



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067

Dr. Linda S. Schwartz, RN, MSN, DrPH, FAAN
Commissioner

TESTIMONY
COMMISSIONER LINDA S. SCHWARTZ, RN, MSN, DrPH, FAAN
Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs
Presented to the Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs
March 1, 2011

Chairman Hennessey, Senator Maynard and distinguished members of the Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am Dr. Linda S. Schwartz, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), and I am pleased to offer testimony today on several measures being considered by the Committee today.

SB 1070 An Act Concerning the Department of Veterans' Affairs. SB 1070 directs that the Department of Veterans' Affairs conduct a study comparing the policies of Connecticut with other states with regard to "maintenance of a contact list for the veterans and members of the armed forces; collection of employment statistics for veterans in the state and the effectiveness of providing information to veterans regarding benefits." It is the position of the Department that we are prepared to answer any of the questions the Committee may have regarding these issues without a study or formal legislation. By virtue of the fact that I am the President of the National Association of State Directors of Veteran Affairs, I am in daily contact with my counterparts in every state and territory. If you recall last week when we discussed the concept of ID cards for veterans, I provided information on the number of states that had or were presently engaged in enacting legislation to include the veteran identifiers on driver's licenses. As to the information on employment statistics by law, employment has never been part of the Federal or State Departments of Veteran Affairs responsibilities. This responsibility is reserved and funded by the Federal Government through the Connecticut Department of Labor which has an entire "Veterans Employment and Training Division" which is tasked with assisting veterans and monitoring employment trends in Connecticut.

As to the effectiveness of our efforts in providing information to veterans, the Office of Advocacy and Assistance (OA&A) is responsible for assisting veterans and their families in accessing federal, state and local benefits and entitlements. Veterans Service Officers, accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, assist veterans and their families with documentation and filing of claims for disability and/or compensation. Staff offices are located in each of the five Congressional Districts (Bridgeport, Waterbury, West Haven, Newington and Norwich) and include bilingual staff and a woman's veterans' services coordinator. Additional advocacy work is performed throughout the state on a staff available, rotating basis at satellite office locations and through the "Vet Express" mobile outreach van. Veterans Service Officers also conduct interviews in skilled nursing facilities throughout the state to determine the number of veterans admitted and ascertain which benefits these veterans are currently receiving and/or are entitled to receive.

Since its inception in 1988, the OA&A unit has brought more than \$56.7 million into the state in the form of new or increased Federal benefits to Connecticut veterans and their families. We measure effectiveness by the amount of compensation and benefits this office has been able to retrieve. As we have tracked these numbers, we have seen a steady increase in these totals over time. Last year our advocacy efforts resulted in over \$5 million in new income and benefits to Connecticut veterans and their families compared to \$4 million in FY08-09 and \$3.2 million in FY07-08. Another method of comparison is the total amounts of Federal benefits awarded to veterans in each state. For example Connecticut has climbed from being ranked 48 out of 50 States when I became Commissioner in 2003 to 39 out of 50 States. This comparison is not on a per capita basis and is irrespective of the size of the veteran population in each State. This aspect of our services remains a priority. I would add that if there are any questions or statistics that the Committee may require for future deliberations or informational purposes, the Department of Veterans' Affairs stands ready to respond in a timely and comprehensive manner.

HB 5956, An Act Concerning the Internet Web Site of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and HB 6479 An Act Concerning Various Veterans' Benefits. HB 5956 would require the Department to maintain an Internet website that provides information concerning services, benefits and programs available to veterans and their families by all Federal state, local and private agencies and organizations. I have attached the face page of our present website to this testimony. As you can see it is packed with information about Federal and State benefits, programs, news items and updates. Additionally, the content is comparable to other State agencies and other states. We do have many links to Federal and state agencies and veteran service organizations. We have made continuous improvements to the site and we update it several times a month to keep it current and relevant. We get over 3,000 hits per month and have worked to make this site a source of all things veteran in Connecticut.

However, the requirements required in this legislation are well beyond the capacity of the agency. DVA does not have a dedicated public affairs or IT personnel assigned to website management. The estimated cost of such a position would be \$51,488-63,987. In actuality, the directives of the proposed legislation pose unrealistic and unfunded mandates which have been attempted by DVA in the past few years. Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 27-102p went into effect in 2007 and directed an annual report by the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs that would include some of the same information requested in HB 5956 and in **HB 6479 An Act Concerning Various Veterans' Benefits**, specifically calling for "a description of each type of benefit provided to veterans, by state agencies and municipalities and the value of such benefit and the number of veterans to whom such benefit was provided, for the twelve-month period ending on June thirtieth of the same year."

This was a very labor intensive and prolonged exercise which became impossible because agencies and municipalities questioned the authority of DVA to access or require their assistance to provide this information. After repeated attempts, most did not respond and the utilization of the information was questionable. In order to comply with these bills and existing statutes requiring the production of multiple studies and reports, we estimate DVA would need at least one full time researcher to compile and keep the information current. The



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estimated cost of this position would be \$57,849- 74,864. We will be glad to share the information we collected with the Committee. However, our experience has also found that by the time a "study" and/or "report" can be accomplished much of the information is already out-of-date. Each day I receive from multiple sources, including from the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, news on changes, updates and new initiatives being implemented to accommodate the emerging needs of veterans. In this technologically advanced and electronic messaging systems atmosphere, it is more cost effective and efficient to study the subject in real time rather than provide an outdated report. DVA stands ready to provide any specific information required by the Select Committee on Veterans Affairs through simple requests rather than through legislation and welcomes the opportunity to provide this support on a timely basis.

HB 6480 An Act Concerning the Identification of Connecticut Veterans Eligible for Benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. DVA supports the spirit and intent of HB 6480. I am happy to report that we have already entered into a memorandum of understanding with DSS that provides for the exchange of information described in the HB 6480 via the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) which is a Federal-State partnership authorized by Congress. PARIS is a computer matching process by which the social security numbers of public assistance recipients are matched against Federal databases which include the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. This system is operated under the auspices of the Administration for Children and Families, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

I first learned about this several years ago and attempted to enlist the support of other state agencies in using this system to assist DVA in identifying Connecticut veterans that might be eligible for services and programs provided by the Federal VA. Once operational, PARIS can identify individuals receiving medical benefits and social support programs from the State of Connecticut who may also be entitled to Federal benefits and health care including wartime pensions, health care and medications. This match would provide information for my agency to identify, contact and apprise eligible Connecticut veterans about their eligibility and VA and/or DOD programs and benefits to which they are entitled. This process has the potential and the goal of transferring veterans from services provided by partially state-funded Medicaid to comparable, and in some cases, better Federal programs. While the savings to Connecticut is estimated to be \$2 million annually, changes in eligibility and Federal benefit for veterans indicate that this is a conservative estimate. The proposed legislation will facilitate this process to include veterans currently being served by DMHAS.

We were fortunate that DSS was most interested in PARIS and the potential savings this could mean to our state. Planning has been in progress for almost a year. At this point, the data provided by the Federal systems is more than our IT system can handle and we are working with DSS to condense the pertinent information into a format that can easily be used by DVA Veteran Service Officers. Once this process is perfected, we will be operational. I

want to thank Commissioner Starkowski and his staff their support and for agreeing to assist us in our efforts to implement this program.

I would be remiss if I did not add that a key element for the most effective implementation is the fact that our OA&A Division has been understaffed for several years. We do not have our full complement of staffing in each of the Congressional District Offices to bring this program on-line at capacity. While the identification of potential veterans eligible to receive Federal assistance instead of partially state-funded programs can be accomplished on a quarterly basis, we need accredited Veteran Service Officers and support staff to be effective in this course of action. At this time, we are requesting permission to fill three (3) vacant Service Officers and one (1) clerical staff positions.

A far more challenging aspect of this legislation would require DVA to conduct a study concerning the use of trusts established for veterans that are created pursuant to 42 USC 1396p (d) (4). The subject of "trusts" is not within the purview of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Disability compensation from the Federal VA is awarded to veterans based on injuries, illnesses and disability conditions associated with military service and not on financial need. Veterans' disability pensions are awarded to low income veterans who are permanently and totally disabled but not necessarily as a result of military service and are based on income levels determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Despite the fact that we do not have the staff to conduct such a "study", we must state forthrightly that the agency neither has the knowledge or the expertise to speak with any authority on the subject. We believe this issue would be better addressed by another agency more involved with eligibility determination for Social Security or Medicaid.

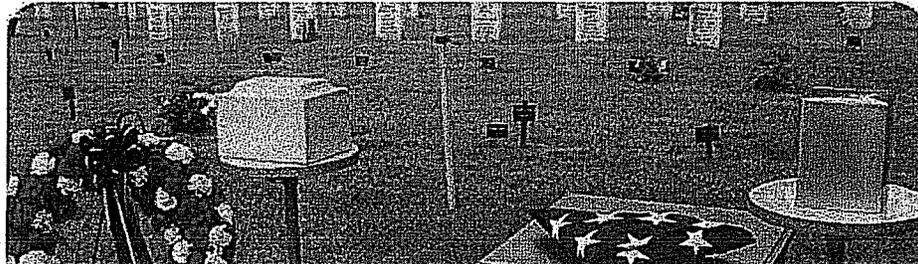
Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and I would be happy to address any questions that you might have.



Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs

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Benefits Information
Human Resources
Forms
Programs & Services
Veteran's Links
DVA Employee login

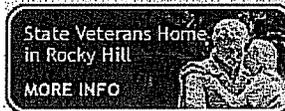
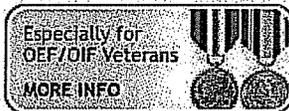


Department of Veterans' Affairs
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

NEW! 860-616-3600
Fax: 860-616-3532

Veterans Info Line
1-866-9CT-VETS
(1-866-928-8387)

[Driving Directions](#)



News & Announcements

[ENJOY OUR JANUARY 2011 E-NEWSLETTER - CLICK HERE](#)

[Dr. Linda Schwartz Reappointed as CTDVA Commissioner](#)

[DR. LINDA SCHWARTZ NAMED PRESIDENT OF ORGANIZATION OF TOP STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICIALS \(click here for full release\)](#)

[Sign Up for CT Womens VETNET! CT Womens VETNET Registry Form](#)

[President Obama Signed Improvements to Post-9/11 GI Bill](#)

[Many Non-College Programs, State Service of Reserves and Guard Covered
click here for details](#)

[Fundraising Drive For Connecticut Veterans Memorial Click here to print out donation card. 22 Banks Collecting Donations. Mail to: Ct State Veterans Memorial, Rockville Bank, PO Box 660, Rockville, CT 06066](#)

[The Newspaper in Education \(NIE\) Institute provides "Our Veterans: Sharing Their Stories." Teachers, CLICK HERE for the 33 page Guide Click Here for a sample of Veterans Stories.](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

[JUST FOR WOMEN VETERANS...enter here](#)

[For ALL VETERANS, How may I...](#)

[Get a copy of my DD214/Discharge Papers](#)

[Apply for the CT Wartime Service Medal](#)

[Apply for admission to the Veterans Home](#)

[Nominate a veteran for the Hall of Fame](#)

[Learn about the CT Veterans Hall of Fame](#)

[Get help obtaining veterans' benefits](#)

[Get help obtaining a job or job training](#)

[Learn more about the GI Bill for education](#)

[Apply to volunteer at the Veterans Home](#)

[Make a donation to the Veterans Home/See the Wish List](#)

[Apply for Veterans Tax Exemptions](#)

[Get a copy of the Connecticut Veterans Resource Guide](#)

FEDERAL VA INFORMATION

**ATTENTION KOREAN WAR VETERANS -
click here for special announcement**

**Veterans and Active Duty - Free
Energy Assessment from Home Energy
Solutions - Click here for details**

**CT DVA LAUNCHES DIGITAL
DIRECTORY OF VETERANS
MEMORIALS IN CT TOWNS**

Fisher House Foundation will provide free airfare for soldiers, spouses or their primary caregivers for travel to LasikPlus vision centers. LCA-Vision / LasikPlus will provide laser vision correction free of charge. Click here for details.

VETS LINK is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization offering hands-on mentoring and services to guide veterans and their families through the financial issues that arise in their lives.

www.VetsLinkConnecticut.com

The CT Dept of Veterans' Affairs has **NEW PHONE NUMBERS** for the agency. The new **AGENCY MAIN NUMBER** is 860-616-3600. Click here to print out a CTDVA Directory

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (<http://whitman.syr.edu/ebv>). Co-Sponsored by University of Connecticut.

> [News from Veterans & Organizations](#)

Info about Snowsport Camps for Women Vets with TBI/PTSD & disabilities

[MORE NEWS >](#)

toll-free 24/7 REFERRAL SERVICES
877-WAR VETS (877-927-8387)

*****WARNING TO ALL VETERANS - FRAUD ALERT DO NOT GIVE PERSONAL INFORMATION TO A GROUP CALLED "VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES" Click here for details*****

[INDEX to Federal VA benefits](#)

[VA SUICIDE Prevention HOTLINE, 800-273- TALK](#)

[VA Urges Veterans to Sign Up for Direct Deposits \(click here for details\)](#)

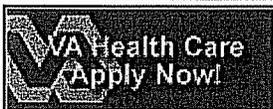
GET A COPY OF 2010 FEDERAL VETERANS BENEFITS GUIDE

- [VA New Simplified Claims Forms. Click here](#)
- [VA FACT SHEET - Information for Veterans about Healthcare Reform](#)
- [FEDERAL VA Announces changes in 2010 benefits. Click here for details](#)
- [Federal VA Benefits in Brief. Click here for a 2 page synopsis](#)
- [GOVERNMENT JOBS FOR VETS Go to: <http://www.fedshirevets.gov/>](#)
- [VA Extends "Agent Orange" Benefits to More Veterans -Click here for details.](#)
- [VA sets up office to support "Survivors of Veterans" Click here for more info](#)
- [The US Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs-National Resource Directory \[www.NationalResourceDirectory.gov\]\(http://www.NationalResourceDirectory.gov\).](#)





Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs

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Fax: 860-616-3532

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1-866-9CT-VETS
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Organizations

- ▶ [American Ex-Prisoners of War](#)
- ▶ [American Gold Star Mothers](#)
- ▶ [American Legion](#)
- ▶ [American Legion Post 2](#)
- ▶ [American Red Cross](#)
- ▶ [America Supports You](#)
- ▶ [American Veterans \(AMVETS\)](#)
- ▶ [Association of the United States Army](#)
- ▶ [Blinded Veterans Association](#)
- ▶ [Catholic War Veterans, USA, INC.](#)
- ▶ [CHFA Veterans Homeownership Program](#)
- ▶ [Civilian Employment Rights for Armed Services and Veterans](#)
- ▶ [Compass North Group \(Employment-Related Help\)](#)
- ▶ [Connecticut Blue Star Mothers](#)
- ▶ [Connecticut ESGR](#)
- ▶ [Connecticut Military Department](#)
- ▶ [Connecticut National Guard Foundation](#)
- ▶ [Connecticut Sons of the American Revolution](#)
- ▶ [DD-214's Online](#)
- ▶ [Disabled American Veterans](#)
- ▶ [Electrical and HVAC Apprenticeship Programs for US Veterans](#)
- ▶ [Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve](#)
- ▶ [Feds Hire Vets](#)
- ▶ [Fleet Reserve Association](#)
- ▶ [Fund for Veterans Education](#)
- ▶ [Gold Star Wives of America](#)
- ▶ [Give 2 the Troops](#)
- ▶ [Groton Base Submarine Veterans Web Site](#)

[Driving Directions](#)

- ▶ [Hispanic - American Veterans of CT](#)
- ▶ [Italian-American War Veterans](#)
- ▶ [Jewish War Veterans of the USA](#)
- ▶ [Long Term Care Services and Support](#)
- ▶ [Marine Corps League](#)
- ▶ [Military Connection](#)
- ▶ [Military Officers Association of America](#)
- ▶ [Military One Source](#)
- ▶ [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#)
- ▶ [Military Support Program](#)
- ▶ [Polish Legion of American Veterans](#)
- ▶ [SBA Patriot Express Program](#)
- ▶ [Silver Star Families of America](#)
- ▶ [VA Prosthetics Web Site](#)
- ▶ [VA Returning OIF/OEF Veterans](#)
- ▶ [Veterans of Foreign Wars \(VFW\)](#)
- ▶ [VETSConnect program](#)
- ▶ [Vietnam Veterans of America](#)
- ▶ [Women In Military Service For America Memorial](#)

SUMMARY

FF00000Updated 02/10/2009

	War Bonuses	Nursing Care	State Veterans Cemeteries	Property Tax Exempt/Cr edit	Home Loans	Reduced Education Fees for Veteran	Reduced Education Fees for Veterans Family	Personal Loans and Grants	Reduced License Fees	
									Hunt	Fish
AL	V (POW only)	3	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES
AK	NONE	1	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
AZ	NONE	1	1	S/D	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
AR	*	1	1	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
CA	NONE	3	2	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
CO	V	5	2	S/D	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES
CT	2, K, V	3	3	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE
DE	1, 2, K, V	1	2	S/D	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
DC	NONE	1	NONE	YES - S	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
FL	NONE	5	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES
GA	NONE	2	1	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
HI	*	1	8	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE
ID	NONE	3	1	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
IL	2, K, V, D	4	1	YES - SAH	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
IN	1, 2, K, V	1	2	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES
IA	1, 2, K, V	1	1	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
KS	1	2	1	S/D	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE
KY	NONE	3	3	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
LA	S, 1, 2, K, V, D, MM	5	1	YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
ME	1	5	3	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
MD	NONE	1	5	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES
MA	1, 2, K, V, D, GWOT	2	2	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE
MI	1, 2, K, V	2	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES
MN	1, 2, K, V, D	5	1	S/D	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
MS	NONE	5	NONE	S/D	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
MO	NONE	7	5	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES
MT	1, 2, V, K	2	3	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES
NE	NONE	4	1	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
NV	NONE	1	2	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
NH	2, K, V, D, GWOT	1	1	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
NJ	V, D	3	2	YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
NM	*	2	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES
NY	1, 2	5	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
NC	NONE	2	3	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES
ND	2, K, V, D, I, AF, KO, SOM, BOS	1	1	YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE
OH	1, 2, K, V	2	1	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
OK	NONE	7	1	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES
OR	*	1	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
PA	2, K, V, D, MM	6	1	YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
RI	2, K, V	1	1	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	YES
SC	NONE	3	1	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES
SD	S, 1, 2, K, V, D	1	1	YES - SAH	NONE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

STATE VETERAN BENEFITS

ALABAMA

Housing Benefits

- Alabama State Home Program

Financial Assistance Benefits

- Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions
- Bonus for Southeast Asian War Prisoners
- Exemption of Debts Incurred Pursuant to National Housing Act or Veterans' Benefits
- Military Retiree Income Tax Exemption
- Unemployment Compensation
- Military Combat Pay Income Tax Exemption

Employment Benefits

- Job Status and Reemployment rights
- Preference in State Classified employment

Veterans Business Benefits

- Business and Occupation License Exemptions for Disabled Veterans
- Business and Occupation License Exemptions for Veterans of WWII
- Forfeiture of Franchise

Education Benefits

- G.I. Dependents' Scholarship Program

Other State Benefits

- Armed Forces Voter Registration and Absentee Voting
- Commitment of Incompetent Veterans
- Executive, Attestation and Acknowledgment Certification
- Fiduciaries in War Service
- Fishing License
- Guardianship for Veterans and Minor Dependents
- Military Leave of Absence
- Notice of Armed Forces Death
- Official Report of Person Missing, etc.
- Peace Officers' Credit for Military Service
- Public Records
- Recording of Discharges
- Validation of Marriage of Divorced Persons
- Wills

Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs
RSA Plaza, Suite 530
770 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2755
334-242-5077
<http://www.va.state.al.us/>

GEORGIA

- Housing Benefits
- War Veterans Homes
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Exemption from Homestead Tax
- Exemption from Sales Tax on Vehicles
- Ad Valorem Tax on Vehicles
- Exemption from State Income Tax
- Certificate of Exemption
- Abatement of State Income Taxes
- Injury and Death Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Employment Preference
- Employment Assistance
- Medical Benefits
- Group Insurance
- Workers Compensation
- Education Benefits
- Georgia Military Scholarship
- Tuition Assistance (Georgia Air National Guard)
- The National Guard Service Cancelable Loan Fund
- Georgia HERO Scholarship

- Other State Benefits
- Hunting and Fishing Licenses
- Veterans Drivers Licenses
- Honorary Driver's License
- Vehicle License Tags
- ID Cards
- Reduced Fees for Disabled Veterans
- Veterans License Plates
- Handicapped Parking
- Motor Fuel Service to Handicap
- Guardianship
- Vital Statistics
- Service Records
- Benefits Assistance
- Georgia Department of Veterans Services
- Floyd Veterans Memorial Building Suite E-970
- Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4800
- <http://www.sdvva.georgia.gov>
- www.facebook.com/gaveisvc
- www.twitter.com/gaveisvc
- Commissioner: Pete Wheeler
- Phone: (404) 656-2300
- Email: ga.vetsvc@mindspring.com

ALASKA

Housing Benefits

- Veterans Land Discount/Purchase Preference
- Property Tax Exemptions
- Veterans Housing and Residential Loans

Employment Benefits

- Employment Preference Rights
- Veterans Employment Services
- Affirmative Action Plan

Education Benefits

- Free Tuition for Spouse or Dependent of Armed Services Member
- High School Diplomas

Other State Benefits

- Recording Veterans Report of Separation Form
- Disabled Veterans Parking Permits Veterans License Plates
- Hunting and Fishing Licenses
- State Camping Pass
- Alaska Marine Highway Pass
- Birthday Cards from the Governor
- Governor's Advocacy Award
- Military and Veterans Memorial Landmark Property
- Wartime Letters – the Legacy Project
- Military Credit Towards State Retirement

Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

PO Box 5800

Camp Denali

Fort Richardson, AK 99505-5800

907-428-6016

Fax 907-428-6019

www.ak-prepared.com/vetaffairs

FLORIDA

- Other State Benefits Continued
- Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle License Plate
- Permits/Fees (parking, tolls, building improvements)
- Homeless Veterans Program
- Benefits Counseling
- Commission as a Notary Public
- Drivers License Fee Exemption for a total and permanent service connected disability
- Discount Passes of 25% for annual Florida State Park passes for all Veterans and active duty personnel
- State Women Veterans' Coordinator
- Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
4040 Esplanade Way, Suite 180
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950
727-518-3202
<http://www.floridavets.org>
- Interm Executive Director: Robert F. Milligan
Phone: 850-487-1533
Email: milliganr@dva.state.fl.us
- Eligible for tuition benefits
- Dependent children of MIA or POW service members may be eligible for tuition benefits
- Other State Benefits
 - Motor Vehicle Military License Plates
 - Hunting and Fishing License
 - Disabled Veteran Identification Card
 - Certification of Discharge or Separation
- Housing Benefits
 - Florida State Veterans' Homes Program
 - Veterans' Nursing Homes of Florida
 - Homestead Exemption (Permanent and Totally Disabled)
 - Homestead Exemption (10% to 100% BUT not Permanent IN NATURE)
- Employment Benefits
 - Veterans Preference in Employment and Retention
- Education Benefits
 - High School Diploma – Korean War Veterans
 - High School Diploma – WWII Veterans
 - High School Diploma – Vietnam Veterans
 - Tuition Deferment
 - Reduced Tuition for National Guard
 - Education for Children of Deceased or Disabled Florida Veterans
 - Undergraduate-level tuition waived for recipients of Purple Heart or other combat related decorations superior in precedence to the Purple Heart at state universities and community colleges
 - Dependent children of MIA or POW service members may be eligible for tuition benefits

ARIZONA

Housing Benefits

- Arizona State Veterans Home

Financial Assistance Benefits

- Tax and License Fee Exemptions
- Vehicle License Tax and Registration Fees

Employment Benefits

- Employment Preferences
- Professional and Occupational Licenses

Education Benefits

- Tuition and Fees-Deferred Payment

Other State Benefits

- Burial and Headstones
- Absentee Voting in Elections
- Recording of Discharges
- Public Record Certification
- Credit for Military Service for State Retirement Benefits
- Hunting and Fishing Licenses
- Arizona State Parks
- Special License Plates
- Transportation

Arizona Department of Veterans Services

3839 North 3rd Street

Phoenix, AZ 85021

602-255-3373

<http://www.azdvs.gov/>

State Director: BG Richard Maxon

Phone: 602-255-3373 Ext. 1

Email: richard.maxon@azdvs.gov

DELAWARE

- Housing Benefits
- State Veterans Home Fund
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Pension Benefits for Paraplegic Veterans
- Modifications to Taxable Income
- Employment Benefits
- State Employment Veterans Preference
- Education Benefits
- Educational Benefits for Children of Deceased Veterans, etc.
- National Guard
- High School Diploma for WWII Veterans
- Other State Benefits
- Copies of Statement of Service
- Free Death Certificates for Veterans
- No Charge for Notary Services for Veterans
- Veterans Preference – Admission to Governor Bacon Health Center
- Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery
- Indigent Veterans Burial
- Special License Plates
- Registration and Inspection of Motor Vehicles of Disabled Veterans
- Credited Military Service; Eligibility
- Auctioneer and Book Agent Exemption for Veterans
- Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Licenses

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs
Robbins Building
802 Silver Lake Blvd., Suite 100
Dover, DE 19904
302-739-2792
<http://veteransaffairs.delaware.gov/default.shtml>

Executive Director: Antonio Davila
Phone: 302-739-2792
Email: Antonio.davila@state.de.us

ARKANSAS

Housing Benefits

- Arkansas Veterans Home

Financial Assistance Benefits

- Homestead and Personal Property Tax Exemption
- Gross Receipt of Tax Exemption

Income Tax Exemption

Education Benefits

- Free Tuition for Spouse, Children of POW

Other State Benefits

- Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism
- Hunting and Fishing License
- License Plates
- Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery

Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs

2200 Fort Roots Drive

Bldg. 65, Room 119

North Little Rock, AR 72114

501-370-3820

<http://www.nasdva.com/arkansas.html>

State Director: David Fletcher

Phone: 501-370-3820

CONNECTICUT

- Connecticut Veterans' Home
 - Property Tax Exemptions
 - Financial Assistance Benefits
 - Employment Assistance
 - Education Benefits
 - Educational Benefit/Tuition Waivers
 - High School Diplomas for Veterans of WWII
 - Other State Benefits
 - Burial in Connecticut's Veterans' Cemetery
 - Motor Vehicles Waiver
 - Retirement
- Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
860-616-3600
<http://www.ct.gov/ctdva/site/default.asp>
- Commissioner: Linda Spoonster Schwartz
Phone: 860-616-3603
Email: Linda.Schwartz@po.state.ct.us

CALIFORNIA

Housing Benefits

- Veterans Homes of California

Financial Assistance Benefits

- Property Tax Exemptions
- Calvet Farm and Home Loans
- Motor Vehicle Registration Fees Waived

Employment Benefits

- Employment and Unemployment Insurance Assistance
- Veterans Preference in California civil Service Examinations

Veterans Business Benefits

- Business License, Tax and Fee Waiver
- Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunities

Education Benefits

- College Tuition Fee Waivers for Veterans' Dependents

Other State Benefits

- Disabled Veterans License Plates
- Free License Plates
- Veterans Claims Representation
- Fishing and Hunting Licenses
- State Parks and Recreation Pass
- State of California Veterans Cemetery
- Veterans License Plates
- The California Women Veterans Roster
- The California Veterans Registry at the California Veterans Memorial

California Department of Veterans Affairs
1227 O Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

1-800-952-5626

1-800-221-8998 (Outside California)

<http://www.cdva.ca.gov/default.asp>

COLORADO

Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs
7465 East 1st Ave. Unit C
Denver, CO 80230
303-343-1268
<http://www.dmva.state.co.us/page/home>
Acting Director: Richard Hutchison
Phone 303-343-1268
Email: richard.hutchison@dmva.state.co.us

- Housing Benefits
- State Veterans' Home
- State Veterans Nursing Home
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Colorado State Tax Advantage
- Burial Allowance
- Employment Benefits
- Employment Assistance
- Employment Preference
- Education Benefits
- Tuition Assistance
- Tuition Assistance for children of POWs, MIAs or Disabled/Deceased ARNG
- Operation Recognition
- Other State Benefits
- Special Vehicle License Plates
- Medical Benefits
- Hunting and Fishing Privileges