

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	WILLIAM
MIDDLE NAME	M
LAST NAME	BUNCH
DATE OF BIRTH	April 20, 1925
DATE OF DEATH	April 3, 1983
BRANCH(ES) OF SERVICE	NAVY
ENTERED/ENLISTED	NAVY on August 24, 1942 at age 17
SERVED	approx. 41 months
DIED	age 57
CAUSE OF DEATH	UNKNOWN
SSN	303-24-0236
GENDER	M