



# VGLI News

Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI)

Volume 10, Fall 2015

## A VGLI Online Account Puts You in Control

See coverage details, pay premiums, enroll for Paperless Billing, update your beneficiaries, and more with a VGLI Online Account. If you're reading an electronic version of this newsletter, then you can get a VGLI Online Account by clicking here and selecting "Create an Account."

1. If you've received this newsletter in the mail, then follow these instructions to set up your VGLI Online Account
2. Visit [www.benefits.va.gov/insurance](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance)
3. From the left-hand menu select "Access My Policy Online"
4. On the next page, scroll down and select "VGLI Online Policy Access"
5. Once you arrive at the VGLI website home screen, select "Create an Account" and follow the instructions

## Stay in Touch With Us

Be sure to check in with us at least annually to make sure your records are up to date. There are five convenient ways to contact us:

1. **Web Chat:** VGLI Web Chat is available through your VGLI Online Account, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
2. **E-mail:** [osgli.osgli@prudential.com](mailto:osgli.osgli@prudential.com)
3. **Phone:** 800-419-1473, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
4. **Fax:** 800-236-6142
5. **Mail:** OSGLI, PO Box 41618, Philadelphia, PA 19176-9913

## SGLI Turns 50!

On September 29, 2015 the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Program reached its milestone 50th anniversary. Prudential proudly administers this important Program through the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI) on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

SGLI is a group insurance product that was first instituted in 1965 to meet the insurance needs of the Vietnam-era service member. Since then, it has undergone several significant enhancements to meet the changing insurance needs of those it was designed to protect. For example, the maximum amount of coverage under SGLI was increased from \$10,000 to \$400,000 during the 50 years of the SGLI Program. In addition, the Program

has expanded to include coverage for service members' spouses and children (Family SGLI); traumatic injuries (TSGLI); and Veterans, through Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI). Today, the SGLI Program insures almost 5.6 million individuals.

VGLI members have seen additional enhancements in more recent years like the VGLI Buy-Up Program, which allows for coverage increases every five years. Technological advances like the redesigned VGLI website, Paperless Billing, and web chat provide Veterans with the conveniences of managing their VGLI coverage online.

OSGLI looks forward to continuing to partner with VA to serve our nation's service members, Veterans, and their families.

## Paperless Billing Now Available for VGLI Members

Want less clutter and more convenience? Then sign up for VGLI Paperless Billing today. Once enrolled in Paperless Billing you'll stop receiving paper bills and start receiving email notifications the day your bill is ready. Simply click the link provided in the email to view bill details and make a secure online payment. No checks, no stamps, no envelopes.

Enrolling for Paperless Billing is easy. Access your VGLI Online Account and select "Billing & Payment Options" from the top menu. Then select "Paperless Billing." Answer a few quick questions and you're all set. Don't have a VGLI Online Account? Check out the article "A VGLI Online Account Puts You in Control" in this newsletter. Or call the

OSGLI Customer Service Center at 800-419-1473 and one of our representatives will be happy to walk you through the process.

After you enroll, be sure to add [myvglibill@prudential.com](mailto:myvglibill@prudential.com) to your contact list to ensure you receive all future emails from us.

Please note: If your VGLI premiums are currently being automatically deducted from your VA compensation payments or military retirement pay, then there's no need to sign up for Paperless Billing.



**Prudential**

Office of Servicemembers'  
Group Life Insurance

## Attention Veterans! VA Burial Benefits Available

You and your spouse may be eligible for benefits from the VA National Cemetery Administration, which includes burial in a VA national cemetery, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care of the grave at no cost to you or your family. For more information, please call 800-535-1117, or visit [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov).



## Save on Your VGLI Premium

Did you know that you can save up to 5% on your VGLI premium by changing your billing frequency from monthly to quarterly, semi-annually, or annually? Log on to your VGLI Online Account or call the Contact Center to change your billing frequency and take advantage of these savings. If you already pay your premiums quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, then your billing statement already reflects the appropriate discount.



## Have You Visited the VGLI Website Lately?

If you haven't visited our website in a while, then now is a great time to take a look. It's been over a year since we launched our new site and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

With a modern design and streamlined navigation, the enhanced VGLI Website makes it easier than ever for you to manage your VGLI coverage online. The site provides on-demand access to coverage details and enables you to quickly pay premiums, update beneficiaries, choose billing preferences, and more.

Be sure to check out all that the website has to offer. If you are reading an electronic version of this newsletter, then click [here](#) and log in to your VGLI Online Account with your current User ID and password. If you don't have a VGLI Online Account, you can get one by following the quick steps in the article "A VGLI Online Account Puts You in Control" in this newsletter.

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## Life Changes. Have your Beneficiaries?

Life insurance should give you and your loved ones peace of mind that they will have funds available if anything happens to you. But that may not happen if your beneficiary designation isn't up to date. If you've had a recent life event such as a change in marital status, the addition of a child, or the death of a loved one, then now is a good time to review and update your VGLI beneficiary designation. Not keeping beneficiaries up to date may result in your benefits going to a former spouse, an unintended next of kin, or your estate. It could also result in payment delays at a time when your loved one needs the money.

You have the legal right to name any beneficiary you want and change your beneficiary at any time. Keeping your beneficiaries up to date is the best way to ensure your life insurance benefit is paid to the people you want.

Below are a few commonly asked questions about updating beneficiaries.

### Can I name a minor child as a beneficiary?

Yes. If you name a minor child as your beneficiary, then the proceeds can be paid to the court-appointed guardian of the child's estate. Or, the funds will be paid to the child when he or she reaches the "age of majority," which varies from state to state.

### Can I name a Trust as beneficiary?

Yes, but designating a Trust as your beneficiary does not create a Trust. You must work with a financial or legal professional to set up a Trust before naming one as your beneficiary.

### How do I update my beneficiaries?

There are two convenient ways to update your VGLI beneficiaries:

- ★ Log on to your VGLI Online Account and click on "Beneficiary Information."
- ★ Visit [www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/resources-forms.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/resources-forms.asp) and download Beneficiary Designation Form SGLV 8721. Complete the form and return it by mail or fax to OSGI.

Remember, beneficiary designation changes cannot be made by phone. If you have trouble making your updates online, please call the Customer Service Center at 800-419-1473 for assistance.



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## Is Your Mailing Address Current?

If you received this newsletter via e-mail then you know that OSGI has your current e-mail address. It's also a good idea to make sure we have your correct mailing address. If we have your correct address, then you can be sure that you'll receive all important notifications regarding your VGLI coverage. Access your VGLI Online Account or call us to update your address today.