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

- Housing Benefits
- Employment Assistance
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

**LOUISIANA VETERAN HOUSING PROGRAMS**

**Louisiana War Veterans Homes**
The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs operates five War Veterans Homes. These homes, located in Reserve, Monroe, Bossier City, Jackson, and Jennings provide nursing care. For admission to a Louisiana State Veterans Home, a veteran must be a resident of the state of Louisiana. State residence is not mandatory if the applicant is referred from an in-state United States Department of Veterans’ Affairs Medical Center or by a Louisiana Department of Veterans’ Affairs Veterans’ Assistance Counselor. The applicant must agree to abide by all rules and regulations governing the Home. Applicants who have income will be expected to pay for their care as is set forth in the care and maintenance schedule adopted
for governing the Home residents. Spouses and Gold Star parents are eligible if they meet basic qualifying criteria. The applicant must undergo an examination to ascertain whether he/she meets the criteria for admission to the Home. Each home offers a variety of services including:

- Long-and short-term care.
- Rehabilitative therapies.
- Alzheimer’s and Intermediate care.
- Skilled Nursing.
- Mental Health services.
- Centralized Pharmacy Services and more

Veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents are eligible for admission into the Veterans Homes if they are deemed to meet basic qualifying criteria. For additional info go to:

- [www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/PageContent_Documents/Veterans%20Homes/LDVA-VeteranHome_AdmissionRequirements.pdf](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/PageContent_Documents/Veterans%20Homes/LDVA-VeteranHome_AdmissionRequirements.pdf) for a list of Admission Requirements. You can also call 1-877-GEAUX-VA.
- [http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/LDVA%20Veterans%20Homes%20FAQ.pdf](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/LDVA%20Veterans%20Homes%20FAQ.pdf) for frequently asked questions about admission and services.
- [http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/PageContent_Documents/Veterans%20Homes/LDVA%20AppAdmiss%202015.pdf](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/PageContent_Documents/Veterans%20Homes/LDVA%20AppAdmiss%202015.pdf) to download an application for residency in the LDVA Veterans Homes system.

**Bossier City**

![Bossier City Image](image)

**3130 Arthur Ray Teague Pkwy  Bossier City, LA 71112 Tel: (318) 741-2763/2783F**

This 156-bed state facility opened its doors to the first resident on April 9, 2007. Located on 17 pristine acres in Bossier City, Louisiana, the facility has a fishing pond with pier, a large chapel, and an activities building complete with a sports and game lounge. The facility has an outstanding medical team that provides complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and Alzheimer’s/Dementia care. Ambulatory and wheelchair transportation is also provided for medical appointments to the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center. For information regarding admission to this facility, contact: Rene' Belt, MSW, LCSW Social Services Director Phone: (318) 741-2763 ext. 138

Jackson

4739 Hwy 10, Jackson, LA 70748

This 161 bed facility is located on 82 serene acres and offers a variety of amenities including two fishing ponds, a greenhouse, a nature trail, and a chapel. The staff provides complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, Alzheimer/Dementia care, and transportation services. Point of Contact is Mr. John Salter, Administrator Tel: (225) 634-5265 /4057F E-Mail: jon.salter@vetaffairs.la.gov

Jennings

1610 Evangeline Rd, Jennings, LA 70546

This 156 bed facility opened on November 14, 2004 and is located on 40 majestic acres in Jennings, Louisiana. Features include a 4½ acre fishing lake with pier, large chapel and an activities building complete with a sports and game lounge and provides complete medical care including skilled nursing,
physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, Alzheimer/Dementia care, and transportation services. Point of contact is Matt Duhon, Administrator, Telephone: (337) 824-2829/2581E Mail: matt.duhon@vetaffairs.la.gov

Monroe

6700 Hwy 165 North, Monroe, LA 71203

This 156 bed facility opened on December 3, 1996 and is located on a 20 acre pecan orchard adjacent to Bayou DeSaird in the northern area of Monroe, Louisiana. It features a fishing pier, chapel, and huge picnic area. The facility provides complete medical care including an 10 bed Medicare Skilled Nursing Unit, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, a Specialty Alzheimer/Dementia Care Unit, and transportation services for medical appointments. Our Recreation Department schedules numerous daily, in-facility activities as well as several monthly, off-site activities. Point of contact is Mr. Ken Houston, Administrator Telephone: (318) 362-4206/4241E Mail: ken.houston@vetaffairs.la.gov. The Northeast LA War Veterans Home’s 2014-2019 Strategic Plan may be viewed at www.vetaffairs.la.gov/VeteransHomes/MonroeHome/MonroeNews.aspx.

Reserve

4080 W. Airline Hwy., Reserve, LA 70084
This 156 bed facility opened on June 4, 2007 and is located on 20 acres in Reserve, Louisiana. Only 27 miles from New Orleans, it is conveniently located next to the St. John’s Parish Senior Citizens Center and the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The facility offers a variety of amenities including a fishing lake and a large chapel, in addition to complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, Alzheimer/Dementia care, and transportation services. Point of contact is Mr. Cleveland Obey, Telephone: (985) 479-4080/4090 F E-Mail: cleveland.obey@vetaffairs.la.gov

**Property Tax Exemptions**
The property tax for Veterans rated with 50% or greater disability is frozen at the current rate, this also applies to spouses of deceased disabled Veterans. There are income limits and other qualifications, check with your local assessor's office to see if it is available in your parish.

Visit the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs website [http://vetaffairs.la.gov](http://vetaffairs.la.gov) for contact information and benefits assistance.

---

**LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

**Military Service Relief Act**
Revised Statutes 29:401-425 relative to military and veterans affairs provide for employers compensation, leave status, retirement credit, life, health and accident insurance coverage, re-employment rights upon release from military service, prohibits against academic penalties, deferral of state income taxes, validation of professional and occupational licenses, and protection of any vacancy in office held by an Elected or Appointed Official, for citizens of Louisiana called to military service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States. The district court in which the state or its political subdivision exercises authority or conducts its business shall have jurisdiction to hear action to enforce the Act.

**Veterans Civil Service Preference (Employment Preference)**
Article X, of the Louisiana Constitution provides a five-point preference in original appointments to persons honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States who served between the following dates of wartime service:

- April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918
- September 27, 1940, through July 25, 1947
- June 25 1950, through January 31, 1955
- July 1, 1958, through May 7, 1975
- August 2, 1990, though, date to be determined
  (must have been awarded the Southwest Asia Medal)
- Or in a peacetime campaign or expedition if a campaign badge or expeditionary medal is authorized.

Ten points preference in original appointments are accorded each honorable discharged veteran who served in either war or peacetime and has one or more service connected disabilities established with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans preference also extends to layoffs over other employees of equal lengths of service and efficiency ratings.
LOUISIANA EDUCATION BENEFITS

Dependents Educational Assistance
Section 288 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 has been amended and re-enacted to provide financial aid for children and surviving spouses of certain veterans of this state who died in service in the Armed Forces of the United States or died of a service connected disability incurred during a wartime period.

The law provides the same benefits for those children of living veterans who are rated 90% or above disabled, including 100% individual unemployability, by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs "Schedule for Rating Disabilities", as a result of a disability or disabilities incurred in service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The law further requires that the deceased veteran must have been a resident of the State of Louisiana for at least twelve months immediately preceding entry into service. The living veteran must have resided in the state not less than twenty-four months immediately preceding the child's admission into the Program.

The surviving spouse must use this Program within ten years of the date eligibility is established. A child must be between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five.

National Guard Tuition
Members are exempt from tuition at any state-funded college, university, or vocational/technical school for five years or a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first. The Adjutant General of Louisiana is responsible for the overall policies, guidance, administration, and proper utilization of this program.

Visit the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs website for contact information and benefits assistance.

OTHER LOUISIANA STATE VETERAN BENEFITS

Military Retiree Pay Tax Exemption
Military retirement benefits are exempt from Louisiana state taxes.

Free Hunting/Fishing Licenses
Disabled veterans classified with a service connected permanent disability, rated 50% or higher and who are Louisiana residents can get hunting and fishing licenses free of charge. Active duty military will also be granted resident status when purchasing hunting and fishing licenses. Applications may be obtained and certified by contacting the local Parish Veterans Service Office.

Free Entrance to State Parks
Eligible Veterans are exempt from paying the day-use entrance fee to any Louisiana state park. Contact your LDVA Parish Office for details.

Discounts on Driver's License or ID Fees
Veterans may qualify for special discounts or waivers on fees for LA Driver's Licenses and ID's. The
below Specialty Plates can be purchased by the military community at locations identified on
http://dpsweb.dps.louisiana.gov/OMV_Welcome.nsf/2a656c057052b310862575f300653b85/f6ebae290b4b797e862575f300631507?OpenDocument

Active Duty

Awards
Veteran
World War II

Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal Program
The Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal was established in 2008 as a way to honor, recognize and thank Louisiana Veterans for their honorable military service. The Medal is available for all Louisiana Veterans who were honorably discharged and to the families of those who were killed in action. The Medal comes with ribbons to distinguish honorable service, Purple Heart, Prisoner of War, and Killed in Action.

Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal applications can be submitted using the online application at [http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Programs/LAVeteransHonorMedal.aspx](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Programs/LAVeteransHonorMedal.aspx) or by downloading the hard copy at [http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/PageContent_Documents/LA%20Veterans%20Honor%20Medal/LA%20Honor%20Medals%20App.pdf](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/PageContent_Documents/LA%20Veterans%20Honor%20Medal/LA%20Honor%20Medals%20App.pdf)

Louisiana Burials
The Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs (LDVA) Veterans Cemetery Program has grown in recent years and continues to expand to serve the needs of Louisiana’s Veterans and their families. LDVA Veterans Cemeteries are made possible with grants through the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which provide 100% funding for all aspects of initial planning and construction. LDVA follows eligibility standards as set by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In February 2012, LDVA proudly added the Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Leesville to the LDVA Cemetery Program, joining the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery which had been established in Keithville in 2007. LDVA’s third cemetery opened in June of 2014. The Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery is located just outside the main gates of the Louisiana National Guard's Camp Villere in Slidell. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recently awarded a construction grant to LDVA to build a fourth Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Rayville, Louisiana. The cemetery will be named the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery and construction will depend on the availability of funding in the 2014 U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs budget.
LDVA Cemeteries offer well maintained grounds, professional, courteous staff, covered shelter for committal service, Avenue of flags displayed on special holidays, and Opportunities for community and Veteran volunteers. Refer to the following for grave locators, internment eligibility, and internment applications:

- A grave locator is also available online at [http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov](http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov). Additionally, each LDVA Veterans Cemetery features an Administrative Building with a computerized grave locator.
- Application for Interment: LDVA Cemetery Interment Applications can be downloaded at [http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/PageContent_Documents/Cemeteries/LDVA%20Uniform%20Cemetery%20Interment%202014%20(2).pdf](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/PageContent_Documents/Cemeteries/LDVA%20Uniform%20Cemetery%20Interment%202014%20(2).pdf)
- Request to Determine Eligibility For Interment: Download the request form at [http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/LDVA%20Elibility%20Interment%202014.pdf](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/LDVA%20Elibility%20Interment%202014.pdf)

Veterans have a choice of burial in the following State and National cemeteries:

- Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, 7970 Mike Clark Road, Keithville, LA 71047 Tel: (318) 925-0612 or Email nlvc@la.gov.
- Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, 3348 University Parkway, Leesville, LA 71446 Tel: (337) 238-6405 or Email clvc@la.gov.
- Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, 34888 Grantham College Road (Adjacent to Camp Villere), Slidell, LA 70460 Tel: (985) 646-6458.
- Northeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, Rayville, LA (Anticipated Grand Opening - Spring 2016)
- Baton Rouge National Cemetery - Visitation Only (no new interments), 220 North 19th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.
- Port Hudson National Cemetery, 20978 Port Hickey Road, Zachary, LA 70791 Tel: (225) 654-1988
- Louisiana National Cemetery, 303 W. Mount Pleasant Road, Zachary, LA 70791 Tel: (225) 654-3767

For more information about LDVA Veterans Cemeteries, call 1-877-GEAUX-VA (1-877-432-8982).

Visit the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs website [http://vetaffairs.la.gov](http://vetaffairs.la.gov) for contact information and benefits assistance.


---

**Military Discounts in Louisiana**

1. MVDC has a list of close to 3,600 locations in Louisiana that have discounts for military personnel or veterans. Similar to businesses, the state of provides discounts for its veterans and
military population. If you are looking for business discounts use the search tool at http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/louisiana.html.

2. Veterans Designation on driver’s license: Yes

3. Discounted Fees and Taxes
   - Free hunting and fishing licenses for disabled veterans
   - Military retirement exempt from state income tax
   - Property assessment frozen under a certain income level for 50% service-connected disabled veterans

4. Education Discounts
   - 100% tuition exemption at any state institution of higher learning (reservists)
   - Tuition exemption for dependents of veterans with a severe service-connected disability or veterans who died during active duty during a war time period

[Source: http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/louisiana.html Mar 2015 ++]