Did you know that, if you are a veteran who served at least 90 days, one of which was during one or more of the eras listed below, you are eligible for a VA pension?

- You do not have to be service-connected.
- You do not have to have retired from the military.
- You do not have to actually have been in combat.
- You simply have to meet the income and net worth criteria.

Eligibility periods:
- **World War II**  
  December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946
- **Korean War**  
  June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955
- **Vietnam War**  
  August 5, 1964 (February 28, 1961, for veterans who served “in country” before August 5, 1964), through May 7, 1975
- **Gulf War**  
  August 2, 1990 through a date to be set by law of Presidential Proclamation.

Did you know that, if you are a surviving spouse, you may also be eligible?

**Levels**

There are three levels to the Improved Pension program:

- **Basic Pension** - The basic pension does not require that you be physically disabled.
  - A single veteran is eligible for -- $12,868 per year
  - A veteran with a dependent is eligible for -- $16,851 per year
  - A surviving spouse is eligible for -- $8,630 per year
  - A surviving spouse with a dependent is eligible for -- $11,296 per year

- **Housebound** - A veteran or surviving spouse whose physical limitations require a certain level of regular assistance with their daily routine may be eligible to receive housebound benefits.
  - A single veteran -- $15,725 per year
  - A veteran with a dependent -- $19,710 per year
  - A surviving spouse -- $10,548 per year
  - A surviving spouse with a dependent -- $13,209 per year

- **Aid & Attendance** - Aid & Attendance is the highest level of Improved Pension available to any United States Military veteran (or his surviving spouse) who meets the service, financial, and physical Criteria.
  - A single veteran -- $21,466 per year
  - A veteran with a dependent -- $25,448 per year
  - A surviving spouse -- $13,794 per year
  - A surviving spouse with a dependent -- $16,456 per year

You must have a Countable Income as described below for all three levels. The amounts differ in each level. Definition: Countable Income – the amount of income a veteran or surviving spouse receives each year, AFTER deducting all non-reimbursed, recurring health care expenses. This includes assisted living costs, home health care, insurance & Medicare premiums, on-going pharmacy costs and more. If you have a dependent, their health care costs can also be used to reduce your countable income. (However, the spousal income must also be added into the equation.) Additionally, the claimant’s Net Worth must be less than $80,000 to be eligible.

**How do I know if I meet the physical criteria?**

A veteran or surviving spouse who requires daily assistance may be eligible. The individual need not be bedridden – nor does he/she need to be in an assisted living or home health care situation. If a physician confirms that your physical limitations are such that you cannot live unattended, then the VA may determine that Aid & Attendance is warranted. Your doctor must confirm that your physical condition has deteriorated to the point that you require daily assistance from others in order to function.