission of a new designation, reflecting the insured's current intentions, will replace any prior designation for the same policy.

IMPORTANT - SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE			OMB Approved No. 2900-0020 Respondent Burden: 10 minutes		
 <b>DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE</b>					
DO NOT WRITE IN SPACE BELOW - FOR VA USE					
ENTERED BY VA	DATE RECORDED	SIGNATURE OF VA INSURANCE OFFICIAL			
1A. NAME OF INSURED AND MAILING ADDRESS FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES (Type or print)			2A. INSURANCE FILE NUMBER F V 0000 00 00		
<b>Mr. John Smith</b> (First, middle, last name)			2B. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 000 00 0000		
<b>123 Any Street</b> (Number and street or rural route)			3. DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) (000) 000-0000		
<b>Anywhere, U.S.A 00000</b> (City or P.O., State and ZIP Code)					
1B. IS THIS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR YOUR INSURANCE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO					
<b>4. BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION</b>					
A. SHOW FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH BENEFICIARY ENTERED IN THE PRINCIPAL AND CONTINGENT BENEFICIARY AREAS BELOW		B. BENEFICIARY'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. (If known. See instruction No. 5 on reverse)	C. RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED	D. SHARE TO EACH (Use fractions, such as 1/2, 2/3, or "all")	E. OPTION FOR EACH
<b>PRINCIPAL</b>					
<b>Sally P. Smith</b> <b>123 Any Street</b> <b>Anywhere, USA 00000</b>		<b>000-00-0000</b>	<b>Wife</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>LUMP SUM</b>
<b>OR TO SURVIVOR(S)</b>					
<b>CONTINGENT</b>					
(Person(s) who get proceeds if all of the Principal Beneficiaries die before the insured. If none, write "none")					
<b>Ann Jones</b> <b>123 Any Street</b> <b>Anywhere, USA 00000</b>		<b>000-00-0000</b>	<b>Daughter</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$	<b>LUMP SUM</b>
<b>Bill Smith</b> <b>123 Any Street</b> <b>Anywhere, USA 00000</b>		<b>000-00-0000</b>	<b>Son</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$	<b>LUMP SUM</b>
<b>OR TO SURVIVOR(S)</b>					
5. REMARKS (Include any additional information which will clarify your intent regarding the payment of your insurance. Also, list the policy number of any other policy on which the beneficiary is not to be changed)					
I understand that this change cancels all prior beneficiary and option selections; and unless indicated in Item 5, Remarks, this change applies to all Government Life Insurance policies under the above file number.					
6. SIGNATURE OF INSURED (Do not print) <i>(Sign Here)</i>			7. DATE 1/1/20		
8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF WITNESS (Type or print) <b>Sally P. Smith, 123 Any Street, Anywhere, USA 00000</b>					
If you have any questions concerning designating a beneficiary, call us toll free at 1-800-669-8477.					
VA FORM 29-336 JAN 1999		SUPERSEDES VA FORM 29-336, OCT 1998, WHICH WILL NOT BE USED.			

QUESTIONS?

Visit our Website:  
Call us Toll Free:

[www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)  
1-800-669-8477

The following factors should be kept in mind when completing a beneficiary and option selection form:

- One beneficiary designation applies to all policies unless otherwise specified. VA Form 29-336, *Designation of Beneficiary and Optional Settlement* (dated June 1982 or later) does not contain a separate block to list the insured’s policy numbers. Unless otherwise specified in the remarks block on these forms, a designation applies to all policies.
- Most VA Forms 29-336 contain a preprinted “Lump Sum” as the option. If the insured wants the beneficiary to receive monthly installments rather than a lump sum, the “Lump Sum” must be crossed off and replaced by the desired option (2, 3 or 4). If option 2 is selected, the number of monthly installments should be shown. Payments under this option are 36 to 240, in multiples of 12.
- A beneficiary change *cannot* be made by Last Will and Testament. (*VA regulations do permit an **option selection** for government life insurance policies to be made by Will.*)
- Principal and contingent beneficiaries should be clearly differentiated on the form. Where the insured lists multiple principal or contingent beneficiaries, their shares should be clearly shown and should always add up to “1” (for example ½+½).

Policyholders can now view an image of their most recent beneficiary designation online using the VA Insurance website.

See page 92 for more information on “Online Policy Access.”

## Typical INCORRECT Beneficiary Designations

The following are examples of beneficiary designations that may *delay* payment of the insurance proceeds because the designations are *unclear*:

- How did the insured intend for his children to share the proceeds in the following designation?

4. BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION				
A. SHOW FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH BENEFICIARY ENTERED IN THE PRINCIPAL AND CONTINGENT BENEFICIARY AREAS BELOW	B. BENEFICIARY'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. (If known. See instruction No. 5 on reverse)	C. RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED	D. SHARE TO EACH (Use fractions, such as 1/2, 2/3, or "all")	E. OPTION FOR EACH
<b>PRINCIPAL</b>				
<i>Ann Jones</i> <i>123 Any Street</i> <i>Anywhere, USA 00000</i>	<i>000-00-0000</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>ALL</i>	<i>LUMP SUM</i>
<i>Bill Smith</i> <i>123 Any Street</i> <i>Anywhere, USA 00000</i>	<i>000-00-0000</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>ALL</i>	<i>LUMP SUM</i>
OR TO SURVIVOR(S)				
<b>CONTINGENT</b> <small>(Person(s) who get proceeds if all of the Principal Beneficiaries die before the insured. If none, write "none")</small>				
<i>Sally P. Smith</i> <i>123 Any Street</i> <i>Anywhere, USA 00000</i>	<i>000-00-0000</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>ALL</i>	<i>LUMP SUM</i>
OR TO SURVIVOR(S)				

- If the insured wanted his children to share equally, he should have written “½” for each child in the SHARE TO EACH block.
- If the insured wanted Ann to be the principal beneficiary and Bill to be the contingent, then Bill’s information should have been written in the contingent portion of the application.

- Who did the insured intend as the principal beneficiary to receive the insurance proceeds?

4. BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION				
A. SHOW FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH BENEFICIARY ENTERED IN THE PRINCIPAL AND CONTINGENT BENEFICIARY AREAS BELOW	B. BENEFICIARY'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. (If known. See instruction No. 5 on reverse)	C. RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED	D. SHARE TO EACH (Use fractions, such as 1/2, 2/3, or "all")	E. OPTION FOR EACH
<b>PRINCIPAL</b>				
<i>Sam Jones, Administrator for my estate 123 Any Street Anywhere, USA 00000</i>	000-00-0000	Friend	ALL	LUMP SUM
<b>OR TO SURVIVOR(S)</b>				
<b>CONTINGENT</b> <small>(Person(s) who get proceeds if all of the Principal Beneficiaries die before the insured. If none, write "none")</small>				
NONE				
<b>OR TO SURVIVOR(S)</b>				

Did the insured intend the benefits go to his estate (with Sam Jones as the administrator for the estate) or to Sam Jones his friend (who just happens to be the administrator for the insured's estate)?

- If the proceeds were to go to his friend "Sam Jones" the insured should have written "Sam Jones" as the principal beneficiary.
- If the proceeds were to go to the insured's estate the insured should have written "My estate" as the principal beneficiary.

- VA cannot make a beneficiary use the benefits for any specific purpose designated by the insured.

4. BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION				
A. SHOW FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH BENEFICIARY ENTERED IN THE PRINCIPAL AND CONTINGENT BENEFICIARY AREAS BELOW	B. BENEFICIARY'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. (If known. See instruction No. 5 on reverse)	C. RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED	D. SHARE TO EACH (Use fractions, such as 1/2, 2/3, or "all")	E. OPTION FOR EACH
<b>PRINCIPAL</b>				
<i>James Jackson who will pay my funeral expenses 123 Any Street Anywhere, USA 00000</i>	000-00-0000	Friend	ALL	LUMP SUM
<b>OR TO SURVIVOR(S)</b>				
<b>CONTINGENT</b> <small>(Person(s) who get proceeds if all of the Principal Beneficiaries die before the insured. If none, write "none")</small>				
NONE				
<b>OR TO SURVIVOR(S)</b>				

VA cannot make James Jackson pay the insured's funeral expenses. If the intent of the insured is to pay his own funeral expenses a better designation would be:

- "Funeral Director" as one principal beneficiary with the share "funeral bill only" and
- "James Jackson" as a second principal beneficiary with the share "remainder".

- According to the following beneficiary designation, did the insured intend for the proceeds to go to his friend, Ann Smith, or does the insured want Ann Smith to hold the proceeds for his minor aged children until they are of age?

4. BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION				
A. SHOW FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH BENEFICIARY ENTERED IN THE PRINCIPAL AND CONTINGENT BENEFICIARY AREAS BELOW	B. BENEFICIARY'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. (If known. See instruction No. 5 on reverse)	C. RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED	D. SHARE TO EACH (Use fractions, such as 1/2, 2/3, or "all")	E. OPTION FOR EACH
<b>PRINCIPAL</b>				
<i>Ann Smith, Guardian for my children 123 Any Street Anywhere, USA 00000</i>	000-00-0000	Friend	ALL	LUMP SUM
<b>OR TO SURVIVOR(S)</b>				
<b>CONTINGENT</b> <small>(Person(s) who get proceeds if all of the Principal Beneficiaries die before the insured. If none, write "none")</small>				
NONE				
<b>OR TO SURVIVOR(S)</b>				

If the insured intended for the proceeds to go to his children (including minors) a clearer designation would show:

- "My children" as the principal with "equal shares" written in the shares section.
- or
- Ann Smith, in trust for my children as the principal with "equal shares" written in the shares section.

Both these designations will ensure the proceeds are shared equally among ALL the insured's existing children

## Alternate Beneficiary Legislation

On December 16, 2003, the President signed a law that authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) and United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI) to a contingent beneficiary or beneficiaries, when the principal beneficiary does not claim the insurance within two years of the date of the insured's death.

This means that:

- If the principal beneficiary, who has been named by the insured, does not claim the insurance within two years of the insured's death, then payment may be made as if that principal beneficiary had predeceased the insured.
- If there is a contingent beneficiary, or beneficiaries, who have been designated by the insured, the insurance may then be paid to the contingent beneficiary or beneficiaries.
- If neither the principal nor contingent beneficiary files a claim for the insurance within four years of the insured's death, VA is authorized to pay the insurance to another person who, in the judgment of the Secretary, is equitably entitled.
- Once payment is made in this manner, proceeds are not payable to any other individual.

## Insured's State of Mind

The following rules apply when completing a beneficiary and option designation:

- **If it appears that the insured does not fully understand their actions or is not acting completely freely**, a statement from the witness or another party who is present will help VA to determine whether the designation is valid. The statement should be submitted to VA with the designation, and should list all pertinent details, including the insured's reason for making the beneficiary designation, if known. Mental illness, drugs or alcohol intoxication can cause lack of full understanding. Other factors such as duress or undue influence can result in the insured not acting freely in making the designation.
- **If an insured is incompetent**, his or her legal representative (guardian, conservator, etc.) may make a beneficiary designation on the insured's behalf with the authorization of a court order. If the designation can be made while the insured is lucid, it should be done in the presence of a physician who should verify in writing that the insured had the capacity to understand the consequences of the action. Although the physician's statement is not required, it will help VA determine whether the designation is valid.

- **An insured or claimant can sign by a mark (“X”) if:**
  - the insured is unable to sign due to physical disability,
  - the insured is of sound mind, AND
  - the “X” is witnessed by two people not named on the designation.

### **!!! Important Facts!!!**

- **One Beneficiary Designation applies to all your policies unless you specify otherwise.**
- **Make sure the distribution of shares equals 1 (e.g.  $\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}$ ).**
- **A beneficiary change cannot be made by Last Will and Testament, but a settlement option change can.**
- **NOONE can order the insured to change their beneficiary, including State Courts or Divorce Orders.**

## **Online Beneficiary Update**

On January 27, 2020, VBA Insurance Service released a convenient new self-service option for Veterans to securely update their beneficiaries online through the VA Insurance website (<https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/>).

After the policyholder verifies their identity, this new application will guide them through the designation process step-by-step to ensure that the information is completed correctly. A PDF of the Veteran’s beneficiary designation will be viewable by the Veteran after submission. Once approved, the policyholder receives an email notifying them that the update has been accepted and providing them with a link to log in and view and/or print a confirmation of their beneficiary designation from the website.

Online Beneficiary Update gives Veteran policyholders a fast, easy, and secure way to ensure their beneficiary information is up to date so their wishes may be carried out in a quick and efficient manner. This new feature is just one more way VBA Insurance Service is enhancing the services provided to our Veterans.

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# Gratuitous S-DVI (Policies Prefixed by "ARH")

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## Eligibility Requirements for Gratuitous S-DVI

Gratuitous Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI) is granted posthumously to Veterans who:

- Met the basic eligibility requirements for S-DVI (prefixed "RH"); and
- Did not apply for S-DVI because of a continued mental incompetence due to a service-connected disability; and
- Died before the appointment of a guardian or within two years of such appointment.

## Application for Gratuitous S-DVI Benefits

VA must receive an application, in the form of a letter, for payment of Gratuitous S-DVI within two years from the date of the Veteran's death. However, if the person making the claim is mentally or legally incompetent at the time the right to apply for Gratuitous S-DVI expires, they may apply within one year after their incompetency ends. To apply for Gratuitous S-DVI, submit a letter to VA Insurance and supply evidence of insurability.

## Payment of Gratuitous S-DVI

Gratuitous S-DVI is granted in an amount that, together with any other United States Government Life Insurance or National Service Life Insurance in force, totals \$10,000. Gratuitous S-DVI is payable to the beneficiary only as a lump sum payment.

**Payment of Gratuitous S-DVI is made to the following beneficiaries in the order named:**

- 1) To the widow or widower of the insured, if living. If not,
- 2) To the child or children of the insured, if living, in equal shares. If not,
- 3) To the parent or parents of the insured, if living, in equal shares.

# *How To File A Claim or Contact Us For Individual Policy Programs*

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<b>Program</b>	<b>Policy Pre-fix</b>
<b>United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI)</b>	<b>K</b>
<b>National Service Life Insurance (NSLI)</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>Veterans' Special Life Insurance (VSLI)</b>	<b>RS, W</b>
<b>Veterans' Reopened Life Insurance (VRI)</b>	<b>J and JR</b>
<b>Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI)</b>	<b>RH</b>
<b>Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# How to File Death Claims

All death claims should be mailed *or* faxed to the Insurance Center in Philadelphia:

<b>Mailing Address:</b>
Department of Veterans Affairs Insurance Center P.O. Box 7208 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

<b>Toll-free fax number:</b>
1-888-748-5822

<b>If the beneficiary is:</b>	<b>He or she must file:</b>
a principal beneficiary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>photocopy of the death certificate showing date and cause of death of insured</li> <li>Claim Form, VA Form 29-4125, <i>Claim for One Sum Payment</i><sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
a contingent beneficiary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>death certificates for the insured and principal beneficiary(ies)</li> <li>Claim Form, VA Form 29-4125, <i>Claim for One Sum Payment</i><sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
a representative of the estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>death certificate(s)</li> <li>copies of letters testamentary, letters of administration, or a court order of distribution along with claims from the entitled parties<sup>2</sup></li> <li>claim form signed by the executor or administrator of the estate</li> </ul>
a minor or incompetent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>death certificate(s)</li> <li>a claim from the next of kin, personal representative (guardian, custodian, etc.) or logical person to receive payment for the minor or incompetent</li> <li>letters of guardianship, conservatorship, etc. (if any)</li> <li>address of minor or incompetent</li> </ul>
filing for VMLI benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>insured's death certificate</li> <li>a payoff statement from the Veteran's mortgage lender showing the outstanding mortgage balance owed as of the Veteran's death</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>If the beneficiary wants monthly payments, he or she should use VA Form 29-4125a for NSLI policies, *Claim for Monthly Payments* instead of the claim forms mentioned above. If a lifetime income option (3 or 4) is selected, the beneficiary's birth certificate (or other official proof of age) must be submitted.

<sup>2</sup>If these are not available, a statement that there will be no administration of the estate, and VA Form 29-541, *Certificate Showing Residence and Heirs of Deceased Veteran*, must be filed.

**Note:**

- \* **Photocopies** of death certificates are acceptable.
- \* A letter claiming the proceeds may be used instead of a VA Claim Form (29-4125, etc.).
- \* Award proceeds are encouraged to be paid through Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit) due to a Department of Treasury request on reducing paper checks. Claimants should fully complete their claim form and can include a copy of a voided check showing the checking or savings account information along with the transit routing number, as well as the insurance file number and signature on the form or letter.
- \* Payment cannot be made if it would cause the insurance to escheat to a State (this happens where there are no heirs to pay so the assets of the estate default to the State).

**The following factors should be kept in mind when filing a death claim:**

- Most death awards are authorized by the Insurance Center within 10 days of receipt of the documents needed for payment.
- An insured's Will can be used as evidence that he or she intended a lump sum payment, regardless of when it was executed. The Will does not have to specifically mention the insurance, nor must it be probated.
- Award checks can be directly deposited into a claimant's account. The claimant must provide their checking or savings deposit account number as well as their social security number. Claimants must also provide the name, address, phone number, and the routing transit number for their financial institution. A copy of a voided check listing all information should be included.
- A beneficiary may assign all or a portion of his or her share of the insurance to a restricted class of the insured's relatives.
- For any additional questions on filing a death claim, please call **1-800-669-8477**.

# Phone & Fax Numbers, E-mail, and Mailing Addresses

## Points of Contact for USGLI, NSLI, VSLLI, VRI, S-DVI, VMLI Policies

There are several ways for a policyholder to contact VA about their VA Life Insurance. Policyholders can contact the Insurance Center through a toll-free number, by mail, by facsimile, by e-mail and through the VA Insurance website.

<b>Toll-Free Telephone</b>	1-800-669-8477
<p>Customers calling the Insurance Toll Free Service can speak to an Insurance Specialist or use the Insurance Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.</p> <p><b>Insurance Specialists</b> are available 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM (Eastern Time) Monday - Friday (<i>The best days to call are Wednesdays through Fridays</i>).</p>	
<b>Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System</b>	<p>The Insurance IVR system allows customers using the toll-free telephone number to access their own insurance records 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The Insurance IVR system provides four basic functions for callers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Informational Letters and Forms:</b> By making a touch-tone input, callers can request letters and forms be mailed to them: Beneficiary Designation, Loan/Cash Surrender Application, Premium and Dividend status letter, Loan and Cash Value status letter, and Annual Policy Statement.</li> <li><b>2. Policy Information:</b> Callers can hear detailed insurance policy information within three major categories – dividends, loans and cash values, and general policy/premium information.</li> <li><b>3. Voice Mail:</b> Callers can leave voice messages requesting information and services during the hours when Insurance Specialists are not available, 6:00 pm to 8:30 am (Eastern Time) on weekdays, and 24 -hours per day on weekends. An Insurance Specialist will respond to the messages by the next business day.</li> <li><b>4. Pre-recorded Informational Messages:</b> Callers also have the option to listen to pre-recorded information after hours and weekends concerning a variety of insurance topics.</li> </ol>

<b>General Correspondence</b>	Department of Veterans Affairs Insurance Center- <b>P.O. Box (See Below)</b> Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101
	For correspondence concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficiary Designation: <b>P.O. Box 8638</b></li> <li>• Death, waiver of premium or VMLI Claims, and S-DVI applications: <b>P.O. Box 7208</b></li> <li>• Loans and Cash Surrenders: <b>P.O. Box 7327</b></li> <li>• Premium and Loan/Lien Payments: <b>P.O. Box 7787</b></li> <li>• All Other Insurance Mail: <b>P.O. Box 42954</b></li> </ul>
<b>E-Mail</b>	VAinsurance@va.gov
<b>Website</b>	www.insurance.va.gov
<b>Toll-Free Fax</b>	Live and Death claims: 1-888-748-5822
	All other requests or questions: 1-888-748-5828

**QUESTIONS?**

**Visit our Website:**

**[www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)**

**Call OSGLI Toll Free:**

**1-800-419-1473**

# *How To File A Claim Or Contact Us For Group Policy*

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<b>Program</b>
<b>Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)</b>
<b>SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection Program (TSGLI)</b>
<b>SGLI Family Coverage (FSGLI)</b>
<b>Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)</b>

# How to File Death Claims – SGLI and VGLI

All death claims should be mailed or faxed to the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance:

<b>Mailing Address:</b>
The Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance PO Box 70173 Philadelphia, PA 19176-0173

OR

<b>Toll-free fax number:</b>
1-877-832-4943

Program	Claim Form	Where To File
SGLI Death Claim	SGLV Form 8283, <i>Claim for Death Benefits</i>	Casualty Office
VGLI Death Claim	SGLV Form 8283, <i>Claim for Death Benefits</i>	OSGLI
FSGLI Death Claim	SGLV Form 8283a, <i>Claim for Death Benefits</i>	Casualty Office

Program	Form	Where To File
SGLI Accelerated Benefits	SGLV Form 8284, <i>Servicemembers/Veteran Accelerated Benefits Option</i>	Casualty Office
FSGLI Accelerated Benefits	SGLV Form 8284a, <i>Servicemembers/Veteran Accelerated Benefits Option</i>	Casualty Office
VGLI Accelerated Benefits	SGLV Form 8284, <i>Servicemembers/Veteran Accelerated Benefits Option</i>	OSGLI

**Note:**

If the deceased died while on active duty or while a member of a Reserve or National Guard Unit, the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance will be furnished with proof of death by the Uniformed Service. In all other situations, the claimant must submit a certified copy of the Certificate of Death.

## Points of Contact for SGLI and VGLI Policies

If you are looking for information about the SGLI and VGLI programs and cannot find answers to your questions on the SGLI/VGLI portion of the Insurance website, you can call, e-mail or write to the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI). OSGLI administers the SGLI and VGLI programs, including the processing and payment of claims. OSGLI can be reached at:

<b>Toll-free telephone</b>	1-800-419-1473
<b>General Correspondence</b>	The Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance PO Box 41618 Philadelphia, PA 19176-9913
<b>E-mail</b>	Death and Accelerated benefit claims: <a href="mailto:osgli.claims@prudential.com">osgli.claims@prudential.com</a> All other inquiries: <a href="mailto:osgli.osgli@prudential.com">osgli.osgli@prudential.com</a>
<b>Toll-free fax</b>	Death and accelerated benefits claims: 1-877-832-4943 All other fax inquiries: 1-800-236-6142
<b>New VGLI Applications and VGLI Reinstatements</b>	OSGLI PO Box 41618 Philadelphia, PA 19176-9913
<b>Accelerated Benefits Options</b>	OSGLI PO Box 70173 Philadelphia, PA 19176-0173
<b>Non-toll-free telephone (To contact OSGLI from overseas)</b>	973-548-5699
<b>Non-toll-free fax (To contact OSGLI from overseas)</b>	973-548-5300
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance">http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance</a>

**QUESTIONS?**

**Visit our Website:  
Call Us Toll Free:**

**[www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)  
1-800-669-8477**



***Insurance  
Information on the  
Internet***

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# VA Insurance Information Available on the Internet

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An insured can access *two* insurance sites from the VA Insurance home page:

- **The Insurance Website – Individual Policies** *and*
- **The Insurance Website – Group Policy (SGLI & VGLI)**

## **Individual Policies Website**

The **Insurance Website** contains information about:

- National Service Life Insurance (NSLI, VSLI, VRI)
- Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance
- United States Government Life Insurance
- Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance

## **Online Policy Access**

Insureds can access their VA administered (USGLI, NSLI, VSLI, VRI, S-DVI) insurance policy information online at our website by clicking on the link "Access My Policy Online."

**Note:** *Online Policy Access is not available for VMLI policyholders.*

To access their policy information, insureds must log in through Access VA, which provides a single login option for many VA websites and online applications. Insureds can sign in using their existing eBenefits DSLogon user ID and password, or register for one of the other Sign in Partners available such as ID Me.

- **Single Sign On:** Logged in policyholders can view policy status (face amount, loan and cash value, premium due), view an image of their beneficiary designation, request a policy loan or dividend withdrawal, and request various forms.

## **Apply for S-DVI Insurance Online**

Veterans can apply for Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance with the click of a button. The application will walk the Veteran through the application step-by-step. The application offers the following advantages:

**Ease of Use** - The step-by-step format and online help screens take the guesswork out of applying. The applicant can review different insurance plans and calculate premiums with the click of a mouse. We will even help the Veteran determine if they are eligible for this insurance.

**Pre-filled Information** – Veterans who have a DSLogon user ID and password have the options to log into their account and have their personal information filled in automatically.

**Convenience** - The application can be submitted electronically via our secure server. We begin processing the application immediately. The application can also be printed and mailed or faxed to us.

## **Life Insurance Needs Calculator**

This interactive website feature helps Veterans determine if they have enough life insurance to meet their family's needs. VA's Life Insurance Needs Calculator provides Veterans with an estimated amount of life insurance necessary to support their survivors. *The calculator is located in the "How Much Life Insurance Do You Really Need?" section of the Insurance website.*

The calculator suggests the amount of life insurance the Veteran should have by using the following information input by the Veteran:

- **Current assets** (these include such things as investments, bank accounts, savings bonds, social security benefits, retirement funds, etc.)
- **Net income survivors will need** (the annual income that will provide the standard of living desired for survivors minus the annual income available to survivors)
- **Financial obligations** (these include such things as car loans, credit card debt, funeral/burial expenses, children's educational expenses, mortgages, etc.)

To use the calculator, go to <https://insurance.va.gov/NeedsCalculator>.

**Note:** VA's Life Insurance Needs Calculator does not include every financial situation that may affect a Veteran. The Calculator should be used as a guide only and is not a substitute for a financial planner. Financial information is not saved or transmitted to VA.

## **Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance Premium Calculator**

This website feature allows the Veteran to determine the premium they would pay for VMLI coverage. By entering their current age, the remaining number of years left to make their mortgage payments and current mortgage balance this calculator will give an approximation of how much VMLI premiums will cost. The calculator can be located at <https://insurance.va.gov/VMLICalc/VMLICalc.asp>.

**Note:** This is only an estimate based on the information provided at that time. VMLI premiums are based on the age of the Veteran, the remaining term of the mortgage, the outstanding mortgage balance, and the amount of VMLI coverage requested. Should the Veteran apply for VMLI coverage, we would ask for mortgage documentation necessary to and calculate the exact premium. If the Veteran already has VMLI coverage, then premiums for coverage on a refinanced mortgage would be affected by the amount of insurance entitlement remaining.

## Insurance Website Features

Among the many options available on our website an insured can:

<b>Link to</b>	The Department of Veteran’s Affairs Home Page, which provides links for all Veterans Benefits and Services.
<b>View</b>	Various information on all VA administered policies (USGLI, NSLI, VSLI, VRI, S-DVI, VMLI) such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insurance benefits for service-disabled Veterans</li> <li>• How to file a death or waiver of premium claim</li> <li>• Change dividend options</li> </ul>
<b>Ask</b>	Questions about, or request an action be taken on, their VA life insurance policy.
<b>Search</b>	A database to determine if VA is holding unclaimed insurance funds. This money represents death awards, dividend checks and premium refunds that were mailed to policyholders. These payments were returned to VA by the Post Office because they could not be delivered.
<b>View, Download or Print</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A copy of this VA Life Insurance Programs handbook</li> <li>• VA insurance forms such as Designation of Beneficiary, Application for Reinstatement, Claim for Disability Insurance Benefits, and many others.</li> </ul>

## **Group Policy Website**

The **Insurance Website** contains information about:

- Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)
- Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)
- Family SGLI (FSGLI)
- Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI)
- Other SGLI/VGLI policy features

### **Online Policy Access**



### **SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES)**

Servicemembers with full-time SGLI coverage will no longer have to complete the paper form SGLV-8286 to make changes to their coverage or beneficiary elections. Now Servicemembers can use the online system, SOES, to manage the amount of SGLI and Spousal coverage and to designate or update beneficiaries.

To access SOES at the following address: [www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect). Follow the link Benefits - Life Insurance SOES – SGLI Online Enrollment System. Servicemembers can log-in with his or her CAC or DS Logon. Servicemembers can check their SGLI coverage and beneficiaries to make sure they are up-to-date.

### **To access Veterans' Group Life Insurance**

First time users must enter their Social Security Number, Last Name, and Control Number (which appears on their bill and other correspondence from OSGLI). After submitting this information, they may create their own User ID and Password.

The **VGLI Online Account** feature allows insureds to view account status, pay premiums with a credit card or checking account, update beneficiaries, change coverage amounts, and update contact information (e.g. change address). Go to <https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/choose.asp>.

### **Additional Website Features**

The Insurance Website also provides information on how to convert from SGLI to VGLI and how to apply for VGLI coverage. It also includes a Myths & Rumors section about SGLI/VGLI, a VGLI newsletter to keep customers informed of changes that may directly impact their policy, and beneficiaries can learn how to obtain free financial counseling.

### **VGLI Web Chat Feature**

OSGLI introduced VGLI Web Chat to improve service for Veterans covered by VGLI. VGLI Web Chat allows VGLI policyholders to interact real time with a Customer Service Associate online. To

**QUESTIONS?**

**Visit our Website:**

**[www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)**

**Call OSGLI Toll Free:**

**1-800-419-1473**

start a VGLI Web Chat session, VGLI members are required to sign in to their VGLI Online account and click “Chat Now” on the “Contact Us” page. Additional features of VGLI Web Chat include scheduling a call with a Customer Service Associate, information on premium options and premium reduction, as well as other account actions like paying a bill or updating beneficiaries.

### **Life Insurance Needs Calculator**

The Insurance Needs Calculator allows Veterans to enter their assets and expenses and provides an estimate of the amount of insurance coverage they should have. Unlike other commercial calculators, VA’s Needs Calculator takes into account the special benefits that are only available to Servicemembers and Veterans. VA also provides a worksheet that allows Veterans to compare VGLI coverage with commercial plans, and a list of common insurance industry terms to help evaluate different types of plans. Go to <https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/lifeIns101.asp> to use the calculator and view the VGLI comparison worksheet.

**Note:** VA’s Life Insurance Needs Calculator does not include every financial situation that may affect a Veteran. The Calculator should be used as a guide only and is not a substitute for a financial planner. Financial information is not saved or transmitted to VA.

### **Online Insurance Training**

Training modules are available on several topics for Casualty Officers working with SGLI beneficiaries to assist them with filing SGLI claims. There is also a TSGLI Training Series that teaches the basics about the TSGLI Program. As new online training modules are developed, they will be added to the website.

### **Insurance Website Features**

<b>Link</b>	The Department of Veteran’s Affairs Home Page, which provides links for all Veterans Benefits & Services.
<b>View</b>	Various information on all VA insurance programs, including SGLI and VGLI such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insurance benefits for service-disabled Veterans</li> <li>• How to make a premium payment via credit card</li> <li>• How to apply for VGLI online</li> <li>• Frequently Asked Questions about VA life insurance, SGLI, SGLI Spousal coverage, TSGLI, and VGLI</li> </ul>
<b>Ask</b>	Questions about, or request an action be taken on, their VGLI policy.
<b>View, Download or Print</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SGLI/VGLI handbook, which provides a comprehensive overview of these programs.</li> <li>• SGLI/VGLI forms such as Election &amp; Certificate, Claim for Death Benefits, and application for SGLI Disability Extension</li> <li>• TSGLI Procedures Guide</li> <li>• A legislative history of the SGLI &amp; VGLI Programs</li> </ul>