

Veterans

**Hernando County Veteran Services
Veteran Service Officer
Available at these Locations**

**Times & Locations
Effective Date 10/05/2012**

Main Office – West Hernando Government Center

7479 Forest Oaks Boulevard
Spring Hill, FL 34606
(352) 754-4033
** Monday – Friday**
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Health & Human Services

Hernando County Courthouse
20 North Main Street
Room 161 (1st Floor)
Brooksville, FL 34601
(352) 540-4338
** Every Friday*Appt Only**
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

VA Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA) shares the cost of medical services for eligible dependents and survivors of certain Veterans.

Dependents & Survivors Education & Training: Some family members of disabled or deceased Veterans are eligible for education and training benefits.

Home Loans: Certain surviving spouses may be eligible for this benefit.

Time Limits: For education and training benefits, spouses and surviving spouses have 10 years from the date VA first finds them eligible, and surviving spouses of servicemembers who died while on active duty have 20 years. Children are eligible from age 18 to 26. These time limits can sometimes be extended. There are no time limits to apply for the other benefits described above.

Burial

VA offers certain benefits and services to honor our Nation's deceased Veterans.

- **Headstones and Markers:** VA can furnish a monument to mark the grave of an eligible Veteran.
- **Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC):** VA can provide a PMC for eligible recipients.
- **Burial Flag:** VA can provide an American flag to drape an eligible Veteran's casket.
- **Reimbursement of Burial Expenses:** Generally, VA can pay a burial allowance of \$2,000 for Veterans who die of service-related causes. For certain other Veterans, VA can pay \$300 for burial and funeral expenses and \$300 for a burial plot.
- **Burial in a VA National Cemetery:** Most Veterans and some dependents can be buried in a VA national cemetery.

Time Limits: There is no time limit to claim reimbursement of burial expenses for a service-related death. In other cases, claims must be filed within two years of the Veteran's burial.

Toll-Free Service

Benefits Information & Assistance

For more information about specific benefits, visit the nearest VA regional office or call

1-800-827-1000

Special Toll-Free Numbers

Health Care	877-222-8387
Education & Training	888-442-4551
VA Life Insurance	800-669-8477
Office of SGLI	800-419-1473
CHAMPVA	800-733-8387
Helpline (Agent Orange & Gulf War)	800-749-8387
Direct Deposit	877-838-2778
Headstones (<i>status of claims only</i>)	800-697-6947
Telecommunication Device for Deaf (<i>TDD</i>)	800-829-4833

Internet

For detailed information about all VA benefits and services, visit

www.va.gov

Survivors: Information specific to survivors is available. Select "Benefits," then "Survivors' Benefits."

Applications: Apply for Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Education, or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment benefits by selecting "Apply Online."

Inquiries: A "Contact VA" link is available for e-mail inquiries.

"...to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan..."

- Abraham Lincoln -

RESCISSION:
VA Pamphlet 21-00-1, dated April 2008

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

Veterans Benefits
Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20420



A Summary Of VA Benefits

Putting Veterans First

VA
pledges to:

- Treat you with courtesy, compassion and respect at all times
- Communicate with you accurately, completely and clearly
- Provide timely service to you
- Make our services accessible to you
- Fully answer your questions and concerns

www.va.gov

VA Pamphlet 21 -00-1
July 2009

About VA

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers a wide range of benefits for our Nation's Veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

Who Is Eligible

You may be eligible for VA benefits if you are a:

- Veteran
- Veteran's dependent
- Surviving spouse, child or parent of a deceased Veteran
- Uniformed servicemember

Benefits and Services Available:

Compensation

VA can pay you monthly compensation if you are at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service.

Pension

You can receive a monthly pension if you are a wartime Veteran with limited income, and you are permanently and totally disabled **or** at least 65 years old.

Time Limits: There is no time limit to apply for Compensation and Pension benefits.

Health Care

VA provides a number of health care services.

- Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services
- Domiciliary, nursing home, and community-based residential care
- Sexual trauma counseling
- Specialized health care for women Veterans
- Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless Veterans
- Readjustment counseling
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service in the Gulf War, or exposure to Agent Orange, radiation, and other environmental hazards

Combat Veterans - VA provides free health care for Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, for any illness possibly related to their service in that theater.

Time Limits: You have five years from the date of your discharge from active duty on or after January 28, 2003. You have until January 27, 2011, if you were discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, and were not enrolled as of January 28, 2008.

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment

VA provides assistance to Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment. For Veterans with serious service-connected disabilities, VA also offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible. There are five service delivery options available:

- Reemployment**
- Rapid Access to Employment**
- Self-Employment**
- Employment through Long Term Services, and**
- Independent Living**

Assistance to Veterans may be provided in the form of job search, vocational evaluation, career exploration, vocational training, educational training and supportive rehabilitation services.

Time Limits: Generally, Veterans have 12 years from the date VA informs them that they have at least a 10% rating for a service-connected disability.

Education & Training

VA pays benefits to eligible Veterans and servicemembers while they are in an approved education or training program. Based on the type of military service, primary benefit programs are:

- Active Duty Service:** Persons with 90 days or more of active duty on or after 9/11/01 are generally eligible under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33). Those who first entered active duty after June 30, 1985, are generally eligible under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) (Chapter 30).
- Reserve/Guard Service:** MGIB—Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606) is available for those who signed a six-year commitment after June 30, 1985, are actively drilling, and in good standing with their unit. The Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607) is for those who were activated under Federal authority for a contingency operation and served 90 continuous days or more after September 10, 2001.

Time Limits: Time limits vary from 10-15 years from either the date of release from active duty or the date eligibility was established, depending upon the benefit.

Home Loans

VA offers a number of home loan services to eligible Veterans, some military personnel, and certain surviving spouses.

- Guaranteed Loans:** VA can guarantee a portion of a loan made by a private lender to help you buy a home, a manufactured home, a lot for a manufactured home, a condominium unit, or a unit in a cooperative dwelling. VA also guarantees loans for building, repairing, and improving homes.
- Refinancing Loans:** If you have a VA mortgage, VA can help you refinance your loan at a lower interest rate. You may also refinance a non-VA loan.
- Special Grants:** Certain disabled Veterans and military personnel can receive grants to adapt or acquire housing suitable for their needs.

Time Limits: There is no time limit for a VA home loan.

Life Insurance

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) provides coverage up to \$400,000 for servicemembers. Coverage ends 120 days after discharge, but can be extended for up to two years if the member is totally disabled.

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) is an automatic feature of SGLI that provides payments of up to \$100,000 for servicemembers who suffer losses such as amputations, blindness, and paraplegia, due to traumatic injuries.

Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) allows servicemembers to convert their SGLI to lifetime renewable term coverage. VGLI must be applied for within one year and 120 days of discharge. If applied for within 120 days of discharge, there are no good health requirements.

Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) provides up to \$10,000 of coverage for service-connected veterans. If totally disabled, they are eligible for an additional \$20,000. Veterans must apply within two years of being rated service connected for a new condition.

Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)

Provides coverage of up to \$90,000 for severely disabled Veterans and servicemembers who have received a specially adapted housing grant from VA.

Dependents & Survivors

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is payable to certain survivors of:

- Servicemembers who died during active service
- Veterans who died from service-related disabilities
- Certain Veterans who were being paid 100% VA disability compensation at time of death.

Death Pension is payable to some surviving spouses and children of deceased wartime Veterans. The benefit is based on financial need.

Parents' DIC is payable to some surviving parents. The benefit is based on financial need.

EDUCATION PROGRAM REFUND

Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) – If the veteran died while on active duty, or within one year of separation or discharge due to a service-connected disability, the beneficiary of the veteran's SGLI or VGLI policy is eligible for a refund of the veteran's MGIB military pay reductions which were not paid to the veteran in benefits.

Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) – A veteran's designated survivor is eligible to be refunded the veteran's VEAP contributions that were not paid to the veteran in benefits.

RELATED BENEFITS

CIVIL SERVICE PREFERENCE

The unmarried surviving spouse of certain deceased veterans (for example, war-time veterans) may qualify for hiring preference within the Federal government. The mother of a veteran who died during military service is also eligible. VA provides an eligibility certification upon request.

COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES

The Armed Forces provide commissary and exchange privileges to the unremarried surviving spouse of veterans who die of a service-connected disability. VA provides an eligibility certification upon request.

CONTACT VA

Toll-Free Telephone Assistance

For more information about specific benefits, visit the nearest VA regional office or call

(800) 827-1000

Other VA Toll-Free Numbers

CHAMPVA	(800) 733-8387
Education & Training	(888) 442-4551
Home Loan Eligibility Center	(888) 244-6711
VA Life Insurance	(800) 669-8477
Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI/VGLI)	(800) 419-1473
Direct Deposit	(877) 838-2778
Headstones/Markers (status of claims only)	(800) 697-6947
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)	(800) 829-4833

Internet

Information about the wide range of VA benefits and services, including benefit rates, is available at

www.va.gov

Survivors. For information specific to survivors, select "Benefits," then "Survivors' Benefits."

Inquiries. A "Contact VA" link is available for e-mail inquiries.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

Veterans Benefits Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20420



VA Benefits for Survivors

"...to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan..."

- Abraham Lincoln -

RESCISSION: VA Pamphlet
21-03-1, dated April 2003

VA Pamphlet 21-03-1
January 2006

About VA

We are the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs – “VA” for short. We offer a wide range of benefits for our Nation’s veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

About This Pamphlet

This pamphlet contains brief information about VA benefits available to survivors of military servicemembers and veterans. Contact us to determine potential eligibility in specific cases, and for current benefit rates.

BURIAL

Reimbursement of Burial Expenses –

A burial allowance may be paid to help offset expenses of the veteran’s funeral and burial. The allowance is payable for veterans who:

- died of a service-connected disability, or
- were in receipt of compensation or pension, or retired pay in lieu thereof, or
- died in a VA facility.

Plot Allowance – If not buried in a national cemetery, a plot allowance may be payable for veterans who:

- were discharged for disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or
- were in receipt of compensation or pension, or retired pay in lieu thereof, or
- died in a VA facility.

National Cemetery – Most veterans, their spouses, and dependent children are eligible for burial in one of VA’s national cemeteries at no cost to the family. Many states have veterans cemeteries, built with VA grants, with similar benefits.

Headstone or Marker – VA provides a headstone or marker for veterans buried in any cemetery worldwide.

Flag – An American flag is provided to drape the casket or accompany the urn of an eligible veteran. The flag is presented to the veteran’s next of kin upon burial.

Presidential Memorial Certificates – Family and other loved ones may request these personalized certificates.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to unmarried surviving spouses and dependent children of servicemembers who die during active military service, or veterans who:

- die after military service because of a service-connected disability, or
- were receiving or entitled to receive VA compensation for a service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling
 - for at least 10 years immediately preceding death, or
 - since the veteran’s release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, or
 - for at least one year immediately preceding death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war.

***See note about restoration of entitlement**

PARENTS’ DIC

This is a monthly benefit paid to parents of veterans who die in service or as a result of a service-connected disability. There are qualifying income limits and the amount payable varies based on the parents’ other income.

DEATH PENSION

Death pension is a monthly benefit paid to unmarried surviving spouses and dependent children of wartime veterans whose death is not due to a service-connected disability. There are qualifying income limits and the amount payable varies based on the amount of other income.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education and training benefits are available to unmarried surviving spouses and dependent children of

- servicemembers who die during active military service, or
- veterans who die of a service-connected disability, or
- veterans who were rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability at the time of death.

There are time limits for use of this benefit. A surviving spouse has 10 years from the date that eligibility is established, but 20 years if the veteran died while on active duty. Children are eligible from age 18 to 26. Educational and vocational counseling, and employment as a work-study student, are also available.

***See note about restoration of entitlement**

HOME LOAN GUARANTY

The unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran whose death was service connected is generally eligible for this program. VA guarantees loans to purchase a home, including a condominium or manufactured home, or to refinance an existing home loan.

***See note about restoration of entitlement**

HEALTH CARE

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) provides coverage for unmarried surviving spouses and children of veterans who:

- died of a service-connected disability, or
- were permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability at the time of death, or
- died in service in the line of duty, and the dependents are not eligible for Department of Defense TRICARE benefits.

***Note: Restoration of Entitlement** – Entitlement may be restored for a surviving spouse who remarried after the veteran’s death if the remarriage ended in death, divorce, or annulment. A surviving spouse that remarries at age 57 or older, or at age 55 or older for CHAMPVA entitlement, generally retains entitlement to DIC, home loan guaranty, and education and training benefits.

LIFE INSURANCE PROCEEDS

The veteran may have had an active life insurance policy with VA. Such policies include:

- United States Government Life Insurance
- National Service Life Insurance
- Veterans Special Life Insurance
- Veterans Reopened Insurance
- Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance
- Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance
- Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI)*
- Veterans’ Group Life Insurance (VGLI)*

**Free financial counseling is available to SGLI and VGLI beneficiaries.*

Home Loan Guaranty

VA guarantees loans to purchase a home, manufactured home and certain types of condominiums; or to build, repair, and improve homes. This benefit may also be used to refinance an existing home loan. Certain disabled veterans can receive grants to have their home specially adapted for their needs. Native Americans living on Federally recognized Trust Land may qualify for a direct home loan. Basic eligibility requirements for the home loan benefit are:

Selected Reserve or National Guard

When eligibility is based solely on reserve or guard service, the individual must have completed at least six years of honorable service. Eligibility may also be established if an individual was released prior to six years service due to a service-connected disability..

Active Duty – Reservists and National Guard members who are activated and serve under title 10 are eligible if they were activated after August 1, 1990, served at least 90 days, and receive an honorable discharge. Eligibility based on current activation begins after 90 days of active service.

VA Eligibility Center - Certificate of Eligibility
Toll-free - 1-888-244-6711

Burial Benefits

Burial benefits for veterans may include a gravesite in any of our national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone or marker, a grave liner for casketed remains, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family.

VA can pay a burial allowance of \$2000 for veterans who died of service-related causes. For other veterans receiving VA benefits, VA can pay \$300 for burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot allowance.

A U.S. flag for burial purposes is issued for individuals who complete at least one enlistment in the Selected Reserve or National Guard, or who were discharged due to service-connected disability or whose death was the result of service. A flag can also be issued for individuals who at the time of death were eligible for retirement pay based on Selected Reserve or National Guard Service, or would have been entitled had the member attained age 60.

Contact VA

Each VA benefit has its own eligibility requirements. For specific information about eligibility call VA at: 1-800-827-1000

Health Benefits	877-222-8387
Education Benefits	888-442-4551
VA Life Insurance	800-669-8477
Office of SGLI	800-419-1473
CHAMPVA	800-733-8387
Environmental Health	800-749-8387
Headstones (<i>status of claims only</i>)	800-697-6947
Telecommunication	
Device for Deaf (TDD)	800-829-4833
Direct Deposit	877-838-2778

VA Web Site
www.va.gov

Apply for Health Benefits
<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>

Apply for Compensation, Pension or Vocational Rehabilitation benefits on line:
<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov>

Facilities Locator
<http://www.va.gov/sta/guide/home.asp>

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents (2008 Edition)
http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.htm

The Center for Women Veterans
<http://www1.va.gov/womenvet/>

Education
<http://www.qibill.va.gov>

Loan Guaranty
<http://www.homeloans.va.gov>

Veterans Service Organizations
<http://www1.va.gov/vsso/>

State Veterans Affairs Offices
<http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>

For information on reemployment rights and unemployment insurance
<http://www.dol.gov>

Burial and Memorial Benefits
<http://www.cem.va.gov/burial.htm>



*To Care for Him Who Shall Have Borne
the Battle and For His Widow and His
Orphan*

Abraham Lincoln

A Summary of VA Benefits for National Guard and Reserve Personnel



Department of Defense
Deployment Health
Support Directorate



Department of
Veterans Affairs

www.va.gov/EnvironAgents

IB-10-164

April 2008

VA Benefits and Selected Reserve and National Guard Members

- Health Care
- Compensation and Pension
- Education & Training Benefits
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
- Home Loans
- Life Insurance
- Burial Benefits
- Dependents' and Survivors' Benefits

Eligibility for Reservists/National Guard Members

The primary factor in determining basic eligibility for VA benefits is "veteran status," which is established by active military, naval, or air service and a discharge or release from active service under conditions other than dishonorable.

Reservists who have served honorably on active duty establish veteran status and may therefore be eligible for VA benefits, depending on the length of active military service and other eligibility factors. In addition, reservists who are never called to active duty may qualify for some VA benefits.

Health Care

Generally veterans must be enrolled in the VA healthcare system to receive health care services. Reservists and National Guard members activated for federal duty may qualify for a number of health care services provided by VA.

- Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services
- Domiciliary, nursing home, and community-based residential care
- Sexual trauma counseling (enrollment not required)
- Specialized health care for women veterans
- Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless veterans
- Readjustment counseling (for combat veterans and enrollment not required)
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Medical evaluation for military service exposure, including Gulf War, Agent Orange, Ionizing Radiation, and certain other environmental hazards (enrollment not required).

Combat Veterans Eligibility for VA Health Care Benefits has been extended.

Under previous eligibility rules, combat veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998 were eligible to be enrolled in Priority Group 6 and receive cost-free health care for two years after discharge for conditions potentially related to combat service.

The law has changed to extend eligibility for VA health care for eligible combat veterans! On January 28, 2008, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) became law. This new law extends health care eligibility for combat veterans as follows:

Currently enrolled veterans and new enrollees who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003 are eligible for the enhanced benefits, for 5 years post discharge.

Veterans discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, who apply for enrollment on or after January 28, 2008, are eligible for the enhanced benefit until January 27, 2011.

To learn more about health benefits for combat veterans, visit:
<http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/Library/pubs/CombatVet/CombatVet.pdf>

Compensation and Pension Benefits

VA administers two tax-free monetary benefits based on disability and/or age.

Compensation: VA can pay you monthly compensation if you are at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service.

Pension: You can receive a monthly pension if you are a wartime veteran with limited income, and you are permanently and totally disabled **or** at least 65 years old.

Time Limits: There is no time limit to apply for Compensation and Pension benefits.

Education

Selected Reserve and National Guard members may be entitled to education benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606) and/or the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP/Chapter 1607).

Complete information is available at:
<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

Dependents' and Survivors' Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a wide range of benefits and services for the surviving spouse, dependent children and dependent parents of deceased veterans and military service members.

Complete information is available at:
<http://www.vba.va.gov/survivors/VAbenefits.htm>

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

Service-disabled veterans may qualify for rehabilitation and employment assistance including: job search, vocational evaluation, career exploration, and vocational training, education, and rehabilitation services. If enrolled in an education or training program, VA will pay for the participant's tuition, fees, books, tools, and other program expenses as well as provide a monthly living allowance.

Complete information is available at:
<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/index.htm>

VA Life Insurance

National Guard and Reserve Personnel are eligible to receive Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI), and Family Group Life Insurance (FGLI). They may also be eligible for Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (RH) if called to active duty, injured, and have a service-connected disability.

Additional information may be obtained on-line at
<http://www.insurance.va.gov/>

Federal Veterans' Benefits Timetable

Following separation or retirement from service, veterans have:

180 days -- One-time Dental Treatment

The VA provides one-time separation dental care for certain service-connected dental conditions, if the certificate of discharge does not certify that the veteran was provided a complete dental examination and treatment prior to discharge. (38 CFR 17.161)

240 days -- Veterans' Group Life Insurance

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) may be converted to Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), a five-year term policy, renewable for life. VGLI may be converted to an individual policy with any participating insurance company. For more information, call toll free (800) 669-8477 or visit www.insurance.va.gov

1 year -- Appeal

A veteran has one year from the date of the original notification of a VA decision to file an appeal.

2 years -- Insurance

A veteran with a new service-connected disability, but otherwise in good health, may apply to the VA for up to \$10,000 in life insurance coverage at standard rates. Veterans who receive a new rating of zero percent or greater are eligible for the coverage. The application must be made within two years from the date of being notified of a new service-connected status. The veteran must have received an other than dishonorable discharge and released from active duty after April 25, 1951. Call toll free (800) 669-8477 or visit www.insurance.va.gov

5 years -- VA Health Care for Combat Vets

Combat veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after Jan. 28, 2003, are eligible to enroll in the VA health care system for five years from the date of discharge or release. The enrollment period begins on the discharge or separation date of the service member from active duty service, or in the case of multiple call-ups, the most recent discharge date. Veterans, including activated Reservists and National Guard members, are eligible if they served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998, and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

10 years -- Montgomery G.I. Bill

Provides financial assistance to honorably discharged veterans who enlisted after June 30, 1985, and elected to participate within the first 12 months of service. Call toll free (888) 442-4551.

12 years -- Vocational Rehabilitation

As part of a rehabilitation program for service-connected, disabled veterans rated at 10 percent or more and having a serious employment-related handicap, the VA may pay tuition, books, expenses and a monthly living allowance. A new expanded housing benefit option is also available. For more information, call toll free (800) 827-1000.

15 years -- Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a federal education benefit program for individuals who served on active duty a minimum of 90 days after Sept. 10, 2001. Public Law 111-32, the *Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship*, amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill to include the children of service members who die in the line of duty after Sept. 10, 2001. For more information, call toll free (888) 442-4551 or visit the VA website at www.gibill.va.gov

Medical Care

To the extent resources and facilities are available, the VA provides hospital care covering the full range of medical services to veterans. Eligible veterans may receive medical treatment at any VA Medical Center or Outpatient Clinic / Community Based Clinic in Florida.

G.I. Home Loan Guarantee

The VA may guarantee part of your loan for the purchase of a home, manufactured home, or condominium. In addition, veterans with conventional home loans now have options for refinancing to a VA guaranteed home loan as a result of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. For information, call (877) 827-3702 or visit <http://www.homeloans.va.gov/>

Veteran Small Business Ownership

The U.S. Small Business Administration offers programs and services for veterans seeking to establish or expand small businesses. SBA's Express and pilot programs offer streamlined and expedited loan procedures for active duty military members and veterans. For more information, visit <http://www.sba.gov/content/express-programs> or call toll free (800) 827-5722.

Burial Benefits

The VA provides honorably discharged veterans, spouses and dependents with burial in a National Cemetery at no cost. Cremated remains are also accepted. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried if they predecease the veteran. The VA provides a headstone, marker or medallion for placement on a private headstone at a private cemetery. The VA does not make funeral arrangements. Call toll free (800) 697-6947 or visit <http://www.cem.va.gov/> for more information.

State Veterans' Benefits & Programs

Free Benefits & Disability Claims Counseling

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs has Claims Examiners co-located with the VA Regional Office in Bay Pines, each VA Medical Center and many VA Outpatient Clinics. Assistance with claims is free and covers all state and federal veterans' programs. FDVA, through its Bureau of State Approving Agency, also evaluates and approves secondary and post-secondary education programs so Floridians can take advantage of federal veterans' educational programs such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill. For more information, call (727) 319-7400 / 7440.

Property Tax Exemptions

Any real estate owned and used as a homestead by a veteran who was honorably discharged and has been certified as having a service-connected, permanent and total disability, is exempt from taxation if the veteran is a permanent resident of Florida and has legal title to the property on January 1 of the tax year for which exemption is being claimed. (FS 196.081(1))

Any real estate owned and used as a homestead by the surviving spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who died from service-connected causes while on active duty is exempt from taxation if the member was a permanent resident of this state on January 1 of the year in which the member died. (FS 196.081(4)(a))

If, upon the death of the veteran, the spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead and permanently resides there, the exemption from taxation carries over to the benefit of the veteran's spouse until such time as he or she remarries, sells, or otherwise disposes of the property. If the spouse sells the property, an exemption not to exceed the amount granted from the most recent ad valorem tax roll may be transferred to the new residence as long as it is used as the primary residence and the spouse does not remarry. (FS 196.081(3))

Any real estate used and owned as a homestead by any quadriplegic is exempt from taxation. Veterans who are paraplegic, hemiplegic, or permanently and totally disabled who must use a wheelchair for mobility, or are legally blind, may be exempt from real estate taxation. Check with your local property appraiser to determine if gross annual household income qualifies. The veteran must be a resident of Florida. (FS 196.101)

Eligible resident ex-servicemembers with a VA certified service-connected disability of 10 percent or greater shall be entitled to a \$5,000 property tax exemption. The ex-servicemember must establish this exemption with the county tax official in the county in which he or she resides by providing documentation of this disability.

The unremarried surviving spouse of such a disabled ex-service member, who on the date of the disabled ex-servicemember's death had been married to the ex-servicemember for at least five years, is also entitled to this exemption. (FS 196.24)

Any partially disabled veteran who is age 65 or older, any portion of whose disability was combat-related, and who was honorably discharged, may be eligible for a discount from the amount of ad valorem tax on the homestead commensurate with the percentage of the veteran's permanent service-connected disability. Eligible veterans should apply for this benefit at the county property appraiser's office. (FS 196.082)

Service personnel entitled to homestead exemption in this state, and who are unable to file in person by reason of such service, may file through next of kin or a duly authorized representative. (FS 196.071)

Certification of Discharge or Separation

At the veteran's request, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall record, without cost, certificates of discharge or separation from the Armed Forces. (FS 28.222) **CAUTION:** Once on file, documents become official court records and are open to the public. To remove a military discharge record from the official court record, submit your request to the Court Clerk's office.

"V" for Veterans Designation on Driver License

Florida's veterans can add a veteran designation to their driver license or identification card. To add the "V" to a license or ID card, veterans can visit any Florida driver license office, to include those operated by county tax collectors. Requirements: 1) present a discharge document which shows an honorable discharge from active duty; 2) pay a one-time \$1 fee, in addition to the replacement or renewal fee. If it is too soon to renew your license, you can pay a one-time \$2 fee plus other applicable service fees; 3) visit www.GatherGoGet.com to ensure you have all other documents. Veterans who need to obtain a copy of their DD-214 may request it online at www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/

100% Disabled Veteran State ID Card

A disabled veteran ID card may be issued by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to any veteran who is a permanent resident of the state and is determined by the VA or Department of Defense to have a 100% service-connected, permanent and total disability rating. (FS 295.17) The card may be used as proof of eligibility for any state benefit except exemption of homestead property taxes. For more information, call (727) 319-7400 / 7440.

Driver License & State ID Fee Exemptions

Any honorably discharged veteran who has a valid FDVA disabled veteran ID card or who has been determined to have a 100% total and permanent service-connected disability and is qualified to obtain a driver license is generally exempt from all fees. However, a fee may be applied to drivers seeking to reinstate a license. (FS 322.21(7))

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or a county tax collector may issue or renew an identification card to a person who presents evidence that he or she is homeless without payment of the fees required. A \$6.25 fee may apply in offices operated by county tax collectors. Homeless veterans may prove their status with a letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that establishes eligibility in the HUD-VASH program.

Handicapped Toll Permit

Licensed drivers who operate a vehicle specially equipped for the handicapped and are certified by a licensed physician or the VA as having permanent upper limb impairments/disabilities substantially affecting their ability to deposit coins in toll baskets, shall pass free through all toll gates. A window sticker from the Florida Department of Transportation must be obtained and displayed. (FS 338.155(3))

Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle License Plate

An honorably discharged veteran who has been a resident of Florida continuously for the past five years or who has established a domicile in Florida, as provided by FS 222.17, may apply for one free disabled veteran "DV" license plate for an owned or leased vehicle. The veteran must provide proof of a service-connected 100-percent disability rating or that the vehicle was acquired through VA financial assistance. *Note:* Free license plates with a wheelchair emblem are available for those veterans permanently confined to a wheelchair and who otherwise qualify for a DV plate. Service charges may apply. (FS 320.084)

Please note: Parking spaces for persons with disabilities are for the exclusive use of individuals who have permanent or temporary mobility impairments. (F.S. 553.5041(3)). Disabled veterans who have been issued a "DV" plate may only park in designated handicapped parking spaces if they also have a mobility impairment. Disabled veterans with a mobility impairment may apply for the disabled parking plate with the wheelchair emblem to avoid possible fines and penalties.

No state agency, county, municipality or agency thereof may charge the driver of a vehicle displaying a "DV" license plate any fee for parking on public streets, highways or in any metered parking space. There are exemptions to this benefit, which can be found in FS 316.1964.

Special Use License Plates

New legislation in 2012 authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue a special use license plate for a recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge or Combat Action Badge, and creates a Vietnam War Veteran and Korean Conflict Veteran license plate. These special use license plates are to be issued after the applicant provides documents establishing proof of status, such as a DD-214, and upon payment of the license tax imposed by s. 329.08, F.S. The bill also provides for the issuance of a special use license plate without charge for recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, or Silver Star. These special use license plates are to be issued upon application and proof of qualifications and without payment of the license tax imposed by s. 329.08, F.S.

In addition, the following existing military license plates are available upon application to the owner or lessee of a vehicle that meet the necessary qualifications:

- **Medal of Honor** -- Issued to any U.S. citizen who is a resident of Florida and who was awarded the Medal of Honor while serving as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. (FS 320.0893)
- **Ex-POW** -- Issued to a resident of Florida who is a former prisoner of war, or their unremarried surviving spouse, who was a U.S. citizen serving with the U.S. Armed Forces or the armed forces of an allied nation or who was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and was not a U.S. citizen. (FS 320.089(2))
- **Gold Star** -- Honoring the family members of Florida service members who have been killed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The applicant must be a resident of Florida at the time of the service member's death, and directly related as spouse, legal mother or father, or stepparent who is currently married to the mother or father of the fallen service member. (FS 320.0894)
- **Florida National Guard, U.S. Armed Forces Reserve, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom** -- Issued to a retired member of the Florida National Guard or the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve or to a former member of the U.S. military who was deployed and served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom or in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. (FS 320.089)
- **Pearl Harbor Survivor** -- Issued to a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. (FS 320.089)
- **Purple Heart** -- Issued to a recipient of the Purple Heart medal. (FS 320.089)
- **U.S. Paratrooper** -- May only be purchased by current or former U.S. military personnel who, as part of their military duty, have been trained to jump from aircraft. (FS 320.0891)

Hunting and Fishing

The *Military Gold Sportsman's License* is available for a reduced fee of \$20 to any resident who is an active or retired member of the U. S. Armed Forces, U. S. Armed Forces Reserve, National Guard, U. S. Coast Guard, or Coast Guard Reserve upon submission of a current military ID card. The license is only available at tax collector's offices. (FS 379.354(4)(j))

State hunting and fishing licenses and permits shall be issued without fees for five years to any veteran who is a Florida resident, certified or determined to be 100% totally and permanently disabled by the VA, or the U.S. Armed Forces, or who has been issued a valid disabled veteran ID card by FDVA. For more information, visit <http://myfwc.com/> (FS 379.353)

Florida honors the service of injured war veterans by providing special outdoor recreational opportunities for them. The Division of Forestry has designated areas of state forests as Operation Outdoor Freedom Special Hunt Areas. With funding from the Friends of Florida State Forests Program, active duty members and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces with combat-related injuries have access to specialized hunting areas that are specially adapted to assist their needs. (FS 589.19)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission makes it easier for Florida veterans to enter the commercial fishing industry. Applicants should visit www.MyFWC.com/License and click on *Commercial Saltwater Products* or call (850) 487-3122.

Commission as a Notary Public

The state's \$10 commission fee shall not be required for a commission as a Notary Public to a veteran with wartime service and who has been rated 50 percent or more for a service-connected disability. Other fees will apply. (FS 117.01(2))

Occupational License Taxes

A disabled wartime veteran who is unable to perform manual labor and is a permanent Florida resident shall be exempt from this tax up to \$50. The unremarried spouse of a deceased disabled veteran is also entitled to this exemption. (FS 205.171)

Disabled Veterans' Exemption from Fees

Total and permanently disabled Florida veterans are exempt from county and municipality building license or permit fees when making certain improvements to their residence in order to make the dwelling habitable or safe. Restrictions apply. (FS 295.16)

Education Benefits for Veterans and Families

Florida State Colleges and Universities offering priority course registration for any segment of the student population now provide priority course registration to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who are receiving GI Bill educational benefits. The benefit also applies to spouses and dependent children receiving GI Bill benefits.

Florida State Colleges and Universities are also adopting rules and regulations enabling eligible current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces to earn academic college credit at public postsecondary educational institutions for college-level training and education acquired in the military. Consult your local campus for details.

Florida waives undergraduate-level tuition at state universities and community colleges for Florida recipients of the Purple Heart and other combat-related decorations superior in precedence to the Purple Heart. For more information, call (850) 245-0407.

Florida also provides four-year college educational opportunities for dependent children and spouses of veterans who died from a service-connected disability or who are 100% percent service-connected totally and permanently disabled veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. (FS 295.01) For more information, visit www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/factsheets/CDDV.htm or call toll free at (888) 827-2004.

Dependent children of service members Missing In Action or Prisoners Of War may also be eligible for tuition benefits.

Eligible World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans who, as a result of being inducted into any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and unable to complete their high school education, can be awarded a High School Diploma. For more information, call (850) 245-0446 or visit <http://www.fl DOE.org/workforce/veteran-diploma.asp>

Florida State Park Discount Passes

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection provides a 25-percent discount on annual passes to Florida's 161 State Parks for all veterans, active duty service and reserve members. The pass is available for purchase at any Florida State Park staffed ranger station.

Honorably discharged veterans who have service-connected disabilities, surviving spouses, and Gold Star Parents of military veterans who have fallen in combat will receive a lifetime family annual entrance pass at no charge. The free annual pass can only be obtained at a staffed ranger station. For more information, call (850) 245-2157 or visit www.FloridaStateParks.org

Florida State Veterans' Homes

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs operates six skilled nursing facilities and one assisted living facility. All facilities are licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration and inspected annually by AHCA and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The homes are supervised 24-hours daily by registered and licensed nurses. Under the IRS tax code, monetary donations to specific state veterans' homes are tax deductible. Per Florida Statutes, all such donations are to be used for the benefit of the home and its residents.

Employment

For employment opportunities at the homes, call the FDVA Human Resources Office at (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5533 or visit the *People First* website at <https://jobs.myflorida.com/joblist.html>

Resident Admission

Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes include an honorable discharge, state residency for one year prior to admission, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician. For more information, call (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5562.

Veterans' Homes

The **Robert H. Jenkins Jr. Veterans' Domiciliary Home** in Lake City (Columbia County) opened to residents in 1990. The recently renovated 149-bed Assisted Living Facility provides a special combination of housing, personalized supportive services and incidental medical care to eligible veterans. Veterans must be able to feed and dress themselves and in need of assisted living care. Call (386) 758-0600 for more information. *Address:* 751 SE Sycamore Terrace, Lake City, FL 32025.

The **Emory L. Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Daytona Beach (Volusia County) opened to residents in 1993. The recently renovated 120-bed facility provides skilled nursing care to its veteran residents. Call (386) 274-3460 for more information. *Address:* 1920 Mason Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

The **Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Land O' Lakes (Pasco County) opened to residents in 1999. The 120-bed facility provides skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (813) 558-5000 for more information. *Address:* 6919 Parkway Boulevard, Land O' Lakes, FL 34639.

The **Alexander "Sandy" Nininger State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Pembroke Pines (Broward County) opened to residents in 2001. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (954) 985-4824 for more information. *Address:* 8401 West Cypress Drive, Pembroke Pines, FL 33025.

The **Clifford C. Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Panama City (Bay County) opened to residents in 2003. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (850) 747-5401 for more information. *Address:* 4419 Tram Road, Panama City, FL 32404.

The **Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Port Charlotte (Charlotte County) opened to residents in 2004. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (941) 613-0919 for more information. *Address:* 21281 Grayton Terrace, Port Charlotte, FL 33954.



The **Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home** in St. Augustine (St. Johns County) opened to residents in 2010. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (904) 940-2193 for more information. *Address:* 4650 State Road 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

Your purchase of the *Florida Salutes Veterans* or one of the state's Army, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard license plates directly helps veterans. The \$15 surcharge goes into a trust fund for the operation and maintenance of Florida's veterans' homes. A portion of the Marine Corps and *Support Our Troops* license plates also supports the State Veterans' Homes Program. Anyone can purchase these plates. See page 9 for a list of other military tags whose proceeds support the homes. You may also support the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund by making a \$1 contribution when renewing your Driver License. Let the clerk know you're a veteran.



Veteran Employment Services

Employment services for veterans, military members and families are offered through the Employ Florida network consisting of Workforce Florida, the Department of Economic Opportunity and Florida's 24 Regional Workforce Boards encompassing nearly 100 One-Stop Career Centers. These services include interviewing, resume assistance, job referrals, job search and placement assistance, Internet access, training referrals, career planning and vocational guidance. Visit <http://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-workforce-services/workforce-programs/veterans-employment-program> or call toll free (800) 342-3450 or (850) 245-7105 for more information.

Employ Florida Vets

Employ Florida Vets is the state's online jobs portal that provides employment services to Florida veterans. Call toll free (866) 352-2345 or visit <http://veterans.employflorida.com/portals/veteran/> for more information.

Outreach Assistance

Local Veterans Employment Representatives develop increased hiring opportunities within the local workforce by raising employer awareness of the availability and benefit of hiring veterans. Disabled Veterans Outreach Program specialists provide services to all eligible veterans, but their efforts are concentrated on client services to those identified as most in need of assistance. A staff directory is located online at http://sitefinity.floridajobs.org/PDG/vets/VET_STAFF_DIRECTORY.pdf or call (850) 245-7424 for more information.

Reemployment Rights

A veteran has a right to be reemployed in his/her civilian job or a comparable job with associated benefits had the veteran not been absent due to military service. For more information, call toll free (866) 487-2365 or visit www.dol.gov/vets. Public employees may contact FDVA at (727) 319-7400.

License Fee Waivers for Returning Veterans

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation may waive initial licensure fees for veterans. The initial license fee, initial application fee and initial unlicensed activity fee will be waived for returning veterans, provided the veteran applies for licensure within 24 months of being honorably discharged. The law applies to new licenses for more than 20 professions under DBPR's jurisdiction, including construction, real estate, certified public accountants and cosmetologists. Visit www.MyFloridaLicense.com for information.

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program

The Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 provides seamless transition for servicemembers, expands education and training opportunities for veterans, and provides tax credits for employers who hire veterans with service-connected disabilities. Included in the VOW to Hire Heroes Act is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program for unemployed veterans. VRAP offers 12 months of training assistance to veterans who are at least 35 years old but no older than 60. Applications may be received through October 1, 2013, or once VA has 99,000 participants, whichever comes first. For more information, visit <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>

Veterans' Preference in Florida

If you are a Florida resident, state and political subdivisions of the state shall give preference in employment, promotions after being deployed and retention to 1) a veteran with a compensable VA service-connected disability; 2) the spouse of a veteran with a permanent and total service-connected disability; 3) a veteran who served one day on active duty during a wartime period and was honorably discharged; 4) the unmarried widow or widower of a veteran who died as a result of a service-connected disability; 5) a veteran who has served in a qualifying campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized, to include the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and was honorably discharged. (FS 295.07, 295.11)

A person eligible for veterans' preference does not forfeit preference eligibility once he/she has been employed by a state agency or political subdivision. The employer is obligated to make the applicant aware that preference is available when applying for a position; however, certain positions are excluded from the law. An applicant who believes he or she was not afforded employment/promotion/retention preference may file a complaint with the FDVA. The complaint must be filed within 21 days from the date the notice is received. For more information, call (727) 319-7462 or mail the detailed complaint to: P.O. Box 31001, St. Petersburg, FL 33731.

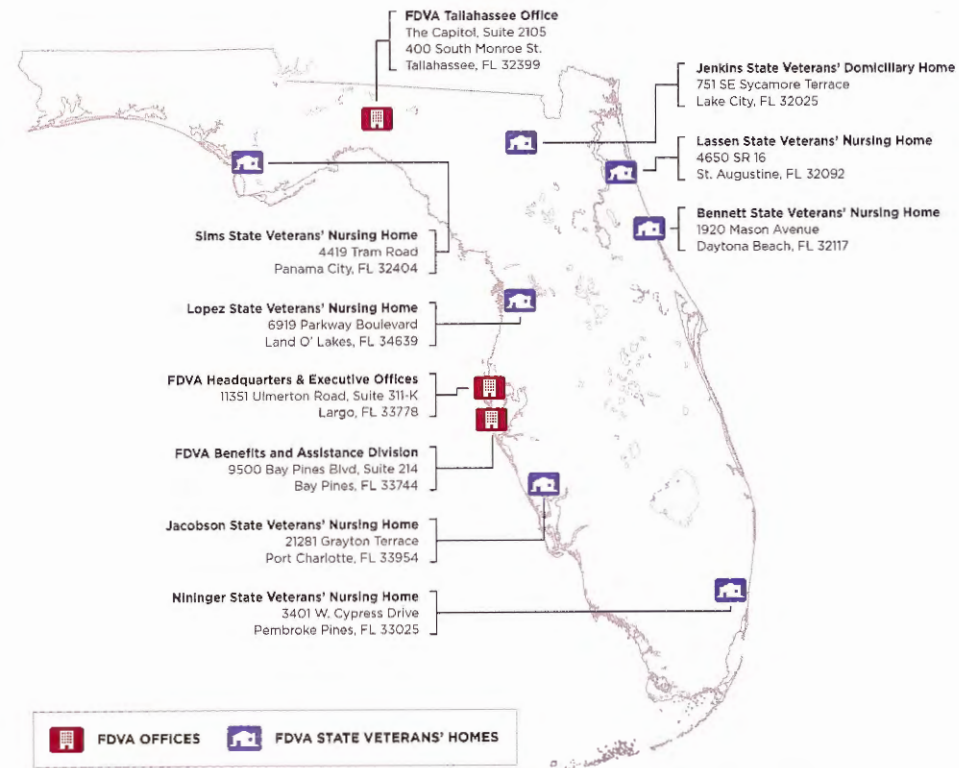
Florida Veteran Business Enterprises

The Florida Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act was expanded in 2012 to include wartime veterans. The Florida Division of Management Services' program promotes access for service-disabled and wartime veteran businesses to state contracts and encourages other such veterans to start businesses. For more information, visit http://www.dms.myflorida.com/other_programs/office_of_supplier_diversity_osd/certification/supporting_documentation/service_disabled_veteran_businesses or call (850) 487-0915.

FDVA Offices & Claims Examiner Sites

Offices include those located in federal facilities. Claims services are provided free of charge.

<p>FDVA Executive Office 11351 Ulmerton Rd. #311K Largo, FL 33778-1630 (727) 518-3202</p>	<p>Orlando VA Medical Center 5201 Raymond St., Rm 1704 Orlando, FL 32803 (407) 599-1386 / 1318</p>	<p>Panama City Community Based Outpatient Clinic Naval Support Activity, Bldg. 148 Panama City Beach, FL 32408 *No telephone at location.</p>
<p>FDVA Benefits & Assistance 9500 Bay Pines Blvd. #214 Bay Pines, FL 33744 (727) 319-7400 / 7440</p>	<p>West Palm Beach VA Medical Center 7305 North Military Trail Bldg. 10, #113 West Palm Beach, FL 33410 (561) 422-8204</p>	<p>New Port Richey VA Outpatient Clinic 9912 Little Rd. #D-116 Port Richey, FL 34654 (727) 869-4227</p>
<p>FDVA Capitol Office The Capitol, Suite 2105 400 South Monroe Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001 (850) 487-1533</p>	<p>Broward County VA Outpatient Clinic 9800 W. Commercial Sunrise, FL 33351 (954) 625-8727</p>	<p>Pensacola Joint Ambulatory Care Clinic 790 Veterans Way Pensacola, FL 32507 (850) 912-2051 / 2052</p>
<p>Bay Pines VA Medical Center 10000 Bay Pines Blvd. Bldg. 22, #117 Bay Pines, FL 33744-5005 (727) 398-6661 x5489</p>	<p>William Chappell Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic 551 National Health Care Dr. Daytona Beach, FL 32114 (386) 323-7500 x30122</p>	<p>Tallahassee VA Outpatient Clinic 1607 St. James Court #220 Tallahassee, FL 32308 (850) 878-0191 x2032</p>
<p>Malcom Randall VA Medical Center 1601 Archer Rd. #D-163 Gainesville, FL 32608 (352) 374-6029</p>	<p>Eglin VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic 100 Veterans Way, Rm. 108 Eglin AFB, FL 32542 (850) 609-2740</p>	<p>The Villages VA Outpatient Clinic 8900 SE 165th Mulberry Ln Room 162 The Villages, FL 32162 (352) 674-5095</p>
<p>Lake City VA Medical Center 619 S Marion Ave. #A-163 Lake City, FL 32025 (386) 755-3016 x2070</p>	<p>Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic 1833 Boulevard St. Jacksonville, FL 32206 (904) 232-2751 x3005</p>	<p>Viera VA Outpatient Clinic 2900 Veterans Way #A700 Viera, FL 32940 (321) 637-3693 / 3788</p>
<p>Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center 1201 NW 16th St. #A-213 Miami, FL 33125 (305) 325-3325</p>	<p>Orange Park Career One Stop Center 1845 Town Center Blvd. Suite 150 Orange Park, FL 32003 (904) 213-3888, x2087</p>	<p><i>Note: There are also FDVA Claims Examiners at each State Veterans' Home. Call for appointment. See page 12 for contact information.</i></p>
<p>James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital 13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. T#61 Tampa, FL 33612 (813) 972-2000 x6589</p>	<p>Orlando Lakemont Campus 2500 S. Lakemont Avenue Room 125 Orlando, FL 32814 (321) 397-6584 (407) 646-4168</p>	



County Veteran Service Offices

Information on current federal, state and local veterans' programs, entitlements and referral services is also available in Florida through a network of County Veteran Service Offices. The counselors are trained and accredited annually by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

All services are provided free of charge.

A list of CVSOs can be found online at www.FloridaVets.org

VA Outpatient Clinics

Boca Raton Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
901 Meadows Rd.
Boca Raton, FL 33433
(561) 416-8995

Bradenton Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
5520 State Road 64,
Suite 101
Bradenton, FL 34208
(941) 721-0649

Brooksville Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
14540 Cortez Blvd. #108
Brooksville, FL 34613
(352) 597-8287

Clermont Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
805 Oakley Seaver Drive
Clermont, FL 34711
(352) 536-8200

William Chappell Jr. VA
Outpatient Clinic
551 National Health Care Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 323-7500

Deerfield Beach Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
2100 SW 10th St.
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
(954) 570-5572

Delray Beach Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
4800 Linton Blvd.
Building E, #300
Delray Beach, FL 33445
(561) 495-1973

Eglin VA Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
100 Veterans Way
Eglin AFB, FL 32542
(866) 520-7359

Fort Pierce Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
727 North US 1
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
(772) 595-5150

Hollywood Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
3702 Washington St. #201
Hollywood, FL 33021
(954) 986-1811

Homestead Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
950 Krome Ave. #401
Homestead, FL 33030
(305) 248-0874

Jacksonville VA Outpatient
Clinic
1833 Boulevard St.
Jacksonville, FL 32206
(904) 232-2751

Key Largo Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
105662 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-0164

Key West Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
1300 Douglas Circle, L-15
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 293-4863 / 4828

Kissimmee Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
2285 N. Central Ave.
Kissimmee, FL 34741
(407) 518-5004

Lakeland Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
4237 South Pipkin Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33811
(863) 701-2470

Lecanto Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
2804 W. Marc Knighton
Court, Suite A
Lecanto, FL 34461
(352) 746-8000

Lee County VA Healthcare
Center
2489 Diplomat Parkway East
Cape Coral, FL 33909
(239) 652-1800

Leesburg Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
711 W. Main St.
Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 435-4000

Marianna Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
4970 Highway 90
Marianna, FL 32446
(850) 718-5620

Miami Healthcare for
Homeless Veterans
1492 Flagler St.
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 541-5864

Miami Outpatient Substance
Abuse Clinic
1492 West Flagler Street,
Suite 101
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 541-8435

Naples Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
2685 Horseshoe Dr. S. #101
Naples, FL 34104
(239) 659-9188

New Port Richey VA
Outpatient Clinic
9912 Little Road
New Port Richey, FL 34654
(727) 869-4100

Ocala Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
1515 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 369-3320

Okeechobee Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
1201 N. Parrot Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 824-3232

Orange City Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
2583 S. Volusia Ave., #300
Orange City, FL 32763
(386) 456-2080

VA Outpatient Clinics

Palatka Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
400 N. State Road 19
Suite 48 (Palatka Mall)
Palatka, FL 32177
(386) 329-8800

Palm Harbor Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
35209 US Hwy 19 N
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
(727) 734-5276

Panama City Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
Naval Support Activity,
Bldg 387, 101 Vernon Ave.
Panama City Beach, FL
32408
(850) 636-7000

Pembroke Pines Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
7369 W. Sheridan St. #102
Hollywood, FL 33024
(954) 894-1668

Pensacola Joint Ambulatory
Care Center
790 Veterans Way
Pensacola, FL 32507
(866) 927-1420

Port Charlotte Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
4161 Tamiami Trail, #401
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 235-2710

St Lucie Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
128 SW Chamber Court
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 344-9288

St Lucie PTSD Clinic
126 SW Chamber Court
Port St Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 878-7876

Sarasota Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
5682 Bee Ridge Rd. #100
Sarasota, FL 34233
(941) 371-3349

Sebring Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
5901 US Highway 27 S
Sebring, FL 33870
(863) 471-6227

St. Augustine Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
1955 US 1 South, #200
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 829-0814

St. Petersburg Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
840 Dr. MLK Jr. Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 502-1700

Stuart Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
3501 SE Willoughby Blvd.
Stuart, FL 34997
(772) 288-0304

Broward County VA
Outpatient Clinic
9800 W. Commercial Blvd.
Sunrise, FL 33351
(954) 475-5500

Tallahassee VA Outpatient
Clinic
1607 St. James Ct.
Tallahassee, FL 32308-5352
(850) 878-0191

Viera VA Outpatient Clinic
2900 Veterans Way
Viera, FL 32940
(321) 637-3788

The Villages VA Outpatient
Clinic
8900 SE 165th Mulberry Ln.
The Villages, FL 32162
(352) 674-5000

Vero Beach Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
372 17th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 299-4623

Zephyrhills Community
Based Outpatient Clinic
6937 Medical View Lane
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
(813) 780-2550



The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs is on *Facebook*, the social network service and website. FDVA seeks to connect veterans and their families with unclaimed benefits and provide information about state veterans' issues. Visit us online at <http://www.facebook.com/floridaveterans>

Vet Centers

If you have served in a combat zone, Vet Centers are in your community to help you and your family with readjustment counseling and outreach services.

Clearwater Vet Center
29259 US Hwy 19 North
Clearwater, FL 33761
(727) 549-3600

Clermont Vet Center
1655 East Highway 50
Clermont, FL 34711
(352) 536-6701

Daytona Beach Vet Center
1620 Mason Ave., Suite C
Daytona Beach, FL 32117
(386) 366-6600

Fort Lauderdale Vet Center
713 NE 3rd Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
(954) 356-7926

Fort Myers Vet Center
4110 Center Pointe Drive, Unit 204
Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 479-4401

Gainesville Vet Center
105 NW 75th Street, Suite 2
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 331-1408

Palm Beach Vet Center
4996 10th Ave North Suite 6
Greenacres, FL 33463
(561) 422-1201

Jacksonville Vet Center
300 East State Street, Suite J
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 232-3621

Jupiter Vet Center
6650 W. Indiantown Rd., Suite 120
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 422-1220

Key Largo Vet Center Outstation
105662 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-0164

Lakeland Vet Center
1370 Ariana Street
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 284-0841

Polk County Vet Center
1370 Ariana St
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 284-0841

Melbourne Vet Center
2098 Sarno Road
Melbourne, FL 32935
(321) 254-3410

Miami Vet Center
8280 NW 27th Street, Suite 511
Miami, FL 33122
(305) 718-3712

Collier County (Naples) Vet Center
2705 Horseshoe Dr. South, #204
Naples, FL 34104
(239) 403-2377

Pasco County Vet Center
7347 Ridge Road
New Port Richey, FL 34668
(727) 697-5176

Orlando Vet Center
5575 S. Semoran Blvd., #30
Orlando, FL 32822
(407) 857-2800

Bay County Vet Center
3109 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 101
Panama City, FL 32405
(850) 522-6102

Pensacola Vet Center
4504 Twin Oaks Drive
Pensacola, FL 32506
(850) 456-5886

Pompano Beach Vet Center
2300 West Sample Road, Suite 102
Pompano, FL 33073
(954) 984-1669

Sarasota Vet Center
4801 Swift Road, Suite A
Sarasota, FL 34231
(941) 927-8285

Vet Centers

Okaloosa County Vet Center
6 11th Avenue, Suite G-1
Shalimar, FL 32579
(850) 651-1000

St. Petersburg Vet Center
6798 Crosswinds Drive North, Bldg. A
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
(727) 549-3633

Tallahassee Vet Center
548 Bradford Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 942-8810

Tampa Vet Center
3637 W. Waters Avenue, Suite 600
Tampa, FL 33614
(813) 228-2621

VA Medical Centers

Bay Pines VA Medical Center
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bay Pines, FL 33744
(727) 398-6661
(888) 820-0230

Malcom Randall VA Medical Center
1601 SW Archer Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 376-1611
(800) 324-8387

Lake City VA Medical Center
619 South Marion Avenue
Lake City, FL 32025
(386) 755-3016
(800) 308-8387

Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center
1201 N.W. 16th St.
Miami, FL 33125
(305) 575-7000
(888) 276-1785

James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 972-2000
(888) 811-0107

Orlando VA Medical Center
5201 Raymond St.
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 629-1599
(800) 922-7521

Note: A new VA Medical Center is scheduled to open at Lake Nona near Orlando in late 2013. It will replace the facility on Raymond Street.

West Palm Beach VA Medical Center
7305 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33410
(561) 422-8262
(800) 972-8262

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Florida

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides health care services through Veterans Integrated Service Networks. Florida is served by two networks: VISN 8 encompasses 60 counties in north, central and south Florida, while VISN 16 serves the remaining seven counties in northwest Florida.

The VA operates medical centers at Bay Pines, Miami, Tampa, West Palm Beach, Gainesville and Lake City. A new VA medical center in Orlando is scheduled to open in late 2013, replacing a smaller facility.

The VA also operates seven National Cemeteries in Florida, with plans to add cemeteries in Brevard and Leon Counties in the next few years. The St. Petersburg VA Regional Office at Bay Pines is responsible for delivering non-medical VA benefits and services to veterans and their families.

Florida Veterans Foundation

The Florida Veterans Foundation is pleased to provide funding for the 2013 edition of the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide. This publication is a valuable tool for Florida's 1.6 million veterans by providing information on how to obtain federal and state veterans' benefits.



The Florida Veterans Foundation was established by the Florida Legislature in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The foundation is a Direct Support Organization of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs that provides assistance, funding and support for FDVA in carrying out its mission. Tax deductible contributions help to fulfill our mission to provide much needed assistance to Florida's veterans and their families in times of financial need, as well as advancing initiatives that promote support of Florida's veteran population.

Please visit us online at www.FloridaVeteransFoundation.org or call (850) 488-4181 or 4182 to learn more about the Foundation and how you can help those who sacrificed so much in the name of freedom and democracy.

John L. Haynes
Major, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)
Chairman/CEO, Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc.



I wish to support veterans with the following donation:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone & E-mail Address: _____

Donation Amount: _____

(Donors will receive a receipt for tax purposes.)

Mail Your Donation to:

Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc.
The Capitol, Room 2105-D
400 South Monroe
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Benefits and Health Care Contacts

Reference	Phone	Website
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	1-800-827-1000 TDD 1-800-829-4833	www.va.gov www.vba.va.gov
Veterans Health Care Eligibility/Enrollment	1-877-222-8387	www.va.gov/healtheligibility
St. Petersburg VA Regional Office, Bay Pines	1-800-827-1000	www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg
Florida National Guard Transition Assistance	(904) 823-0319 (904) 827-8668	www.floridaguard.army.mil
Military Funeral Honors		www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil
Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola	(850) 453-4108/4846	http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/barrancas.asp
Bay Pines National Cemetery	(727) 398-9426	http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/baypines.asp
Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell	(352) 793-7740	http://www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/florida.asp
Jacksonville National Cemetery	(904) 766-5222	http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/jacksonville.asp
Sarasota National Cemetery	(941) 922-7200	http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp
South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth	(561) 649-6489	http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp
St. Augustine National Cemetery	(352) 793-7740	<i>Closed to new interments</i>
Returning Veterans	1-800-827-1000	http://www.oefoif.va.gov
TRICARE	1-800-444-5445	www.tricare.mil
Gulf War Veterans	1-800-749-8387	http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/
Women Veterans	(850) 609-2740	http://www.va.gov/womenvet/
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	1-800-336-4590	www.esgr.mil
National VA Homeless Hotline	1-877-424-3838	http://www1.va.gov/homeless/
VA eBenefits Portal - Online Benefits-Related Tools and Information	1-800-827-1000 1-800-983-0937	https://www.ebenefits.va.gov
VA Home Loan Guaranty Services	(888) 244-6711	www.homeloans.va.gov
National Veteran Crisis Hotline	1-800-273-8255, Dial 1 for veterans	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
Florida Relay Service - For those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or speech impaired	Dial 7-1-1	http://www.ftmi.org/floridarelay