To obtain certified copies of registered personal documents, contact the Health Department, Department of Vital Records, 2001 Maywill Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230. Office: (804) 662-6200. http://www.vdh.state.va.us/vital_records/

**STATE DEATH BENEFITS**

9.1-402 Effective January 1, 2006, the beneficiary of a deceased law-enforcement officer whose death occurred while in the line of duty as the direct or proximate result of the performance of his duty shall be entitled to receive the **sum of $100,000**, which shall be payable out of the general fund of the state treasury, in gratitude for and in recognition of his sacrifice on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth.

Subject to the provisions of Virginia’s Presumptive Clause in regards to deaths from respiratory diseases, hypertension, or heart disease/stroke; if the deceased person’s death (I) arose out of and in the course of his/her employment or (II) was within five years from his/her date of retirement, his beneficiary shall be entitled to receive the sum of $25,000, which shall be paid out of the general fund of the state treasury.

For more information visit http://www.doa.virginia.gov/Admin_Services/Line_of_Duty/Line_of_Duty_Main.cfm

**EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**

A. Free tuition and required fees for children and surviving spouses of law enforcement officers. The Virginia survivor and dependents education program shall be implemented pursuant to the following:

1. For the purposes of this subsection, "qualified survivors and dependents" means the spouse or a child between the ages of 16 and 29 of a military service member who, while serving as an active duty member in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, the Virginia National Guard, or Virginia National Guard Reserve, during military operations against terrorism, on a peacekeeping mission, as a result of a terrorist act, or in any armed conflict subsequent to December 6, 1941, was killed or is missing in action or is a prisoner of war, or of a veteran who, due to such service, has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as totally and permanently disabled or at least 90% disabled, and has been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. However, the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services may certify dependents above the age of 29 in those
cases in which extenuating circumstances prevented the dependent child from using his benefits before the age of 30.

2. Such qualified survivors and dependents shall be eligible for the benefits conferred by this subsection if the military service member who was killed, is missing in action, is a prisoner of war, or is disabled (i) was a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia at the time of entering such active military service or called to active duty as a member of the Armed Forces Reserves or Virginia National Guard Reserve; (ii) is and has been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to, or has had a physical presence in Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to, the date on which the admission application was submitted by or on behalf of such qualified survivor or dependent for admission to such institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution; (iii) if deceased, was a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia on the date of his death and had been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to his death or had a physical presence in Virginia on the date of his death and has had a physical presence in Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to his death; (iv) in the case of a qualified child, is deceased and the surviving parent had been, at some time previous to marrying the deceased parent, a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years or is and has been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to or has had a physical presence in Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to the date on which the admission application was submitted by or on behalf of such child; or (v) in the case of a qualified spouse, is deceased and the surviving spouse had been, at some time previous to marrying the deceased spouse, a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years or is and has been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years or has had a physical presence in Virginia for at least five years prior to the date on which the admission application was submitted by such qualified spouse.

3. From such funds as may be appropriated and from such gifts, bequests, and any gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources, there is hereby established the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance, in an amount (i) up to $2,000 or (ii) as provided in the appropriation act, for board and room charges, books and supplies, and other expenses at any public institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution granting a degree, diploma, or certificate in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the use and benefit of qualified survivors and dependents.

Each year, from the funds available in the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and its member institutions shall determine the amount and the manner in which financial assistance
shall be made available to beneficiaries and shall make that information available to the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services for distribution.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall be responsible for disbursing to the institutions the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by the Commonwealth of Virginia to support the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund and shall report to the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services the beneficiaries' completion rate.

The maximum amount to be expended for each such survivor or dependent pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed, when combined with any other form of scholarship, grant, or waiver, the actual costs related to the survivor's or dependent's educational expenses allowed under this subsection.

4. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services shall designate a senior-level official who shall be responsible for developing and implementing the agency's strategy for disseminating information about the Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program to those spouses and dependents who may qualify. The Department of Veterans Services shall coordinate with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to identify veterans and qualified survivors and dependents. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services shall report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly as to the agency's policies and strategies relating to dissemination of information about the Program. The report shall also include the number of current beneficiaries, the educational institutions attended by beneficiaries, and the completion rate of the beneficiaries.

B. The surviving spouse and any child between the ages of 16 and 25 whose parent or whose spouse has been killed in the line of duty while employed or serving as a law-enforcement officer, including as a campus police officer appointed under Chapter 17 (§ 23-232 et seq.), sworn law-enforcement officer, firefighter, special forest warden pursuant to § 10.1-1135, member of a rescue squad, special agent of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, state correctional, regional or local jail officer, regional jail or jail farm superintendent, sheriff, or deputy sheriff, member of the Virginia National Guard while serving on official state duty or federal duty under Title 32 of the United States Code, or member of the Virginia Defense Force while serving on official state duty, and any person whose spouse was killed in the line of duty while employed or serving in any of such occupations, shall be entitled to free undergraduate tuition and the payment of required fees at any public institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution granting a degree, diploma, or certificate in Virginia under the following conditions:
1. The chief administrative officer of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, emergency medical services agency, law-enforcement agency, or other appropriate agency or the Superintendent of State Police certifies that the deceased parent or spouse was employed or serving as a law-enforcement officer, sworn law-enforcement officer, firefighter, special forest warden pursuant to § 10.1-1135, or member of a rescue squad or in any other capacity as specified in this section and was killed in the line of duty while serving or living in the Commonwealth; and

2. The child or spouse shall have been offered admission to such public institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution. Any child or spouse who believes he is eligible shall apply to the public institution of higher education or other accredited postsecondary institution to which he has been admitted for the benefits provided by this subsection. The institution shall determine the eligibility of the applicant for these benefits and shall also ascertain that the recipients are in attendance and are making satisfactory progress. The amounts payable for tuition, institutional charges and required fees, and books and supplies for the applicants shall be waived by the institution accepting the students.

C. For the purposes of subsection B, user fees, such as room and board charges, shall not be included in this authorization to waive tuition and fees. However, all required educational and auxiliary fees shall be waived along with tuition.

D. Tuition and required fees may be waived for a student from a foreign country enrolled in a public institution of higher education through a student exchange program approved by such institution, provided the number of foreign students does not exceed the number of students paying full tuition and required fees to the institution under the provisions of the exchange program for a given three-year period.

E. Each public institution of higher education and other public accredited postsecondary institution granting a degree, diploma, or certificate in Virginia shall include in its catalogue or equivalent publication a statement describing the benefits provided by subsections A and B.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
Workers’ Compensation coverage is compulsory for employers in Virginia with 3 or more employees; however, waivers are allowed. If death results from the accident within nine years, the employer shall pay, or cause to be paid, subject, however, to the provisions of the other sections of this act in one of the methods hereinafter provided, to the dependents of the employee wholly dependent upon his earnings for support at the time of the accident a weekly payment equal to two-thirds of his average weekly wages, but not more than one hundred percent of the average weekly wage of the
Commonwealth as defined in section 65.1-54 nor less than twenty-five percent of the average weekly wage as defined therein for a period of 400 weeks, from the date of the injury. Except, however, those dependents specified in section 65.1-66 (1), (2) and (3) shall be paid a weekly payment equal to two-thirds of the employee's average weekly wages, but not more than one hundred percent of the average weekly wage of the Commonwealth as defined in section 65.1-54 nor less than twenty-five percent of the average weekly wage as defined therein for a period of 500 weeks from the date of the injury, and burial expenses not exceeding $10,000 and in addition reasonable transportation expenses for the deceased not exceeding $1,000.

If the employee leaves dependents only partly dependent upon his earnings for support at the time of injury, the weekly compensation to be paid, as aforesaid, shall equal the same proportion of the weekly payments for the benefit of persons wholly dependent as the extent of partial dependency bears to total dependency. When compensation to dependents shall begin from the date of the last of such payments but shall not continue more than 400 weeks from the date of the injury except to those dependents specified in section 65.1-66 (1), (2) and (3) to whom compensation shall not continue more than 500 weeks from the date of the injury. The following persons shall be conclusively presumed to be dependents wholly dependent for support upon the deceased employee:

1. A wife upon a husband whom she had not voluntarily deserted or abandoned at the time of the accident or with whom she lived at the time of his accident, if she is then actually dependent upon him.

2. A husband upon a wife whom he had not voluntarily deserted at the time of the accident or with whom he lived at the time of her accident if he is then actually dependent upon her.

3. A child under the age of eighteen upon a parent and a child over such age if physically or mentally incapacitated from earning a livelihood or a child under the age of twenty-three if enrolled as a full-time student in any accredited educational institution.

4. Parents in destitute circumstances, provided there be no total dependents pursuant to other provisions of this section.

As used in this section, the term "child" shall include a stepchild, a legally adopted child, a posthumous child, and an acknowledged illegitimate child, but shall not include a married child; and the term "parent" shall include stepparents and parents by adoption.

For the purpose of this title, the dependence of a widow or widower of a deceased employee shall terminate with death or remarriage, and the amount to be theretofore received by him or her shall be divided among the children or other dependents in the
proportion of which they are receiving compensation, and the dependence of a child or any minor dependent, except a child or minor dependent physically or mentally incapacitated from earning a livelihood, or a full-time student, as defined in 65.2-515, shall terminate with the attainment of eighteen (18) years of age.

Contact the Virginia Workers’ Compensation Commission, 1000 DMV Drive, Richmond, VA 23220. Office: (877) 664-2566. www.vwc.state.va.us

**HEALTH BENEFITS**

Survivors of all Virginia law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty on or after April 8, 1972, are entitled to health insurance coverage. For *spouses*, continued health insurance will terminate upon such spouse’s *death or coverage by alternate health insurance*. For dependent *children*, coverage will terminate upon the dependent’s *death, marriage, coverage by alternate health insurance, or 21st birthday*. Continued health care insurance will be provided *beyond* the dependent’s 21st birthday *if* the dependent is a *full-time college student* and will continue until such time as the dependent ceases to be a *full-time student* or *reaches his 25th birthday*, whichever occurs first. Continued health care insurance shall also be provided *beyond* the dependent’s 21st birthday *if* the dependent is mentally or physically disabled, and such coverage will continue until three months following the cessation of the disability. The State Comptroller will provide forms to law enforcement agencies so that survivors can make a claim for this benefit, which will be paid by the State. Reference Virginia State Statute 2.1-133.7:1.

**RETIREMENT/PENSION**

Individual cities and municipalities are responsible for providing retirement and pension plans for law enforcement officers. Contact your local agency’s Benefits Assistance Officer.

**ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**

**PEER SUPPORT ORGANIZATION**

Established in 1984, Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., (C.O.P.S.), is a national, non-profit organization that works with law enforcement agencies, police organizations, mental health professional, and local peer-support organizations to provide assistance to surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. C.O.P.S. has become a “lifeline” to police survivors nationwide. **Contact the C.O.P.S. National Office** (800) 784-2611 or visit www.nationalcops.org/chap.htm for information on a chapter in your area.

**National Rifle Association** offers a death benefit if a police officer, with or without compensation, is feloniously killed in the line of duty (line of duty according to
government guidelines) and is a current member of the National Rifle Association, the surviving spouse/family is entitled to a $35,000 death benefit.

**HEROES, Inc.** was founded in 1964, as a totally nonprofit volunteer organization incorporated in the District of Columbia under Charitable Registration Certificate No. 6-07-398 to serve the surviving families of all officers within the Metropolitan Washington, DC, area (The District of Columbia, Prince George's County and Montgomery County in Maryland, and Arlington and Fairfax Counties in Virginia). Within 24 hours of an officer’s death, a check in the amount of $3,500 is delivered to the family to be used for immediate emergency expenses.

At a later date, usually within two to four weeks, the surviving spouse will meet with the HEROES Executive Committee to identify other personal areas where financial assistance is needed. A comprehensive scholarship program is available to ensure that each child can receive an education of his or her choice.

HEROES never forgets or closes the books on a family. They are always available for counseling or assistance. The telephone number for HEROES, Inc. is (202) 638-6658.

**The Virginia Public Safety Foundation (VPSF) -** The mission of this organization (formerly the Silver Star Foundation) is to raise and administer funds for the benefit of the surviving spouses and children (natural, adopted, and stepchildren) of public safety personnel who lose their lives in the line of duty. The funds provided may be used for assistance as approved by their Board of Trustees, including financial assistance while the family is processing other benefits claims.

VPSF also provides educational scholarship opportunities for the dependents of public safety officers killed in the line of duty. VPSF’s Scholarship Fund provides for the reimbursement of education expenses for qualified applicants.

Eligible applicants must meet the following requirements:

1) Applicant must be the spouse, life partner, child, or stepchild of public safety officer killed in the line of duty whose death has been certified an official line of duty death by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2) Applicant must have received a high school diploma or equivalency.

3) Applicant must be pursuing undergraduate or professional certification from an accredited institute.

4) “Child” survivors must be under the age of 25 to request assistance.

5) Adult survivors must request assistance within five years of the line of duty death.

Funds can be used for any educational purpose and have been used to support students with various goals, including four-year universities, community colleges and trade schools. Visit the VPSF website to download the application form.

For more details concerning this organization, contact (804) 648-6299 Ext. 1004. Address: 2201 W Main ST, Richmond, VA 23220. www.vpsf.org
Southern States Police Benevolent Association, Inc. The PBA member’s beneficiary will receive their base salary for one full year they are killed accidentally or intentionally while performing their law enforcement duties (maximum payout: $60,000). The beneficiary will receive $5,000 if it is not an occupational death or if you are a retired or reserve member. Any active Southern States PBA member in good standing and dues current will receive this benefit. For more information contact The Southern States Police Benevolent Association, Inc., 1900 Brannan Road, McDonough, GA 30253-4310. Office: (800) 233-3506. www.sspba.org.

FUNERAL AND CREMATION BENEFITS
Dignity Memorial funeral, cremation and cemetery providers created the Public Servants Program for emergency service personnel. This program provides dignified and honorable tributes, at no cost, for career and volunteer law enforcement officers who fall in the line of duty. Visit their website for complete information @ www.dignitymemorial.com and look under Public Servants for details. You may also call 800-344-6489 and speak with a representative.

Wilbert Funeral Services, Inc. provides complimentary burial vaults and related services for fallen law enforcement officers. For more information visit www.wilbert.com or call (888) WILBERT.

The Virginia State Comptroller shall pay up to $11,000 in funeral and transportation costs, even if officials haven’t determined whether the officer died in the line of duty. For more information please visit www.doa.virginia.gov or via email at lineofduty@doa.virginia.gov.