

Washington State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts



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

- Veteran Housing Benefits
- Veteran Financial Assistance Benefits
- Veteran Employment Benefits
- Veteran Recreation Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Veteran Housing Programs

State Veterans Homes

The state of Washington runs four state veterans homes, they are the Veterans Home at Retsil, the Washington Soldiers Home and Colony near Orting, the Spokane Veterans Home, and the new Walla Walla Veterans Home. All provide high-quality, long-term nursing and assisted-living care. Eligibility requirements include;

- Service at any time, in any branch of the United States Armed Forces including the National Guard;
- Honorable discharge
- Resident of Washington State
- Spouse or widow of an eligible veteran
- Gold Star parent

All State Veterans Homes are Medicaid and Medicare Certified and provide 24-hour nursing care, medical care and pharmacy services. A number of supportive programs and services are provided such as:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy

- Recreational Activities
- Social Services
- Volunteer Programs - Find out more at <http://www.dva.wa.gov/veteran-homes/volunteers>.
- Hospice
- Nutritious Meals
- Community Involvement
- Religious Programs
- Transportation
- Laundry
- Beauty & Barber Shops
- Fishing Pond (Orting)
- Patriotic Internment Services

Call 1-877-VETS-R-US (1-877-838-7787) for more information. Applications can be downloaded at <http://www.dva.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Admission%20Application%20Packet%20Final.pdf>. Veterans rated 70%-100% Service Connected Disabled, or whose service connected disability is the reason nursing care is needed, may have their nursing home care paid by the Federal VA. The homes also accept Medicare, Medicaid, 3rd Party Insurance and Private Pay. Contact info for each of the homes follows:



Washington Veterans Home

1141 Beach Dr. PO Box 698, Retsil, WA 98378

Main Number (360) 895-4700 Admissions (877) 838-7787 RobinW@dva.wa.gov

The Washington Soldiers Home and Colony is located on 181 acres in the beautiful Puyallup Valley near Orting. Established in 1891, this was the first home built for Washington state veterans.



Washington Soldiers Home

1301 Orting-Kapowsin Hwy., PO Box 500. Orting, WA 98360

Main Number (360) 893-4515 Admissions Coordinator (877) 838-7787 or SophieP@dva.wa.gov

Washington State has over 100 years of experience caring for veterans and their families. The Spokane Veterans Home is a place where veterans are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve, in distinctive settings that provide a sense of belonging.



Spokane Veterans Home

222 East 5th Ave., Spokane, WA 99202

Main Number (509) 344-5770 Admissions Coordinator (877) 838-7787 or Becky@dva.wa.gov

Walla Walla Veterans Home

The Walla Walla Veterans Home began accepting admission applications on December 12, 2016. It is anticipated that the facility will open in mid-March 2017. It is co-located on the campus of the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center. This 80 bed nursing care facility was designed using a small house model and will provide care in 8 individual homes. All residents will enjoy a private room with a private bathroom and be cared for by a dedicated team of providers. Each house has an open kitchen, dining and living area much like any traditional home does, providing opportunities for residents to be involved in activities such as meal preparation. In addition, the Homes are equipped with shared services such as laundry and a state of the art bathing room should residents need assistance.



Walla Walla Veterans Home

92 Wainwright Drive Walla Walla, WA 99362

Main Number (509) 540-0312 (509) 527-4199 (Fax) Admissions Coordinator Lonna Leno 509-394-6806 or lonnal@dva.wa.gov

Homeless Veterans Program

WDVA provides outreach services for homeless veterans in Puget Sound. These services are designed to assist homeless veterans to become employable and reintegrated back into the labor market. Services include needs assessments, enrollments in appropriate programs, shelter and transitional housing placements, employment and training support services.

Eligible homeless veterans are provided with case management services and financial support to meet the needs of housing, transportation, food and clothing. The primary strategy for WDVA homeless veterans services is to promote job readiness development to improve homeless veterans competitiveness in the employment market.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP)

The HVRP offers a structured, individually designed case management plan to make veterans employable and secure by providing, housing, food, transportation, living stability and employment support services.

House Key Veterans Program

House Key Veterans is a down payment assistance, second mortgage program with a 3.00% interest rate and a ten-year loan term for Washington State Veterans who have served their country. House Key Veterans combines with the Home Advantage first mortgage loan program.

Financial Assistance Program

Veterans Estate Management Program

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Veterans Estate Management Program offers protective payee services for veterans and family members who are incapable of managing their own financial affairs. By assuming custody of the individual's finances, the department ensures basic needs -- such as housing, food, clothing and medical care are provided.

The WDVA director is authorized to provide protective financial services to veterans and beneficiaries deemed in need of assistance. These services may include the following:

- Fiduciary appointment by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Representative payee appointment by the Social Security Administration; or
- Act as an executor of a veteran's estate.

Property Tax Exemption

Veterans with a 100% service-connected disability with an income of less than \$40,000 (not including VA disability payment) may be exempt from paying property tax on their home. Surviving spouses may also qualify for this benefit.

Veteran Employment Benefits

State Employment

Honorably discharged combat veterans or those with a campaign ribbon, and their surviving spouses, shall be preferred for appointment and employment.

For state jobs that require an examination 5% will be added to the score of a non-combat veteran, 10% will be added to the score of a combat veteran, and 5% will be added to the score of a mobilized guard or reserve member. Honorable discharge is required.

Military Service Credit

Washington State Department of Retirement Systems offers military service credit to qualified public employees

Translating Military Training or Experience to WA State Licensure or Credentials

People with military training and experience may count their training and experience towards certain civilian healthcare profession credentialing requirements if the state determines it is substantially equivalent to the state's standards.

Military Commercial Drivers License Skills Test Waiver

The Commercial Driver License (CDL) skills test waiver form may be used by service members who are currently licensed and who are or were employed within the last 90 days in a military position requiring the operation of a military motor vehicle equivalent to a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV). This waiver allows a qualified service member to apply for a CDL without skills testing. CDL knowledge (written) test(s) cannot be waived.

Veteran Recreation Benefits

Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Discounted hunting and fishing licenses are available to 30% and greater disabled veterans resident or non-resident. These licenses are also available to those over 65 with any disability.

Hunting & Fishing Licenses for Active Duty

Active duty U.S. military stationed in Washington State are considered residents and qualify for resident licenses as long as they are stationed in Washington unless they have a license from another state, then they must purchase a non-resident license. An active duty military member who maintains his status as a resident of Washington can continue to buy resident licenses in Washington even if transferred elsewhere, as long as he/she doesn't purchase a resident license in another state.

State Parks Disabled Veteran Lifetime Pass

Free camping/moorage, campsite reservations through State Parks central reservations system, watercraft launching, trailer dump and day use. Valid year-round for 30% or greater disabled veterans.

Other Washington State Veteran Benefits

PTSD Counseling Services

The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program attempts to create community-based avenues to counseling service that are less formal in nature, offering the highest level of confidentiality possible. Services provided throughout the program include individual, couples, family, and veteran group counseling. Some contractors offer group services to women veterans and spouses of veterans. Veterans may be referred to specialized inpatient or outpatient treatment offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers or Vet Centers within Washington State.

Washington State offers several other benefits including special license plates, returning veterans transition assistance, reduced public transportation fees, reduced fee hunting and fishing licenses, and more.

Cemeteries & Burial Services



Tahoma National Cemetery

18600 Southeast 240th Street
Kent, WA 98042- 4868
Phone: (425) 413-9614
FAX: (425) 413-9618

Burial benefits in National Cemeteries include a gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains. This cemetery has space available to accommodate casketed and cremated remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

The Veterans family should make funeral or cremation arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation office will be at the family's expense. To schedule a burial Fax all discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-866-900-6417 and follow-up with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117. Tahoma National Cemetery has a Veterans Service Organization Honor Guard Association. These veterans provide honors to 90 percent of the veterans interred here. The Association is made up of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Elks Club, and other organizations.



Washington State Veterans Cemetery

21702 W. Espanola Rd., Medical Lake, WA 99022
Office Phone 509-299-6280 Office Fax 509-299-6286

Eligibility for interment in the Washington State Veterans Cemetery mirrors National Veterans Cemetery eligibility requirements. In general: All U.S. Veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable; Spouses; and Dependent Children

The Washington State Veterans Cemetery will serve veterans and other eligible individuals from Washington and other States. \$300.00 will be collected for interment of eligible spouses or eligible dependent children. Veterans who are eligible for interment are also eligible for a Federal VA Plot Allowance. The State Veterans Cemetery Office applies for and collects this plot allowance. Neither the State nor the Federal VA pay for other funeral expenses, such as preparation. These fees are paid by the Veteran's family or estate.

Some Veterans or their widows/widowers are eligible for Federal VA benefits in addition to the plot allowance. To determine whether the veteran or family member is eligible for additional benefits call 1-800-562-2308. Internment and preregistration applications with instructions can be downloaded at

- <http://www.dva.wa.gov/PDF%20files/cemetery%20Interment%20Application.pdf>
- <http://www.dva.wa.gov/PDF%20files/cemetery%20preregistration.pdf>

Military Community License Plates

Disabled American veterans may be exempt from license fees on 1 vehicle per year. These special plates or tabs are good for the life of the vehicle, but don't grant disabled parking privileges. For information about disabled parking, go to <http://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/parking.html>.



To qualify for these special plates, applicants must have served in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, Reserves, or National Guard and have received both of the following:

- An honorable discharge or a discharge for medical reasons with an honorable record.
- A 100% service-connected disability rating from the Veterans Administration or the military service from which the veteran was discharged.

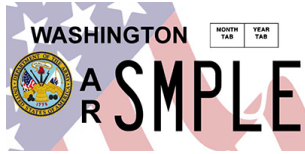
How to apply

1. Get a letter of eligibility from the Department of Veterans Affairs verifying a 100% service-connected disability.
2. Complete the online Military License Plate at <http://www.dol.wa.gov/forms/420500.pdf>
 - Check the box for Disabled American Veteran plates **or** Disabled American Veteran tabs.
 - Be sure to sign and date the form.
3. Mail the completed application **and** letter of eligibility to: Vehicle Licensing, Department of Licensing, PO Box 9909, Olympia, WA 98507-8500

The Washington Department of Licensing issues license plates to eligible veterans/military/family members with six separate designs, each containing a symbol representing a different branch of the armed forces to include Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and WA National Guard. Purchasers also receive a decal indicating their military status. The following plates are available:



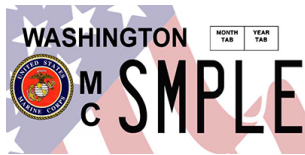
[Air Force](#)



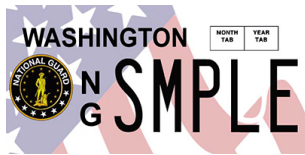
[Army](#)



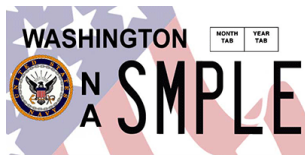
[Coast Guard](#)



[Marine Corps](#)



[National Guard](#)



[Navy](#)



[Gold Star](#)



Disabled American Veteran



Purple Heart



Former Prisoner of War



Medal of Honor



Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)



Pearl Harbor Survivor



Veteran/Military Service Award emblems

The special license plates may be used in place of regular or personalized license plates for motor vehicles, including motorcycles, required to display one and two motor vehicle license plates. The original cost to purchase an Armed Forces plate(s) is \$40.00 plus any applicable licensing fees. When the vehicle registration becomes due, you will need to pay an additional \$30.00 to keep the Armed Forces plate(s) on your vehicle, even if you have not had the plate(s) for a full year. \$28 from the purchase and renewal of each plate will be directed to the Veterans Stewardship Account and is tax deductible. The Veterans Stewardship Account will be used for activities that benefit veterans, such as maintaining the state veteran's cemetery in eastern Washington and providing programs and services for homeless veterans.

Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/washington-state-veterans-benefits.html>
Mar 2017 ++]

Military Discounts in Washington

1. MVDC has close to 5000 business locations in Vermont that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zip code and category in the search box at the top of <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/washington.html>.

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

3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes -**

- Free or reduced hunting, fishing, and camping privileges for certain veterans.
- Reduced ferry transportation fee.
- Free Disabled Veteran license plate for veterans with a 100% service-connected disability.
- Free recording of Veterans Discharge Documents in County Recorder's Offices

4. **Property tax and Financial Benefits -** Benefits for disability are exempt from income when determining property tax exemption

5. **Education Discounts -**

- Partial or full tuition waivers for eligible veterans and National Guard members to state universities, regional universities, The Evergreen State College and community colleges
- Partial or full tuition waivers for child, spouse, or surviving spouse of an eligible veteran or National Guard member who became totally disabled, deceased, or POW/MIA while engaged in active federal military service

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/washington.html> MAR 2017 ++]