



Today's Planning for Tomorrow's Needs

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My last article which appeared in the March/April 2016 Pennsylvania VFW News generated a lot of positive response. I have had numerous calls from around the country requesting forms and further information as veterans and their families sensed the need to begin to get their affairs in order.

One of the things I deal with on a regular basis as a Post Chaplain is helping families after the loss of a loved one. On more than one occasion, the immediate family had not been able to locate their loved one's DD 214. And unfortunately, many times no preparation was made by the deceased. This creates a big headache for the family. When this happens, the immediate family is put under tremendous stress as they try to locate documents and important papers while trying to make major decisions quickly with little or no information to guide them.

Therefore, several years ago I developed a "Planning and Preferences Template" to help comrades begin to get their important papers in order and to make it easy for them to think through and list some of their preferences and desires.

While this is not something any of us want to think about and do, we can sure make things a lot easier for our family if we at least fill out the items listed below. Doing so will help your family and will ensure your wishes will be carried out.

My Planning and Preferences Today for My Needs Tomorrow

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birth date: _____

Home #: _____

Cell #: _____

Do I have my DD 214? Yes No

Location of my DD 214: _____

Do I have a Living Will?	Yes	No
Location of my Living Will: _____		
Do I have a Will?	Yes	No
Location of my Will: _____		
The Executor of my will is: _____		
I would prefer:	Burial	Cremation
If cremation, I would like an Urn:	Yes	No
If burial, my casket should be:	Wood	Metal
I would prefer this type of service:	Funeral	Memorial
Conducting services for me, I would prefer: _____		
I want my service to be held at: _____		
Visitation time preference:	_____	None
Do I want to be buried at a National Cemetery?	Yes	No
I desire to be buried at: _____		
If private lot, my plot preference or # is: _____		

Just complete the form and then cut it out. Put this with your important papers. If you would like to do more, I have information and templates for each of the items listed on the Planning and Preferences Sheet (living will, will, etc.). They can be found at vfwpahq.org. Just look under District/Post tools and open the *Chaplain's Guide*.

Blessings as you serve,

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