

Veterans Benefits

Burial Program

The Veterans Administration (VA) can help with some burial expenses, and it provides a free headstone or marker and burial flag. Veterans can apply for burial benefits in advance, so they and their families can plan in advance. For more information, go to: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp>

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

DAV is a nonprofit charity with almost 1,300 chapters across the country that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families, helping more than 1 million veterans in positive, life-changing ways each year. DAV empowers our nation's heroes and their families by helping to provide the resources they need and ensuring our nation keeps the promises made to them. For more information, go to: <https://www.dav.org/>

Eligibility for Benefits

Veterans who served before 1980 need only have 90 days or more of active duty and a discharge other than dishonorable to qualify for many benefits. Veterans who served after 1980 must have 24 continuous months of active duty or the full period for which they were called to active duty. To check your eligibility for benefits, go to: <https://www.vets.gov/health-care/eligibility>.

To apply for veterans' benefits, manage your veterans' benefits, or manage your health, go

to: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>.

Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma is a type of cancer caused by exposure to asbestos. If you have Mesothelioma and think you have it because of your service in the military, and would like to apply for benefits related to it, contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for assistance by going to: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply>.

Military Records and Medals

To find information about how you can obtain military records and replacement medals, go

to: https://www.cem.va.gov/recmed_records.asp and <https://www.arc.hives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel>

National Resource Directory

The National Resource Directory (NRD) is a government resource website that connects wounded warriors, Service Members, Veterans, their families, and caregivers to programs and services that support them.

It provides access to services and resources at the national, state, and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation, and community reintegration. Visitors to the NRD website can find information on a variety of topics that supply an abundance of vetted resources. For more information, go to: <https://nrd.gov/>.

Parkinson's Disease

The American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA) website contains downloadable booklets, educational supplements, fact sheets about Parkinson's disease (PD), and the Parkinson's disease handbook. This comprehensive handbook has been designed to help by providing valuable information about PD, including common symptoms, available treatments for disease management, practical tips on caring for someone with PD, and research currently underway in PD. To find this information, go to: <https://www.apdaparkinson.org/resources-support/download-publications/>.

For veterans, the APDA published a guide called, "Helping Those Who Serve: Parkinson's Disease Information for the Veterans Community." This informative manual covers everything from the basics of understanding Parkinson's disease to finding care through the Veterans Health Administration. It can be found by going to the following APDA website: www.apdaparkinson.org/VAManual.

State Veteran Benefits

Most people know about the federal benefits available to veterans, but did you know many states also offer great benefits to their veterans? State benefits range from free college and employment resources to free hunting and fishing licenses. Most states also offer tax breaks for their veterans and specialized license plates, some states even provide their veterans with cash bonuses just for serving in the military. To see a summary of the veteran benefits your state offers, go to: <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html>

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

To visit their website, go to: <https://www.va.gov/>

Veteran-Direct Care Program

Some disabled veterans are able to hire family and friends to help with daily living tasks. The VA provides as much as \$2,000 a month on average to pay caregivers and aides you choose. The program is available through VA Medical Centers in many states. To see if it is offered in your state, go to: <https://www.dav.org/caregiver/veteran-home-service-program/>

Veteran Service Officers

Veteran Service Officers can help you identify benefits you may be eligible for, help you apply, and assist in appeals. The following veterans groups can help you find a Veteran Service Officer in your area:

- American Legion: <https://www.legion.org/>
- Veterans of Foreign Wars: <https://www.vfw.org/>
- Disabled American Veterans: <https://www.vfw.org/>
- Vietnam Veterans of America: <https://vva.org/>

Veterans' Health Problems

The Veterans Administration (VA) has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases. To see the list of diseases and other information, go to: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp>