

## HOW TO HELP YOUR WIDOW: WHILE SHE'S STILL YOUR WIFE

The following information has been printed in many newsletters and articles as a help to Veterans and retired personnel. It is very important to have the right documents on hand whenever the need arises. In order to be sure that all is in order, the following items should be preserved in a place known to you and your family, and always readily available.

- a. All DD214s, WDAGOS 53, discharge papers, etc from all services.
- b. Length of Service or Disability Retirement Orders.
- c. All marriage, divorce, annulment, death certificates pertaining to present or former marriages.
- d. Birth Certificates (yours and spouse's); children (minor or handicapped).
- e. Last Will and Testament: Trust (Revocable or non-Revocable) documents or Living Will.
- f. Power of Attorney.
- g. All insurance policies (military and civilian, etc.)
- h. Social Security numbers.
- I. Location of all bank accounts and numbers; safe deposit boxes.
- j. All property deeds and titles (home, car, boats, RV'S, LAND, ETC.) It is also advisable to have these in both names, with rights of survivorship.
- k. Stocks, bonds, investment certificates (numbers and locations).
- l. Copy of election forms for Survivor Benefit Plan or RSFPP.
- m. Citizenship or adoption papers.
- n. Other annuity plans, i.e. Civil Service Annuity, etc.
- o. Any VA Claim Numbers, award letters and any VA correspondence, also any Labor Department related claims, etc.
- p. Federal and State Income Tax Returns for the past seven (7) years.
- q. Any court orders.
- r. Your most recent military retired pay statement from military department.

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s. Any medical documents to support claims.

t. Any paper documents that look official. If you are not sure, keep it; don't take a chance by throwing it away.

u. Any other items you believe belong in this file.

PREPARE AN INDEX of what you have in your file. Keep in front of file and identify.

This document has been prepared by: The Widowed Support Group/Center  
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