Maryland State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts

The state of Maryland provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Housing Benefits
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Health Care
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Maryland Veteran Housing Programs

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
29449 Charlotte Hall Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
Maryland's veteran's home is located on 125 acres on the site of the former Charlotte Hall Military Academy in Charlotte Hall, Maryland. Opened in 1985, the 504-bed facility provides a continuum of care from the 226-bed Assisted Living unit to a higher level of care in the 278-bed Nursing Home. Specialized care, for those suffering from Alzheimer's and other related dementia, is provided in a 42-bed secured unit. Listed below are the eligibility requirements:

- Honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the legal spouse of a veteran eligible to be admitted to Charlotte Hall*
- Maryland resident
- Age 62 or older, unless disabled and unable to work

To apply for admission you will need a:

- DD214
- Medical Documentation (must be dated within 30 days of admission date)

Send your completed application to: admissions@charhall.org, or Lisa Murphy, Admissions Coordinator, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, 29449 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, Maryland 20622 Tel: 301-884-8171 Ext. 1409# or 1-800-522-VETS | FAX 301-263-7194. For additional information refer to http://www.charhall.org

Housing Services
Maryland offers a number of programs designed to support home ownership and to ensure the availability of affordable housing. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development facilitates a number of these programs, in addition to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs which provides services under the U.S. VA Health Care System. Programs exist to help low income citizens pay heating bills and make energy costs more affordable. The Maryland Department of Human Resources offers a number of homeless and home ownership programs through local Departments of Social Services, as well as food assistance through a variety of collaborative partnerships.

Refer to http://veterans.maryland.gov/housing-services for amplifying information on available housing services.

Maryland Financial Assistance Benefits

Property Tax Exemption
A property tax exemption is available to veterans who are permanently and totally disabled from service-connected causes, for their primary residence located in the State of Maryland.

The exemption passes to the veteran's spouse upon his or her death. The surviving spouse of active duty military personnel who died in the line of duty as well as the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran, or a spouse who receives the dependency and indemnity compensation (effective June 30, 2006) may also receive an exemption. Go to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation website at http://www.dat.state.md.us for additional information.

Military Retired Pay Income Tax Exemption
Military retirees are exempt from Maryland income tax on the first $5000 of their retirement income. In
addition, military retirees who are over the age of 65, totally disabled, or who have a spouse who is totally disabled receive an additional subtraction.

**Maryland Pension Exclusion**

If you are 65 or older, totally disabled, or your spouse is totally disabled, you may qualify for Maryland’s maximum pension exclusion of $27,100 based on instruction 13 of the Maryland resident tax booklet. If you’re eligible, you may be able to subtract some of your taxable pension and retirement annuity income from your federal adjusted gross income. To speak with the Maryland Taxpayer Service call 410-260-7980 (Central Maryland) or 1-800-MD-TAXES (all other areas of Maryland).

**Vessel Excise Tax**

Active duty military personnel are exempt from the 5% vessel excise tax levied on the sale, resale or transfer of a vessel. The exemption is for not more than one year to current owners of vessels who are members of the armed services and who are serving on active duty.

**Motor Vehicle Excise Tax – Exemption for Returning Military Members**

As a new resident of Maryland, you must title your vehicle within 60 days of moving to Maryland. Proof of military status (i.e. military ID or equivalent) must be submitted to be eligible for an excise tax credit. Active duty military personnel who are residents of Maryland seeking to register an out-of-state vehicle may not be required to pay the full Maryland excise tax if they apply for a transfer of title and tags to Maryland within one year of becoming a Maryland resident or within a year of returning from deployment. For more information on titling an out-of-state vehicle in Maryland visit the Motor Vehicle Administration website [http://www.mva.maryland.gov](http://www.mva.maryland.gov) for more information.

Refer to [http://veterans.maryland.gov/category/services/finance](http://veterans.maryland.gov/category/services/finance) for amplifying information on available financial assistance benefits.

**Maryland Employment Benefits**

**Employment & Business Assistance Programs**

Maryland offers several employment assistance programs to help veterans successfully transition to a civilian career. In addition the state offers several programs to help veterans start and run their own small business enterprises.

Refer to [http://veterans.maryland.gov/category/services/jobs-and-training](http://veterans.maryland.gov/category/services/jobs-and-training) for amplifying information on available employment and business assistance benefits.

**Maryland Education Benefits**

Two state scholarships are available to veterans, military personnel, and dependents in Maryland. The requirements and availability of funds vary. To get the most up-to-date information and eligibility requirements please visit Maryland Higher Education Commission’s website at [http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialaid/descriptions.asp](http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialaid/descriptions.asp).

- Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship. The veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program is designed to provide financial assistance to United States Armed Forces personnel who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Campaigns. The sons, daughters,
or spouses of veterans enrolled in an eligible accredited Maryland post-secondary institution may also be eligible.

- **Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship.** The Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship is designed to provide veterans, and their family members, with tuition assistance and financial aid for other educational expenses, if they are attending a Maryland post-secondary institution.

In addition to the scholarships listed, more information on financial assistance, programs, applications, and condition of awards, can be found by going to the Maryland Higher Education Commission listing of State Financial Aid Programs at [http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialaid/descriptions.asp](http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialaid/descriptions.asp)

**Maryland Veteran Health Care Programs**

**Veteran Health Care Programs**
Maryland offers several health care programs to help both young and older veterans. These programs include mental health assistance, PTSD, and drug and alcohol abuse programs. For details on available veteran health care programs refer to [http://veterans.maryland.gov/wellness-and-physical-health-services](http://veterans.maryland.gov/wellness-and-physical-health-services)

**Other Maryland State Veteran Benefits**

**Veterans Benefit Claims Assistance Program**
The Service and Benefits Program of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs assists veterans and eligible dependents in acquiring their benefits. The staff of the Service Program is authorized to represent veterans and their dependents before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as well as provide general information to those seeking assistance, regardless of representation.

Statistic indicates that veterans represented by accredited organizations receive significantly greater disability benefits than their non-represented counterparts. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs certified Service Officers honor and assist veterans, their dependents and survivors with all aspects of their Federal and State benefits. The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has 10 Service Offices and 14 Satellite Outreach Offices throughout the state ensuring quality representation in the community. You are encouraged to use them. To contact the Maryland service offices refer to the below. To contact the Outreach offices call the nearest Service Office or refer to the Maryland Service guide at: [https://veterans.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/04/MDVA-Benefits-Guide-Proof-April-2015-Compressed.pdf](https://veterans.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/04/MDVA-Benefits-Guide-Proof-April-2015-Compressed.pdf)

- **Baltimore:** Regional Office, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Room 3020, Baltimore, MD 21201 Tel: 800-446-4926, ext. 6450
- **Bel Air:** State Office Building, Bel Air, MD 21014 Tel: 410-836-4900 Russ Biondo, Veterans Service Officer
- **Camp Springs:** Harriet Hunter Building, 6420 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20748 Tel: 301-248-0463 Telisha Johnson, Veterans Service Officer
- **Charlotte Hall:** 29431 Charlotte Hall Road, Room 211, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 Tel: 301-884-8171 extension 7155
- **Cumberland:** 12501 Willowbrook Road, Room 2-014, Cumberland, MD 21502 Tel: 301-759-5251/5252 Aaron Clark, Veterans Service Officer
State Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Program
The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs’ Cemetery Program is the largest State Veterans Cemetery Program in the nation and provides a dignified and compassionate interment for veterans and their dependents. Interment services are conducted Monday through Friday, excluding State holidays and weekends. Cemeteries are open to visitors daily from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The gates close at 4:45 p.m. to allow visitors to exit the cemetery; however, on Memorial Day (the date of State observance) the cemetery remains open until 8:00 p.m.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs administers a system of five state veterans' cemeteries, across the State and oversees the Washington Confederate Cemetery located in the Rose Hill Cemetery. A burial plot is provided to eligible veterans and their eligible dependents, when the veteran is a resident of the State of Maryland and has received an honorable discharge. Plots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to the veteran for burial plot, opening/closing, headstone and State liner (if used). Eligible dependents have a minimal opening/closing cost and a direct cost for State liner (if used). There is also a pre-interment program where veterans can indicate their desire to be buried in one of the five State veteran's cemeteries below and verify their eligibility for burial.

- Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, 11301 Crain Hwy, Cheltenham MD 20623 Tel: (301) 372-6398
- Crownsville Veterans Cemetery, 1122 Sunrise Beach Rd, Crownsville MD 21032 Tel: (410) 987-6320
- Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery, 6827 East New Market Ellwood Rd, Hurlock MD 21643 Tel: (410) 943-3420 Also offers claims assistance. Phone: (410) 943-0417 or (866) 497-3684 calls from Maryland phone numbers only
- Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery, 11501 Garrison Forest Rd, Owings Mills MD 21117 Tel: (410) 363-6090
- Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery, 14205 Pleasant Valley Rd, NE, Flintstone MD 21530 Tel: (301) 777-2185
- Washington Confederate Cemetery, 600 South Potomac, St. Hagerstown MD 21740 (No longer open for burials)
Maryland Veterans Memorials
The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs manages three veteran memorials. The Maryland World War II Memorial is in Annapolis, Korean War and Maryland Veterans Vietnam Memorials are in Baltimore. The Department shares joint responsibility for the War Memorial Building in Baltimore with the City of Baltimore. Location are:
- Maryland World War II Memorial, Route 450 at Naval Academy Bridge 1920 Ritchie Highway, Annapolis, MD 21401
- Maryland Korean War Memorial, Canton Water Park, 2903 Boston Street, Baltimore, MD 21224
- Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Middle Branch Park 2825 South Hanover Street, Baltimore, MD 21225
- War Memorial Building, 101 North Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Obtaining Copies of Documents
Whenever a veteran requests benefits and services, a copy of the individual's discharge papers is required to verify eligibility. This includes admission to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland's five veteran cemeteries, VA claims and a myriad of other services provided to veterans and their families. World War II veterans who were Maryland residents at the time of entry into the service, and veterans who were discharged after October 15, 1979 and had a Maryland address at the time of discharge, can contact our Baltimore Office to inquire if we have a copy of their discharge papers. Veterans and their next of kin can also request a copy of the service member's DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty from the National Archives.
**Game Hunting & Fishing Licenses**
100% service-connected disabled veterans and former POWs may obtain free hunting and fishing licenses. Additionally, Maryland residents in the Armed Forces, or service members who are on active duty and stationed in Maryland, may hunt without cost, if they are on official leave.

**Admission to State Parks**
The Maryland Park Service offers an Access MD Pass for free entry to State Parks to individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the Golden Age Pass allows free entry to individuals 62 and older.

**Veteran Designation on Maryland Driver’s Licenses**
Maryland residents can now have ‘veteran’ designated on driver’s licenses. Request this designation at renewal time at no cost to you; or, you may request the veteran designation before your license is up for renewal at the cost of $20. Please take a copy of your DD214 with you to your local Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) Branch Office.

**Disabled Auto Tags**
The MVA will accept a letter from the Veterans Administration stating that you have a total (100%) disability and will issue a disability license plate. You can choose any plate, including a veteran plate, and it will display the universal wheelchair symbol.

**Veteran Designation on Maryland License Plates**
The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) has service license plates available for veterans who wish to convey their sense of pride in having served in the U.S. Military. Honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces are eligible to apply for one of the license plates which display the logos of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, or Navy. Combat-related license plates can only be issued to a veteran or active member of the military who furnishes documentation proving receipt of the military award or honor recognized on the plates. Samples of combat-related license plates are available for you to view. You can apply for the plates in person at any of the MVA’s full service branch offices. You also can mail your application to the MVA’s Specialty Tag Unit in the Glen Burnie office, or go to an MVA licensed tag and title service where they will assist you in applying. To download an application go to [http://www.mva.maryland.gov/_resources/docs/VR-120.pdf](http://www.mva.maryland.gov/_resources/docs/VR-120.pdf) Typically, the application documents needed include:

- Application for Military Related License Plates (form #VR-120) – Be sure to include the vehicle’s information.
- Proof of combat-related award:
  - Copy of military discharge papers (form #DD214); or
  - Copy of document verifying award (e.g., Purple Heart Certificate); or
  - Written proof from the National Personnel Records Center that the applicant received the award.

Vehicles in the following classes only are permitted to display combat-related license plates:
- A (passenger car)
- M (multi-purpose vehicle)
- EPO (truck with a one ton or less manufacturer’s rate capacity)

**The following Military Specialty plates are available at a fee of $25:**

- Afghanistan Campaign
Afghanistan Campaign (motorcycle)

Air Force Cross

Air Force Distinguished Service Medal

Air Medal

Air-Medal (motorcycle)

Airman's Medal

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (motorcycle)

Army Commendation Medal - Motorcycle

Army Commendation Medal - Vehicle

Army Distinguished Service Medal

Asiatic Pacific Medal

Bronze Star Medal
Bronze Star Medal (motorcycle)

Coast Guard Commendation

Coast Guard Commendation (motorcycle)

Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal

Coast Guard Medal

Coast Guard Medal (motorcycle)

Combat Action Badge

Combat Action Badge (motorcycle)

Combat Action Medal

Combat Action Ribbon

Combat Action Ribbon (motorcycle)

Combat Infantry Badge

Combat Infantry Badge (motorcycle)
Combat Medical Badge

Combat Medical Badge (motorcycle)

Congressional Medal of Honor

Congressional Medal of Honor (motorcycle)

Defense Distinguished Service Medal

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Defense Superior Service Medal

Distinguished Flying Cross Medal

Distinguished Flying Cross Medal (motorcycle)

Distinguished Service Cross Medal

Global War on Terror (GWOT) Expeditionary Medal Plate (motorcycle)

Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Service Medal
Gold Lifesaving Medal

GWOT Service Medal (motorcycle)

Honorably Discharged Veteran

Honorably Discharged Veteran (motorcycle)

Iraq Campaign Medal

Iraq Campaign Medal (motorcycle)

Joint Service Commendation Medal (motorcycle)

Joint Service Commendation Medal Vehicle

Korean Service Medal

Korean Service Medal (motorcycle)

Kosovo Campaign

Legion of Merit

Legion of Merit (motorcycle)
Marine Corps Expeditionary Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal (Motorcycle)

National Defense Service Medal

National Defense Service Medal (Motorcycle)

Navy and Marine Corps Medal

Navy Commendation Medal

Navy Commendation Medal (motorcycle)

Navy Cross

Navy Distinguished Service Medal

Navy Expeditionary Medal

Navy Expeditionary Medal (motorcycle)

Navy Unit Commendation
Navy Unit Commendation (motorcycle)

Presidential Service Badge

Purple Heart Medal

Purple Heart Medal (motorcycle)

Silver Star (motorcycle)

Silver Star Medal

Soldier's Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal (motorcycle)

Transportation Distinguished Service Medal

United States Air Force

United States Air Force (motorcycle)

United States Army
United States Army (motorcycle)

United States Coast Guard

United States Coast Guard (motorcycle)

United States Marine Corps

United States Marine Corps (motorcycle)

United States Navy

United States Navy (motorcycle)

Veteran U.S. Air Force

Veteran U.S. Air Force (motorcycle)

Veteran U.S. Army

Veteran U.S. Army (motorcycle)

Veteran U.S. Coast Guard

1. MVDC has close to 4000 business locations in Maryland that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of New Jersey also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zip code in the search box at http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/maryland.html.

2. Veterans Designation on drivers license: Yes

3. Discounted Fees and Taxes
   - $5,000 of military retirement income exempt from state income tax.
   - $15,000 of military pay exempt from state income tax when active duty overseas.
   - Active duty service members exempt from 5% excise tax for one year on purchase of a vessel.
   - Exemption from property tax for primary residence of 100% disabled veteran and spouse, surviving spouse active duty military killed in the line of duty, and surviving spouse receiving dependency and indemnity compensation.
   - Active duty members establishing residency are eligible for tax credit on title tax paid in another state.

4. Education Discounts
   - Maryland National Guard members eligible for up to 50% off tuition waiver at state colleges, universities and some private colleges.
   - Hodson Trust Star Scholarship: A nonprofit fund and four universities that provide undergraduate and graduate scholarships to eligible veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq.
   - Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program: provide financial assistance to service members who served in Afghanistan or Iraq and their family members.
   - Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship for eligible veterans and their family members who are attending an institution of higher learning within Maryland.
   - Maryland National Guard soldiers or airmen will not pay out-of-state tuition at public institutions of higher learning, regardless of state residence if they are currently serving in critical skill areas.

5. State Ranking For Military Discounts - 6