gathering through the system can only be obtained from the individual respondent. Valid complaints will be accepted from third parties.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The Federal Register Notice with a 45-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on August 28, 2013, at pages 53196–53197.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 300 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:** 15 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** One-time.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 1,200.

Dated: October 22, 2013.

By direction of the Secretary.

Crystal Rennie,

VA Clearance Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Crystal Rennie, Enterprise Records Service (005R1B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420. (202) 632–7492 or email crystal.rennie@va.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0222.”

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Titles:**

a. Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans’ Cemetery, VA Form 40–1330.

b. Claim for Government Medallion for Installation in a Private Cemetery, VA Form 40–1330M.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900–0222.

**Type of Review:** Revision of a currently approved collection.

**Abstracts:**

a. The next of kin or other responsible parties of deceased Veterans complete VA Form 40–1330 to apply for Government provided headstones or markers for unmarked graves.

b. A family member complete VA Form 40–1330M to apply for a Government medallion to be affixed to a privately purchased headstone or marker for a deceased Veteran buried in a private cemetery.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The Federal Register Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on June 7, 2013 at page 34429.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or Households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 88,643 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:** 15 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** One time.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 354,573.

Dated: October 22, 2013.

By direction of the Secretary.

Crystal Rennie,

VA Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
reported financial information through a computer matching of income reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA). VA has authority to obtain income information from IRS and SSA under 38 U.S.C. 5317. IRS and SSA have authority to share this information with VA under 26 U.S.C. 6103(l)(7)(D)(viii).

VA requires a veteran whose assignment to a priority group is based on income to submit a financial assessment when initially enrolled and then requests resubmission of this information each year thereafter on the enrollment anniversary. As a reminder of this requirement, VA mails a Health Benefits Renewal (VA Form 10–10EZR) to the veteran 60 days before the anniversary date, and a second notification 30 days before the anniversary date, if the veteran has not yet submitted the requested information. If the veteran’s financial assessment information is not updated prior to the anniversary date, VA asks the veteran to update the financial assessment when they arrive for their next health care appointment.

To accurately complete the financial assessment portion of the VA Form 10–10EZ, the veteran must maintain and have ready access to information on gross household income, assets, and expenses for the previous year. The average time required for a veteran to complete the financial assessment renewal form is 24 minutes. Of the approximately 2.1 million veterans required to submit annual financial assessments, only about ten percent have a change in income or assets sufficient to affect the veteran’s priority group placement. For the approximately 90 percent of veterans who have no change in income or assets, the annual reporting requirement is an unnecessary burden.

VA intends to eliminate this burden by changing the financial reporting practices. Veterans will be requested to submit financial assessment information using a VA Form 10–10EZ only during the initial enrollment process. VA will continue to receive income information from IRS and SSA, which will then be compared to the information initially provided by the veteran. A veteran will be asked to provide further income and asset information or to verify the data provided by IRS or SSA only in those cases where VA identifies a change to the veteran’s income that would result in a change to the veteran’s priority group status. However, any veteran who has information that he or she believes will affect his or her enrollment status may submit that information at any time using VA Form 10–10EZ.

Because this change in policy requires revision of current VA forms and processes, including updating existing information technology, it will be implemented in two phases. VA anticipates that Phase I, affecting current enrollees, will be implemented by December 31, 2013. During Phase I, we will eliminate the need for current enrollees to submit the annual financial assessment. VA will use the income matching process from IRS and SSA to determine a veteran’s income. Prior to implementation VA will send correspondence to affected veterans notifying them of this change. Phase II, which will include new enrollees, is targeted after Phase I is completed.

During Phase II, VA will discontinue the requirement that new enrollees placed in Priority Group 5, 7, or 8 provide an annual update of financial assessment information. Again, we will compare the financial assessment initially provided by the new enrollee against the IRS and SSA data to determine income information and priority group placement for new enrollees.

**Signing Authority**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Jose D. Riojas, Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on October 17, 2013, for publication.

Dated: October 21, 2013.

William F. Russo,
Deputy Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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