

# Georgia State Veteran's Benefits

As of August 2020



The state of Georgia provides a number of benefits to its veterans. Following are brief descriptions of those in the following categories:

- Housing
- Financial
- Employment
- Recreation
- Education
- Other

## Veteran Housing Programs

Georgia has two skilled nursing care homes for eligible war veterans located in Georgia. The primary mission of the homes are to provide high quality skilled nursing care to veterans while seeking to improve their quality of life and overall health. Veterans seeking admission to the home must meet these eligibility criteria:

- The veteran must be a current Georgia resident and meet one of the following conditions:
  - Resided in Georgia two years immediately preceding the date of application
  - Resided in Georgia five or more of the past 15 years
- The veteran must have served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces during one of the following wartime periods:
  - World War II: December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946
  - Korea: June 27, 1950 - January 31, 1955
  - Cold War: January 31, 1955 - August 1, 1990
  - Vietnam: July 1, 1964 - May 7, 1975
  - Persian Gulf: August 2, 1990 - present
- The veteran must have a discharge under other than dishonorable conditions.

- The veteran must be approved as eligible for skilled nursing care by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- The veteran must be free of contagious infectious disease and behavioral and psychiatric problems.
- The veteran must not need to be sustained by line-operated mechanical means.

A nominal daily fee is charged. Eligible veterans may apply for the federal Aid & Attendance benefit to help offset this fee. For veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 70 percent or higher or whose admission is due to a service-connected condition, the daily fee is paid in full by VA. The following forms are required for consideration of admission to the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home. For assistance with these forms, see the [Points of Contact](#) for GWVNH. Note: These forms may not be viewable in all browsers. We recommend right-clicking and choosing 'Save link as' to download and fill out the forms.

 [Application for Health Benefits](#) (1.02 MB)

 [State Home Program Application for Veteran Care Medical Certification](#) (3 MB)

 [Application for Admission to a Georgia War Veterans Home](#) (129.28 KB)

 [Applicant Activities of Daily Living Survey Form](#) (979.2 KB)

 [State Veterans Home Payment Agreement](#) (104.39 KB)

### **Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home (GWVNH)**

GWVNH is a 192-bed skilled nursing care facility adjacent to the campus of the Georgia Health Sciences University, formally known as the Medical College of Georgia. The facility is also adjacent to the Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center. It is operated under an interagency agreement between the Georgia Department of Veterans Service and the Georgia Health Sciences University. Primarily, the facility provides medical and nursing services to Georgia's aged and infirmed veterans. GWVNH also serves as a teaching facility to acquaint medical, pharmacy, and allied health students with the medical conditions and diseases of the aged. This provides students with practical experience and helps them gain expertise in treating the disabled and the elderly. Also located at the facility is a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office that serves veterans of Richmond and Columbia counties.



GWVNH -- 1101 15th Street, Augusta, Georgia 30901 Tel: 706-721-2531

In fiscal year 2017, the nursing home provided 54,091 days of care to Georgia's veterans with an average age of 83. During the year, there were 247 admissions and 254 discharges with an average length of stay of 256 days. Services to patients included 5,188 physical therapy treatments and 4,347 individual occupational therapy procedures. Veteran patients were treated by a medical director and family medicine residents providing daily physician coverage. Other services were provided by a certified activities therapist and staff, two facility social workers and a staff of registered, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants.

To help provide care and treatment, the federal government, through the Department of Veterans Affairs, provided financial assistance totaling in excess of \$7.3 million during fiscal year 2017. Throughout the year, veteran service organizations, civic and fraternal organizations and religious groups demonstrated their concern for the well-being of veteran patients through numerous donations, visits, and sponsorship of frequent activities for Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home residents. For admission information, contact Crystal Allen, Director at [callen11@augusta.edu](mailto:callen11@augusta.edu) or Phone: 706-721-2405/FAX 7530.

### **Georgia War Veterans Home**

The Home is situated on approximately 17 acres in Milledgeville, is a 375-bed facility licensed and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide skilled nursing care to aged and infirm Georgia war veterans. United Veteran Services of Georgia, Inc., a subsidiary of UHS-Pruitt Corporation of Norcross, operates the home for the Department of Veterans Service under a contractual agreement.



Georgia War Veterans Home -- 2249 Vinson Hwy, Milledgeville Tel: 478-445-6826.

The home operated three skilled nursing care facilities in 2017. The Carl Vinson Building received partial renovation to accommodate 84 veteran patients from the Richard B. Russell Building, which is also undergoing major renovations. A new sub-acute therapy unit will be located in the Richard B. Russell Building. This new 58-bed skilled care unit will treat service-connected disabled veterans as part of the home. The Joe T. Wood Building remains at a 150-bed capacity, along with the Alzheimer's Unit in the Wheeler Building with 24 beds. Once renovations

are completed by the year 2020, the Georgia War Veterans Home will have a capacity of 306 beds provided state funds remain available at the current level.

Residents have access to several recreational facilities. These include a fitness center; an 18-hole miniature golf course; a library; computers with Internet access and Skype; and a multi-purpose recreation center with pool tables, table games, books, and a large collection of movies. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities transferred a portion of the Central State Campus, known as Cedar Pond, to the Georgia Department of Veterans Service for use by the Georgia War Veterans Home as a recreational area for veteran patients. This area consists of 54 acres, which includes an 8 acre pond for fishing, a covered pavilion, and a club house with kitchen. Cedar Pond will support many parties and other activities for veterans and provide an opportunity to get away from the nursing home for fun and relaxation.

Renovation of this area has begun which includes painting, repairing air conditioners, new flooring and several other small cosmetic repairs. The grounds will have general landscaping development and road repairs. A dock will be built for access to the pond for fishing and enjoying the water. They will also enjoy seeing the many wildlife that reside there. GWVH-Milledgeville is very excited about this facility and looks forward to many years of entertainment from this expansion.

The GDVS Veterans Field Service Office serving veterans in the home and in Baldwin, Hancock, Putnam, Washington, and Wilkinson counties is located in the Wheeler Building. Veteran-related visits for this field office totaled 17,273 for calendar year 2017. This office also serves the 250 veteran patients of the Home by assisting them with compensation and pension claims, counseling services, and family-related issues. During 2017, veteran patients at the home received 89,759 days of skilled nursing care. The nursing home admitted 161 patients during the year and had 161 discharges/deaths. The average length of stay for current skilled veteran patients is 1,243 days or 3.4 years. During 2017, federal assistance in funding a portion of the cost of providing care to veterans in the home amounted to \$11,912,102.

As in previous years, many veterans service organizations, civic groups, and church groups continued their sponsorship of numerous activities such as movies, games, dance parties, bingo, picnics, and other activities and programs for the general well-being of the veteran patients at the home. Groups and individuals that comprised the equivalent of 3,056 individual volunteers providing in excess of 10,819 hours of time valued at over \$216,380 presented over 1,108 activities during the year. The value of donated items made available to the home during fiscal year 2017 was \$100,141. Groups and individuals also provided direct monetary donations of \$9,371 in support of special activities and projects.

## **Veteran Financial Benefits**

The Georgia Department of Veteran Services (GDVS) makes no guarantees regarding the awarding of tax exemptions. The administration of tax exemptions is as interpreted by the tax commissioners of Georgia's 159 counties. GDVS personnel will assist veterans in obtaining the necessary documentation for filing. The actual filing of documents is the veteran's responsibility. To obtain verification letters of disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, please call 1-800-827-1000 and request a Summary of Benefits letter. Any questions pertaining to tax exemptions at the local level should be asked to and answered by your County Tax Commissioner's office. The GDVS can only verify the status of a veteran's or surviving spouse's eligibility.

### **Exemption from Homestead Tax**

100 percent disabled veterans, those getting VA disability for loss of vision or limbs, and their surviving unremarried spouses may be exempt from property tax on their homes. The maximum exemption is currently \$85,645, but there are several factors which determine the amount. Check with the county tax assessor or visit the link at the bottom of this page for details.

### **Exemption from Sales Tax on Vehicles**

A disabled Veteran who receives a VA grant for the purchase and special adapting of a vehicle is exempt from paying the state sales tax on the vehicle (only on the original grant).

### **Ad Valorem Tax on Vehicles**

Exemption for Veterans who are verified by VA to be 100 percent totally and permanently service-connected disabled and Veterans who are receiving or who are entitled to receive statutory awards from VA for: (1) loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet; (2) loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands; (3) loss of sight in one or both eyes; or (4) permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a prescribed degree. Exemption is granted on only one vehicle which the Veteran owns or leases and upon which the free Disabled Veterans (DV) Motor Vehicle license plate is attached. Veterans who qualify for the Purple Heart or Medal of Honor specialty license plates are also exempt. For more information on vehicle tax exemptions, contact your local [County Tax Office](#).

### **Exemption from State Income Tax**

The period of time military personnel served on active duty as members of the armed forces of the United States in combat activities during a period designated by the President plus the next 180 days thereafter are disregarded in determining whether any filing requirement has been performed within the time limit prescribed for filing. For individuals who are hospitalized as a result of an injury or confined as a prisoner-of-war, the period of service in the combat zone, plus the period

of confinement and the next 180 days thereafter shall be disregarded in determining whether any filing requirement has been performed within the time limit Prescribed for filing.

### **Certificate of Exemption**

Disabled Veterans are exempt from payment of occupational taxes, administration fees, and regulatory fees imposed by local governments for peddling, conducting a business, or practicing a profession or semi profession. Eligibility: Veterans must (1) be discharged under honorable conditions from the armed forces of the United States; (2) have 10 percent physical disability for certain wartime Veterans or a 25 percent service-connected physical disability for peace time-only Veterans; and (3) have an Income that is nor for state income taxes.

### **Abatement of State Income Taxes**

Georgia law provides that service personnel who die as a result of wounds, disease or injury incurred while serving in a combat zone as a member of the armed forces of the United States, are exempt from all Georgia income taxes for the taxable year of his or her death, nor shall such taxes apply for any prior taxable year ending on or after the first day he/she served in the combat zone.

### **Business Certificate of Exemption**

Georgia veterans are eligible for a certificate granting exemption from any occupation tax, administrative fee, or regulatory fee imposed by local governments for peddling, conducting business, or practicing a profession or semi-profession for a period of ten years, if they meet these conditions:

- discharged under honorable conditions
- service-connected disability rating of 10 percent or more

Veterans should contact the GDVS Atlanta field office to begin their application and provide a copy of their DD Form 214 and a VA “[Summary of Benefits](#)” letter. Once verified, veterans should take their application to their local County Probate Court Office. The County Probate Court Office will issue a notarized letter confirming eligibility and send the letter to the Secretary of State’s Office. For verification of a veteran’s disability compensation, contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-827-1000 to request a “[Summary of Benefits](#)” letter.

### **Extension of Filing Deadline for Combat Deployment**

The tax filing deadline for combat deployed military personnel (those who served on active duty as members of the U.S. armed forces in combat activities during a period designated by the President) is extended until 180 days after such deployment ends.

## **Employment Benefits**

### **Employment Preference**

Extended to Veterans employed under the State Merit System.

(a) Any veteran who has served on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States for a period of more than 180 days, not counting service under an initial period of active duty for training under the six-months' reserve or National Guard programs, any portion of which service occurred during a period of armed conflict in which any branch of the armed forces of the United States engaged, whether under United States command or otherwise, and who was honorably discharged there from shall be entitled to and shall have five points added to his passing score on any competitive civil service examination for employment with the state government or any political subdivision thereof; provided, however, that such veteran is not already eligible for veterans preference under Article IV, Section III, Paragraph II of the Constitution of Georgia.

(b) Notwithstanding the 180 day minimum active duty requirement of subsection (a) of this Code section, the five-point preference granted to veterans under said subsection shall apply to any member of the National Guard or armed forces reserve who served on active duty for any length of time during any portion of the time the armed forces of the United States were engaged in Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert Storm if such service occurred in an area of imminent danger as defined by the United States Department of Defense.

(c) A 5 point credit is extended to war veterans employed by the State of Georgia. Any veteran, as above, who has at least a 10 percent service connected disability, as rated and certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, shall be entitled to and shall have ten points added to his passing score on any competitive civil service examination, said ten-point preference being in lieu of and not in addition to any other similar preference accorded by law.

### **Employment Assistance**

State employees receive 18 days of military leave per year. Eligibility: Georgia National Guard member.

### **Business Licenses**

Some honorably discharged veterans with at least a 25 percent disability 10 percent if wartime veterans) are exempt from payment of occupational taxes and other fees for peddling, conducting a business, or practicing a profession or semi profession.

### **Firefighter Qualification**

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, military firefighter training will be accepted as required basic training for full-time, part-time and volunteer firefighters, including airport firefighters.

## **Recreational Benefits**

### **Reduced State Park Admission Fees for Disabled Veterans**

Any Georgia resident veteran with a service connected disability and an honorable discharge can get a discount card good for 25 percent reduced entrance fee to GA state parks, historical sites, and recreational areas. To apply, bring DD Form 214, verification of service-connected disability, and proof of residency to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. A service officer will verify eligibility and forward the application to the GDVS Central Office. If approved, the state park discount card below will be mailed.



### **Hunting and Fishing Licenses for Returning Veterans**

Returning veterans are entitled to a free honorary hunting and fishing license for a period of one year following issuance. This applies to veterans discharged from active duty as members of a regular or reserve component of any branch of service, as well as Georgia National Guard members ordered to federal duty for a period of 90 days or longer.

### **Hunting and Fishing Licenses for Permanently & Totally Disabled Veterans**

Veterans with a permanent and total disability rating from VA (or another government agency) for a physical or mental impairment are eligible for a 3 year disability sportsman's license at a steep discount from regular license cost. Veterans disabled for mental impairment may obtain a discounted disability fishing license. Applications are available at this link: <http://georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes/disability>.

### **Age 65 and Older**

Eligible for sharply discounted senior lifetime sportsman's or senior annual sportsman's licenses. Seniors born before July 1, 1952 are eligible for a free senior lifetime sportsman's license. These are available online at [GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com](http://GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com), or from any Georgia retail license agent.

### **Totally Blind**

Eligible for a free lifetime honorary fishing license.

**Note:** Hunting and fishing licenses are administered by the Wildlife Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. For more information, visit [www.georgiawildlife.com](http://www.georgiawildlife.com) or call 800-366-2661.

## **Education Benefits**

By law, the GDVS is designated as the State Approving Agency (SAA), responsible for approving and supervising all institutions and establishments in Georgia that offer education and training under the provisions of the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (GI Bill). Within the GDVS, the SAA function is performed by the Veterans Education & Training Division. This division is responsible for ensuring that approved institutions and establishments meet and maintain acceptable standards so that eligible persons who attend may receive educational assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

These programs must have SAA approval before veterans and other eligible persons may receive educational benefits (GI Bill) from VA under the authority of Title 38, U.S. Code and Chapter 1606 Title 10. Federal and state laws require stringent regulatory compliance of all institutions and establishments approved for veterans attendance. The responsibilities of approval, annual inspections, and ensuring corrective action when necessary, constitute a vital function of the Georgia SAA. The SAA has the function of ensuring educational institutions and establishments meet and maintain acceptable standards so eligible persons who attend may receive educational assistance from VA. This includes all public and private schools and all establishments offering apprenticeship and other on-the-job training.

The satisfactory performance of these duties requires SAA personnel to have extensive knowledge in education administration and a full understanding of the laws and regulations that govern and control the Veterans Educational Assistance Program. For further information concerning approved universities, colleges, technical and trade schools; flight schools; correspondence schools; apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs, contact the SAA staff. Contact: 404-656-2306 or [saaga@vs.state.ga.us](mailto:saaga@vs.state.ga.us).

### **Georgia Military Scholarship**

The State of Georgia offers 39 "Full Ride" scholarships per year to attend North Georgia. The scholarship pays for room, meals, tuition, uniforms, and fees. It also provides a \$375 a semester stipend for books. In addition, GMS recipients receive National Guard weekend drill pay, GI Bill, GI Bill "kicker", pay for attending Army basic and advanced training, an enlistment bonus of up to \$20,000, and Army ROTC contract pay (upon contracting at the beginning of the sophomore year). After graduating college you will receive a \$10,000 commissioning bonus. In order to be considered for the scholarship, you must be nominated by your local Georgia state assemblyman. Deadline for the application is March 15. Scholarship Requirements are:

1. Be a resident of Georgia.
2. Receive a nomination by a State Legislator.
3. Have a minimum critical reading score of 480 and math of 440 on the SAT, have a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale, and graduate high school with a college prep or dual seal diploma.

4. Meet Army National Guard mental and physical standards.
5. Agree to serve as an enlisted member in the Georgia Army National Guard while a student at North Georgia.
6. Agree to accept a commission upon graduation from North Georgia and serve four years as a Commissioned officer in the Georgia Army National Guard.

**Tuition Assistance (Georgia Air National Guard)**

Up to 100% tuition is paid, not to exceed \$2,790 per school year, \$1,395 per semester or the rate of \$116.25 per semester hour. Rate per quarter hour not to exceed \$77.40.

Eligibility: Georgia Air National Guard member.

**The National Guard Service Cancelable Loan Fund**

Provides up to 100% of the tuition charges; not to exceed the current academic year "per semester maximum." Soldiers with a baccalaureate degree are not eligible for this program.

Eligibility: Must be a legal resident of Georgia and be a member in good standing of the Georgia National Guard. Loan is repaid through continued membership and good standing in the Guard.

**Georgia HERO Scholarship**

The Georgia HERO (Helping Educate Reservists and their Offspring) Scholarship Program was created to provide educational grant assistance to members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reservists who served in combat zones or the children of such members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reserves. The grant is to attend an approved school for a maximum of up to four award years in the sum of \$2,000.00 per award year. No person shall be eligible to receive grant assistance provided under this subsection in excess of \$8,000.00.

**Other State Veteran Benefits**

**Veterans Drivers' Licenses/ID Card**

**Free Version** -- The veteran's driver's license and Personal ID Card displays the word VETERAN and an American Flag. This special version of a Georgia driver's license includes a U.S. flag and the word VETERAN prominently displayed on the front.



An honorably discharged veteran is entitled to a free veteran's driver's license if two criteria are met: Georgia residency and service during a recognized period of war or conflict. There are two ways to meet the Georgia residency requirement:

- The veteran entered service from Georgia (as shown on DD Form 214) and is a current resident of Georgia.
- The veteran has been a legal Georgia resident for the past two consecutive years.

To meet the wartime service requirement, a veteran must have served on active duty during any of the recognized service periods. This includes service in the National Guard or the Reserves, if such service included placement on active duty during a recognized war or conflict. It does not include periodic transfer from reserve status to active duty for training purposes. Recognized service periods:

- World War II: December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946
- Korea: June 27, 1950 - January 31, 1955
- Lebanon Conflict: July 1, 1958 - November 1, 1958
- Vietnam: July 1, 1958 - May 7, 1975
- Berlin Conflict: August 14, 1961 - June 1, 1963.
- Dominican Republic Conflict: April 28, 1965 - Sept. 21, 1966
- Grenada Conflict: October 23, 1983 - November 21, 1983
- Panama Liberation: December 30, 1989 - February 15, 1990
- Persian Gulf: August 2, 1990 – present
- Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation Enduring Freedom / Global War on Terrorism: September 11, 2001 – present

A member or former member of the National Guard with 20 or more years of creditable service also qualifies. The veteran should obtain certification from the [Adjutant General of the State of Georgia](#) and include it with the other required documentation.

In order to obtain a veteran's driver's license (free or paid), the applying veteran must take the required documentation to a [GDVS Veterans Field Service Office](#). A service officer will verify the veteran's eligibility and issue a Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516). The veteran must then take the completed DS-516, together with all required identifying documents (birth certificate or passport; Social Security card; two documents showing residential address; and, if applicable, name change documentation) to a [Georgia Department of Driver Services \(DDS\) office](#). A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify the veteran's eligibility, and issue a veteran's driver's license. For more information, call 678-413-8400, or visit the [Department of Driver Services](#).

**Paid Version** -- An honorably discharged veteran who does not meet the criteria (residency or wartime service) to obtain a free veteran's driver's license may obtain the license by paying the standard licensing fee.

**Honorary Driver's License** -- The spouse of a qualified veteran, whose disabilities preclude operating a motor vehicle, is eligible for a free honorary driver's license. Residence and qualifying service terms are the same as stated for a [free veteran's driver's license](#). Also, the surviving unremarried spouse of an eligible deceased veteran is eligible for a free honorary driver's license. Residence and qualifying service terms are the same as stated for a free veteran's driver's license.

In order to obtain a free honorary driver's license, take proof of the spouse's qualifying service and residency to a [GDVS Veterans Field Service Office](#). Also provide verification of spouse's disabilities that preclude operating a motor vehicle or a copy of spouse's death certificate, whichever is applicable. A service officer will verify eligibility and issue a completed Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516). The spouse must then take the completed DS-516, together with all required identifying documents (birth certificate or passport; Social Security card; two documents showing residential address; and, if applicable, name change documentation) to a [Georgia Department of Driver Services](#) (DDS) office. A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify eligibility, and issue a free honorary driver's license.

**National Guard Driver's License** -- Any member of the Georgia National Guard or Reserve who is in good standing and has completed at least one year of satisfactory service is eligible for a free National Guard Driver's License. In order to apply, an eligible member should obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (DS-318) from the National Guard Commanding Officer and take it, together with all required identifying documents (birth certificate or passport; Social Security card; two documents showing residential address; and, if applicable, name change documentation) to a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) office. A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify eligibility, and issue a free National Guard driver's license. For more information, call 678-413-8400, or visit the [Department of Driver Services](#).

### **Vehicle License Plates**

To apply for any of the following plates, it is necessary to complete [Form MV-9W](#) (available at [dor.ga.gov/documents/forms](http://dor.ga.gov/documents/forms)) from the [Motor Vehicle Division of the Georgia Department of Revenue](#) and take it, along with a copy of your DD Form 214 (or other supporting documentation for certain plates) to your county tax office.

The **Disabled Veteran** license plate has a U.S. flag background, the International Symbol of Access, and the words DISABLED VETERAN. Plates are issued for the front and back of a vehicle. A motorcycle version of this plate is available. (Note: This license plate is not issued for motor homes). It is available to:

- Honorably discharged Georgia veterans considered disabled by any of these criteria:

- VA-rated 100 percent totally disabled
- VA-rated less than 100 percent disabled but paid at the 100 percent rate due to unemployability
- Entitled to receive a statutory award from VA for:
  - Loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet
  - Loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands
  - Loss of sight in one or both eyes
  - Permanent impairment of both eyes \*
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans
- Surviving minor children of qualified deceased veterans

*\* - Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye (with corrective glasses) or central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends on angular distance no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye.*

Qualified veterans who obtain a VA entitlement letter indicating the specific disability may apply directly with the [Department of Revenue's Special Tag Unit](#). Call 404-968-3880 for more information. Alternatively, qualified veterans may obtain a certified statement from an authorized physician and take it to a [GDVS Veterans Field Service Office](#) along with discharge paperwork or proof of active duty service and verification of residency.

- There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for this plate.
- Veterans with a 100 percent service-connected disability rating are exempt from ad valorem taxes on one vehicle. (See the [Tax Exemptions](#) section.)



**Car**



**Motorcycle**

The **Veteran's** License Plate has a U.S. flag background, the seal of the veteran's branch of service, and the word VETERAN. **It is available to:**

- Georgia veterans discharged under honorable conditions
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.



The **Woman Veteran's** License Plate has a U.S. flag background, the seal of the veteran's branch of service, and the words WOMAN VETERAN. It is available to:

- Female Georgia veterans discharged under honorable conditions
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

The **Retired Military** License Plate has a U.S. flag background, the seal of the veteran's branch of service, and the word RETIRED. This plate is available to:

- Georgia veterans who retired from active duty
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.



The **Commemorative Service** License Plate has a U.S. flag background, the seal of the veteran's branch of service, the name of the conflict, and the campaign ribbon. It is available for: World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, Global War on Terrorism, War in Iraq, and War in Afghanistan veterans who are:

- Georgia veterans discharged under honorable conditions
- Georgia residents on active duty
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans and active duty service members

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.



The **Military Medal Award** license plate has a U.S. flag background, the name of the veteran's branch of service, and the name and image of the medal. It is available to:

- Georgia veterans discharged under honorable conditions
- Georgia residents on active duty

- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans and active duty service members

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee. It is available for awardees of the:

- Medal of Honor \*
- Distinguished Service Cross (Army)
- Navy Cross
- Air Force Cross
- Defense Distinguished Service Medal
- Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal
- Distinguished Service Medal (Army)
- Navy Distinguished Service Medal
- Air Force Distinguished Service Medal
- Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal
- Silver Star
- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Legion of Merit
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Bronze Star Medal
- Purple Heart \*
- Air Medal

\* - Special tax provisions apply to these plates; see the [Tax Exemptions](#) section.



The **Reserve Component** specialty license plate has a U.S. flag background, the name of the reserve component, and the word RESERVE. It is available to:

- Assigned or attached members of troop program units of any branch of the active reserve components of the United States inside or outside the State of Georgia
- Retired members of any such component
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased members who were killed while serving in a combat arena

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.



The **National Guard** specialty license plate is available for members of the Georgia National Guard. The surviving spouse of a member of the National Guard who was killed while serving in a combat arena is also eligible as long as not remarried. There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for this plate. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.



The **Chosin Reservoir Campaign of 1950** specialty license plate is available for Georgia veterans of the U.S. armed forces who participated in the Chosin Reservoir Campaign of 1950 in North Korea. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased veteran is also eligible as long as not remarried. There is a \$25 manufacturing fee. There is a \$20 annual fee. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.



The **Pearl Harbor Survivor** specialty license plate is available for Georgia veterans of the U.S. armed forces who survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor are eligible for this specialty license plate. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased veteran is also eligible as long as not remarried. There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for this plate. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.



The **Former Prisoner of War** specialty license plate is available for Georgia veterans who are former prisoners of war with a discharge from the U.S. armed forces under honorable conditions. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased veteran is also eligible as long as not remarried. For purposes of this specialty license plate, "prisoner of war" is defined as a veteran who was captured and held prisoner by forces hostile to the United States while serving in the U.S. armed forces in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for this plate. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.



The **Gold Star** license plate is available for Georgians who are family (spouse, mother, father, step-parent, child, sibling or sibling's spouse) of a service member killed in action while serving in the U.S. armed forces are eligible for this specialty license plate. There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for the first plate issued to the spouse, mother, and father who were Georgia residents at the time of death of the service member. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee. For all other family members, including family members who were not Georgia residents at the time of the service member's death, a \$25 manufacturing fee and a \$20 annual fee apply to the first and any subsequent plates.



### **Handicapped Parking**

Holders of DV license tags are authorized to park their vehicles displaying such tags in parking areas designated for the handicapped without obtaining special handicapped parking area permits. This does not apply to federal parking areas.

### **Motor Fuel Service to Handicap**

When there is an option on the price of fuel at a full-service/self-service facility, a station employee, upon request will dispense fuel at the lower price from the self-service pump into vehicles bearing HV or DV license tags if: (1) the handicapped/disabled Veteran is driving the

vehicle into which fuel is to be dispensed; and (2) the Veteran is not accompanied by a person at least 16 years of age who is not blind or has impaired mobility.

### **Guardianship**

The Uniform Guardianship Act provides for appointment of a guardian for incompetent Veterans and for Veterans' children when VA benefits are involved. These appointments are made on the basis of certificates issued only by VA.

### **Vital Statistics**

Veterans, dependents, VA or Veterans organizations, may obtain copies of marriage, divorce, birth and death documents without charge, through the Department of Veterans Service, provided the copies are to be used for establishing disability or death claims with VA, and the request is in writing. For assistance, contact the Georgia Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Records: 404-679-4702 or <https://dph.georgia.gov>.

### **Service Records**

There is no charge for recording of Veterans discharge certificates (DD Form 214) in county Superior Courts.

### **Assistance**

All Georgia Veterans and their dependents are urged to visit the nearest office of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service for complete information on benefits for which they may be eligible as well as professional assistance in obtaining them. To locate a field office near you go to <https://veterans.georgia.gov/locations/veterans-field-service-office-near-you>.

### **Cemeteries – State**

Any member of the Armed Forces who is a veteran under the rules established by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and was separated under other than dishonorable conditions, and who has been a resident of Georgia for at least two years immediately preceding his/her death is eligible for burial in the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Milledgeville or in the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

- **Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery Glennville.** GVMCG is situated on the 42.6- acre site of the former Dyess Farm, just north of the Glennville, Georgia city limits. It is located along U.S. Highway 301, 25 miles west of the main post of Fort Stewart. The initial 26-acre phase of the cemetery contains 1,400 pre-placed in-ground double vaults, for eligible veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependents; 766 conventional single-depth sites; 1,384 cremation interment sites, which include a columbarium and in-ground sites; and 429 spaces for memorial markers. These memorial markers are placed in memory of those

veterans whose remains are unavailable for burial. GVMC–Glennville was dedicated on November 28, 2007, and will eventually be the final resting place for more than 21,000 veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependents. As of December 31, 2013, there were 604 veterans, spouses, and family members interred. At [http://veterans.georgia.gov/sites/veterans.georgia.gov/files/related\\_files/site\\_page/VS%20Form%202028-001G.pdf](http://veterans.georgia.gov/sites/veterans.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/VS%20Form%202028-001G.pdf) applications for burial can be downloaded. Location and contact data for GVMCG are 8819 U.S. Highway 301, Glennville, Georgia 30427, Richard Dunlap, Cemetery Director, Phone: 912-654-5398, FAX: 912-654-2963.



- Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery Milledgeville.** GVMCM is located approximately 5 miles south of downtown Milledgeville along Georgia Highway 112. This cemetery, established on 142 acres the Georgia Department of Veterans Service received from the Georgia Forestry Commission, includes an administration/visitor center with a state-of-the-art information booth, a committal chapel, a carillon, and 12 columbarium shelters for cremations. Cemetery grounds also include a six-acre lake and a three-acre, multi-tier walled ceremonial area available for use by veterans organizations on remembrance days, such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. In May 2011, construction was completed on Phase II of the cemetery. This phase encompassed about 10 acres and added approximately 1,300 casketed burial plots and 600 cremation plots in the cemetery. The cemetery will eventually be the final resting place for more than 100,000 eligible veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependents. Applications for burial can be downloaded at [http://veterans.georgia.gov/sites/veterans.georgia.gov/files/related\\_files/site\\_page/VS%20Form%202028-001G.pdf](http://veterans.georgia.gov/sites/veterans.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/VS%20Form%202028-001G.pdf). Location and contact data for GVMCM are 2617 Vinson Highway, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061, Russell Feagin, Cemetery Director, Phone: 478-445-3363, FAX: 478-445-3360.



## Cemeteries – National

The Veterans Administration has two National Cemeteries in Georgia, the Marietta National Cemetery and the Georgia National Cemetery. The National Parks System maintains a smaller National Cemetery at Andersonville.



**Marietta National Cemetery**

Contact info is Marietta National Cemetery, 500 Washington Avenue, Marietta, GA 30060  
Phone: (866) 236-8159 FAX: (770) 479-9311.



**Georgia National Cemetery**

Contact info is Georgia National Cemetery, 1080 Veterans Cemetery Road, Canton, GA 30114  
Phone: (866) 236-8159 or (770) 479-9300 Fax: (770) 479-9311; Mailing Address:2025 Mount Carmel Church Lane, Canton, GA 30114



**Andersonville National Historic Site**

Contact info for the historical memorial is Andersonville NHS, 496 Cemetery Road,  
Andersonville, GA 31711 Phone (229) 924-0343 Fax (229) 924-1086/

### **Other State Agencies Assisting Veterans**

Besides the GDVS, there are several state agencies with interests in assisting veterans. Many are members of the [Returning Veterans Task Force](#) (RVTF), an intra-state task force that investigates how Georgia's state government agencies can coordinate services to better assist service members transitioning from active duty back into society. Including the GDVS, which coordinates the group, the RVTF is comprised of 13 member agencies and organizations.

[Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities](#) -- Provides treatment and support services to people with mental health challenges and substance use disorders, and assists individuals who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **Contact:** 404-657-2252.

[Georgia Department of Community Health](#) -- Provides Georgians with access to affordable, quality health care through effective planning, purchasing, and oversight. **Contact:** 404-656-4507.

#### [Georgia Department of Defense](#)

- Coordinates and supervises all agencies and functions of the Georgia National Guard, including the Georgia Army National Guard, the Georgia Air National Guard, and the Georgia State Defense Force.
- Provides ready and relevant military forces to the Combatant Commanders and, with the consent of the Governor, provides command and control capabilities to support Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

**Contact:** 678-569-3911

#### [Georgia Department of Human Services](#)

- Delivers a wide range of human services designed to promote self-sufficiency, safety, and well-being for all Georgians.
- Gives priority to veterans for enrollment in Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which serves the unemployed age 55 and older looking to re-enter the workforce.

**Contact:** 844-694-2347

[Georgia Department of Labor](#) -- Offers assistance to job-seeking veterans and their families, including job search workshops, résumé and cover letter assistance, and resources for transitioning into the civilian workforce. **Contact:** 404-232-3527

#### [Georgia Secretary of State](#)

- Engages veterans in the elections process as members of the electorate and volunteers at the polls.
- Assists veterans in navigating the processes of applying for business, corporate, and other professional licensing.

**Contact:** 404-656-2881

[Georgia Veterans Education Career Transition Resource Center](#) -- Offers career counseling, educational coaching, and workforce training for veterans entering Georgia's public postsecondary educational systems and workforce. **Contact:** 478-218-3900.

[Council of Accountability Court Judges](#) -- Assists in the development of veterans treatment courts.  
**Contact:** 404-656-2613

[Technical College System of Georgia](#) -- Provides support for veterans pursuing education.  
**Contact:** 404-679-1667 or 404-679-1760

[University System of Georgia](#) -- Provides support for veterans pursuing education. **Contact:** 404-962-3110 or 404-962-3082

[Workforce Division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development](#) -- Offers assistance through Operation: Workforce, a program through which veterans can find tools to translate their military occupational classifications into civilian jobs and search for career opportunities with employers who have pledged to hire veterans. **Contact:** 404-962-4069

**Note: GDVS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Operations Update**

GDVS veterans field service offices resumed in-person services on 15 JUN 2020 by appointment only. Veterans should call or email [their local office](#) to schedule an appointment. For more info on this contact the GDVS Public Information Division at 404-656-5933 or [gavetsvc@vs.state.ga.us](mailto:gavetsvc@vs.state.ga.us).

Learn more about Georgia State Veterans Benefits at <http://veterans.georgia.gov>. [Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/georgia-state-veterans-benefits.html> | August 2020 ++]