Veterans Resource Guide

State of Delaware
Department of State
Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs
(800) 344-9900 (In DE) or (302) 739-2792
www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov

Mission Statement

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs is dedicated to advancing information, providing benefits and creating opportunities for service members, veterans and their families in recognition of their service to the Nation and their value to our community.

Veterans First in the First State

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Introduction

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, an office of the Department of State, is dedicated to assisting veterans and their family members in obtaining benefits and working with other government agencies and civic organizations to facilitate assistive services. The Commission is an advisory board appointed by the Governor to represent Delaware's veterans. The Commission coordinates programs and objectives in State-wide advocacy for veterans affairs. They administer policy and oversee operations of Delaware's two Veterans Cemeteries and the Veterans Home. The Commission of Veterans Affairs was established by the General Assembly in 1987.

- ✓ Represent the State in concert with other agencies and the US Department of Veterans Affairs on matters of mutual interest and concern.
- ✓ Maintain a repository for Delaware veterans' "Statement of Service".
- ✓ To advise departments and agencies of the State on all matters pertaining to veterans, their dependents and survivors.
- ✓ Augment Veterans service organizations in assistance to veterans with assignment of a Veterans Service Officer in each county.
- ✓ Administer operations for the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemeteries.
- ✓ Oversight in the administration of the Delaware Veterans Home.
- ✓ Initiate, review, and sponsor State legislation pertaining to veterans.

Contact Information

Main Office

802 Silver Lake Blvd. Suite 100
Dover, DE 19904 Phone: (302) 739-2792
In State Toll Free: (800) 344-9900
Fax: (302) 739-2794

Larence Kirby
Executive Director
Phone: (302) 739-2792

Sable Phomphakdy
Administrative Specialist III
Phone: (302) 257-3120

Pamela A. Anderson
Administrative Specialist II
Phone: (302) 257-3116

Joshua Matticks
Administrative Specialist I
Phone: (302) 257-3121

Sherri Taylor
Senior Accountant
Phone: (302) 257-3117

Veterans Service Officers

Natasha L. Scott-Knight
Veterans Service Officer (New Castle County)
Phone: (302) 365-8231

Charles M. Murrell, Jr.
Veterans Service Officer (Kent County)
Phone: (302) 257-3119

Laurie A. Corsa
Veterans Service Officer (Sussex County)
Phone: (302) 648-3068

Commissioners

Dr. Ronald G. Sarg (Chairman)
Phone: 678-1603
Email: eglron@comcast.net
Organization: MOAA
Military Officers Association of America

Mr. William C. Farley (Vice Chairman)
Phone: 734-8715/Cell: 242-7926
Email: majormustang@verizon.net
Organization: MCL-*Marine Corps League*

Mr. Charles T. Armbruster, Jr.
Phone: 478-7591/Cell: 893-7703
Email: armbruct@verizon.net
Organization: AMERICAN LEGION

Mr. Eugene F. Bradley
Phone: 945-2170/Cell: 245-4321
Email: geneandchris@yahoo.com
Organization: AMVETS -*American Veterans*

Mr. Cornelius C. "Bill" Carroll
Phone: 655-3820
Email: jobill8@verizon.net
Organization: MOPH
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Dr. Daniel E. Coons
Phone: 697-3079/Cell: 270-1673
Email: drdancoons@yahoo.com
Organization: KWVA
Korean War Veterans Association

Mr. Robert P. Corsa
Phone: 933-0119/Cell: 745-1668
Email: kco326@aol.com
Organization: VVA
Vietnam Veterans of America

Mr. John F. Hampton
Cell: 241-3189
Email: john.hamp2011@gmail.com
Organization: At Large

Mr. Paul Lardizzone
Phone: 674-0282/Cell: 382-3448
Office: 697-9061
Email: p.lardizzone@verizon.net
Organization: DAV -*Disabled American Veterans*

Mr. William C. "Bill" McMullen
Phone: 697-9750/Cell: 423-0073
Email: mcmullenb@aol.com
Organization: AFSA
Air Force Sergeants Association

Mr. Mark M. Newman
Phone: 724-6896/Cell: 222-7558
Email: mnewman122@gmail.com
Organization: VFW
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Mr. Barry B. Newstadt
Phone: 475-2820/Cell: 494-3939
Email: eagle0699@msn.com
Organization: JWV
Jewish War Veterans

Earl E. Seppala
Phone: 239-0641/Cell: 290-0274
Email: eseppala@aol.com
Organization: MOWW
Military Order of the World Wars

LTC Angela F. Showell, DNG
Phone: 326-7755/Cell: 299-8333
Email: angela.f.showell.mil@mail.mil
Organization: At Large

MyRon W. Smith
Phone: 397-1011
Email: myronsmith916@gmail.com
Organization: DELVETS
Delaware Veterans

Delaware Joining Forces is a state-wide public and private organizational network that guides policy and provides services through its partners to the State's military and veteran communities. The directory hosts a list of recognized organizations and is an ideal resource for connecting service members, veterans, and their families with public services, community groups, service providers, health care centers, veteran service organizations, and more in Delaware and beyond. It also provides a network for referrals and a process for collaboration between service organizations.

Membership: Public and private organizations are invited to participate with Delaware Joining Forces and are encouraged to develop partnerships to share information and resources for the betterment of our community and the people we serve. Benefits of active membership in Delaware Joining Forces:

- Recognition for participating in a state-wide initiative that demonstrates your commitment to improving the quality of life of service members, veterans, and their families.
- Engagement with public and private entities that are aligned with your interests.
- Increase outreach efforts to a larger community and a broader population through referrals and searches with a web-based platform.
- Opportunity with active participation in work groups and strategic planning to develop policy and establish goals.

Take the first step in Joining Forces through enrollment in the DJF register of recognized service providers at http://www.delaware.gov/djf/. Select to register and login. You will be guided through the steps to complete a profile of your organization. You will enter contact information and a description of services. Your profile can include documents, images, audio and video files, and links to your social media outlets.

For more information please visit our website www.delaware.gov/djf/ or contact Christine Kubik with Community Relations at (302) 326-7582

Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed on all National or State Recognized Holidays

Visitation Hours:

The Cemetery is open to visitors every day of the year from dawn until dusk.

Burial Space:

The Cemetery has space available to accommodate casketed and cremated remains.
General information and a grave locator Kiosk available at the administration buildings:

Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery
2465 Chesapeake City Road
Bear, Delaware 19701
Phone: (302) 834-8046
Fax: (302) 834-3787
Barbara A. Cooke (Administrator)

Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery
26669 Patriots Way
Millsboro, Delaware 19966
Phone: (302) 934-5653
Fax: (302) 934-5647
Gregory A. Bee (Administrator)

Eligibility:

Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States, their spouse and dependent children may be interred at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Eligibility requirements are prescribed by the National Cemetery Administration, and while this is not an exhaustive list to describe every instance; it generally applies that any of the following criterion will constitute eligibility:

(a) Served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States for a continuous period of at least 24 months and was separated or discharged under honorable conditions. With the following exceptions:

(1) Any term of service is qualifying for enlisted persons that entered active duty on or before September 7, 1980.

(2) Any term of service is qualifying for commissioned officers who entered active duty on or before October 16, 1981.

(3) Any term of service, where death occurs on active duty or a service member is separated early as a result of hardship or service connected disability.

(b) Served in the National Guard or reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States and:

(1) Eligible to receive retired pay or would have been entitled to receive retired pay at the age of sixty (60).

(2) Any term of service where a member is called to serve on active duty under Executive Orders (other than for training).

(c) A veteran must also be a resident of Delaware in either of the following cases:

(1) At the time of entry into active service.

(2) At the time of Death.

(3) For a period of three (3) years.

Benefits:

1. One grave site (double depth) is authorized for an eligible veteran and his/her spouse.
2. There is no charge for the grave site or the interment service for an eligible veteran at the Cemetery. There is, however, a minimal charge for the interment of a veteran's eligible immediate family member(s) for the opening and closing of the grave and marker foundation. The fee shall be determined and regulated by the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs.
3. A flat bronze marker for the veteran and immediate family member will be furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs at no cost and is required.

Delaware Veterans Home

100 Delaware Veterans Blvd, Milford, DE 19963
(302) 424-6000

The Delaware Veterans Home has 150 Beds with both private and semi-private rooms. The facility includes physical therapy, a main dining room, a multi-purpose room, and a Town Square with amenities such as; a canteen, barber/beauty shop, library, chapel and mail room.

The Home is located on Airport Road in Milford, Delaware on 24 acres, adjacent to a 16-bed hospice, a Boys and Girls Club, and nearby facilities for dialysis, professional medical offices, and Milford Memorial Hospital.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Honorably discharged from active service (peacetime or wartime), or a retired member of the National Guard, or Reserves who is eligible for retirement pay at age 60 or has served on active duty for 180 days or more (does not have to be consecutive).
2. A resident of Delaware for three years or more prior to application.
3. Requires a nursing home level of care.

State Benefits

Requesting Military Records

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs (DCVA) is the repository for veterans' military discharges (DD Form 214) or similar documents of active duty service. If you were a Delaware resident at the time of entry into the service or had a Delaware address at the time of discharge, you may contact the DCVA office at (800) 344-9900 or (302) 739-2792, to inquire if we have a copy on file. Veterans and their next of kin can also request a copy of the service member's DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) from the National Archives at www.archives.gov/veterans. The DD Form 214 is necessary to establish eligibility for veterans' benefits. Veterans interested in permanently recording and/or storing their service records e.g. DD 214 for future use, please visit the DCVA office.

DCVA Newsletter

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs publishes a quarterly newsletter. Copies of the newsletter are provided at no charge to veterans and their dependents. You can sign up to receive the newsletter by email at www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov or contact the Commission office at (800) 344-9900 or (302) 739-2792.

Certificate of Appreciation

The State of Delaware provides a "*Certificate of Appreciation*" signed by the Governor. Eligibility requirements: A current resident of the State of Delaware or resident when he or she entered the Armed Forces of the United States and honorably discharged. You may obtain an application online at www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov or contact the Commission office at (800) 344-9900 or (302) 739-2792.

State Park Admission

Any veteran who honorably served or is honorably serving, including members of the Delaware National Guard, resides in the State of Delaware and owns a motor vehicle registered in Delaware shall receive a 50% discount on the annual fee for vehicle entrance to state parks and recreational areas.

Hunting, Trapping and Fishing License

Any member of the Armed Forces while stationed within the State shall be deemed a resident of the State for the purpose of obtaining a license.

Veterans with a disability rating of 60 percent or more by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may obtain a no-fee license. For additional information, contact the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) at (302) 739-9918, or visit their website at: www.dnrec.delaware.gov.

Veterans Trust Fund

The Delaware Veterans Trust Fund provides assistance to Delaware's veterans in financial crisis. Established in 2013, it has brought relief to veterans in need of help with reintegration, housing, utilities, and incidental expenses for health and welfare. It also provides an opportunity for individuals, businesses, and organizations to show their support for Delaware's veterans with contributions to the Trust Fund. Donations may be made online through the Friends of Delaware Veterans, Inc. at www.delawareveteranstrustfund.com, or mailed to the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE 19904. Delaware residents may also elect to contribute a portion of their tax refund to the Trust Fund with their State Personal Tax Form. Donations are tax deductible on your federal tax return as defined in United State Code (USCS), Title 26, Section 170 and on your state tax return per Delaware Code, Title 30. One hundred percent of your donation goes towards assisting a Delaware veteran. For more information on the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund, or to obtain an application for assistance, you can call your Veterans Service Officer or the main office at (800) 344-9900 or (302) 739-2792.

Delaware Veterans Home Fund

The Veterans Home Fund is used for the operation of the Veterans Home in the State of Delaware. The Division of Revenue has provided a space on the Delaware State Income Tax Return form so that an individual may voluntarily designate a contribution to the Delaware Veterans Home Fund. Other individual contributions can be mailed to the following address: Delaware Veterans Home Fund, Department of the State, 401 Federal Street, Suite 3, Dover, DE 19901.

Modifications to Taxable Income

Persons under 60 receiving pensions from employers, the United States, the State or any subdivision thereof, may deduct up to $2,000 off of their federal adjusted gross income. Amounts received as pensions by persons age 60 or older may deduct up to $12,500 off of their federal adjusted gross income. For additional information, contact the Department of Revenue at (302) 739-5251.

Notary Service for Veterans

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs provides no fee notary service for veterans, dependents and their families.

Copy of Death Certificate

The State Registrar shall furnish a certified copy of a veteran's death certificate for no fee to the next of kin acting on behalf of the veteran for settlement of the veteran's affairs.

Pension Benefits for Paraplegic Veterans

A paraplegic veteran eligible for benefits shall receive a pension from the State of $3000 per year payable in equal monthly installments. The veteran must file evidence with the Pension Office that he/she is a paraplegic and fully disabled; and the disability is a direct result of service

in the armed forces of the United States during a period of war. For additional information, contact the State Pension Office at (302) 739-4208.

Delaware Veterans Education Benefits

The State of Delaware provides educational benefits for the children of deceased veterans of the military services of the United States, military service personnel held prisoner of war and military service personnel officially declared to be missing in action. In order to qualify for this entitlement an applicant shall be: the child of a member of the armed forces who was killed while on active duty or who died from disease, wounds, injuries or disabilities arising or resulting from performance of duty; a member of the armed forces who is being held, or who was held prisoner of war; or a member of the armed forces officially declared missing in action; a person who at the time of application for benefits is at least 16 years of age, but not more than 24 years of age, and a resident of the State for at least three years prior to the date of application; attending or admitted for attendance at an educational institution beyond the high school level in a program not to exceed four years in duration. For additional information, contact the Delaware Higher Education Office at (302) 735-4120.

Education Benefits for Active Members of the Delaware National Guard

Any active member of a federally recognized unit of the Delaware National Guard, who meets the requirements for satisfactory membership as defined by the Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard, shall be eligible for funding support by the Delaware National Guard for certain post-secondary education tuition and fees.

State Employment

Veterans preference shall be provided to earned ratings with ten points granted to disabled veterans and five points granted to all other eligible veterans. Any preference points for which a veteran would qualify may be claimed by his or her unmarried widow, widower, spouse of a member of the armed forces who is POW or MIA, or spouse of a veteran who is totally disabled.

Credited Military Service; Eligibility

Credited service for those veterans who first became a State employee before July 1, 1976, served full-time active duty, not in excess of 5 years, in the armed forces of the U.S. during time of war or national emergency, provided that the individual became an employee within five years after completion of his or her tour of duty; or within five years after his or her completion of a course of professional or vocational training, if such course was begun within five years after completion of his or her tour of duty, except that the aforesaid five year period within which the individual must become an employee shall not apply to full-time officers and members of the National Guard of the State who were active members of the State Employee's Pension Plan on June 1, 1970.

Veterans Employment Opportunity Credit

Employers are eligible during the year a qualified veteran is hired and for two taxable years thereafter a tax credit of 10 percent of a qualified veteran's wages, up to a maximum of $1,500.

Employers may take the credit the year a veteran is hired and the two subsequent tax years.

License and Permits for Military Spouses
Professional Regulations will issue a six-month temporary occupational license, when required, to a military spouse relocating in Delaware. The temporary license will allow for the spouse to obtain employment in their discipline, pending application for endorsement or reciprocity.

Special License Plates
Special License Plates are available through DMV for: Former Prisoners Of War, Formerly Missing-In-Action, Purple Heart Recipients, Medals of Valor Recipients, Disabled Veterans, Delaware National Guard & Reserve Members, Retired Military, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam War Veterans, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Gold Star Lapel Button and I SUPPORT VETERANS.

The best thing about the I SUPPORT VETERANS plate; is that all motorists can purchase it at a cost of $20 and half the cost will be donated to the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund. The trust fund is set up to provide financial assistance to veterans who are in need of temporary support. By purchasing this specialty plate Delawareans can show their support and encourage others to show theirs as well! (*See page 11 for more information on the Trust Fund.)*

For additional information, contact the Division of Motor Vehicles at (302) 744-2500.

Disabled Veteran Combined Special License Plate
A special license plate is available to those veterans who are eligible for both the Disabled American Veteran designation and the universally-recognized symbol for those requiring special parking accommodations. This benefit allows the veteran to park in a disabled parking space without having to go through a separate application process.

Registration and Inspection of Motor Vehicles of Disabled Veterans
A motor vehicle owned by a disabled veteran who is eligible for 'adaptive equipment' benefits (which includes, but is not limited to power steering, power brakes, power window lifts, power seats, and special equipment necessary to assist the eligible person into and out of the automobile or other conveyance) shall be exempt from the payment of registration fees (limited to one automobile per eligible veteran at any one time).

Veterans Service Officers

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs is here to help you navigate the many federal, state, and local resources and benefits available to veterans. Whether you have a specific question or would simply like us to help identify programs and benefits for which you may be eligible, our Veteran Service Officers (VSO) are standing by to help.

Our VSO's undergo extensive initial training and attend annual update seminars. They are members of the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) and are accredited by this professional organization and through the Office of the General Council, U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs. They provide assistance to service members, veterans, and their families. This includes not only applying for federal and state benefits but also providing resources related to the following:

- Compensation and Pension
- Health Care
- Education & Training
- Employment
- Burial & Survivor Benefits
- Housing
- Transportation
- Military Records
- And more

State Veterans Service Officers

New Castle County

Natasha L. Scott-Knight
Primary Office:
Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery
2465 Chesapeake City Rd
Bear, DE 19701

Phone: (302) 365-8231
natash.knight@state.de.us

Kent County

Charles M. Murrell, Jr.
Commission of Veterans Affairs
802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE 19901

Phone: (302) 257-3119
charles.murrell@state.de.us

Sussex County

Laurie A. Corsa
Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery
26669 Patriots Way
Millsboro, DE 19966

Phone: (302) 648-3068
laurie.corsa@state.de.us

Department & National Service Officers

Veteran Service Organization	Veterans Service Officer	Phone	Location
American Legion	Joseph T. Houghton	302-993-7256	VARO Wilmington
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)	Paul Lardizzone Mark Wischman	302-697-9061	DAV Camden
Paralyzed Veterans of America (DE/MD/PA)	Darrell Johnson, Sr.	302-993-7252 302-993-7253	VARO Wilmington
Purple Heart (MOPH)	Frank Clark	302-993-7263	VARO Wilmington
Veterans of Foreign War (VFW)	David Hilliard	302-993-7260	VARO Wilmington
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)	Terry Baker	302-993-7250 302-993-7251 302-540-8772-C	VARO Wilmington

Important Phone Numbers

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA Regional Office (Claims & Benefits)
1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805……800-827-1000 or (215) 842-200
http://www.wilmington.va.gov/
*The Wilmington Regional Office has been remotely managed by the Philadelphia Regional Office.

VA Medical Center (Healthcare)
1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805……800-461-8262
……302-994-2511

Dover VA Outpatient Clinic
1198 S. Governors Ave
Dover, DE 19904……800-461-8262 x2400

Georgetown VA Outpatient Clinic
20653 DuPont Hwy
Georgetown, DE 19947 …….800-461-8262 x2300

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Wilmington – 4425 N. Market St, Wilmington, DE 19809
Cleopatra Jones, LVER (cleopatra.jones@state.de.us)……302-761-8077
Allen Jones, DVOP (allen.jones@state.de.us)……302-761-8141

Newark – Pencader Corporate Center, Bldg 225, Suite 211, Newark, DE 19702
Lisa Smith, DVOP (lisal.smith@state.de.us)……302-451-3457

Dover – Blue Hen Corporate Ctr., 655 S. Bay Rd, Ste. 2H, Dover, DE 19901
Kevin Gunning, DVOP (kevin.gunning@state.de.us)……302-857-5870
Danica Ellison, DVOP (Danica.ellison@state.de.us)……302-857-5881

Georgetown – 20093 Office Circle, Unit 207, Georgetown, DE 19947
Gail Gartner, DVOP (gail.gartner@state.de.us)……302-858-5232

COLLEGE & TRADE SCHOOLS MILITARY/VETERANS AFFAIRS COORDINATORS

Delaware State University
Wendelin Henry, MSW (whenry@desu.edu)……302-857-6376

Delaware Technical Community College
Jeff Rose (jrose8@dtcc.edu)……302-454-3944

Wesley College
Erin Elsberry (erin.elsberry@wesley.edu).....302-736-2434

Widener University School of Law
Pattie Donoghue (pmdonoghue@widener.edu).....302-477-2710

Wilmington University
Jim Webb, MBA (james.s.webb@wilmu.edu).....302-342-8669/Cell 302-535-2332

READJUSTMENT COUNSELING

Vet Center (New Castle Co.)….800-461-8262 x5434
Vet Center (Kent Co.)……..800-461-8262 x2430
Vet Center (Sussex Co.)……302-225-9110

The Vet Center provides counseling services for:
- Post Traumatic Stress and Other Disorders
- Military Sexual Trauma
- Marital/Family problems
- Bereavement

Vet Center services are provided at no cost to eligible veterans who served in combat areas and their families or to those who experienced sexual trauma or bereavement challenges without combat area restriction.

VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Peoples Place II
Mike Rowe (Listening Post–Lower Delaware)….302-422-8033x173

Veterans United Outreach of Delaware
Michael L. Snyder…….302-678-1285

Supportive Services for Veteran Families thru Connections:
New Castle County/ Eulita Smith 302- 250-5868
Kent County/ Mindy Bacchus & Courtney Knott 302-518-5338
Sussex County/ Gary Boas 302-332-0913

Supportive Services for Veterans Families thru Veterans Multi-Services:
Paula Witcher 302-505-0849

HOME OF THE BRAVE

Main Office……302-424-1681
Denise Dudley (Intake Coordinator)…302-424-0358

DELAWARE 2-1-1 (HUMAN SERVICE REFERRALS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES)

Help Hotline……211 (www.delaware211.org)
(Basic Needs, Criminal Justice/Legal Services, Healthcare, Individual & Family Life, Mental Health Services & Substance Abuse, Consumer Services, Income Support & Employment, and Education)

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM

Miranda Klein, Veterans Court Case Manager (New Castle Co.)…302-255-0646
Melissa Ridley, Veterans Court Case Manager (Kent Co.)……..302-735-1915

The Veterans Treatment Court Program assists justice-involved veterans with mental health and substance abuse issues to obtain necessary services and reduce recidivism.

VETERANS JUSTICE OUTREACH PROGRAM/DLA PIPER

DLA Piper, a world renowned law firm and the Department of Veterans Affairs' Veteran Justice Outreach Program recognize the importance of removing barriers to making positive changes in one's life and making services to improve veterans' life situation more accessible, including legal services.

Local: 302-468-5670 or Toll Free: 855-872-5911

RETIREE ACTIVITIES

Retired Activities Office: MSgt (R) Bill Oldham (William.Oldham.2@ us.af.mil), Bldg 520, Room 105, Dover AFB, DE 19902……..302-677-4610

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office: Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center, 3920 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19808…….302-998-5194.

TOLL FREE NUMBERS

Education Services……888-442-4551
Gulf Veterans/Agent Orange Hotline…800-749-8387
Home Loan – Eligibility……888-244-6711
Life Insurance Info & Service……800-669-8477
Memorial Affairs Headstones……800-697-6947
Retiree Pay……..800-321-1080
(Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force)
Retiree Pay……..800-772-8724
(Coast Guard)
Servicemen's Group Life Insurance……800-419-1473
Small Business Administration……..800-827-5722
Social Security Administration……..800-772-1213
Telephone Service for the Deaf……..800-829-4833
TRICARE Info……..877-874-2273
VA Debt Management Center……800-827-0648

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS POC

Organization	Contact	Phone
Air Force Sergeants Association	Bill McMullen	302-697-9750
American Legion	Richard "Ric" Santos	302-628-5221
AMVETS	Eugene Bradley	302-629-4141
Colonial Paralyzed Veterans of America	Ron Hoskins	302-365-5670
Delaware Veterans Coalition	Dave Skocik	302-736-8500
Disabled American Veterans	Paul Lardizzone	302-697-9061
Fleet Reserve Association	James M. Jackson	302-834-1719
Gold Star Mothers – Delaware Chapter	Judith Faunce	302-475-8272
40 & 8	Eugene "Chip" Rosan	302-678-8077
Jewish War Veterans	Len Markovitz	302-234-4785
Korean War Veterans Association	Dr. Daniel Coons	302-697-3079
Marine Corps League	William C. Farley	302-242-7926
Military Officers Association of America	Tom Kelly (New Castle Co) Ron Sarg (Kent Co) Fred Seth Jr. (Sussex Co)	302-834-9659 302-678-1603 302-519-0611
Military Order of the Purple Heart	Cornelius "Bill" Carroll	302-655-3820
Military Order of the World Wars	Karen Kelly	302-834-9659
Survivor Outreach Services	Judy C. Campbell	302-326-7787
The Reserve Officers Association	LTC Richard Chappell (Ret)	302-234-1418
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Paul Phillips Jr.	302-656-5022
Vietnam Veterans of America	Paul Davis	302-697-3834

Federal Benefits

www.va.gov

Disability Compensation is a tax free monetary benefit paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. Compensation may also be paid for post-service disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of Service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training or survivors of Veterans who died from their service-connected disabilities. DIC for parents is an income based benefit.

Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) is an additional tax-free benefit that can be paid to Veterans, their spouses, surviving spouses and parents. For Veterans, Special Monthly Compensation is a higher rate of compensation paid due to special circumstances such as the need of aid and attendance by another person or a specific disability, such as loss of use of one hand or leg. For spouses and surviving spouses, this benefit is commonly referred to as aid and attendance and is paid based on the need of aid and attendance by another person. Learn about special monthly compensation benefit rates.

Post-9/11 GI Bill and other programs

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers a variety of education benefit programs. Many Veterans and active duty personnel can qualify for more than one education benefits program, including the:

- The Post-9/11 GI Bill
- Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty (MGIB-AD)
- Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)
- Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)
- Educational Assistance Test Program (Section 901)
- Survivors’ and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA)
- National Call to Service Program
- Veterans Retraining Assistance Program
- Free education and vocational counseling services are available to service members and veterans.

What is the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program?

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program (VR&E) is authorized by Congress under Title 38, USC, Chapter 31 and Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21. It is sometimes referred to as the Chapter 31 program. This program assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, this program offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

Services that may be provided by the VR&E Program include:

- Comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills, and interests for employment
- Vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning for employment services
- Employment services such as job-training, job-seeking skills, resume development, and other work readiness assistance
- Assistance finding and keeping a job, including the use of special employer incentives and job accommodations
- On the Job Training (OJT), apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences
- Post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school
- Supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling, and medical referrals
- Independent living services for Veterans unable to work due to the severity of their disabilities

VA Home Loan

VA offers a variety of home loan guaranty programs for Active Duty Service members, Veterans, and National Guard and Reserve members.

Purchase Loans help you purchase a home at a competitive interest rate often without requiring a down payment or private mortgage insurance. Cash Out Refinance loans allow you to take cash out of your home equity to take care of concerns like paying off debt, funding school, or making home improvements.

Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan (IRRRL): also called the Streamline Refinance Loan can help you obtain a lower interest rate by refinancing your existing VA loan.

Native American Direct Loan (NADL) Program: helps eligible Native American Veterans finance the purchase, construction, or improvement of homes on Federal Trust Land, or reduce the interest rate on a VA loan.

Adapted Housing Grants: help Veterans with a permanent and total service-connected disability purchase or build an adapted home or to modify an existing home to account for their disability.

Life Insurance

Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is a low-cost group term life insurance program for Service members. Coverage can be extended for up to two years if the Service member is totally disabled at separation.

Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) allows Veterans to convert your SGLI to a civilian program of lifetime renewable term coverage after separation from service.

Family Service members' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) insures spouses and children of Service members with SGLI coverage. Spousal coverage may not exceed the Service member's coverage. Dependent children are automatically covered at no charge.

Service members' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) is an automatic feature of SGLI that provides payments to Service members who suffer losses, such as amputations, blindness, and paraplegia, due to traumatic injuries that occur in service.

Service-Disabled Veterans' Life Insurance (S-DVI) provides life insurance coverage to Veterans who have been given a VA rating for a new service-connected disability in the last two years. Totally disabled Veterans are eligible for free coverage and have the opportunity to purchase additional life insurance.

Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) provides mortgage life insurance protection to disabled Veterans who have been approved for a VA Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant.

Pension Benefit Programs

Veterans Pension: Tax-free monetary benefit payable to low-income wartime Veterans. Generally, a Veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a wartime period to qualify for a VA Pension. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period.

In addition to meeting minimum service requirements, the Veteran must be:

- Age 65 or older, **OR**
- Totally and permanently disabled, **OR**
- A patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, **OR**

- Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, **OR**
- Receiving Supplemental Security Income

Survivors Pension: Tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

Veterans and survivors who are eligible for Pension benefits and are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person may be eligible to receive additional monetary amounts.

Burial Benefits

Burial in a Private Cemetery

Burial benefits available for Veterans buried in a private cemetery include a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. There are not any benefits available to spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery.

Burial Flags

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his or her country. VA will furnish a burial flag for memorialization for each other than dishonorable discharged. VA Form 27-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes. You may get a flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office. Generally, the funeral director will help you obtain the flag.

Headstone or Marker

When burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative. For burial in a private cemetery VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker, must be submitted to request a memorial marker.

Presidential Memorial Certificates

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. Eligible recipients include the next of kin and loved ones of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. More than one certificate may be provided. Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply for a PMC in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail or toll-free fax. Requests cannot be sent via email. Please be sure to enclose a copy of the Veteran's discharge

and death certificate to verify eligibility, as we cannot process any request without proof of honorable military service. Please submit copies only, as we will not return original documents (VA Form 40-0247 Application for Presidential Memorial Certificate).

Burial Allowances

VA burial allowances are partial reimbursements of an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service related, the reimbursements are generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot or interment allowance.

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

You paid for a Veteran's burial or funeral, **AND**

You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased Veteran's employer, **AND** the Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

The Veteran died because of a service-related disability, **OR**

The Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, **OR**

The Veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay, **OR**

The Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, **OR**

The Veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, **OR**

The Veteran had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death, **OR**

The Veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA–approved state nursing home.

Service-Related Death. VA will pay up to $2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. VA will pay up to $1,500 for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some of all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

Non-service-Related Death. For deaths on or after October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to $700.00 toward burial and funeral expenses (if hospitalized by VA at time of death), or $300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a $700.00 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). For deaths on or after December 1, 2001, but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to $300.00 toward burial and funeral expenses and a $300.00 plot-interment allowance. The plot-interment allowance is $150.00 for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the Veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some of all of the costs for transporting the Veteran's remains may be reimbursed. An annual increase in burial and plot allowances, for

deaths occurring after October 1, 2011, begins in fiscal year 2013 based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, *Application for Burial Benefits*. You should attach a copy of the Veteran's military discharge document (DD 214 or equivalent), death certificate, funeral and burial bills. They should show that you have paid them in full. You may download the form at http://www.va.gov/vaforms/.

Dependents or Survivors

The Veterans Benefits Administration offers a variety of benefits and services to spouses, children, and parents of service members and Veterans who are deceased or totally and permanently disabled by a service-connected disability. Contact the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs to obtain assistance from a Veterans Service Officer (302-739-2792) or www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov.

Benefits

- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Survivors' Pension
- Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA)
- Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry
- Home Loans

Services

- Educational and Vocational Counseling
- Beneficiary Financial Counseling
- Civil Service Preference
- Commissary and Exchange Privileges
- Children of Vietnam Veterans with Certain Birth Defects
- Fiduciary Services

Military Funeral Honors - "Honoring Those Who Served"

The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. "Honoring Those Who Served" is the title of the DOD program for providing dignified military funeral honors to Veterans who have defended our nation. Upon the family's request, Public Law 106-65 requires that every eligible Veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the Veteran's parent service of the armed forces. The DOD program calls for funeral home directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the Veterans' family. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration cemetery staff can also assist with arranging military funeral honors at VA national cemeteries. Veterans' organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors.

In Delaware, your Funeral Director can make the arrangements for Military Funeral Honors. If you prefer an active duty component, the Funeral Director will contact the appropriate service department to make the arrangements. Several Veteran Service Organizations (e.g. VFW, American Legion) throughout Delaware have their own Honor Guard and will provide for Military Funeral Honors. Many organizations staff a full squad for rendering Military Funeral Honors that includes folding the flag, presentation of the flag, Taps, and a 21 gun salute.