

VSO Stipend for Honor Guard Funeral Services

In June 2022, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster signed legislation (Act No. 225) entitled Veterans Service Organization Burial Honor Guard Support Fund, which provides a stipend to congressionally chartered veterans service organizations that provided an honor guard burial detail at the funeral of a qualifying South Carolina veteran. The minimum stipend is fifty dollars (\$50) per funeral detail, but may not exceed the per funeral cap established by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. (The current cap is \$100 per funeral).

To claim the stipend, you must download and submit a Request for Reimbursement to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs no later than the 15th of the month following the date the funeral was conducted. You can find the form on the SC Department of Veterans Affairs website, www.scdva.sc.gov. In the search box, type the word “documents” then look for “**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE. Veteran Service Organization (VSO) Burial Honor Guard Support fund.**”

Prior to submitting the first request for reimbursement, you'll need to obtain a State Vendor Number for the Honor Guard unit. A link to the instructions for this process is included in the form downloaded previously. As you go through that process, you may find it worthwhile to also sign up for direct deposit into the Honor Guard's bank account.

Once you've registered as a vendor and prepared your reimbursement request form, you should submit the form electronically to VSOHonors@scdva.sc.gov. (This is not the address that is indicated on the form, but it is the one that will ensure that the form reaches someone who will take action on it).

If you have an issue, the best point of contact at the Department of Veterans Affairs is

Timothy R. Frambes; Director, Veteran Services;
South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204
tim.frambes@scdva.sc.gov
TEL: 803-734-4065

If you would like to contact an Honor Guard member who has been through this process, you may contact Jerry Holt, American Legion Post 34 Honor Guard, at jerryholt813@gmail.com, or phone (973) 897-9251.