

VWIN Mission Statement

We are an organization of American Veterans' Widows and Widowers (Survivors), reaching out to other Veterans' Widows and Widowers nationwide and overseas. Our mission is to:

- Inform Veterans' Survivors of benefits for which they might qualify
- Help Survivors gather documents needed to substantiate and submit claims
- Direct Survivors to where they will receive best attention
- Give all a sense of togetherness with other Veterans' Widows(ers)



VWIN is a non-profit organization solely sustained by dues and donations.

Like a lighthouse, VWIN guides the destinies of Veterans' Survivors.

VWIN is vigorously pursuing the following goals

1. To ensure Survivors who qualify for both SBP and DIC benefits be allowed to receive both benefits without any offset.
2. To address the needs of those Survivors who do not qualify for either the Survivor Benefits Plan or Dependency Indemnity Compensation, and survive on less than \$1,300 total monthly income.
3. To amend the present requirement stipulating that a veteran be continuously rated 100% disabled for 10 years prior to death, in order for the surviving spouse to qualify for DIC.
4. To compensate survivors of veterans who die from 100% disabilities incurred on active duty, with a \$250 monthly increase to their DIC benefits. These veterans' Survivors do not qualify for the new (2001) \$100 K Death Gratuity benefits plus insurance package allocated to survivors of service members who die in Iraq and Afghanistan.
5. For HR Bill 4403 introduced by Congressman Walz in December 2009, regarding DIC Survivors access to overseas Space-A travel, to be finalized. VWIN advocated this Bill to Rep. Walz during September 2009 meetings in Washington, D.C.
6. To obtain congressional support to have the "In Memory Plaque" on the Washington Mall relocated, upgraded, and given the prominence it deserves.
7. Finally, for all Veterans' Widows and Widowers to be granted a national Day of Recognition every June 28. So far, Colorado is the only state to enjoy this distinction.

VWIN Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Birth day (Month & Day): _____

VWIN membership runs March through February. Annual dues are \$18.00. Anyone joining after October 1, will only pay \$2 for each remaining month through February 28.

Make checks payable to: VWIN
Mail to:
Veterans' Widows/ers International Network, Inc.
Valeska Thompson, National Membership Chair
P.O. Box 441043
Aurora, CO 80044-1043

Tax deductible contributions are welcome.

Message from VWIN Chairman

We hope the Veterans' Widows(ers) International Network can be helpful and supportive to all Veterans' Survivors either receiving benefits or on the waiting list.

VWIN is always ready to launch a campaign to promote the continuation of and changes to Veterans' Survivors benefits where needed. Over the past 15 years, VWIN has amassed a great deal of experience dealing with various political and bureaucratic entities entrusted to make decisions regarding our benefits. We have established strong relationship with several members of Congress who support our efforts.

Just recently, after 10 years of intense lobbying at every level, VWIN welcomed the creation of an exclusive office for Veterans' Survivors within the DOD, which had been a primary goal since our inception in 1995.

Anyone wishing to join our campaign is more than welcome. A membership application is included on the reverse side. You can contact members of the VWIN Leadership Council by phone or email to vwin95@aol.com. All comments and suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

VWIN relies on a modest annual membership fee and generous donations to support our activities. Donations may be made by check or via our website at www.vetsurvivors.com

Edmée J. Hills

Since its inception, VWIN has achieved and continues to:

1. Helped many Survivors collect due benefits
2. Reached high levels of recognition among members of the U.S. Congress and military organizations.
3. Established a quarterly newsletter for the benefit of its members, in order to update them of latest news regarding our benefits.
4. Continuously lobby members of the U.S. House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs, in order to redress the inequities impairing our benefits.

VWIN Leadership

National Chairperson

Leslie Tjarks

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National Membership Chair

Valeska Thompson

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**VETERANS'
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