



Gold Star Wives of America, Inc

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Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Fact Sheet

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- DIC is a tax-free monetary benefit administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). This benefit is paid monthly to Surviving Spouses and Surviving Children and Parents of military service members who died in the line of duty or as a result of service connected causes.
- DIC is an indemnity payment with the purpose of replacing a portion of the family income lost as a result of the military service member's death.
- DIC has been paid in some form to survivors since the Revolutionary War.
- There are two types of DIC for survivors:
 - **Flat Rate DIC:** A DIC recipient whose veteran's death was on or **after** January 1, 1993 currently receives a flat rate of \$1254.19 per month.
 - **Rank-Based DIC:** A DIC recipient whose veteran's death was before January 1, 1993 receives DIC based on the rank (pay grade) of the veteran. A DIC recipient whose veteran's rank was E1-E6 currently receives \$1254.19. A DIC recipient whose veteran's rank was E7 or above receives a higher amount based on rank.
- DIC has only been adjusted by Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) since 1993.
- The latest statistics from the Veterans Benefit Administration Annual Benefits Report of Fiscal Year 2013, updated September 2014 indicates that **376,979** survivors receive DIC.
- **H.R. 2539 Surviving Spouses' Benefit Improvement Act of 2015** has been introduced by Representative Joseph Kennedy of Massachusetts. H.R. 2539 would increase the DVA DIC for survivors from 43% (\$1254.19) to 55% (\$1598.76) of a single 100% disabled veteran's compensation (currently \$2906.63). Those survivors receiving higher than the \$1254.19 will vary in the amount of increase they will receive. Bringing DIC compensation to 55% would provide parity with other Federal survivor programs.
- 2001 Public Law 107-107 states a deceased service member is the equivalent of 100% disabled.

