



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Veterans Benefits Administration  
Regional Office**

[REDACTED]

**VA File Number**

[REDACTED]

**Represented By:  
GORDON A GRAHAM  
Rating Decision  
05/28/2026**

**INTRODUCTION**

The records reflect that you are a Veteran of the Peacetime and Vietnam Era. You served in the Marine Corps from March 9, 1964 to March 8, 1968. The Board of Veterans Appeals made their decision on your appeal on May 19, 2026. We have implemented their decision based on the evidence listed below.

In *Barry v. McDonough*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that claimants may be entitled to multiple half-step considerations for additional, independent disabilities rated at 50 percent or more for special monthly compensation (SMC) determinations. Based on the Court's decision, entitlement to additional SMC steps based on Barry is established.

**DECISION**

1. Entitlement to a separate 30 percent rating for Parkinson's disease is granted effective November 7, 2025.
2. Entitlement to special monthly compensation based on aid and attendance with new effective date of April 28, 2020.

[REDACTED]

### EVIDENCE

- VA Form 20-0996, Decision Review Request - Higher Level Review, received January 10, 2024
- Rating Decision, dated January 20, 2024
- VA Form 21-526 EZ: Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, received March 18, 2024
- Rating Decision, dated August 5, 2024
- VA Form 21-526 EZ: Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, dated November 7, 2025
- VA Form 21-2680, Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance, received January 16, 2025
- Rating Decision, dated December 30, 2025
- VA Form 10182, Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement), received April 2, 2026
- Board of Veterans' Appeals Decision, dated May 19, 2026
- VA Form 21-526 EZ: Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, dated January 11, 2023
- VA Form 21-2680, Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance, received January 11, 2023
- Rating Decision, dated April 5, 2022
- VA Form 21-2680, Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance received December 1, 2021
- VA Form 21-2680, Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance received December 15, 2021
- VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request - Supplemental Claims, received December 15, 2021

### REASONS FOR DECISION


#### **1. Entitlement to a separate 30 percent rating for Parkinson's disease is granted.**

This decision is an implementation of Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) decision dated May 19, 2026. Please refer to the BVA decision for reasons and basis.

The criteria for a separate 30 percent rating for Parkinson's Disease have been met. 38 U.S.C. §§ 1155, 5107; 38 C.F.R. §§ 3.102, 4.1—4.14, 4.124a

Service connection for Parkinson's disease has been established as directly related to military service. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304)

An evaluation of 30 percent is assigned from November 7, 2025, the date we received your claim. Service connection has been established from the day VA received your claim because your claim was continuously pursued within the applicable time period. When a claim of service connection is received more than one year after discharge from active duty, the effective date is



the date VA received a claim. (38 CFR 3.400, 38 CFR 3.2500)

We have assigned a 30 percent evaluation for your Parkinson's disease based on:

- Minimum evaluation assigned for ascertainable residuals

Higher evaluations are based on more severe residuals. (38 CFR 4.120, 38 CFR 4.124a)

This is the highest schedular evaluation allowed under the law for paralysis agitans. (38 CFR 4.120, 38 CFR 4.124a)

## **2. Entitlement to special monthly compensation based on aid and attendance.**

This decision is an implementation of Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) decision dated May 19, 2026. Please refer to the BVA decision for reasons and basis.

The criteria for an effective date of April 28, 2020 for the award of entitlement to special monthly compensation based on aid and attendance have been met. 38 U.S.C. § 5110; 38 C.F.R. § 3.400.

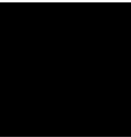
Based on the Board of Veterans Appeals decision and the disabilities which were service-connected at the time, the need for regular aid and attendance from April 28, 2020 is determined to be due to the combined effects of your diabetes mellitus type II, chronic renal disease and peripheral neuropathy of the bilateral upper and lower extremities.

Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (l) and 38 CFR 3.350(b) on account of being so helpless as to be in need of regular aid and attendance while not hospitalized at U.S. government expense from April 28, 2020.

Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (p) and 38 CFR 3.350(f)(3) at the rate intermediate between subsection (l) and subsection (m) on account of entitlement to the rate equal to subsection (l) with additional disability(ies), post-traumatic stress disorder with depressive disorder and mild neurocognitive disorder independently ratable at 50 percent or more from April 28, 2020, to July 15, 2025.

Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (p) and 38 CFR 3.350(f)(4) at the rate equal to subsection (m) on account of entitlement to the rate equal to subsection (l) with additional disability, arteriosclerotic heart disease to include coronary spasm, Prinzmetal's angina, heart failure with mid range ejection fraction independently ratable at 100 percent from July 16, 2025.

Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (p) and 38 CFR 3.350(f)(3) at the rate intermediate between subsection (m) and subsection (n) on account of entitlement to the rate equal to subsection (m) with additional disability(ies), post-traumatic stress disorder with depressive disorder and mild neurocognitive disorder independently ratable at 50 percent or more from July 16, 2025 to October 6, 2025.



Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (p) and 38 CFR 3.350(f)(4) at the rate equal to subsection (n) on account of entitlement to the rate equal to subsection (m) with additional disability, post-traumatic stress disorder with depressive disorder and mild neurocognitive disorder independently ratable at 100 percent from October 7, 2025.

Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (p) and 38 CFR 3.350(f)(3) at the rate intermediate between subsection (n) and subsection (o) on account of entitlement to the rate equal to subsection (n) with additional disability(ies), Parkinson's disease, tinnitus, painful scar, balance impairment independently ratable at 50 percent or more from November 7, 2025.

Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (k) and 38 CFR 3.350(a) on account of loss of use of a creative organ from March 2, 2026.

Entitled to additional aid and attendance allowance under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (r)(1) and 38 CFR 3.350(h) subject to the provisions of 38 CFR 3.552(b)(2) on account of entitlement at a rate intermediate between subsections (n) and (o) plus the rate authorized under subsection (k), and being in need of regular aid and attendance from March 2, 2026.

**REFERENCES:**

Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Pensions, Bonuses and Veterans' Relief contains the regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs which govern entitlement to all Veteran benefits. For additional information regarding applicable laws and regulations, please consult your local library, or visit us at our website, [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

