

**1 ABOUT BIRLS**

The **Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS)** is a database originally created by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs containing an index to basic biographical information on over 19.5 million deceased American veterans who received VA benefits during their lifetime. The database includes veterans from all branches of the U.S. military, including defunct branches such as the Women's Army Corps (WACs) and Army Air Corps, as well as Philippine Commonwealth Army veterans and Philippine Scouts. In 2018, the non-profit *Reclaim The Records* filed a successful FOIA lawsuit against the VA, and the database was published as free, open, searchable data in December 2024. Finding a name in BIRLS means you can submit a free FOIA request for the veteran's complete VA claims file, which may contain hundreds of pages of biographical and military service documentation.

**2 RECORD DATA**

LABEL	DATA
GIVEN NAME	HANDLEY
MIDDLE NAME	F
LAST NAME	SAYRE
DATE OF BIRTH	July 22, 1921
DATE OF DEATH	November 5, 1984
BRANCH(ES) OF SERVICE	ARMY
ENTERED/ENLISTED	ARMY on October 2, 1942 at age 21
RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY	on December 29, 1945 at age 24
SERVED	approx. 39 months
DIED	age 63
CAUSE OF DEATH	UNKNOWN
SSN	273-12-9004
GENDER	M