

Alaska State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts



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

- Real Estate Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Veteran Real Estate Benefits

Veterans Land Discount/Purchase Preference

The Veterans Land Discount program allows certain veterans a 25% discount on the purchase price of state residential/recreational land. The discount may be used only once during the veteran's lifetime and may not be used in conjunction with the veterans preference.

Under the Veterans Land Sale Preference, before offering to the general public any unoccupied residential land by auction, a veteran has the exclusive opportunity purchase the land at a restricted sale at fair appraised market value. Parcels that are offered under this preference must be five acres or less, classified as settlement land and zoned for residential use only.

Property Tax Exemptions

Real property owned and occupied as the primary residence and permanent place of abode by a qualified disabled veteran whose disability was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty and whose disability has been rated as 50 percent or more by the military service or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is exempt from taxation on the first \$150,000.00 of assessed valuation. The exemption transfers to a spouse if the veteran passes away and the spouse is at least 60 years of age.

Veterans Housing and Residential Loans

The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) administers the Veterans Mortgage Program which offers financing for qualified veterans at lower interest rates. Active duty service in the Armed Forces, Public Health Service, NOAA or service as a cadet at the US Military, Air Force, Coast Guard or Naval Academy may qualify. Loans are generally processed rapidly, require little or no down payment, and often include lower interest.

AHFC also offers a Veterans Interest Rate Preference, in which a veteran receives a one percent lower interest rate on the first \$50,000 of a bank loan when purchasing a new home, ask the bank handling the financing to implement this program for you. AHFC grants a preference to veterans for the rent or sale of a portion of its low cost housing projects units.

Learn more about Alaska's Veterans Real Estate Benefits at <http://veterans.alaska.gov/real-estate.html>.

Veteran Employment Programs

Veterans Employment Services

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development has 21 Job Centers across the state. The Anchorage (Midtown and Muldoon), Fairbanks, and Wasilla Job Centers have on-site Veteran Representatives; however, all Job Centers provide priority services to qualified veterans and their eligible spouses. Services include:

Priority Job Referral	Job Search Workshops
Career Counseling	Special Programs
Career Assessment	Testing
Employment Assessment	Referral to Educational Services
Job Development	Resume Assistance
Labor Market Information	Education Assessment

Military Credit for State Retirement

Qualified individuals may be eligible for additional credit for up to five years of military service. Military service will increase your retirement service and monthly benefits. Surviving Spouses of Service members may also be eligible.

Learn more at <http://veterans.alaska.gov/employment-benefits.html> about Alaska's Veteran Employment Services inclusive of the Hero2Hired Program, USERRA, VetSuccess, Veteran Employment Tax Credit, and Military Credit for State Retirement.

Alaska Education Benefits

Free Tuition for Spouse or Dependent of Armed Services Member

The spouse or dependent of an armed services member who died in the line of duty or who died as a result of injuries sustained while in the line of duty or who was listed by the Department of Defense as a Prisoner of War or as Missing in Action is entitled to a waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees the

students must be in good standing in a state supported educational institution in Alaska.

High School Diplomas

Operation Recognition, a nation-wide effort, recognizes that many World War II veterans went off to war and never returned to high school to get a diploma.

In Alaska, the Department of Education and Early Development may award diplomas to World War II vets living in Alaska, including Alaska Territorial Guard members, who served during the period of August 7, 1940 to July 5, 1947 and were honorably discharged or died in active service or were released from active duty because of a service-related disability. A family member may apply on behalf of a veteran who is deceased or incapacitated. Even ex-GIs with a Graduation Equivalency Diploma could apply.

University of Alaska

There are many education benefits available to veterans living in Alaska. The University of Alaska offers support for veterans and service members including tuition assistance, transferring credit, and evaluations of military training.

- Federal educational benefits include the GI Bill, but there are many other programs and scholarships offered. National Guard members may receive up to 100% tuition assistance at a University of Alaska system school.
- Resident tuition is available at any University of Alaska System school for active-duty military personnel or members of the National Guard, or their spouses or dependent children. United States veterans eligible for a VA education benefit or their spouse or dependent children are also eligible for resident tuition. Qualifying students must move to and remain domiciled in the State of Alaska during their course of study.
- The spouse and dependents of armed service members who are an Alaska resident and died in the line of duty, or was listed by the DOD as a Prisoner of War, or was killed in action is entitled to a waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees.

University of Alaska Southeast (Juneau)

UAS-Armory: (907) 465-4211

<http://www.uas.alaska.edu/finaid/VA/index.html> & <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/sitka/start/military.html>

University of Alaska Fairbanks:

(907) 474-2475

<http://www.uaf.edu/veterans>

University of Alaska, Anchorage

(907) 786-6962

<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/veterans>

Learn more about Alaska's Veteran Education Benefits at <http://veterans.alaska.gov/education-benefits.html>

Other Alaska State Veteran Benefits

Veterans License Plates

The State Legislature has designated several special license plates for veterans, recipients of the Purple Heart Medal, veterans who have been a Prisoner of War (POW), veterans who are survivors of Pearl Harbor, and Gold Star Families. Plates are issued free of charge after proof of service or family loss is validated by the DVM. A person who qualifies for 50% disability may apply for one disabled veteran plate that is not subject to Motor Vehicle Registration Taxes or registration fees.

There is a \$30.00 plate fee charged to all other applicants for service veterans plates at the time of initial application for or replacement of veteran's plates and National Guard Plates.



The following organizational symbols are available and are on the approved list



10th Mountain Div



10th Mountain
B002010 30.00 0.00

82nd Airborne



82nd Airborne
B002006 30.00 0.00

101st Airborne



101st Airborne
B002001 30.00 0.00

173^d Airborne



173rd Airborne
B002002 30.00 0.00

Pathfinder



Pathfinder
B002013 30.00 0.00

Alaska Air Command



Alaska Air Command
B006001 30.00 0.00

Ranger



Ranger
B002011 30.00 0.00

1 Marine Division



1st Marine Div.
B005001 30.00 0.00

Special Forces



Special Forces
B002019 30.00 0.00

USARAL (Bear)



USAR AK Bear
B002016 30.00 0.00

Alaska National Guard



Alaska National Guard Crest
B002015 30.00 0.00

Alaska National Guard



Alaska National Guard Patch
B002014 30.00 0.00

75th Ranger Scroll



75th Ranger Scroll
B002012 30.00 0.00

172^d Infantry



172d Infantry
B002018 30.00 0.00



366th TFW
B002040 30.00 0.00



VFW 214 Black Sheep
B002039 30.00 0.00



932nd ACW Squadron
B002043 30.00 0.00



11 Airborne
B002035 30.00 0.00

11th Air Force



11th Air Force
B002030 30.00 0.00

4/23rd Infantry



4/23rd Infantry
B002028 30.00 0.00

6th Marine Division



6th Marine Div.
B002029 30.00 0.00

187th RCT



187th Reg. Combat
B002023 30.00 0.00

501st PIR



501st PIR
B002027 30.00 0.00

1st Signal Brigade



1st Signal Brigade
B002026 30.00 0.00

Navy Seals



Navy Seals
B002020 30.00 0.00

196 Infantry Brigade



196 Infantry
B002024 30.00 0.00

Geronimos



501st Geronimos
B002025 30.00 0.00

176th LRS



176 LRS
B002031 30.00 0.00



1st AVN. Brigade
B002038 30.00 0.00



52nd Ord Group
B002044 30.00 0.00



PBR 593
B002022 30.00 0.00



168th Security Forces
B002041 30.00 0.00



SeaBees
B004001 30.00 0.00



7th Corp
B002042 30.00 0.00



20th Engineers
B002037 30.00 0.00



9th Infantry
B002033 30.00 0.00



18th Corp
B002003 30.00 0.00



29th Infantry
B002036 30.00 0.00

42nd Infantry



42nd (ID) Infantry
B002021 30.00 0.00



ACS
B002045 30.00 0.00



AK Territorial Guard
B002034 30.00 0.00



11th ACR
B002032 30.00 0.00



Alaska Air National Guard
B006002 30.00 0.00



5th Marine Division
B005002 30.00 0.00



USARV
B002046 30.00 0.00



8th Infantry Division
B002053 30.00 0.00



USS Abraham Lincoln
B004002 30.00 0.00



USAF Pararescue
B002049 30.00 0.00



Airforce System Command
B002047 30.00 0.00



29th Ordnance
B002048 30.00 0.00



160th Special Operations
B002051 30.00 0.00



2nd Armored Division
B002054 30.00 0.00



4th Recon Battalion USMC
B005003 30.00 0.00



Fleet Anti-Terrorism Management Team
(FAST)
B004003 30.00 0.00



17th Cavalry Regiment
B002055 30.00 0.00



1/5 Infantry Regiment
B002053 30.00 0.00

Pearl Harbor Survivors and former POWs recipients may receive a special plate at no charge.



Purple Heart recipients and Alaska National Guard members may also purchase special plates for \$30.



A Disabled Veteran can register one vehicle without charge and receive a specially designed registration plate that displays recognition of the disabled veteran. With proof, persons disabled in the line of duty, who are 50 percent disabled or medically handicapped as a consequence of service are eligible. The plate does not display the standard handicap symbol and does not carry with it special parking privileges; however the standard wheelchair logo may be available depending upon the level of disability as described below.



Gold Star Family (GSF) plates are available to the spouse, parent, guardian, sibling, or dependent of a member of the United States armed forces killed in the line of duty. The applicant must submit a Report of Casualty (DD Form 1300) to be eligible. If the applicant is not listed on the DD 1300, further proof must be submitted to connect the applicant to the fallen soldier.



Disabled Veterans Parking Permits

Disabled Parking Permits are also obtained from the DMV, available to persons at least 50 percent disabled or medically handicapped, including persons disabled in the line of duty while serving in the Alaska Territorial Guard. Applicants must show reception of at least 50 percent disability compensation from a government agency or an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice in Alaska.

Alaska Veteran Driver's License

Veterans are entitled to have their veteran status noted on their Alaska Drivers License or ID Card. Cost is \$5 at the Alaska DMV. Proof of honorable discharge is required.

- Retired Military ID Card
- DD214/15
- NGB22 or NGB22A
- WD AGO 53, 55, 53-55
- NAVPERS 553
- NAVMC 78PD
- NAVCG 553



Drivers License Extensions

Effective in June 1997, Alaska adopted a military extension policy that states that your non-commercial driver's license is valid for 90 days after discharge or return to the State of Alaska, whichever occurs first. Effective January 1st, 2011, the policy was extended to military spouses.

Waiver of Commercial Driving Skills Test

The DMV may waive the commercial motor vehicle driving test for certain drivers with recent military commercial motor vehicle experience.

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Members of the military service who are on active duty permanently stationed in Alaska, or a dependent of a member of the military service on active duty permanently stationed in Alaska, and who have met residency requirements may apply for military licenses at the time of license application and pay the same rate as a resident.

Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing License

Disabled Veteran resident hunting and sport fishing licenses are available at no charge to honorably discharged veterans with a 50% or greater service-connected disability and Alaska residency. Applicants must have lived in Alaska for 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the application.

Alaska Marine Highway System

A reduced fare pass is available for travel on Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) vessels for U.S. veterans having a service-connected veteran's disability. The pass entitles the disabled veteran and an attendant (if required by physician) to travel at half the regular passenger fare. Reduced fare does not include vehicle or stateroom. The pass is valid for travel between Alaskan ports on all AMHS vessels, year-round.

State Camping Pass for Disabled Veterans

The legislature granted Disabled Veterans (DAV) the right to receive one Alaska State Park Camping Pass free of charge. The DAV Camping Pass, which is valid in all developed Alaska State Park campgrounds and is good for two years.

Alaska Railroad Discount

The Alaska Railroad offers a 20% discount to active duty, military retirees and dependents. ID showing proof of status must be shown at boarding.

Recording Veterans Report of Separation Form

A veteran may record, without fee, the original or a certified copy of his or her Armed Forces Report of Separation (DD-214 Form) at any State Recorder's office of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Recorder's office maintains 14 District offices throughout the state, overseeing 34 recording districts that record, index, and archive all of the documents that create the Official Public Record of the state of Alaska.

Funeral Honors

Every eligible veteran is entitled to Military Funeral Honors performed by uniformed members of the armed forces.

Governor's Advocacy Award

Individuals who demonstrate an extraordinary personal concern, compassion, and commitment to veterans causes, veterans, and their families are eligible for the annual Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award. A winner could also have formed a new, innovative or creative volunteer program or project that benefits vets. Accomplishments must have been performed on a volunteer basis. Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award will be presented on Veterans Day, November 11th.

Visit the Alaska State VA website <http://veterans.alaska.gov/> to get more details and learn how to apply for veteran benefits [Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/alaska-state-veterans-benefits.htm> May 2016 ++]

Military Discounts in Alaska

1. MVDC has a list of close to 500 locations in Alaska that have discounts for military personnel or veterans. Similar to businesses, the state of Alaska provides rich incentives for its veterans and military population. If you are looking for business discounts, use the search tool at

<http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/alaska.html>

2. **Veterans Designation on driver's license:** Yes

3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes**

- National Guard and Militia retirees are eligible for an additional \$100 per month in retirement income
- Disabled veterans may qualify for property tax exemptions
- Up to 25% off on land purchases through the [Veterans Land Grant](#) program for certain veterans
- A 1% reduction of interest on the first \$30,000 of a mortgage on a new home purchase
- Under the Veterans Land Sale Preference, before unoccupied residential land is auctioned to the general public, veterans have the exclusive opportunity to purchase it at a restricted sale
- Free hunting and fishing licenses for national guard members and disabled veterans
- Free state camping passes for disabled veterans
- 50% off passenger ferry fares through the [Alaska Marine Highway Program](#)

4. **Education Discounts**

- Free tuition to dependents or surviving spouses of service members that died in the line of duty
- Alaska National Guardsman can receive 100% tuition assistance for college
- Alaska military personnel are eligible for tuition assistance at other in state schools
- High school diplomas for WWII veterans

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/alaska.html> May 2016 ++]

Alaska

