FLORIDA VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE 2021



BOLDLY SERVING MORE THAN 30 YEARS

FDVA

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

www.FloridaVets.org

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Thank you for reading the 2021 edition of the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide.

Helping to connect the Sunshine State's 1.5 million veterans, their families and survivors with earned services, benefits and support are the more than 1,400 men and women of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

With the advance of COVID-19 beginning in early 2020, we've seen many changes in the administration of services. Our Veterans' Claims Examiners, who are often the first-line contact with our state's veterans, are now teleworking from home. To contact a teleworking FDVA Claims Examiner, call (727) 319-7440 and they'll return your call within 24 hours. All services are free to the veteran. You may also contact them via e-mail at **VSO@fdva.state.fl.us**

At the end of World War II, the State of Florida recognized the need to provide services to returning service members and created a division within state government to connect veterans with their earned benefits. To better serve veterans and their families, Florida voters in 1988 overwhelmingly approved a Constitutional Amendment to create a Cabinet Agency to "Honor Those Who Served U.S." Today, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs is the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits and support. Follow us online at **www.FloridaVets.org** and on our many social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

From our comprehensive efforts on mental health advocacy and veteran suicide prevention to the happy reunion of our veterans' home residents with their families in late 2020, we continue to ensure the Sunshine State remains the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.

James S. "Hammer" Hartsell
Deputy Executive Director
Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Florida honors and supports the selfless sacrifices and courage of our state's 1.5 million veterans. We continue working to ensure the Sunshine State remains the most veteran-friendly state, offering services, benefits, and support for veterans of all ages, including our well-trained and skilled veterans who make great contributions toward Florida's workforce and economy.

For those transitioning home from a military career, we know sometimes the challenges may be difficult. First Lady Casey DeSantis and I are steadfast in our support of available mental health counseling as a vital component to transitioning back to civilian life. We have available the Florida Veterans Support Line, 1-844-MyFLVet (693-5838), which provides 24/7 confidential emotional support and connection to community resources.

Florida is also a participant in the "Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families," a national call to action to collaborate, plan and implement suicide prevention best practices and policies. In addition, your state is involved with the nation's comprehensive suicide prevention effort known as PREVENTS, the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide.

Treating the invisible wounds of war is just as important as treating the wounds we can see. We will continue to advocate for the mental health needs of our veterans in the coming year.

Please share this guide with your fellow veterans and family members so that these services can reach as many eligible individuals as possible. As a fellow veteran, I pledge we'll fight for you and your family to have access to the wide array of state and federal benefits that you've earned and deserve. Thanks for your service.



Ron DeSantis
Governor
State of Florida

The printing of the 2021 edition of the *Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide* is provided by a generous grant from the Florida Veterans Foundation. Please visit **www.HelpFLVets.org** to make a donation in support of their mission of No Florida Veteran Left Behind.

FLORIDA VETERANS FOUNDATION



2020 and so far 2021 have been challenging years with COVID-19 exacerbating the hardships faced by veterans. The Florida Veterans Foundation, the Direct Support Organization to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, is proud to focus our support to those veterans facing the greatest challenges from the pandemic. I am excited to report that the nonprofit Foundation is now in its 13th year of working toward the betterment of Florida's 1.5 million veterans, and veteran service organizations.

The Foundation operates for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c) (3), and works closely with the 67 County Veteran Service Offices, which are "frontline" for Florida veterans and local veteran organizations providing hands-on care our veterans. The Foundation is the safety net for Florida veterans and works proactively and collaboratively with State Veteran Service Organizations to assist veterans in need with employment, housing, transportation, benefits assistance and other needs.

The Foundation's website at **www.HelpFLVets.org** continues to help veterans and their families by providing important emergency assistance information and links. Including COVID assistance, financial assistance and more. We also continue to pursue initiatives that will greatly benefit Florida's veteran population: veteran suicide prevention and an elderly veterans' outreach effort to connect veterans with earned VA monetary benefits.

Florida Veterans Crisis Line

For 24-hour counsel, call the National Veteran Crisis Hotline at 1-800-273-8255. You are NOT alone! Veterans in Florida, you may also call the Florida Veterans Support Line at 1-844-MyFLVet (693-5838) or 2-1-1. For opioid addiction issues contact Clean Slate Outpatient Addiction Medicine at **www.cleanslatecenters.com** or call 833-505-4673 (HOPE).

Connecting Aging Veterans with Benefits

Many Florida veterans and their families are also unaware of earned VA benefits available such as VA Pension with Aid and Attendance, which helps subsidize the cost of Long Term Care. Our combined efforts, with the Foundation's partners such as the National Association of Veterans & Families, ensure that earned benefits go to aging veterans in Florida. Visit **www.helpflvets.org/aging-wartime-veterans** for more information.

You may also visit **www.HelpFLVets.org** to purchase vouchers for the new Gadsden Flag, Don't Tread on Me, License Plate, become an Ambassador, honor a veteran, donate in memory of, or to make a donation in support of our many services and programs.

Thanks for helping us fulfill our mission of No Florida Veteran Left Behind!

Bob Asztalos, USN (Ret)
Chairman, Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc.

Military and Veterans Assistance Program


Ashley Moody

Florida's veterans deserve our support and admiration. They also deserve any and all benefits rightfully earned when they signed up to fight for our country. Without men and women willing to risk their lives for our freedom there would be no United States of America—and the world would be a much darker place.

I am forever grateful for the 1.5 million Florida veterans who answered the call of duty. We will never be able to repay our service members for the sacrifices they made defending our freedom and protecting American interests around the world—but we can work to ensure Florida veterans know that we care, and important services are available.

The Florida Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division works every day to protect Floridians from businesses and individuals that engage in unfair or deceptive business practices. Unfortunately, we often see these methods used to specifically target active duty and veteran communities. The Military and Veterans Assistance Program ("MVAP") was created to help educate military members and veterans on the types of scams that target their communities, what they can do to protect themselves, and how they can help protect others by reporting scams and deceptive business practices. In addition, members of the MVAP team work directly with military service members and veterans who have been targeted to help resolve their consumer protection related issues or find other outside assistance if necessary. To learn more about the MVAP program or to file a complaint, visit **www.MyFloridaLegal.com/MVAP**. To view a copy of my Office's Military Consumer Protection Resource Guide, visit **www.MyFloridaLegal.com/MilCPGuide** or call 1-866-9NO-SCAM for a printed copy.

Financial Literacy and Insurance Assistance


Jimmy Patronis

The Department of Financial Services offers two financial education programs specifically for veterans:

Financial Frontlines is an online initiative that provides information to help families fight against financial frauds and debt with the use of an in-depth Resource Guide, a series of tip sheets and an educational video library. Financial Frontlines covers topics such as identity theft, credit scoring, budgeting, predatory lending and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Visit Financial Frontlines at **www.MyFloridaCFO.com/YMM/FinancialFrontlines.**

Serve Save Succeed is a financial literacy resource and online forum for current and former military service members and their families on finance-related topics. The site covers saving, budgeting, frauds, scams, identity theft and scholarships. Visit Serve Save Succeed at **www.MyFloridaCFO.com/ServeSaveSucceed**.

The Department will assist you with your insurance questions and concerns or open a formal complaint. Their experienced Helpline Specialists are trained and informed about changes that occur to categories of insurance such as health, life, auto, bonds, warranties, annuities and more. They are ready to contact the insurance company on your behalf to assist you with your insurance complaint. For more information, call toll free 1-877-693-5236 or send an email to **Consumer.Services@myfloridacfo.com.**

Agriculture and Consumer Services Serves Veterans


Nikki Fried

From promoting veterans agriculture to providing consumer protection to veterans, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is ready to serve Florida veterans.

FDACS actively promotes and supports initiatives that facilitate Florida veterans' entry into agriculture. As Florida farmers retire at a rate that outpaces the rate that younger farmers are beginning agriculture careers, veterans are uniquely positioned to fill this gap in Florida's agriculture industry. Meaningful agriculture careers also provide veterans with the purpose that some struggle to regain after leaving the military.

The FDACS Consumer Services Division provides protection from fraud, waste, and abuse to all Florida residents, to include veterans and military members. Under the Florida Forest Service, Operation Outdoor Freedom provides recreational and rehabilitative opportunities to wounded veterans on state forests, agricultural lands, and private lands throughout Florida at no cost. ***(See Page 17 for details.)***

Florida concealed weapon or firearm license applications submitted by active military members and veterans are now expedited. FDACS also waives first-time licensing application fees for veterans, their spouses, or a business entity in which the veteran or spouse has a majority ownership stake. Other fees may apply.

For information on FDACS veterans initiatives, visit **www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Veterans**. For further information on these programs, contact FDACS Veterans Affairs Director, Ed Rodriguez, at (850) 766-8582 or **Ed.Rodriguez@FDACS.gov**



The *Salute our Soldiers Military Loan Program* offers military members and veterans 30-year, fixed-rate first mortgage loans at a lower rate and with several down payment assistance options. The program is available to borrowers who are purchasing a primary residence, meet income and purchase price limits, can qualify for a first mortgage loan, and successfully complete a homebuyer education course. For details, visit **www.floridahousing.org** or call (850) 488-4197.

OUR VISION

FDVA is the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits and support.

OUR MISSION

To advocate with purpose and passion for Florida veterans and link them to superior services, benefits and support. The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs was founded on July 1, 1989, following the passing of a Constitutional Amendment in 1988 by Florida voters establishing a state agency responsible for advocating for Florida's veterans, their families and survivors. FDVA is a Cabinet Agency, reporting to the governor and Cabinet officers, with an appointed executive director as agency head. FDVA has primary offices in Largo, with staff offices in Bay Pines and Tallahassee.

Free Benefits & Disability Claims Counseling

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs has Claims Examiners that are now teleworking due to COVID-19. 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 or for assistance, call (727) 319-7440 or visit **FloridaVets.org.** Most federal, state and local veterans' benefits require proof of military service through an official discharge document, often called a DD-214 or one of its predecessors. You may request a free copy of your military service record through the National Archives at **www.archives.gov/veterans.** COVID-19 delays in retrieving documents has been reported by the National Archives.

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. Counselors are trained and accredited annually by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. All services are provided free of charge. A list of offices can be found online at **www.FloridaVets.org/benefits-services.**

State Women Veterans' Coordinator

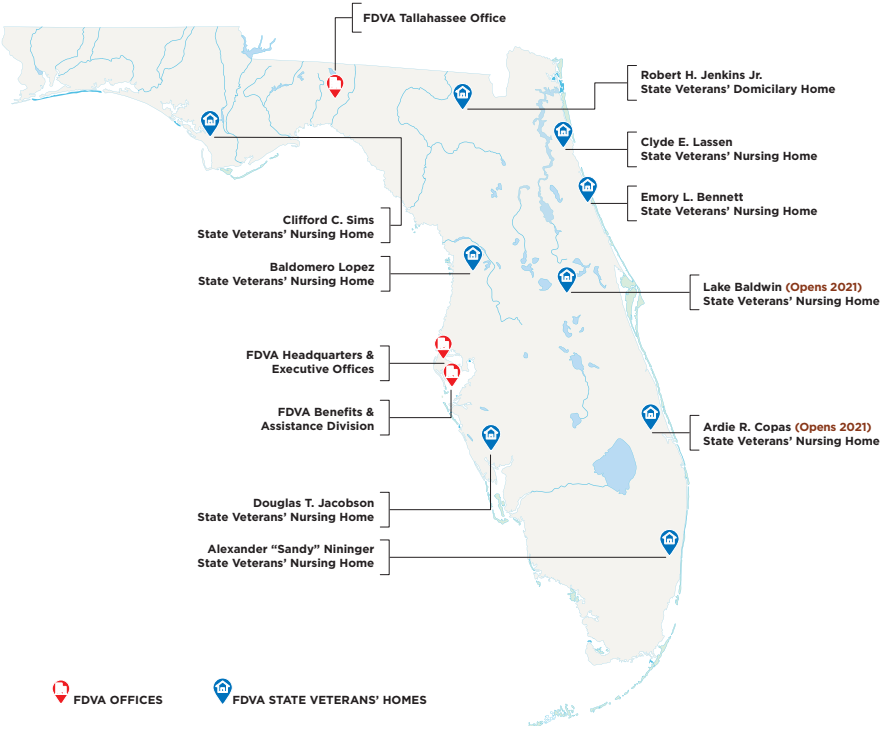
The Sunshine State is home to approximately 162,000 women veterans. Many women veterans don't know they are eligible for the full range of federal and state benefits. To help connect women veterans with earned benefits and services, FDVA hosts an annual state women veterans' conference. A Woman Veteran license plate is also available for purchase. For more information on women veterans' issues, call (727) 319-7418 or visit **www. FloridaVets.org/our-veterans/women-veterans.**

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 Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration and inspected annually by AHCA and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The homes are supervised round the clock 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. 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.

Employment

Our State Veterans' Homes enjoy Five Star and Gold Seal ratings for the care they provide. You can come to work each day knowing you will be using state-of-the-art technology and equipment to provide your residents with the best care possible. The Homes have a new training and employment opportunity that will allow you to receive your Certified Nursing Assistant certification with continual employment after training is completed. For employment opportunities, call the FDVA Human Resources Office at (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5579 or visit the People First website at **www.jobs.myflorida.com**.



Resident Admission

Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes include an honorable discharge, Florida residency, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician.

Veterans' Homes

The **Robert H. Jenkins Jr. Veterans' Domiciliary Home** in Lake City (Columbia County) opened to residents in 1990. The 150-bed Assisted Living Facility near the intersection of Interstates 10 and 75 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 120-bed facility offers 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 offers 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.

The **Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Port St. Lucie (St. Lucie County) is scheduled to open to residents in 2021. The

120-bed facility will offer skilled nursing care and accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. For more information, call (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5562.

The **Lake Baldwin State Veterans' Nursing home** in Orlando (Orange County) is scheduled to open to residents in 2021. The 112-bed facility will offer skilled nursing care and accommodate residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. For more information, call (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5562.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: HEALTH CARE

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 Clinic in Florida.

Free Health Care for Recent 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.

One-time Dental Treatment

Following separation or retirement from service, veterans have 180 days to receive one-time separation dental care from the VA, 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)

VA Offers Dental Insurance Program

VA partnered with Delta Dental and MetLife to allow eligible veterans, plus family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), to purchase affordable dental insurance. There are no eligibility limitations based on a service-connected disability rating or enrollment priority assignment. For more information, visit Delta Dental at **www.deltadentalvadip.org** or MetLife at **www.metlife.com/vadip.**

VA Mission Act

The VA Mission Act of 2018 consolidates U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs community care programs, revises other VA health care programs and facilities provisions, and makes appropriations for veterans care. The bill establishes the Veterans Community Care Program to furnish hospital care, medical services and extended care services through certain non-VA providers to veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system or otherwise entitled to VA care. The Mission Act builds off previous law, the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability (Choice) Act, which Congress passed in 2014. For more information, visit **www.congress.gov/115/bills/s2372/BILLS-115s2372enr.pdf**

Agent Orange/Gulf War Illness

Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, or suffer illnesses and served in the Gulf War during military service may be eligible for VA benefits, including disability compensation for diseases/illnesses presumed to be caused from these deployments. Your dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits. For more information, call the Help Line at 1-800-749-8387 or send an e-mail to **GW/AOHelpline@vba.va.gov**

Camp Lejeune

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has established a presumption of service connection for eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Active duty, Reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River, N.C. for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) from Aug. 1, 1953, through Dec. 31, 1987, may be eligible for disability benefits. For more information, visit **www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp.**

VETERANS' BENEFITS: EDUCATION

Florida waives out-of-state tuition fees for all honorably discharged veterans who reside in the state and who are enrolled in Florida public, post-secondary institutions, through the "Congressman C.W. Bill Young Tuition Waiver Program." The out-of-state tuition and fee waiver is extended to spouses and dependent children who reside in Florida and who are using GI Bill® benefits for enrollment in Florida public, postsecondary institutions (see FS 1009.26(13)).

Out-of-state tuition fees are waived for active duty members residing or stationed outside of the State of Florida.

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. The waiver program also includes the state's career and technical training facilities. Eligibility for this earned benefit has recently expanded. Call (850) 245-0407 for more information. (FS 1009.26(8))

Florida postsecondary institutions will waive the transcript fee of active duty members or honorably discharged veterans, including his or her spouse and dependents (FS 1009.26(17)).

Florida also provides scholarship opportunities for dependent children and spouses of veterans who died from a service-connected disability or who are 100 percent service-connected permanent and total disabled veterans through the Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans program. (FS 295.01) Visit **www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org** or call toll free (888) 827-2004 for more information. Dependent children of service members Missing in Action or Prisoners of War may also be eligible for tuition benefits. For information pertaining to Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Programs offered by USDVA, please call (888) 442-4551 or visit **www.benefits.va.gov/gibill**

Each Florida College System institution and state university offering priority course registration for segments of the student population shall provide priority course registration to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who are receiving GI Bill® educational benefits (FS 1004.075).

The benefit also applies to spouses and dependent children receiving GI Bill® benefits.

Florida State Colleges and Universities also allow current members of the U.S. Armed Forces and honorably discharged veterans to earn academic college credit for college-level training and education acquired in the military. Consult your local campus for details.

Active Duty Service members using DoD's Military Tuition Assistance for enrollment in Florida College System institutions may have fees waived by the institution (FS 1009.25(15))

Honorably discharged veterans who were inducted into the U.S. Armed Forces prior to completing their high school education can be awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma. Visit **www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/veterans-diplomas.stml** or call (850) 245-0446 for more information.

Post-9/11 GI Bill®

Provides financial assistance for 15 years after leaving service to individuals who served on active duty a minimum of 90 days after Sept. 10, 2001. Section 112 of Public Law 115-48, effective 8/16/2017, eliminated the 15-year delimiting date for veterans (and their dependents under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship program) who transitioned out of the military after Jan. 1, 2013. These individuals will no longer be limited to the 15-year deadline to use their GI Bill® education benefits.

Post-9/11 GI Bill® Chapter 33 and VA Veteran Readiness & Employment Chapter 31 Beneficiaries (formerly VA Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment): Effective 8/1/2019, schools may not assess a financial or access penalty to Chapter 31 and Chapter 33 students, for up to 90 days, while the school awaits payment from VA. Students are required to submit a VA Certificate of Eligibility to school officials, for protections under this law (38 U.S.C. § 3679(e).

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 died in the line of duty after Sept. 10, 2001 and Section 701 of The Choice Act expands it to include surviving spouses. For more information, to include Transfer of Entitlement of this benefit to dependents as well as the Yellow Ribbon Program, call toll free (888) 442-4551 or visit the VA website at **www.benefits.va.gov/gibill**.

Montgomery GI Bill®

Provides financial assistance for 10 years after leaving service to honorably discharged veterans who enlisted after June 30, 1985, and elected to participate within the first 12 months of service. For more information, call toll free (888) 442-4551 or visit **www.benefits.va.gov/gibill**.

For COVID-19 Information affecting VA Education Benefits go to **www.benefits.va.gov/GIBill/COVID19EducationBenefits.asp**

VETERANS' BENEFITS: PENSION

Aid & Attendance / Dependency & Indemnity Compensation

Pension is a needs-based benefit paid to wartime veterans who meet certain age or non-service connected disability requirements. Aid and Attendance is an increased monthly pension amount paid to a veteran or surviving spouse. You may be eligible if you require the aid of another person in order to perform activities of daily living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting or adjusting prosthetic devices.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military service members who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease. A death certificate indicating the cause of death was service-connected is evidence needed by survivors when applying for the DIC benefit. However, the service-connected condition does not have to be the immediate cause of death; it need only be a "significant contributor" to the veteran's death. Veterans and their spouses should provide copies of the veteran's VA Disability Rating Letter to their non-VA physicians. Physicians should add the letter to the veteran's medical record.

For eligibility requirements, contact an FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiner or County Veteran Service Officer. You may also visit **www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets.asp** or call toll free (800) 827-1000.

Note: The programs, processes and criteria for receiving Social Security and VA disability benefits are different. Visit **www.socialsecurity.gov people/veterans** or call toll free (800) 772-1213 for more information.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: HOME LOANS & PROPERTY TAXES

G.I. Home Loan Guarantee and Adaptive Housing Grants

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. The VA also provides grants to veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities to help purchase or construct an adapted home, or modify an existing home to accommodate a disability. For information, call (877) 827-3702 or visit **www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans**.

Basic Property Tax Exemptions

Eligible resident veterans with a VA certified service-connected disability of 10 percent or greater shall be entitled to a $5,000 deduction on the assessment of their home for tax exemption purposes. The veteran 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 a disabled ex-service member, who on the date of the disabled ex-service member's death had been married to the ex-service member for at least five years, is also entitled to this exemption. (FS 196.24)

Additional 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 Jan. 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 an Armed Forces member who died from service-connected causes while on active duty is exempt from taxation if the member was a permanent resident of Florida on Jan. 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 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) This exemption carrys over to surviving spouses effective Jan. 1, 2021.

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)

Service members 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)

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)

VETERANS' BENEFIT: INSURANCE

Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is a program that allows you to continue life insurance coverage after you separate from service. Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) may be converted to VGLI within one year and 120 days of discharge. For more information, call toll free (800) 419-1473 or visit **www.insurance.va.gov.**

Other 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.benefits.va.gov/insurance/s-dvi.asp.**

VETERANS' BENEFITS: BURIAL & FAMILY SUPPORT

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 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 eligibility determinations for interment in a national cemetery prior to the time of need. Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a national cemetery. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office toll free at (800) 535-1117. The VA provides the gravesite, grave liner, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate and perpetual care of the gravesite at no cost to the family. The VA also provides a headstone, marker or medallion for placement on a private headstone at a private cemetery at no cost to the family. The VA does not make funeral arrangements. For more information, visit **www.cem.va.gov** or call toll free (800) 697-6947.

Gold Star Families

Florida honors its Gold Star Families. Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult things anyone can go through. Florida Survivor Outreach Services connects you with people who can help you move forward and find strength. SOS Support Coordinators are located strategically throughout Florida to provide long-term support and assistance. A Gold Star license plate is also available from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. For more information, visit **www.floridavets.org/our-veterans/gold-star-families**.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING & FEE EXEMPTIONS

Veteran Designation on Driver License

Florida veterans can add a veteran designation to their driver license or ID card by visiting any Florida driver license office, to include those operated by county tax collectors. Requirements: 1) present a discharge document which shows an Honorable or Under Honorable Conditions discharge from active duty; 2) visit **www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/** what-to-bring 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**. While renewing or replacing a driver license or ID card, veterans may also voluntarily request information on veterans' benefits be forwarded to them.

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 application information, call (727) 319-7440.

Driver License & State ID Fee Exemptions

Any veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who has been issued a valid identification card by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with Section 295.17, Florida Statutes, has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a 100% total and permanent service-connected disability rating for compensation, or has been determined to have a service-connected total and permanent disability rating of 100%, is in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States Armed Services, and who is qualified to obtain a driver's license under this chapter is exempt from certain driver license fees. The Veteran must present a card or letter from the VA stating 100 percent total and permanent service-connected disability rating for compensation, or a service-connected total and permanent disability rating of 100 percent. (LR24.4a) However, some reinstatement fees are required.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or a county tax collector may issue or renew a state ID card to a person who presents evidence that he or she is homeless without payment of fees. A nominal 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 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program, known as HUD-VASH.

Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle License Plate

A veteran discharged honorably or under honorable conditions 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). For eligibility requirements and more information, call (850) 617-2000 or visit **www3.flhsmv.gov/dmv/Proc/rs/RS-17.pdf**.

Parking for Disabled Veterans

Parking spaces for persons with disabilities are for the exclusive use of individuals who have permanent or temporary impairments. (F.S. 553.5041(3)). Disabled veterans who have been issued a "DV" plate may park in designated handicapped parking spaces. 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 may be found in Florida Statute 316.1964. Legislation also prohibits the governing body of each publicly owned or publicly operated airport from charging parking fees to vehicles displaying certain disabled veteran license plates.

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))

Military License Plates

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles issues special use license plates for eligible military members and veterans. These special use license plates, honoring wartime service, awards, campaigns and decorations, and status are 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. 320.08, F.S. License fees and taxes vary. Visit **www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/personalized-specialty-license-plates** for more information.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: RECREATIONAL DISCOUNTS & FEE WAIVERS

Florida State Park Discount Passes

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection provides a 25-percent discount on the purchase of Individual and Family annual passes to Florida's State Parks for all active duty and honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard. Honorably discharged veterans with service-related disabilities, surviving spouses of members of the U.S. military who have fallen in combat, and parents of members of the U.S. military who have fallen in combat are eligible to receive a free-for-life Military Entrance Pass.

Discounted annual passes and the Military pass can only be obtained at a Florida state park with a staffed ranger station, ticket counter or museum. For specific details regarding proof of eligibility, call (850) 245-2157 or visit **www.FloridaStateParks.org**.

County and municipal departments of parks and recreation provide a full or partial discount on park entrance fees to current military service members, honorably discharged veterans, service-connected disabled veterans and the surviving spouse or parents of a military service member who died in combat. Consult your local county or municipal park for details.

All veterans and Gold Star Families are eligible for free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests. In addition to receiving access to National Parks, the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have indefinitely waived entrance or standard amenity fees for veterans and Gold Star Families. Please visit the National Parks Service website for more information about how to access this new benefit.

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, Armed Forces Reserve or National Guard upon submission of a current military ID card. For more information, visit **myfwc.com/license/recreational/military-gold**. The license is available through an online verification process at **www.GoOutdoorsFlorida.com**. The license may also be obtained at Florida tax collectors' offices with proof of residency and a current military identification card.

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 **www.myfwc.com.** (FS 379.353).

Operation Outdoor Freedom

Supported by Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried and led by the Florida Forest Service, Operation Outdoor Freedom provides recreational and rehabilitative opportunities to wounded veterans on state forests, agricultural lands and private lands throughout Florida at no cost. Designated state and agricultural lands throughout Florida grant qualified veterans with unique opportunities for recreation and rehabilitation. The Florida Forest Service, within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, provides hundreds of veterans with the Operation Outdoor Freedom experience. For more information, call (863) 578-1894 or visit **www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Veterans/Operation-Outdoor-Freedom**

VETERANS FLORIDA

Veterans Florida is a non-profit corporation created by the State of Florida to help veterans find a new career, start a business, or connect to other helpful resources in the Sunshine State. Visit **www.veteransflorida.org** to learn more.

Career Opportunities

Veteran-friendly businesses in high-growth fields such as aerospace, manufacturing, logistics, research and development, and technology seek to hire veterans and provide them with the training they need to build a long and fruitful career. Veterans Florida has Career Specialists to help veterans, transitioning service members, and members of the National Guard and Reserves translate their military skills for employers, assist with resume and interview preparation, and get placed into skills-based jobs. Visit **www.veteransflorida.org/careers** to submit your resume.

Entrepreneurship

The skills you learned in the military like discipline, attention to detail and leadership directly correlate to being a successful entrepreneur. Veterans Florida offers a world-class and proven entrepreneurship program just for veterans. They've joined forces with top Florida universities, colleges and startup incubators to deliver the Veterans Florida Entrepreneurship Program, a training initiative for veterans seeking to start their own business. As part of the program, veterans will gain access to small business development resources. Visit **www.veteransflorida.org/entrepreneurship** to sign up.

Agriculture

The Veterans Florida Agriculture Program is a six-month training fellowship that provides veterans and servicemembers a comprehensive, hands-on experience and equips you with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be competitive for leading careers in Florida's $149 Billion agriculture industry. Learn more at **www.veteransflorida.org/agriculture.**

VETERANS' BENEFITS: EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Employment services for veterans, military members and their families are offered through the CareerSource Florida network, which includes the Department of Economic Opportunity, Florida's 24 local workforce development boards and more than 100 career centers. Available services include interview preparation, resume writing assistance, job and training-related referrals, career planning, vocational guidance, job search and placement assistance, and internet access.

Local Veterans' Employment Representatives conduct outreach to employers and business associations and engage in advocacy efforts with hiring executives to increase employment opportunities for veterans and encourage the hiring of disabled veterans. The Disabled Veterans Outreach Program provides individualized career services to veterans with significant barriers to employment, with the maximum emphasis directed toward serving veterans who are economically or educationally disadvantaged. For more information, visit **www.careersourceflorida.com/your-local-team** or call (866) 352-2345 (option 2).

Employ Florida Vets

The Florida Veterans Program Portal is an online resource from Employ Florida for veterans' employment and employer recruitment information. The portal provides information and resource links to assist veterans, their families, and employers in accomplishing their employment goals and is available 24/7. For more information, visit **veteran.employflorida.com/vosnet/Default.aspx** or call toll free (800) 438-4128.

Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers is a DoD career transition program designed to help transitioning service members and veterans begin new careers as K-12 school teachers. Some program participants may be eligible for financial assistance. For information about the program and teaching opportunities in Florida call (833) 358-7667 or email **t2t@tcc.fl.edu.**

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) protects the employment rights and ensures the reemployment of veterans, reservists and National Guard members after a period of active service and prohibits employment discrimination because of past, current, or future military obligations. It covers all employers, regardless of size, in the public and private sectors. Call toll free (866) 487-2365 or visit **www.dol.gov/agencies/vets** for more information.

Business License Fee Waivers

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation may waive the initial licensing fee, application fee and unlicensed activity fee for military veterans and their spouses at the time of discharge who apply for a state professional license. The application must be submitted within 60 months after the veteran has been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces including the Florida National Guard. The waiver does not include examination or other incidental fees. 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/DBPR/military-services/veterans-services** or call (850) 487-1395 for more information.

Health License Fee Waivers

The Florida Department of Health has programs in place to aid veterans in finding employment in health-related fields. The department offers expedited health care practitioner licensure through the Veterans Application for Licensure Online Response (VALOR) system. They also offer expanded licensure fee waivers for military veterans and their spouses applying for health care licensure in Florida. The department continues to assist county health departments in recruiting military veterans and their spouses to work in health-related fields. If you were honorably discharged within the past 60 months, call (850) 488-0595 or visit **www.flhealthsource.gov/valor#Veterans.**

Veterans' Preference in Florida

The state, and all political subdivisions of the state, shall give preference in

employment, promotions after being deployed and retention. (FS 295.07, 295.11) Individuals who qualify for this preference are as follows:
A disabled veteran who has served on active duty in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, has received an honorable discharge, and has established the present existence of a service-connected disability that is compensable under public laws administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or who is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension by reason of public laws administered by the VA and U.S. Department of Defense.

The spouse of a person who has a total disability, permanent in nature, resulting from a service-connected disability and who, because of this disability, cannot qualify for employment, and the spouse of a person missing in action, captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.

A wartime veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14), who has served at least one day during a wartime period. Active duty for training may not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph.

The unremarried widow or widower of a veteran who died of a service-connected disability.

The mother, father, legal guardian, or unremarried widow or widower of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who died in the line of duty under combat-related conditions, as verified by the U.S. Department of Defense.

A veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14), F.S. Active duty for training may not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph.

A current member of any reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Florida National Guard.

Veterans must have been honorably discharged as indicated on their DD214 to be eligible for preference. Eligible applicants who meet the requirements for the position are guaranteed preference at every step throughout the hiring process.

Public entity employers who advertise for qualifying positions must make the applicant aware that preference is available. The employer must also provide the applicant with information as to what can be done if the veteran believes he/she was denied preference for employment, promotion or retention.

An applicant who believes he or she was not afforded employment, promotion or retention preference may file a complaint with the FDVA. The complaint must be made within 60 days from the date a non-select notice was received. The FDVA can investigate and make a determination as to whether a violation has occurred. For more information, call (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5511, or email **veteranspreference@fdva.state.fl.us**. You can also mail a detailed complaint to: 11351 Ulmerton Rd, Suite 311-K, Largo, FL 33778-1630.

Florida Veteran Certified Business Enterprises

The Department of Management Services' Office of Supplier Diversity certifies eligible Florida-based veteran-, woman- and minority-owned small businesses. The Office of Supplier Diversity also provides

technical assistance, certification support and pertinent information about state contract opportunities, special events and networking activities. Learn more by visiting **www.dms.myflorida.com/osd** or call (850) 487-0915. The U.S. Small Business Administration also offers programs and services for veterans seeking to establish or expand small businesses. For more information, call toll free (800) 827-5722.

Veteran Readiness and Employment Service

Veterans may receive Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) services to help with job training, employment accommodations, resume development and job seeking skills coaching. Other services may be provided to assist veterans in starting their own businesses or independent living services for those who are severely disabled and unable to work in traditional employment. For more information, visit **www.benefits.va.gov/VOCREHAB/index.asp** or call toll free (800) 827-1000.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: LEGAL

Legal Advice & Counsel

The Governor's Initiative on Lawyers Assisting Warriors (GI LAW) draws from the talent of Florida's leading law firms to provide pro bono services for military members. There are discussions to expand this service to veterans in the future. For more information, visit **www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/lawyers-assisting-warriors/**

Legal Clinics in VA Facilities: **www.va.gov/ogc/docs/LegalServices.pdf**

American Bar Association resources for veterans: **www.americanbar.org/groups/committees/veterans_benefits**
The Florida Bar, in conjunction with the American Bar Association, administers a free virtual legal advice clinic for Floridians. Visit: **www.florida.freelegalanswers.org**

Certification of Discharge or Separation

You may request a copy of your military service record by visiting the National Archives online at **www.archives.gov/veterans**.

At a veteran's request, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall record, without cost, that portion of certificates indicating character of discharge, separation, or service in accordance with Section 28.222(3) (d), Florida Statutes. CAUTION: Once on file, documents become official court records and are open to the public.

A veteran may also request an exemption from inspection or copying of identification and location information in public records under Section 119.071(5)(k), Florida Statutes.

Legal Aid for Veterans – 1 (866) 486-6161 Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. When you call, you will speak to a screener who will determine your eligibility and set your appointment with an attorney.

Florida Veterans Legal Helpline can assist with Landlord-Tenant Matters, Consumer Credit Issues, Foreclosure, Divorce/Child Support, Drivers Licenses/ID cards, Social Security, Public Benefits, Discharge Upgrades, VA Benefits and other Civil Legal Matters (No Criminal or Traffic Matters).

Veterans Courts

Veterans returning from combat may suffer from post-traumatic stress or may have difficulty reintegrating into society. Due to alienation and lack of support, some veterans fall into drug and alcohol abuse or develop mental health issues. Thirty-one Veterans Courts in Florida have been established as of March 2019 to address these issues.

Section 394.47891, Florida Statutes, established the T. Patt Maney Veterans' Treatment Act, which authorizes a veterans' court with the purpose of addressing the substance abuse and mental health needs of veterans within the criminal justice system. Successful completion of Veterans Court has helped decrease the recidivism rates of its participants through the proper diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues and as a result of the supportive roles mentors play in the process. Recent legislation has expanded the pool of eligible veterans.

For more information, visit **www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Court-Improvement/Problem-Solving-Courts/Veterans-Courts**

There is a helpful Veterans Resources Guide for the Florida State Court System at **www.flcourts.org/content/download/217060/1968306/VETERANS_RESOURCE_GUIDE.pdf**.

For additonal information of Veterans' legal resources **www.floridavets.org/resources**

FLORIDA VETERANS' MEMORIALS

The State of Florida has three official memorials dedicated to veterans located in the capital city, Tallahassee. The sites are maintained by the Florida Department of Management Services.



WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Florida's World War II Memorial was dedicated on June 6, 2005, by Gov. Jeb Bush. More than 248,000 Florida veterans served in the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to nearly 31,000 World War II veterans.
Location: In front of the R. A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Florida's Korean War Memorial was dedicated on Dec. 11, 1999, by Gov. Jeb Bush. More than 294,000 Florida veterans served in the Armed Forces during the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to more than 118,000 Korean War veterans.
Location: Cascades Park, Downtown Tallahassee.



VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

Florida's Vietnam War Memorial was dedicated on Nov. 12, 1985, by Gov. Bob Graham. The memorial, with its twenty-eight by fifteen foot U.S. flag, contains the names of all known Floridians killed in the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to more than 498,000 Vietnam veterans.
Location: Across Monroe Street from the Old Capitol Building, Downtown Tallahassee.

FDVA OFFICES & CLAIMS EXAMINER SITES

Most offices are closed and staff members are teleworking. Please call in advance.

Services Available During COVID-19
To contact a teleworking FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiner, call (727) 319-7440 and they'll return your call within 24 hours. All services are free to the veteran. You may also contact them via e-mail at **VSO@fdva.state.fl.us**

For more information on VA Outpatient Clinics, Vet Centers or VA Medical Centers **www.va.gov/DIRECTORY/guide/fac_list_by_state.cfm?State=FL**

FDVA Executive Office
11351 Ulmerton Rd. #332
Largo, FL 33778-1630
(727) 518-3202

FDVA Benefits & Assistance
9500 Bay Pines Blvd. #214
Bay Pines, FL 33744
(727) 319-7440

FDVA Capitol Office
The Capitol, Suite 2105
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
(850) 487-1533

C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bldg. 22, #117
Bay Pines, FL 33744-5005
(727) 398-6661 x15489

Malcom Randall VA Medical Center
1601 SW Archer Rd. #D-163
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 548-6029

Lake City VA Medical Center
619 S. Marion Ave. #A-163
Lake City, FL 32025-5808
(386) 755-3016 x2070

James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Bldg. 41, 2nd floor, RM 242
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 972-2000 x6589

West Palm Beach VA Medical Center
7305 North Military Trail
Bldg. 10, #113
West Palm Beach, FL 33410
(561) 422-8204

Lake Baldwin Outpatient Clinic
5201 Raymond St., Rm 1801 A & B
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 646-5500 x 29513

Lee County VA Healthcare Center
2489 Diplomat Parkway East
Cape Coral, FL 33909
(239) 652-1800 x21240

William Chappell Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic
551 National Health Care Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 323-7500, x37722-37682

Eglin VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
100 Veterans Way, Rm. 108
Eglin AFB, FL 32542
(850) 609-2740

Middleburg Community Outpatient Clinic
400 College Dr.
Middleburg, FL 32068
(904) 213-2700 Ext. 573006

Hurlburt Field
212 Lukasik Avenue
Building 90210, Rm 143
Hurlburt Field, Florida 32544
Phone: (850) 884-6280

Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic
1536 N. Jefferson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 475-5871

Jacksonville University VA Outpatient Clinic
3901 University Blvd. South
Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 732-9801

NAS Jacksonville
Bldg. 39, Langley St (VyStar Credit Union Bldg. 39)
NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212
Phone: (904) 420-5232

Orlando Lakemont Campus
2500 S. Lakemont Avenue
Room 127
Orlando, FL 32814
(407) 646-4105

Orlando (Lake Nona) VA Medical Center
13800 Veterans Way
Room 1N205
Orlando, FL 32827
(407) 631-0021

New Port Richey VA Outpatient Clinic
9912 Little Rd. #D-116
Port Richey, FL 34654
(727) 869-4227

Pensacola Joint Ambulatory Care Clinic
790 Veterans Way
Pensacola, FL 32507
(850) 912-2055

William 'Bill' Kling VA Outpatient Clinic
9800 W. Commercial Blvd.
Sunrise, FL 33351
(954) 625-8727

Boots Thomas VA Outpatient Clinic
2181 Orange Ave. East
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 513-7641/7636

Tampa Annex VA Clinic
13515 Lake Terrace Lane
Room# 1B701
Tampa FL 33637
Phone: 813 998-8000 x8077

The Villages Outpatient Clinic
8900 SE 165th Mulberry Ln.
The Villages, FL 32162
(352) 674-5095

Viera VA Outpatient Clinic
2900 Veterans Way, Rm. 223/224
Viera, FL 32940
(321) 637-3693

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

Deltona Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1200 Deltona Blvd., Suite 41 to 47
Deltona, FL 32725
(386) 575-5000

Eglin Community Based Outpatient Clinic
100 Veterans Way, Rm. 108
Eglin AFB, FL 32542
(866) 520-7359

Fort Pierce Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1901 South 25th St, Suite 103
Ft. Pierce, FL 34947
(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
1536 N Jefferson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 475-5871

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

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

Kissimmee Community Based Outreach Clinic
701 Union Street.
Kissimmee, Florida 34741

Lake Baldwin Outpatient Clinic
5201 Raymond Street
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 646-5500 x 29513

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

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

Miami Healthcare for Homeless Veterans
1492 West Flagler St., Suite 101
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 541-5864

Miami Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinic
Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center
1201 N.W. 16th St.
Miami, FL 33125
1st Floor
Room 1E107A
(305) 575-7500

Naples Community Based Outpatient Clinic
800 Goodlette-Frank Rd. #120
Naples, FL 34102
(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 East Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 369-3320

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

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 Beach VA Clinic
140 Richard Jackson Blvd., Rm. 140
Panama City Beach, FL 32407
(850) 636-7000 x 37336

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

Pensacola Joint Ambulatory Care Center
790 Veterans Way
Pensacola, FL 32507
(850) 912-2000

Perry Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1224 N. Peacock Avenue
Perry, FL 32347
(850) 223-8387

Port Charlotte Community Based Outpatient Clinic
4161 Tamiami Trail, Suite 401/602
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 235-2710

St Lucie Community Based Outpatient Clinic
126 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
195 Southpark Blvd.
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

William 'Bill' Kling VA Outpatient Clinic
9800 W. Commercial Blvd.
Sunrise, FL 33351
(954) 475-5500

Boots Thomas VA Outpatient Clinic
2181 Orange Ave. East
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 878-0191

Tavares Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1380 Burleigh Blvd.
Tavares, FL 34748
(352) 253-2900

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

The Villages 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

Crossroads Annex (Mental Health Services)
925 South Semoran Blvd. Suite 114
Winter Park, FL 32792
(866) 998-4365

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

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 E. Highway 50, Suite 102
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
3666 W. Oakland Park Blvd.
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33311
(954) 714-2381

Fort Myers Vet Center
4110 Center Pointe Drive, Unit 204
Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 652-1861

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
3728 Philips Highway, Suite 31
Jacksonville, FL 32207
(904) 399-8351

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 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

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

Pasco County Vet Center
5139 Deer Park Drive
New Port Richey, FL 34653
(727) 372-1854

Ocala Vet Center
3300 SW 34th Avenue, Suite 140
Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 237-1947

Orlando Vet Center
5575 S. Semoran Blvd., Suite 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 Beach, FL 33073
(954) 984-1669

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

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
2002 Old St. Augustine Road,
Bldg. A/100
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 942-8810

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

VA MEDICAL CENTERS

C.W. Bill Young 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) 548-6000
(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 (Lake Nona)
VA Medical Center
13800 Veterans Way
Orlando, FL 32827
(407) 631-1000
(800) 922-7521

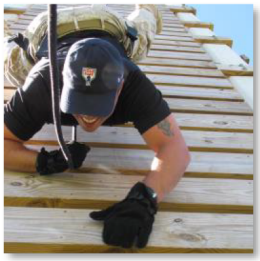
West Palm Beach VA Medical Center
7305 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33410
(561) 422-8262
(800) 972-8262

BENEFITS AND HEALTH CARE CONTACTS

Reference	Phone	Website
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	(800) 827-1000 or TDD (800) 829-4833	www.va.gov • www.vba.va.gov
Veterans Health Care Eligibility/Enrollment	(877) 222-8387	www.va.gov/healthbenefits
St. Petersburg VA Regional Office, Bay Pines	(800) 827-1000	www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg
Florida National Guard	(904) 823-0319	https://state.nationalguard.com/florida
Military Funeral Honors	(800) 342-9647	https://www.cem.va.gov/military_funeral_honors.asp
Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola	(850) 453-4846	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/barrancas.asp
Bay Pines National Cemetery	(727) 319-6479	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/baypines.asp
Cape Canaveral National Cemetery	(321) 383-2638	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp
Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell	(352) 793-7740	www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/florida.asp
Jacksonville National Cemetery	(904) 766-5222	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/jacksonville.asp
Sarasota National Cemetery	(877) 861-9840	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp
South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth	(561) 649-6489	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp
St. Augustine National Cemetery	(904) 766-5222	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/staugustine.asp
Tallahassee National Cemetery	(850) 402-8941	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/tallahassee.asp
Returning Veterans	(800) 827-1000	www.oefoif.va.gov
TRICARE	(800) 444-5445	www.tricare.mil
Gulf War Veterans	(800) 749-8387	www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar
Women Veterans	(855) 829-6636	www.va.gov/womenvet
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	(800) 336-4590	www.esgr.mil
National VA Homeless Hotline	(877) 424-3838	www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp
VA eBenefits Portal	(800) 827-1000	www.ebenefits.va.gov
VA Home Loan Guaranty	(877) 827-3702	www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans
National Veteran Crisis Hotline	(800) 273-8255 Dial 1	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
White House VA Hotline	(855) 948-2311	www.va.gov/ve/whvaHotline.asp
Florida Relay Service - *For those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or speech impaired*	Dial 7-1-1	www.ftri.org/floridarelay







SWFL VETERAN AND FAMILY CARE

"I returned from war years ago, but now I finally feel home."

Home Base Southwest Florida provides a central place for local Veterans of all eras, Service Members and their Families to take control of their physical well-being, while rebuilding and strengthening military bonds and community connection. Home Base SWFL also offers evidence-based clinical care for those impacted by the invisible wounds, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI), through their Veteran and Family Outpatient Clinic at Lee Health in Fort Myers, FL.

>> REGIONAL

- Outpatient Veteran and Family Clinic at Lee Health
- 90-Day Warrior Health & Fitness Program at Florida Gulf Coast University
- Nutrition Education
- Resilient Warrior / Family
- Adventure Series Family Events and more!

>> NATIONAL

- Two-Week Intensive Clinical Program for PTSD and TBI
- Four-Day Intensive Clinical Program for PTSD
- Four-Day and Two-Week Special Operator Intensive Clinical Program for TBI

FOLLOW US!

homebase.org/SWFL

@homebaseSWFL

CONNECT TO CARE

homebase.org/connect2care

(239) 339-8389

homebaseSWFL@partners.org

**All Home Base SWFL clinical care and wellness programs are provided at no cost, regardless of discharge status.*

VETERANS FLORIDA

Your Pursuit • Our Power

FLORIDA WORKS FOR VETERANS

Veterans Florida helps military veterans transition to civilian life in Florida, the nation's most veteran-friendly state. We provide powerful tools for veterans to take advantage of the benefits of living and working in the Sunshine State.

LAND YOUR CAREER

Our team of veterans guide you through every step of landing a career in Florida by translating your military experience into a compelling resume and connecting you to employers who need your skills.

OWN YOUR BUSINESS

We mentor you through our Entrepeneurship Program to expand your professional network and provide skills to help you own and grow a business. Particpants continually receive awards and national coverage for their success.



veteransflorida.org

FLORIDA VETERANS
FOUNDATION

NO FLORIDA VETERAN LEFT BEHIND

Help Support Veterans

Pre-Order Your "Don't Tread on Me" Specialty License Plate Voucher Today!

Gadsden Flag Plate



For complete information and to purchase your plate voucher, visit

www.HelpFLVets.org

The Gadsden Flag License Plate has been approved by the Florida Legislature, but in order for the plate to be produced, we must pre-sell 3,000 vouchers at $33 each ($25 will directly benefit the Florida Veterans Foundation). Once we reach this goal, the plate will be produced and you will be notified by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles that your plate is ready. Proceeds support Veterans in need.