

# Ohio State Veteran's Benefits

**JULY 2015**



## **Ohio State Veteran's Benefits**

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

- [Housing Benefits](#)
- [Financial Assistance Benefits](#)
- [Education Benefits](#)
- [Other State Veteran Benefits](#)

## **Veteran Housing Programs**

### **Ohio Veterans Home**

The Ohio Veterans Home Agency is a State of Ohio establishment comprised of two facilities, a home located in Sandusky, Ohio (approximately 60 miles west of Cleveland) and a home located in Georgetown, Ohio (approximately 45 miles east of Cincinnati).



### **Georgetown Home**

The Georgetown Home is a licensed nursing home providing two levels of nursing care -- standard care and special care (Alzheimer/ Dementia). The Sandusky Home, in addition to offering standard care and special care in its licensed nursing home, also offers Veterans Hall (DOM), a domiciliary for those who are able to function in an independent living situation, and DOM+ for those requiring very limited assistance (supervised care) but who do not require the level of care provided to nursing home residents. The "Dom," short for "Domiciliary," offers 293 beds, a dining facility, and necessary medical care to eligible veterans. Dom residents each have their own room, with cable access, and a shared bath. The wing features two reading lounges, a computer lounge, recreational facilities, clubs and regular and special activities. You must be an Honorably discharged wartime veteran and have been a resident of the State of Ohio for one year anytime during lifetime (does not have to be consecutive) and are disabled and unable to earn a living. The financial assessment is based on the resident's monthly income and assets. Maximum cost is approximately 1/3 the cost of private care. For additional info on admission to these facilities refer to [http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS\\_HOMES/Admission](http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS_HOMES/Admission).

### **Sandusky Home**

Visit [http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS\\_HOMES/About\\_Us](http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS_HOMES/About_Us) for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Financial Assistance Benefits**

### **Ohio Veterans Bonus Program**

Eligible Veterans may receive \$100 for each month spent on active duty service in the following locations during these specified dates:

- a. Persian Gulf between August 2, 1990 and March 3, 1991, the date when Iraq accepted the conditions for a permanent cease fire. Eligible Veterans can apply for a bonus until December 31, 2013.
- b. Afghanistan since October 7, 2001. Eligible Veterans can apply for a bonus for up to three years after the President declares an end to U.S. involvement in Afghanistan.
- c. Iraq since March 19, 2003. Eligible Veterans can apply for a bonus for up to three years after the President declares an end to U.S. involvement in Iraq. For Iraq service On-line Applications and Handwritten Applications will not be accepted after December 31, 2014. An application for Iraq service was finalized when you mailed the signed, notarized application and required documents to the Ohio Veterans Bonus Program. All documents supporting your application for Iraq service MUST HAVE BEEN POSTMARKED OR RECEIVED no later than June 30, 2015.

Eligible Veterans are encouraged to begin the process by completing the online bonus application. Applications are available at [https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs\\_web](https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web) or at any of Ohio's 88 County Veterans Services Offices. Or call 1 - 877 - OHIO VET to get a paper application. In most cases, applying on-line is the simplest and fastest option. However, the application is not complete until they print, sign and mail the application along with required supporting documentation through the U.S. Postal Service. The signed application must be "notarized" or "acknowledged" and mailed to: Ohio Veterans Bonus, P.O. Box 373 Sandusky, OH 44871

The maximum benefit for in-theater service is \$1,000.

### **Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance is available through your County Veterans Service Office on a short term basis to eligible veterans and their dependents.

### **Military Injury Relief Fund**

Ohio grants money to individuals injured while in active service as a member of the armed forces of the United States and while serving under operation Iraqi freedom or operation enduring freedom. Effective August 21, 2008 MIRF is exempt from State Taxation.

### **State Tax Exemptions**

Retired military pay is exempt from Ohio state taxes. Ohio residents who are stationed outside the state do not pay Ohio state income taxes on any income received out-of-state.

### **Homestead Exemption**

Totally disabled veterans are eligible for up to a \$25,000 property tax exemption on the value of their property.

### **Compensation and VA Claims**

County Veterans Service Officers are extensively trained to assist with the preparation and submission of VA claims, compensation and appeals.

## **Education Benefits**

In July 2010, the **State Approving Agency** (SAA) and the **Troops-To-Teachers** (TTT) were integrated into the Veteran Educational Programs (VEP) office under the umbrella of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. The VEP office oversees the following programs:

**Troops-To-Teachers** was established in 1994 to help recruit quality teachers that serve students in high-needs schools throughout America, thus helping to relieve teaching shortages. This office provides guidance, counseling and mentoring to eligible military personnel who are seeking a career in this arena. These individuals provide a great resource for our schools as they bring their skills, knowledge and experience, but also their technical educational expertise. Eligible members experience and education is reviewed by the national office, under the direction of the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) to verify their eligibility for the stipend and bonus programs. For more info on this program refer to [http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS\\_EDUCATION/Troops to Teachers](http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS_EDUCATION/Troops_to_Teachers)

The **State Approving Agency** was established nationally under the G.I. Bill\* of Rights in 1944. The responsibilities of the SAA have changed over the years, but still continue to be the link between the Veteran, the School and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The SAA's role is to review, audit, evaluate, approve and oversee schools and training facilities to ensure quality standards of programs of education and training under State and Federal criteria are met. For more info on the SAA refer to

[http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS\\_EDUCATION/State\\_Approving\\_Agency](http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS_EDUCATION/State_Approving_Agency).

### **Ohio GI Promise**

In an effort to help veterans, servicemembers and their families achieve college degrees, the University System of Ohio has taken proactive steps to better serve those who have served our country. Refer to the following for information on what is available to vets under this program:

- **Ohio Values Veterans:** A state initiative to award credit toward college & professional licenses for military experience
- **Education Opportunities for Veterans** (PDF)
- **Veteran Services on Ohio Campuses**
- **Financial Aid for Veterans**
- **Transfer Military Training & Experience | Ohio Transfer to Degree Guarantee**
- **Ohio Means Veteran Jobs**
- **Military Veterans Wanted! Scholarship Funds Available** (PDF) - Are you a military veteran interested starting a career in Ohio's growing oil and gas industry?

For additional info on the Ohio GI Promise refer to <https://www.ohiohighered.org/veterans>

### **Ohio War Orphans Scholarship**

The Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Program (OWOS) awards tuition assistance to the children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict. Scholarship benefits cover a portion of instructional and general fee charges at two and four-year public institutions and a portion of these charges at eligible private colleges and universities. Application is made to the Ohio Board of Regents/State Grants and Scholarships Department.

In order to be eligible for consideration of a scholarship, the child of an eligible person must meet the following requirements:

- 1) At the time of application, have attained his or her sixteenth but not his or her twenty-first birthday.
- 2) At the time of application, if a child of a veteran who entered the armed services:
  - a. As a legal resident of Ohio, have resided in the state for the last preceding year;
  - b. Not as a legal resident of Ohio, have resided in the state for the year preceding the year in which application for the scholarship is made and any other four of the last ten years;
- 3) Be in financial need, as determined by the Board.

For OWOS FAQ's refer to [http://regents.ohio.gov/sgs/war\\_orphans/faqs.php](http://regents.ohio.gov/sgs/war_orphans/faqs.php)

Visit the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services website <http://dvs.ohio.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

### **Other State Veteran Benefits**

#### **Medals/Awards and Decorations**

Your County Veterans Service Office has forms available and can assist veterans and their families in search of Medals and awards. (Contact your County Veteran Service Officer)

### Military Records

Your County Veterans Service Office has forms available and can assist veterans and their families in search of military records and discharges. Also please review links to the left for 'Request for Records'. (Contact your County Veteran Service Officer)

### Military/Veteran License Plates

Ohio's Bureau of Motor Vehicles at <http://bmv.ohio.gov> has the below military/veteran license plates shown on link [http://bmv.ohio.gov/special\\_plates\\_military\\_plates.stm](http://bmv.ohio.gov/special_plates_military_plates.stm) available to eligible veterans:

## ODPS Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles Types of Military License Plates



[Air National Guard Retired](#)



[Army National Guard Retired](#)



[Bronze Star Medal](#)



[Combat Battle Star Expeditionary Force](#)



[Combat Battle Star Korea](#)



[Combat Battle Star National Defense](#)



[Combat Battle Star Persian Gulf](#)



[Combat Battle Star Vietnam](#)



[Combat Infantryman Badge](#)



[Medal of Honor](#)



[Disabled Veteran](#)



[Expeditionary Medal](#)



[Former Prisoner of War](#)



[Global War on Terrorism](#)



[Global War on Terrorism](#)



[Global War on Terrorism](#)

Afghanistan Medal



Expeditionary Medal



Iraqi Medal



Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Grenada

Honorably Discharged Veteran

Korea



Korea Vet During Conflict

Lebanon

National Defense

National Guard



Panama

Pearl Harbor

Persian Gulf

Purple Heart



Silver Star Medal

U.S. Armed Forces Active Duty

U.S. Armed Forces Paratrooper

U.S. Armed Forces Reserve



U.S. Armed Forces Retired

Veteran Motorcycle Plate

Vietnam Veteran During Conflict

Vietnam



World War I

World War II

**Burial Benefits**

Burial Benefits are available for eligible veterans. (Contact your County Veteran Service Officer). Ohio has the following cemeteries designated for veterans:

<b>Ohio Federal Cemetery</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Burial Space</b>
<a href="#">Dayton National Cemetery</a>	4400 West Third Street Dayton, OH 45428	Phone: 937-262-2115 FAX: 937-262-2187	Open
<a href="#">Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery</a>	10175 Rawiga Road Rittman, OH 44270	Phone: 330-335-3069 FAX: 330-335-5087	Open
<a href="#">Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery</a>	2900 Sullivant Avenue Columbus, OH 43204	Phone: 937-262-2115 FAX: 937-262-2187	Closed
<a href="#">Confederate Stockade Cemetery</a>	Johnson's Island Sandusky, OH 44870	Phone: 330-335-3069 FAX: 330-335-5087	Closed
<a href="#">Woodland Cemetery Soldiers' Lot</a>	6901 Woodland Avenue Cleveland, OH 44104	Phone: 330-335-3069 FAX: 330-335-5087	Closed

<b>Ohio State Cemetery</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Funded</b>
<a href="#">Ohio Veterans Home Cemetery</a>	3416 Columbus Avenue Sandusky, OH 44870	Richard Hatcher, Superintendent Phone: 419-625-2454 x200 FAX: 419-625-3207	YES

**Transportation to Medical Appointments**

Many of the organizations and County Veterans Service Offices across Ohio free transportation to local VA facilities. (Contact your County Veteran Service Officer)

**Updating your Discharge**

Your County Veterans Service office has the forms available to request updates to your discharges and can assist you in submitting the form properly. (Contact your County Veteran Service Officer)

**Recreational Benefits**

Ohio offers the following recreation benefits for qualifying veterans:

- Hunting & Fishing Licenses for qualified veterans  
FOR INFORMATION CALL 1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543)
- Boating Licenses for qualified veterans  
FOR INFORMATION CALL 877-426-2837
- Camping at Ohio State Parks  
FOR INFORMATION CALL 877-426-2837

**Note:** Go to [http://dvs.ohio.gov/home/county\\_veterans\\_service\\_officers.aspx](http://dvs.ohio.gov/home/county_veterans_service_officers.aspx) to locate Your County Veteran Service Officer)

Visit the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services website <http://dvs.ohio.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/ohio-state-veterans-benefits.html> July 2015 ++]

## **Military Discounts in Ohio**

1. MVDC has close to 8500 business locations in Ohio that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of Ohio also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zipcode and category in the search box at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/ohio.html>

2. **Veterans Designation on drivers license:** yes

### 3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes**

- Free hunting and fishing licenses for 100% disabled veterans and former POWs.
- Free registration of watercraft for 100% disabled veterans, former POWs, and Medal of Honor Recipients.
- Free camping at Ohio State Parks for 100% disabled veterans and former POWs

### 4. **Property tax and Financial Benefits**

- Military members that are Ohio residents who are stationed outside of Ohio are exempt from Ohio state tax for the period of deployment
- Military retirement pay is exempt from State of Ohio tax and local school district income tax
- Surviving Spouse benefit plans are exempt from State of Ohio tax
- Homestead Exemption for totally disabled veterans allowing \$25,000 property tax exemption
- Veterans receive preference through the Ohio Treasurer's Office which provides a reduced rate for small business loans

### 5. **Education Discounts**

- In-state tuition status for qualified veterans .
- Tuition assistance to children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict through The Ohio War Orphans Scholarship.
- Tuition waiver for children of United States Armed Forces members that were killed in the line of duty during OEF or OIF. The waiver is also available to certain qualified spouses or former spouses.

6. To find businesses that provide military discounts refer to <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com>.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/ohio.html> July 2015 ++]