

LAY WITNESS STATEMENT

# Buddy Statement Template

A buddy statement (lay statement) is a written account from someone who witnessed an in-service event, or who has observed the veteran’s symptoms over time. It does not require medical training — it carries weight precisely because it is firsthand. Use it to fill gaps where service records are silent: an unreported injury, a stressor, or a visible change in the veteran after service. Submit on VA Form 21-10210 (Lay/Witness Statement), or as a signed standalone letter.

## Witness information

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the veteran: \_\_\_\_\_ Years known: \_\_\_\_\_

If a fellow service member — unit & dates served together: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone / email: \_\_\_\_\_

## What I witnessed

Describe specifically what you saw or experienced. Be concrete — dates, places, and what happened, in your own words.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## When and where it happened

Approximate date(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Location / base / AO: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## What I observed about the veteran’s condition

Changes in physical ability, mood, sleep, behavior, or daily functioning — before vs. after the event or service. Use examples.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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I certify that the statements above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand this statement is being submitted as evidence to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

How to submit: attach to the veteran's claim on VA.gov, file with VA Form 21-10210, or include it with VA Form 21-4138 (Statement in Support of Claim).