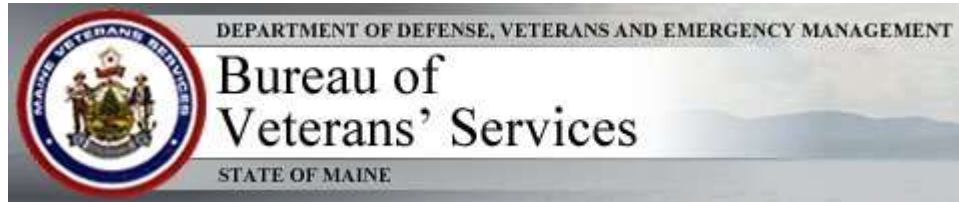


# Maine State Veterans Benefits



**2021**

The State of Maine as of Dec. 31, 2020 per Defense Manpower Data Center contained a Military community that consisted of the following residents:

- 1,491 active-duty service members
- 858 active-duty spouses
- 1,522 active-duty children
- 5,674 National Guard and reserve members
- 2,858 National Guard and reserve spouses
- 4,250 National Guard and reserve children

Additionally, as of 2021 over 300,000 Mainers have been affected by service, whether as a veteran, retiree, family member, Guard or Reserve, or active duty personnel. As veterans they have earned benefits for themselves and potentially for their families, but they must apply to receive these benefits. Maryland is grateful for their service and wants to ensure they receive all the support they deserve. The state's Bureau of Veterans' Services (BVA) is a state agency that provides several types of programs to assist the veterans. General eligibility requirements include military service and state residency. Specific programs may have additional requirements. Spouses and dependents of deceased veterans who meet eligibility requirements may also be eligible for certain programs and services.

Maine's BVA has a VA Medical Center in Augusta, 11 Community based Outpatient Clinics, 7 Veteran Service Offices, 6 Veteran Homes, and 4 Veteran Cemeteries for veteran utilization. Field Benefit Representatives certified in filing claims and appeals, as well as, VA healthcare applications, are available free of charge throughout the state. They are and can assist to help make your transition as smooth as possible to civilian life and state residency. You can find their locations by clicking on <https://www.maine.gov/veterans/veterans-services-offices/locations/index.html> and <https://www.maine.gov/veterans/resources/index.html>

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

- Housing
- Financial Assistance
- Employment
- Education
- Recreation
- Driver and Vehicle Licensing
- Burial
- Taxation
- Women Veterans
- Other

### **Veteran Housing Programs**

#### **Maine Veterans' Homes**

Maine has six veterans' homes located in Augusta, Bangor, Caribou, Machias, Scarborough, and South Paris. Honorably discharged veterans who served at least one (1) day of active duty other than for training (both wartime & peacetime); spouses, widows, and widowers of qualified veterans; and gold star parents (a parent whose son or daughter died from wounds received in combat) can come to a Maine Veterans' Home.

To qualify for admission, the applicant must be an honorably discharged veteran who served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces for no less than 180 days. Eligible veterans must either be residents of Maine at the time of application, or have resided in Maine at the time of entry into the United States Armed Forces. Spouses, widows, widowers, and gold star parents of eligible veterans may also be eligible for admission. Gold star parents are parents of a son or a daughter killed in the line of duty. Applications are available for download at [www.maineveteranshomes.org/images/pdf/admissionsapp.pdf](http://www.maineveteranshomes.org/images/pdf/admissionsapp.pdf) For contact and facility information click on the below websites:



**AUGUSTA 1-888-684-4664**

<https://mainevets.org/locations/augusta-2>



**BANGOR 1-888-684-4665**

<https://mainevets.org/locations/bangor>



**CARIBOU 1-888-684-4667**

<https://mainevets.org/locations/machias>



**MACHIAS 1-877-866-4669**

<https://mainevets.org/locations/machias>



**SCARBOROUGH 1-888-684-4666**

<https://mainevets.org/locations/scarborough>



**SOUTH PARIS 1-888-684-4668**

<https://mainevets.org/locations/south-paris>

**Fisher House**

The VA Maine Fisher House offers Free Lodging to military families while their loved one are receiving care at the August VAMC. The VA Maine Fisher House has 16 Guest Suites, each with a private bathroom. All rooms are handicap accessible. Each suite also includes a deluxe Kitchen plus the facility also contains a spacious Dining Room, a beautiful Library and Family Room as well as a complimentary Laundry Room. All Fisher House guests must be willing to abide by all House rules be willing and able to clean up after themselves. Guests must be in good health and answer screening questions. Families will be assigned only one room per patient.



Requirements for staying at the Fisher House:

- Family Members/Caregivers
  - 1 – Must be involved in the “episodic care” of the Veteran.
  - 2 – Must be capable of self-care.
  - 3 – Reside 50-miles or more from our Medical Center.
- Veterans/Active Duty Service Members
  - 1 – Must be receiving “episodic care” at our Medical Center.
  - 2 – Must be accompanied by an adult capable of self-care.
  - 3 – Reside 50-miles or more from our Medical Center.
- A medical consult confirming “episodic care” is required to stay at the Fisher House.
- Once the Fisher House receives a medical consult, our staff will initiate a call with the Veteran, family member or caregiver.
- Exceptions to the 50-mile rule, while rare, may be granted at the discretion of the Fisher House Manager.

For More Information contact the VA Maine Healthcare System, 1 VA Center (Fisher House) Augusta, Maine 04330 Tel: (207) 623-8411 Ext. 7052, 7053, 7054 or [Patrick.Crowley@va.gov](mailto:Patrick.Crowley@va.gov). At <https://www.maine.va.gov/giving/FisherHousePamphlet.pdf> can be viewed a Fischer House pamphlet

### **Other Housing Assistance**

For additional info on veteran housing matters click on the following:

- VA Home Loans <https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans>
- VA Specially Adapted Housing Grants <https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/disability-housing-grants>.
- Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/vmli>
- Homeless Veterans Services <https://www.maine.gov/veterans/benefits/housing/homeless-veterans-services.html>

## **Financial Assistance Benefits**

### **Maine Housing Authority Home Loan Program**

Maine State Housing Authority offers active duty, veterans, and retired military a 0.25 percent discount on mortgages through the Salute Home Again program. Household income and home purchase price limits apply; however most Maine households and homes are eligible for the program. Limits can vary depending on how many people live in your household and where the home you plan to buy is located. Refer to <https://www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/homebuyer/homebuyerdetail/saluteme-salute-home-again>. For local Housing authority contacts refer to <https://www.mainehousing.org/charts/local-housing-authority-contacts>

### **Veterans Small Business Loan Program**

The Finance Authority of Maine may provide special loan insurance to veterans and wartime veterans for veteran-owned small businesses. The Authority does not make small business loans. Veterans interested in applying for loan insurance must apply to the Finance Authority of Maine and provide a copy of their DD214 (military discharge document). Information on loan insurance may be obtained by contacting the Finance Authority of Maine as follows:

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE  
PO BOX 949, AUGUSTA, ME 04330  
Tel.: 207-623-3263 or 800-228-3734  
Website address: <http://www.famemaine.com>

Assistance in obtaining copies of DD 214s may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Maine Veterans Services at 207-430-6035 or by clicking on [www.maine.gov/dvem/bvs/military\\_discharges.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dvem/bvs/military_discharges.htm) to download an application to complete and mailing it to the address shown on the form.

### **Property Tax Exemption**

A Veteran who served during a recognized war period and is 62 years or older; or, is receiving 100% disability as a Veteran; or, became 100% disabled while serving, is eligible for a \$6,000 property tax exemption. Un-remarried surviving spouses are also eligible. Paraplegic veterans, and their qualifying spouses are eligible for up to a \$50,000 property tax exemption.

This program is administered by the Maine Revenue Services. They have provided a Property Tax Bulletin at <http://www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/pubs/bull7.pdf> which outlines the complex provisions relating to property tax exemption of veterans. This document may also be accessed by visiting the website of Maine Revenue Services at <http://www.maine.gov/revenue>.

Particular notice should be given to the different classifications of exemption so that the municipality may claim the appropriate reimbursement from the State for taxes lost by reason of such exemption. Prior to April 1, 1978, municipalities were not reimbursed for property taxes

lost due to the granting of veterans exemptions. In 1978, the Constitution was amended to reimburse municipalities not less than 50% of property tax revenue loss because of statutory property tax exemptions enacted after April 1, 1978.

### **Income Tax**

Military retirement pay and military pay earned out-of-state is tax-free.

### **Maine Military Family Relief Fund**

The Maine Military Family Relief Fund provides emergency assistance to qualified military members and dependents.

### **Financial Counseling**

Click on <https://www.maine.gov/veterans/resources/index.html?resources=2> to connect to all of Maine's Legal and Financial Resources for veterans if you need financial counseling or other assistance.

**Other** - For additional info on veteran financial matters click on the following:

- [Financial Guide for Maine Veterans' \(PDF\)](#)
- [Property Tax Exemption \(PDF\)](#)
- [Veterans Property Tax Statutes](#)
- [Homestead Property Tax Exemption](#)
- Tax Exemption for Military Pensions
  - [Summary of 2016 Maine Tax Changes \(PDF\)](#)
  - [Veterans' Pension Income Tax Exemption FAQ \(PDF\)](#)
- [Life Insurance - Veterans' Group Life Insurance \(VGLI\); Servicemembers Group Life Insurance \(SGLI\); Family Servicemembers Group Life Insurance \(FSGLI\); SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection \(TSGLI\); Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance \(S-DVI\); Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance \(VMLI\)](#)
- [Social Security Benefits for Wounded Warriors](#)
- [Aid and Attendance Pension](#)

## **Employment Benefits**

### **State Employment**

Preference points shall be added to the earned qualifying rating in examinations, provided that a passing grade is attained, of Veterans applying for positions in the state service in accordance with the following, provided that they have not been previously employed in the classified service after obtaining preference points. A Veteran who is receiving a disability pension shall be entitled to preference points under this subsection, notwithstanding his previous employment in the classified service after obtaining preference points.

- A Veteran who served on active duty in any of the Armed Forces for at least 90 days consecutively and who was honorably separated or their un-remarried surviving spouse will be given a 5 point preference.
- A Veteran who served on active duty in any of the Armed Forces for at least 90 consecutive days, at any time, was honorably separated, and who has a service-connected disability of at least 10% will be given 10 point preference.
- The Spouse of a disabled veteran is entitled to a 10 point preference in lieu of the veteran when the veteran's disability disqualifies him or her for appointment in the classified service along the general lines of his or her usual occupation.
- The surviving spouse, who has never remarried, of a veteran who lost his or her life under honorable conditions while serving on active duty, or who died as the result of service-connected disability will be given a 10 point preference.
- The natural parent of a veteran who died in the line of duty are given a 10 point preference.

**Other** - For additional info on veteran employment matters click on the following:

- ["Maine Hire-A-Vet" Campaign](#)
- [Veteran Assistance at Maine's Career Centers](#)
- [Maine Vocational Rehabilitation](#)
- [Maine's Occupational Licensing Initiative](#)
- [Troops to Teachers Program - New England](#)
- [VA Vocational Rehabilitation \(Federal\)](#)
- [VOW to Hire Heroes Act](#)
- [Veteran Small Business Programs and Loans - U.S. Small Business Administration](#)
- [Employment Guide To Hire Veterans](#)
- [Maine Job Link](#)

## **Education Benefits**

### **Veterans Dependents Education Benefits Program**

This benefit applies to dependents of Maine veterans who entered the service from Maine or has been a resident for 5 years immediately preceding application for aid and, if living, continues to reside in Maine throughout the duration of benefits administered under the educational benefits program and who:

- Has a 100% total permanent disability resulting from service-connected disability as a result of service;
- Was killed in Action;
- Died from a service-connected disability as a result of service;
- At the time of death was totally and permanently disabled due to a service-connected disability, but whose death was not related to the service-connected disability; or

- Is a member of the Armed Forces on active duty who has been listed for more than 90 days as missing in action, captured or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power.

The continuous residency requirement of this program does not apply to a person who is receiving educational benefits under this chapter on or before January 1, 2006.

NOTE: If a veteran was a resident of Maine prior to his/her death for less than five years, and application is received subsequently after the five year period from the date he/she last established residency, the applicant will be considered eligible and the deceased veteran will have been considered to have met eligibility requirements for purposes of this benefit.

Spouses of veterans who are attending state-supported post secondary vocational schools or institutions of collegiate grade must be admitted free of tuition including mandatory fees and lab fees for associate's, bachelor's and master's degree programs. Room and board may not be waived. Spouses have 10 years from the date of first entrance to complete the program.

Children of veterans who are attending state supported postsecondary vocational schools or institutions of collegiate grade must be admitted free of tuition including mandatory fees and lab fees for associate's and bachelor's programs. The tuition waiver provided under this paragraph may be reduced by an amount necessary to ensure that the value of this waiver, combined with all other grants and benefits received by the student, does not exceed the total cost of education. Room and board may not be waived.

A child of a veteran has 6 academic years from the date of first entrance to complete 8 semesters. The director may waive the limit of 6 consecutive academic years when the Recipient's education has been interrupted by severe medical disability or illness making continued attendance impossible

**Other** - For additional info on veteran related education matters click on the following:

- [Maine Veterans Dependents Educational Benefits](#)
- [State of Maine Guard Tuition Assistance](#)
- [Montgomery GI Bill](#)
- [Post 9-11 GI Bill](#)
- [Survivor and Dependents' Educational Assistance](#)
- [Reserve Educational Assistance Program](#)
- [Veterans Educational Assistance Program](#)
- [National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance Program](#)
- [Veterans Upward Bound](#)

## **Recreation Benefits**

### **Hunting & Fishing Licenses for Disabled Veterans**



A disabled veteran who has a service connected disability evaluated at 50% or more may obtain a complimentary license to fish, trap, hunt, including archery, muzzle load, bear, migratory bird, pheasant, spring/fall wild turkey, coyote night hunt, crossbow, one expanded archery antler less deer permit, and upon meeting the qualifications, a license to guide. This license is available to disabled veterans who are residents of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. This license(s) remains valid for the life of the license holder, as long as the license holder continues to satisfy the residency requirements.

### **State Park Fees**

Any disabled veteran displaying on the veteran's motor vehicle special designating plates or placards issued in accordance with Maine law is not required to pay a fee for admission to any state-owned park, camping area or beach. Maine residents who are enlisted active duty members and their dependents also receive free admission to state parks and historic sites.

### **Active Duty Military Hunting & Fishing Licenses**

Maine military personnel who are on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and permanently stationed outside Maine may purchase either a hunting, fishing, or combination hunting and fishing license for a discount.

### **Hunting & Fishing Licenses for Non-Resident Active Duty Members**

Anyone serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and permanently stationed at a military base in Maine may purchase a resident license to hunt, fish, or trap.

**Other** - For additional info on veteran recreation matters click on the following:

- [Maine Resident Free Lifetime Veteran Park and Museum Pass](#)
- [Maine Resident Day Use Park Pass for Active Military Personnel](#)
- [Disabled Veterans Recreational Licenses and Benefits](#)
- [Maine Disabled Veterans Controlled Moose Hunt](#)

## **Driver and Vehicle Licensing**

### **Military Service Driver's License Designation**

Effective July 8, 2015, a new military service license designator will be available. This designation is a widely recognized indicator that will assist military personnel in obtaining qualifying benefits.



In order to obtain this designation, applicants must currently be serving in the United States Armed Forces; or provide verification of honorable discharge from the United States military (DD Form 214), or provide certification from the United States Veterans Administration or other appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces verifying the applicant's military service and honorable discharge. If you currently have the field of stars background on your credential, you may not need to show additional information. If you wish to have the flag indicator added to the license other than at renewal time, there is a \$5.00 duplicate fee.

Applicants will also have to bring documentation verifying Maine residency and legal presence in the United States if they have not already done so (a complete list of acceptable documents can be found at [www.maine.gov/sos/bmv](http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv)).

The following Maine businesses will now accept driver's licenses and ID's with the Military Service Designation as proof of status for military/veteran discounts:

<b>BUSINESS ACCEPTING LICENSES WITH THE VETERAN DESIGNATION</b>		
<b>Big Rock Ski Area</b> , Mars Hill	<b>Broadway Hardware</b> , Bangor	<b>Capitol Computers</b> , Augusta
<b>Chipmunk Mini-Storage</b> , North Yarmouth	<b>Curves of Gardiner</b> , Vassalboro	<b>Corson's Auto Supply</b> , Rockland
<b>Discount Tire &amp; Alignment</b> , Camden	<b>Expert Tire Service</b> , Augusta	<b>Fabian Oil</b> , various locations
<b>Funtown/Splashtown USA</b> , Saco	<b>Highway Tire Inc</b> , Caribou	<b>Kennebec Valley YMCA</b> , Augusta
<b>Lowe's</b> various locations (Applies to veterans discount available on <u>Memorial Day</u> , <u>Veterans Day</u> , and the <u>4th of July</u> )	<b>Major Furniture &amp; Appliance</b> , Farmingdale	<b>Maine State Parks and Historic Sites</b> , various locations
<b>Penobscot Bay YMCA</b> , Rockport	<b>Sullivan Tire &amp; Auto Service</b> , Bangor	<b>Sugarloaf Carrabassett Valley</b> (active military only)






For more information about the eligibility requirements for the Military Service Designation, please contact the Bureau of Motor Vehicles at (207) 624-9000.






Businesses who are interested in accepting the military service designation for their military/veteran discounts are encouraged to contact the Bureau of Veteran Services at (207) 430-6035.



## Veteran License Plates

Visit <http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/registration/availablevet.html> to find Veteran Plates Issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles,

VETERAN PLATES ISSUED BY THE BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES			
PLATE	CRITERIA	FEE/EXEMPTION	DEPICTION
<b>Purple Heart Plate</b>	Issued to a veteran who is a recipient of the Purple Heart medal; up to two sets of Purple Heart plates can be issued.	Registration fee exempt on a vehicle not to exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.	
<b>Purple Heart Motorcycle Plate</b>	Issued to a veteran upon proof of award of the Purple Heart medal.	Registration fee exempt	
<b>Purple Heart Souvenir Plate</b>	Issued to a qualified veteran or the surviving spouse of the veteran upon proof of award of the Purple Heart medal. Available as a passenger or motorcycle souvenir plate. <b>Not to be displayed on a motor vehicle.</b>	There is no fee to obtain the souvenir plate. Limit: 1.	
<b>Disabled Veteran Plate</b>	*A. Issued to a veteran who is 100% service connected disabled and in receipt of 100% benefits. The disability must be permanent and total.	**Registration fee exempt on a vehicle not to exceed 26,000 lbs. registered weight.	
	*B. Issued to a veteran who has loss of, or loss of use of both legs.	**Exempt from all motor vehicle related fees to include excise tax, sales tax, registration and title fees. Cannot exceed	

		26,000 lbs. registered weight.	
<b>Disabled Veteran Parking Plate</b>	*Refer to criteria listed for Disabled Veteran plate, A & B	**Refer to exemptions for Disabled Veteran plate	
<b>Disabled Veteran Motorcycle Plate</b>	*Refer to criteria listed for Disabled Veteran plate, A & B	**Refer to exemptions for Disabled Veteran plate	
<b>Amputee/Loss of Use of Limb(s), or Blind Veteran</b>	<p>Any veteran who has the loss of use of a limb, or limbs or is blind and is registering a vehicle in their name, is exempt from all motor vehicle related fees. Veterans in this category may be the recipient of a vehicle from the United States Government.</p> <p>If double amputee of lower extremities or loss of use of lower extremities, a Disabled Veteran or Disabled Veteran parking plate is issued.</p>	Exempt from all motor vehicle related fees to include excise tax, sales tax, registration and title fees. Cannot exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.	 <p>*Passenger plates are standard issue; however, the veteran can display plate of choice</p>
<b>Medal of Honor Plate</b>	Issued to a veteran who is the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor	Registration fee exempt on a vehicle not to exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.	
<b>Former Prisoner of War Plate</b>	Issued to a veteran who was a prisoner of war at any time during tenure of service. Also issued to any civilian citizen of the United States who was interned as a prisoner of war.	Registration fee exempt on a vehicle not to exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.	

<p><b>Pearl Harbor Survivor Plate</b></p>	<p>Issued to a veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces and was stationed at Pearl Harbor during the attack on December 7, 1941.</p>	<p>Registration fee exempt on a vehicle not to exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.</p>	
<p><b>Special Veteran Plate</b></p>	<p>Issued to any veteran who has been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces or to a person who has served for at least 3 years and continues to serve. Up to 3 sets of plates may be issued if the veteran is the primary driver of the vehicles.</p> <p><b>The Special Veteran plate and the Disability Special Veteran plate (shown below) may display a set of one of <a href="#">35 Commemorative Veteran Decals</a>. Please visit the <a href="#">Commemorative Veteran Decal Page</a> for more information. Sample shown here of a Special Veteran plate displaying a Korea Decal.</b></p>	<p>Registration fee required:</p> <p>Up to 6,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$35  Up to 10,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$37  Up to 12,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$48  Up to 14,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$81  Up to 16,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$105  Up to 18,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$130  Up to 20,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$161  Up to 23,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$188  Up to 26,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$220</p>	 
<p><b>Disability Special Veteran Plate</b></p>	<p>Issued to any veteran who has been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces or to a person who has served for at least 3 years and continues to serve. Up to 3 sets of plates may</p>	<p>Registration fee required:</p> <p>Up to 6,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$35  Up to 10,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$37  Up to 12,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$48</p>	 

	<p>be issued if the veteran is the primary driver of the vehicles.</p> <p>In addition to proof of honorable discharge, the veteran must submit a completed <a href="#">PS-18, Application for Disability Plates</a>.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The criteria for a Disability Special Veteran plate differs from the criteria for a Disabled Veteran plate or Disabled Veteran Parking plate.</i></p>	<p>Up to 14,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$81</p> <p>Up to 16,000 lbs. r.v.w. : \$105</p> <p>Up to 18,000 lbs. r.v.w. : \$130</p> <p>Up to 20,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$161</p> <p>Up to 23,000 lbs. r.v.w. : \$188</p> <p>Up to 26,000 lbs. r.v.w. : \$220</p>	
<p><b>Special Veteran Motorcycle Plate</b></p>	<p>Issued to any veteran who has been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces or to a person who has served for at least 3 years and continues to serve.</p>	<p>Regular motorcycle registration fee of \$21 is required.</p>	 <p>A rectangular license plate with a white background. At the top, it says "MAINE". In the center, the number "101" is displayed in a large font, followed by the letter "A" on the right. At the bottom, it says "VETERAN".</p>
<p><b><a href="#">Gold Star Family Recognition Plate</a></b></p>	<p>Issued to a person who is eligible for a <a href="#">Gold Star</a> lapel button or to a grandparent of a member of the United States Armed Forces, if that member dies after March 28, 1973 as a result of an international terrorist attack recognized by the Department of Defense, or as a result of a military operation while serving outside the United States.</p>	<p>Registration fee required: \$35</p>	 <p>A rectangular license plate with a white background and a blue border. At the top, it says "MAINE". On the left side, there is a circular emblem featuring a gold star on a blue background, surrounded by a red and white border. In the center, the letter "G" is displayed in a large font, followed by the number "0000" on the right. At the bottom, it says "Gold Star Family Recognition Plate" and "Honored the Free because of the Brave".</p>

## **Burial**

### **Maine Veterans Memorial Cemeteries**

The Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System consists of four cemeteries. One of which is located in Caribou, two in Augusta and one in Springvale. The State will, without charge, open and close the grave and furnish perpetual care. Military rank or civilian stature will not be given consideration in selection or size of individual graves. Consequently, all graves will be equal in size and type. Selection of the lot will be made by the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery System office in the order that burial requests occur. Eligible dependents will be buried adjacent to the plot of the buried veteran. Visit the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services website <http://www.maine.gov/veterans> for more information on any of these programs.

Pre-registration allows a veteran in advance to establish eligibility for interment within the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System. There is no cost for pre-registration and it does not obligate the veteran to be interred if decided at a later date not to use the cemetery system. Pre-registration is intended to establish eligibility and simplify the process for the veteran's next-of-kin at the time death. Spouses, widows, widowers and dependent children of eligible veterans are also eligible for internment. A separate pre-registration is not necessary for dependents. Specific graves are not reserved until time of death. To download an eligibility brochure and a pre-registration application go to <http://www.maine.gov/veterans/docs/Eligibility-Application-rev-2016.pdf>.



**37 Lombard Road  
Caribou, Maine  
Tel: 207-287-3483  
Established 2003**



**Civic Center Drive  
Augusta, Maine  
Tel: 207-287-3481  
Established in 1970**



**163 Mt. Vernon Road  
Augusta, Maine  
Tel: 207-287-3481  
Established in 2001**



**83 Stanley Road  
Springvale, ME 04083  
Tel: 207-459-7394  
Established in 2010**

For additional info on matters related to Burial, Dependents' & Survivors' Benefits click on the following:

- [Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System](#)
- [Military Funeral Honors](#)
- [VA Burial and Memorial Benefits](#)
- [Gold Star Family License Plates](#)
- [Nationwide Gravesite Locator](#)
- [Survivor Outreach Services](#)
- [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#)
- [Survivors' Pension](#)

- [Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs \(CHAMPVA\)](#)
- [Survivor and Dependents' Educational Assistance](#)
- [VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit \(PDF\)](#)

### **Division of Motor Vehicles Veteran Benefits**

Qualified veterans can get a special veteran plate containing the disability symbol to enable them to park in designated parking spaces. The new plate is an expanded design of the standard "Special Veteran" plate which bears the red "V". This new plate also bears the red "V" on the left hand side of the plate and has the universal disability symbol on the far right. This plate does not replace the current "Disabled Veteran" plate which bears a flag and is available to those veterans who qualify based on a service connected disability.

## **Taxation**

### **Sales Tax**

- Statewide: 5.5%
- Counties cannot levy an additional sales tax.
- Current average sales tax (with local taxes included): 5.5%
- Common Exceptions at State Level:
  - Prescription Medicine: Exempt
  - Unprepared Foods: Exempt
  - Prepared Foods: 7%
- Gasoline Tax: 48.41 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)
- Diesel Fuel Tax: 55.61 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)
- Cigarette Tax: \$2.00/pack of 20

### **Personal Income Tax**

- Personal Income Tax Rate Range: 5.8% (\$0-\$22,450)/6.75% (\$22,451-\$53,149)/7.15% (over \$53,150)
- Standard deduction: Single Filing Status: \$12,550. Married Filing Jointly: \$25,100
- Personal Exemption Allowance: \$4,300 (dependents structured as \$300 tax credit). Subject to phase-out.
- Itemized Deductions Allowed?: Yes, subject to limitations
- Retirement Income
  - Social Security: Exempt
  - IRAs: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
  - 401Ks/Defined contribution employer retirement plans: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
  - Private pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
  - Public Pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
- Military Pay



- Active Duty Pay: Taxable to the extent included in federal Adjusted Gross Income
- Military Retirement Pay: Exempt
- Military Disability Pay: Exempt
- VA Disability Dependency & Indemnity Compensation Benefits: Exempt
- SBP/SSBP/RCSBP/RSFPP: Exempt

Income Tax Comments: \*Exemptions of up to \$10,000 of retirement income are available; must be reduced by Social Security benefits first. State allows county- and city-level income tax.

### **Property Tax**

- Local municipalities average 1.36% of the property's assessed value.
- Calculation of assessed value: 100% of fair market value
- Relief programs for:
  - Owner-occupied: \$20,000 of assessed value may be excluded.
  - 65 and over: May receive tax credit of \$750.
  - Disabled Veterans/Over 62 Veterans/Surviving Spouse (not remarried): \$6,000 of assessed value may be exempt.
  - Paraplegic Veteran: \$50,000 of assessed value may be exempt if in specially adapted housing.
  - Over 60: Volunteers may be eligible for a \$750 credit.
- Personal Property Tax: Yes. Rates and exemptions vary.

**Inheritance & Estate Taxes:** Estates over \$5.8 million may be taxed between 8 to 12%.

**Department of Revenue website:** [www.maine.gov/revenue](http://www.maine.gov/revenue)

## **Women Veterans**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is deeply committed to recognizing the contributions of our Women Veterans. Each one of the 1.8 million women veterans alive today serves as a living reminder of their courage and sacrifice that women have made and continue to make for our nation. Women were officially recognized as members of the armed forces in 1901, but their military involvement dates back to the Revolutionary War. Women are now the fastest growing subgroup of U.S. Veterans. As of 2007, 14.3% of active duty military (all branches) are Women, and 11% of the fighting force in Iraq and Afghanistan are women.

The number of women veterans is expected to increase dramatically in the next 10 years, which will result in an increased demand for VA health care. The Department of Veterans Affairs understands the health care needs of women veterans, and is committed to meeting these needs. VA Maine HCS is committed to meeting the unique needs of our Women Veterans by delivering the highest quality health care to each woman, while offering her the privacy, dignity, and sensitivity to gender-specific needs that she deserves. Our VA facility has a full-time Women Veterans Program Manager LaRhonda Harris, RN ready to assist you in getting timely

access to the health care YOU need. She can be contacted at 1-877-421-8263 ext 4017. You served, you deserve The Best Care Anywhere! The following care and programs are available to female veterans through the Maine Bureau of Veteran Affairs

**\*GENERAL HEALTH**

- Primary Care
- Gynecological Care
- Maternity Care/7 days of Infant Care
- Infertility Evaluation and Treatment
- Menopause Evaluation and Treatment
- Osteoporosis Screening and Treatment
- Cancer Screening
- Mammograms
- Wellness and Healthy Living
- Nutrition and Weight Management
- Stop Smoking Programs

**\*MENTAL HEALTH**

- Management of Depression, Anxiety and Stress
- Adjustment from Deployment
- Counseling and Treatment for:
  - \*Military Sexual Trauma
  - \*Parenting and Caregiver Issues
  - \*Violence and Abuse
  - \*Alcohol and Drug Dependence

**\*SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Educational Opportunities
- Links to Job and Career Counseling
- Services for Homeless Veterans
- MOVE!-Managing Obesity in Veterans
- Every Where.

**Other State Veteran Benefits**

## **Veteran Healthcare**

Click on <https://www.maine.gov/veterans/resources/index.html?resources=4> for information on medical services for veterans and to find the VA facility or community provider nearest you. For additional info on veteran healthcare matters click on the following:

- [VA Mission Act of 2018 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Maine Women Veterans Clinic \(PDF\)](#)
- [Maine Veterans Homes - Eldercare, Nursing, and Rehabilitative Services](#)
- [VA Healthcare and Prescriptions](#)
- [Agent Orange/Agent Purple Canadian Forces Base Gagetown Information](#)
- [Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses and Coverage](#)
- [OEF/OIF/OND Veterans' Enhanced Eligibility for Health Care Benefits](#)
- [Coverage for Exposure to Agent Orange](#)
- [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Programs](#)
- [Military Sexual Trauma Services](#)
- [TRICARE](#)
- [Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs \(CHAMPVA\)](#)
- [Suicide Prevention and Awareness](#)

## **Veteran Identification**

For info on veteran identification matters click on the following:

- [Military Discharge Records](#)
- [Maine Veteran Driver's License](#)
- [Military ID for Commissary and Exchange Privileges](#)
- [Maine Veteran License Plates/Registration Fee Exemptions](#)
- [Commemorative Decals for Maine Veteran License Plates](#)
- [Gold Star Family License Plates](#)

## **Veteran Service Offices**

The Bureau's hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Personnel are able to provide information and assistance with benefits available through state, federal and local municipalities. A list of field service offices is available at <https://www.maine.gov/veterans/veterans-services-offices/index.html> . Click the office closest to where you reside for their address, phone number and list of itinerant offices.

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Visit the Bureau of Maine Veterans Services website <http://www.maine.gov/dvem/bvs> for contact information and benefits assistance. For the latest departmental newsletter for veterans refer to <https://www.maine.gov/veterans/newsletters/index.html>. For additional info on federal veteran benefits you can also refer to Military.com's <https://www.military.com/topics/veteran-benefits> and you may want to check out [19](https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

[card/statereportcard](#) for current issues affecting veterans residing in Maryland. If emergency assistance is needed call the 24 Hour Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 and Press 1.

[Source: <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/maine-state-veterans-benefits.html> | August 2021 ++]