

Did you know that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a pension program that provides financial benefits to veterans, or their surviving spouses, with non-service connected disabilities (called "Aid and Attendance)? You're not alone! Our caregivers can come into your home and create a safe and supportive environment for you by providing vital personal care or companion care services.

Take John*, for instance, who returned home from the Afghanistan War with excruciating pain in his legs and needed help getting to physical therapy and with mobility around the house. His wife had a full-time job outside of the home and two kids to raise, so dealing with his disability was tearing their household apart. Fortunately for him, our FirstLight caregivers were able to help him with showering, getting to and from therapy and his doctor appointments, and even cooking dinner some nights to give his wife a break. John was so sweet, he and his home caregiver would even stop and pick up surprises for his wife (who doesn't love chocolates?) on their way home! Our personal care program made a big difference in his marriage and family life.

We all know that getting through government red tape to apply for benefits can be exhausting! No problem ... at FirstLight HomeCare, we'll help! Some of the benefits of working with us include:

- We prescreen clients for Aid & Attendance eligibility.
- If you are eligible, we complete the VA benefit application and assist in the collection and processing of government and medical documents.
- Once approved, we'll continue to advocate and assist in maintaining eligibility.
- Rather than waiting the 8 to 12 months for the first government check to arrive, we make the VA pension funds available right away**.

Do You Qualify?

If you are a veteran who has served at least 90 days on active duty, with at least one day of service during a period of war, or the surviving spouse of such a veteran, and you are in need of assistance at home due to your disabilities, and you meet the VA's maximum income and asset limits, FirstLight HomeCare can cut through the paperwork maze for you!

What is the Benefit Amount for 2012?

A Veteran is eligible for up to \$1,704 per month, while a surviving spouse is eligible for up to \$1,094 per month. A Veteran with a Spouse is eligible for up to \$2,020 per month and a Veteran with a Sick Spouse is eligible for up to \$1,338 per month***.

At FirstLight HomeCare, we consider it a privilege to recognize the sacrifices veterans have made and are honored to have an opportunity to make a difference in their lives and the lives of their loved ones. Our home caregivers can assist in eating, bathing, dressing, undressing, medication dosing, taking care of the needs of nature and more. Don't struggle ... we can provide you with exceptional care and you never have to leave the comfort of your home!

* The name has been changed to protect anonymity.

** Funding for in-home care begins on the first of the month.