West Virginia State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts

The state of West Virginia provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits:
- Veteran Housing Benefits
- Veteran Financial Assistance Benefits
- Veteran Employment Benefits
- Veteran Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

West Virginia Veteran Housing Programs

Homestead Exemption for Certain Eligible Veterans
This program provides for a $20,000 exemption against the total assessed value of a single family dwelling, including mobile or manufactured homes, owned and occupied as a residence by any person who is at least sixty-five years old or totally and permanently disabled and who has legally resided in and paid taxes on a homestead in this State for two consecutive taxable years before filing for this exemption. When a member of the United States military forces maintains West Virginia as his state of residence throughout his military service and returns to this State and purchases a homestead upon his retirement or earlier separation from the military service due to permanent and total physical or mental disability, that person is deemed to satisfy the residency test and shall be allowed a Homestead Exemption if the person otherwise qualifies. Specific information is available through the local County Assessor's Office.

State Veterans Home
Domiciliary care in Veterans Home is for ambulatory veterans who are able to go to the dining room without help; can dress themselves; can make their own beds, and can participate in an assigned therapeutic activity.
The West Virginia Veterans Home is located in the Village of Barboursville, fifteen miles from downtown Huntington. This home was authorized in 1975 and became a reality in 1981. Basic eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Veterans who have served on active duty or performed active service in a reserve component of the armed forces for a period of at least 12 consecutive months; or who have been medically discharged for a service connected injury prior to 12 months service. Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980 must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty unless they were medically discharged for a service connected injury prior to 24 months service.
- Veterans whose discharge status from military service is under honorable conditions.
- Veterans who have continuously been a citizen of the state of West Virginia for 30 days immediately prior to admission or who was a resident of West Virginia at the time they initially entered active military service.
- Due to the health and welfare of residents of the Barboursville Veterans Home, there are certain pre-admission medical tests which must be completed prior to being admitted.
- All qualified veterans must be ambulatory and independent in all activities of daily living.

The home is not a treatment facility and cannot accommodate veterans in need of daily care or skilled assistance. The home provides a nursing department and a contact physician. All medical treatment is provided by the VA Medical Center located in Huntington. Transportation is provided to the medical center three times daily. Rooms available for occupancy accommodate two, three or four persons. Every effort is made to ensure compatibility between occupants. Female veterans are most welcome and special lodging accommodations are provided as they become available.

A person’s income is not a factor in gaining admission, although residents are required to contribute one-half of his or her monthly income as their maintenance contribution. The home is very liberal in its rules and regulations. Residents may leave on a pass for up to three days by simply signing a daily log sheet. All residents are authorized up to 30 days of furlough per year. Visitation to the home is encouraged and visitors may enjoy a meal with the residents at a nominal fee. Emphasis is placed on maintaining a warm, attractive and comfortable “home” for the West Virginia veteran who is in need of a place to live. The residents and staff, wish to extend an invitation to each of you to visit our facility. You will be proud, as they are, that such a home exists.

Assistance with applications for residency can be obtained through any of the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance Field Offices which can be located at [http://www.veterans.wv.gov/aboutus/Pages/Field-and-Claims-Offices.aspx](http://www.veterans.wv.gov/aboutus/Pages/Field-and-Claims-Offices.aspx) or you may contact the Veterans Home directly at: 512 Water Street, Barboursville, WV 25504 Tel: (304) 736-1027 Fax: (304) 736-1093, Email: Thomas.L.McBride@wv.gov | Administrator, Tom McBride,
Visit the West Virginia Dept. of Veterans Assistance website http://www.veterans.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx for more information and benefits assistance and/or contact information.

**West Virginia Financial Assistance Programs**

**Veterans Bonus**

- The West Virginia State Legislature approved four separate bonus programs for payment to veterans of World War I and World War II, Korean Conflict, the Vietnam Era and veterans of conflicts in Lebanon, Panama, Granada, and Desert Storm. The deadline for making application for these bonus programs has expired as indicated: World War I and World War II -- December 31, 1955; Korean Conflict -- June 30, 1959; Vietnam Era -- December 31, 1976; Lebanon, Panama, Granada and Desert Storm -- June 30, 1994. Eligibility still extends to veterans of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosova provided they are: Veterans who were bona fide residents of the State of West Virginia at the time of their entry into active service and for a period of at least six months immediately prior thereto.

- Veterans who were not separated from service under conditions other than honorable.

- Veterans of the armed forces of the United States or who were members of reserve components called to active duty by the President of the United States.

Approved applicants will be eligible for a six hundred dollar bonus if they served in the combat zone and received a campaign badge or expeditionary medal, or a four hundred dollar bonus if they had active service outside the combat zone during the time periods specified for Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosova. Surviving relatives will be eligible for a two thousand dollar bonus where a veteran's death was connected with the service and resulted from the service during the time periods specified. The person receiving the bonus shall not be required to include the bonus as income for state income tax purposes. Campaign periods and application data follows:

1. Afghanistan - Applicants must have served on active duty between October 7, 2001 and a date yet to be determined. Applicants will be required to fill out form A-1 and attach copy of DD-214 covering eligibility period. If applicants are still active duty and do not have a DD-214, they must also complete form A-3, Commanding Officer's Certificate.
   - **A-1 Application for West Virginia Afghanistan Veteran's Bonus**
   - **A-3 Commanding Officer's Certificate for Afghanistan Veteran's Bonus**

2. Iraq - Applicants must have served on active duty between March 19, 2003 and a date yet to be determined. Applicants will be required to fill out form I-1 and attach copy of DD-214 covering eligibility period. If applicants are still active duty and do not have a DD-214, they must also complete form I-3, Commanding Officer's Certificate.
   - **I-1 Application for West Virginia Iraq Veteran's Bonus**
   - **I-3 Commanding Officer's Certificate for Iraq Veterans Bonus**

3. Kosova - Applicants must have received campaign badge or expeditionary medal for Kosovo between November 20, 1995 and December 31, 2000, inclusive. Applicants will be required to fill out form Y-1 and attach copy of DD-214 covering eligibility period. **Y-1 Application for West Virginia Kosovo Veterans Bonus**
Surviving Relatives - A surviving spouse or children may request an application by calling 1-888-838-2332, or by email at WVDVA@state.wv.us, or by mail at the address listed below. Completed applications should be mailed to: Attention: Bonus Office, West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance, 1321 Plaza East Suite 109 Charleston, WV 25301

Visit the West Virginia Dept. of Veterans Assistance website http://www.veterans.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx for contact information and benefits assistance.

West Virginia Veteran Employment Programs

Veterans Preference
Under the West Virginia Civil Service System all veterans who have served under honorable conditions in the armed forces of the United States during World War II, Korea Conflict, Vietnam Era or during hostile conflict shall have five (5) points added to a final passing score. An additional five (5) points are added to a veteran's score if in receipt of the Purple Heart or has a compensable service-connected disability.

Visit the West Virginia Dept. of Veterans Assistance website http://www.veterans.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx for contact information and benefits assistance.

West Virginia Education Assistance Programs

State War Orphans Education
Provides for a waiver of tuition and registration fees in a state supported college or university for children between the ages of sixteen and twenty-three whose veteran parent served in World War I, World War II, Korean Conflict, Vietnam Era or any time of conflict as declared by Congress. Parent must have died in such wartime period, or, if subsequent to discharge, death must have been the result of disability incurred in such wartime service.

Veterans Re-Education Act Fund
The West Virginia Legislature provides tuition assistance to those veterans who need a new vocation due to dislocation or unemployment. Veteran must have exhausted the G. I. Bill and be in need of tuition assistance.

Visit the West Virginia Dept. of Veterans Assistance website http://www.veterans.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx for contact information and benefits assistance.

Other West Virginia Veteran Programs

Veterans Nursing Facility
The West Virginia Veterans Nursing Facility (WVNVF) provides the full spectrum of long-term care services as typically provided at private nursing facilities, but at a fraction of the cost. It was opened in 2007, has the capacity to serve up to 120 veterans at a time, and includes a unit specifically for Alzheimer patients. It was the intent of the governing authority from the beginning to not exclude any veteran the opportunity for admission to the West
Virginia Veterans Nursing Facility based on financial reasons. They charge 65% of the veterans monthly income up to $2,600/month for his or her stay. There is an additional fee of $250/month for a private room. The veteran has the option not to disclose any financial information and pay the monthly maximum. Some veterans may qualify for a partial or complete hardship exception especially if there is a community spouse who needs the veterans monthly income to subsist. The West Virginia Veterans State Nursing Home is a smoke-free facility. All veterans must agree not to smoke anywhere on facility grounds.

1. The following veterans are eligible for admission to the WVVNF:
   a. Veterans who have served on active duty or performed active service in a reserve component of the armed forces for a period of at least 12 consecutive months; or who have been medically discharged for a service connected injury prior to 12 months service. Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980 must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty unless they were medically discharged for a service connected injury prior to 24 months service.
   b. Veterans whose discharge status from military service is under honorable conditions.
   c. Veterans who have continuously been a citizen of the state of West Virginia for 30 days immediately prior to application to the WVVNF or who was a resident of West Virginia at the time they initially entered active military service.
   d. Veterans who are physically unable to maintain themselves in their own home by reason of age, disability or disease and meet the criteria for intermediate or skilled nursing care under Medicare and Medicaid regulations.
   e. Non-veteran spouses may be considered for admission ONLY when the veteran's nursing facility capacity is greater than 75% of the total licensed beds and when there are no veterans awaiting admission on the interest list.

2. The WVVNF shall not admit any applicant who requires treatment primarily for mental retardation, mental illness, or substance abuse, or who has a documented history of physical violence and/or disciplinary problems, or whose needs cannot be met by the facility. As a matter of clarity, prospective residents with Alzheimer's disease or dementia are eligible for consideration.

3. The West Virginia Veterans State Nursing Home is a smoke-free facility. All veterans must agree not to smoke anywhere on facility grounds.

Agent Orange Program
The program administered by the West Virginia Division of Health expired July 1, 1989. However, assistance is provided to Korean and Vietnam veterans exposed to certain chemicals, defoliants or herbicides or other causative agents, including Agent Orange from the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Medicine and Surgery.

Automobile License Plates
West Virginia provides special vehicle license plates, DV Tags without fee to any veteran in receipt of an auto grant.
or who is permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected causes, and former POW Tag as certified by the
US Department of Veterans Affairs. Also recent legislation provides for Purple Heart Tags for those wounded in
action and Pearl Harbor Survivors Tags for West Virginia veterans who were at Pearl Harbor during the attack on
December 7, 1941. Veteran Plate for honorably discharged veterans for a one-time fee of $10.00 over and above the
regular license fee required by Motor Vehicles.

Special Military Plates are available upon request and paying the appropriate fees. Below are images of the
available plates. Click on the image to obtain its acquisition data.

82nd Airborne Division Association

Air Force Cross

Air Force Retired

Air National Guard

American Legion

Army National Guard
Army Retired

Bronze Star

Coast Guard Retired

Combat Infantry Badge

Combat Medic

Disabled Veterans

Distinguished Flying Cross
National Guard

Navy Cross

Navy Retired

Pearl Harbor Survivor

Persian Gulf Veteran

Purple Heart

Silver Star
Outreach Services
There are currently four veterans outreach social workers employed by the Department of Veterans Assistance, whose role is to ensure that veterans throughout the state receive the services they need. These individuals travel West Virginia communities on a daily basis, providing information, support and guidance to individuals in need of medical care, homeless shelters, and a myriad of other services. To locate the social worker for your county go to http://www.veterans.wv.gov/aboutus/Pages/Outreach-Services.aspx
Burial
The Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery (DCKMSVC) is a 354 acre facility designed to provide an honorable, dignified resting place for West Virginia’s cherished veterans and their closest family members. Throughout its lifetime, the cemetery will accommodate burial space for approximately 60,000 qualified individuals. The official dedication of the cemetery was held on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012.

Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery

General Information
• Provided at no cost to the veteran: Grave Site or Niche, Opening and Closing, Concrete Pre-Set Crypt, Headstone / Niche Cover, Perpetual Care, Presidential Memorial Certificate.
• Eligibility for Dependents: Order of death does not determine eligibility for benefits. A spouse or child may pre-decease the veteran. Eligibility is based on the veteran’s service.
• Burial of Surviving Spouse: A veteran’s surviving spouse who married a non-veteran after the veteran’s death is now eligible for burial in the cemetery based on his or her marriage to the eligible veteran. This only applies to deaths of surviving spouses that occur on or after January 1, 2000.
• Grave Location: The grave location of your loved one is furnished on the map included in the burial document folder. Additionally, there is a grave locator in the Administration Building to assist visitors who may not know the location of a gravesite.
• Grave Marker: A temporary grave marker is used to mark the grave following the interment. A permanent grave marker will be furnished free of charge by the federal government without application from the family. Every effort is made to have the grave marker delivered and set within 60 days of interment.
• Flags: The United States flag is flown over the cemetery every day. The flag is flown at half-staff on the morning of Memorial Day and during interment services. Graves are decorated with small US flags the day before Memorial Day and are removed immediately after the holiday. Flags are not permitted on graves at any other time. It is the responsibility of the Funeral Home to provide flags for burial services.
• Grounds Maintenance: Immediately after each interment, the grave is filled and leveled. As soon as the headstone / marker is set the site will be seeded. Until growing conditions are favorable and turf has been established, burial areas may be substandard in appearance. Because the soil continues to sink after a burial, a new grave requires repeated renovation. Matters which appear to need immediate corrective action should be brought to the attention of the Cemetery Administrator.
• Floral Policy: Floral Policies at the DCKMSVC are modeled after the policies of federal veteran's
• Tree Donations: Tree donations for burial and bench areas are accepted (space permitting) if desired by next-of-kin, family or friends. For additional information please contact the Administrative Office.
• The State Cemetery will be following Federal guidelines and requirements for eligibility. Eligibility is as follows, but is not limited to:
  - Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.
  - Any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and had a minimum of 24 months of active duty.
  - The spouse or surviving spouse of an eligible veteran.
- The minor children of an eligible veteran. For purpose of burial in a national cemetery, a minor child is a child who is unmarried and: Who is under 21 years of age; or, who is under 23 years of age and pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution.

Any state or federal Veterans Affairs office can assist in determining eligibility for burial in a VA national or state veteran’s cemetery. For more on eligibility go to http://www.cem.va.gov. To contact the cemetery call or write: Donel Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery, 130 Academy Drive, Dunbar, WV 25064 Tel: 304-746-0026 | (Office) Larissa Wines, Administrator Larissa.M.Wines@wv.gov

Free Hunting and Fishing Privileges
For 100% service-connected veterans and those veterans in receipt of a VA auto grant.

Visit the West Virginia Dept. of Veterans Assistance website http://www.veterans.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx for contact information and benefits assistance.

Military Discounts in West Virginia

1. There are close to 1,500 business locations in Wyoming that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of Wyoming also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zipcode and category in the search box at http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/west-virginia.html

2. Veterans Designation on drivers license: Yes

3. Discounted Fees and Taxes
   - Free Disabled Veteran license plates for certain veterans with a service-connected disability
   - Free POW, Purple Heart, and Pearl Harbor Survivor license plates
   - Free hunting and fishing license for certain veterans with a 100% service-connected disability

4. Property tax and Financial Benefits - Homestead exemption for certain eligible disabled veterans

5. Education Discounts –
   - Tuition and registration fee waiver administered by State War Orphans Education for eligible children of certain deceased wartime veterans
   - Education assistance from State government through Veterans Upward Bound
   - Purple Heart recipients education benefit

http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/west-virginia.html Jun 2014 ++]