

# Arizona State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts



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

- Housing Benefits
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

## **Housing Benefits**

### **Arizona State Veteran Home - Phoenix**

One of two Arizona State Veteran Homes is located in Phoenix at 4141 N. 3rd Street. It is a 200 bed, skilled care nursing facility operated and maintained by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. This is a State owned and operated facility built next to the Veterans Administration Medical Center and Steele Indian School Park. ASVH serves the long term care and rehabilitative needs of the veterans of Arizona. The 200 beds are divided into one hundred fifty long term care beds, a twenty five bed memory care unit and a twenty five bed Medicare/rehab focused unit. ASVH provides rehabilitative therapy seven days a week. Physical therapy is designed to improve movement and function. Occupational

therapy is designed to improve daily living skills and Speech therapy to improve memory and swallowing disabilities. A Snoezelen room, originated and developed in Holland, provides a quiet therapeutic stimulating visual environment for dementia residents. The facility provides a free private telephone for local calls at bed side for each resident and free cable TV. Each resident room contains a TV and a DVD player. The facility has a one thousand DVD movie library. Residents can enjoy the internet throughout the building using facility provided WIFI.



Honorably separated Veterans including their spouses and widows are eligible for admission. ASVH has an energetic and caring staff that provides nursing care, therapeutic recreation and social services to those who have served us. A Veterans Benefits Counselor is available onsite to assist the veteran resident in obtaining their veteran benefits/pension. Social Services are available to provide psychosocial support and discharge planning for residents and their families. Veteran seniors and their spouses who choose long-term care enjoy a vibrant, independent lifestyle with customized services to fit their needs. Resident veterans enjoy comfort, dignity and warm social connections. A variety of activities are planned and promoted, increasing the sense of community for each resident. Caregivers are respectful, well-trained and attentive.

### **Arizona State Veteran Home - Tucson**

The other Arizona State Veteran Home is located next to Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (VA Hospital) at 555 East Ajo Way Tucson, AZ 85713 (520) 638-2150. Admission # (520) 638-2159. This 130,000-square-foot 120 skilled bed facility offering many amenities to Arizona's veterans such as all private rooms, full baths, and selective dining in a homelike environment. The facility provides a range of medical aid, including respiratory rehabilitation and speech, occupational and physical therapy



Applicants for either home are eligible for admission if they are an honorable separated veteran or the spouse of a veteran. The applicant must require skilled nursing care as determined by a physician. There must be documented evidence of the absence of tuberculosis. Admission information and forms may be obtained by calling the Admission Coordinator at 602-248-1594 X 2746 and/or via the internet at <https://dvs.az.gov/state-veteran-home-tucson>. Close personal assistance is provided in completing the admission documents.

Visit the Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs website <https://dvs.az.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Financial Assistance Benefits**

### **Income Tax Exemptions**

To the extent not already excluded from Arizona gross income under set. 112 of the Internal Revenue Code, compensation received for active service as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States for any month during any part of which members served in a combat zone is exempt.

Federal (Civil Service or Military Retirement) payments up to \$2,500.00 per year are exempt. NOTE: Contact the Arizona Department of Revenue (1-800-845-8192) for any veteran tax issues.

### **Property Tax**

Exemption for property of widows, widowers, and disabled persons. A. The property of widows, widowers, and disabled persons who are residents of this state is exempt from taxation to the extent allowed by Article IX Â§ 2, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3, Constitution of Arizona, and subject to the conditions and limitations prescribed by this section. NOTE: The exemption is applied to real estate first, then to a mobile home or an automobile. Contact your County Assessor office for eligibility.

### **Vehicle License Tax and Registration Fees.**

No license tax or registration fee shall be collected from any veteran for a personally owned vehicle if such veteran is certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be one hundred percent service-connected disabled and drawing compensation on that basis. A veteran residing in Arizona shall be exempt from a vehicle license tax on a vehicle acquired by the veteran through financial aid from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This also applies to the surviving spouse, if the Veteran dies, until they remarry.

### **Fiduciary**

If a veteran becomes temporarily or permanently unable to manage his or her personal affairs or finances, the Arizona Department of Veterans Services may be able to petition the court to serve on behalf of the veteran. The Arizona Department of Veteran Services Fiduciary Division provides fiduciary services to veterans, spouse and minor children of veterans in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible.

The Division charges minimum fees for its fiduciary services that are less than alternative fiduciaries may charge. All fees are approved by the court and are payable out of the estate of the veteran. An online referral sheet is available at <http://form.jotform.us/form/22007462938151>.

Fiduciaries are not caregivers. A caregiver is someone who provides personal care such as assisting in bathing, dressing, personal hygiene and doing household chores and shopping. Fiduciaries do not provide these services but can arrange for them when needed.

A possible alternative to the Arizona Department of Veteran Services Fiduciary Division is a public fiduciary that is appointed by each county's board of supervisors. The public fiduciary may be appointed by the court to serve as guardian, conservator or personal representative of an estate when there is no one else willing or capable of serving.

The Arizona Department of Veteran Services Fiduciary Division is divided into three sections, Human services, Accounting and Assets. Human services staff primarily possess experience in social services. Employees in assets and accounting possess a background's in finance and or asset management. In addition ADVS employs an Intake Investigator, clerical and medical billing staff.

#### **DEFINITIONS OF SERVICES PROVIDED:**

**GUARDIANSHIP:** Appointed by the Probate Court to ensure that the personal and medical needs of the incapacitated veteran are met. A person is determined by the court to be incapacitated when he or she lacks sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions concerning his or her daily living needs. Incapacity is usually a result of physical or mental illness or dementia.

**CONSERVATORSHIP:** Appointed by Probate Court to manage the financial affairs of the veteran who is determined by the court to be unable to manage his or her own finances or property. The conservator manages the assets of the protected veteran for his or her benefit under the court's supervision. Each conservator must file an accounting with the court and receive the court's approval. This annual accounting must balance from year to year and show all receipts and disbursements made during the year.

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:** Appointed by the probate court to administer the estate of a veteran who died. The personal representative is responsible for identifying, inventorying and protecting all of the assets in the estate, paying bills and allowable claims against the estate, locating all of the heirs and beneficiaries, paying the administrative costs of probating the estate, distributing the remaining assets to the heirs or beneficiaries.

Visit the Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs website <https://dvs.az.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Employment Benefits**

### **Employment Preferences**

Age Limit: An honorably discharged veteran shall be eligible for employment preference, rights, and privileges under any merit system in the state in the state or any political subdivision thereof, regardless of age, if otherwise qualified.

**Civil Service:** Veterans who pass an examination for employment by the state, county or city will have 5 points added to their certification score. The veteran must have served for more than six (6) months and be separated under honorable conditions. Veterans entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability will have 10 points added to their certification score. Certain spouses or surviving spouses shall be given a 5 point preference if the veteran died of a service-connected disability.

**Fire Department:** Members of any fire company inducted into the military establishment of the United States for military training are authorized reinstatement to their previous rating after discharge from military service.

**Police and Fire Department:** The period of military service shall be included in computing the length of service of the employee to determine eligibility for retirement.

**Reserve Status/War Emergency:** Appointive officers or employees of the state or of a political subdivision will be reinstated to their former position upon completion of military service to which (s) he was inducted or ordered during time of war or was called to service because of their status as an active or inactive member of the Reserves.

Visit the Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs website <https://dvs.az.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Education Benefits**

### **Tuition and Fees-Deferred Payment**

A veteran or eligible dependent who has applied for educational benefits under the G.I. Bill state-supported community colleges, colleges and universities may defer payment of tuition, fees and required books for a period of 120 days with no interest charges. If, at the end of such period, the person has not received from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs the initial benefit monies for tuition and fees, an extension may be granted until such time benefits are received.

### **Tuition Waivers for War-Wounded and Dependents of Killed in Action**

A former member of the Arizona National Guard who received a purple heart citation on or after September 11, 2001 (who was medically discharged because of a service-connected injury) is eligible for a tuition waiver. A tuition waiver for Arizona community colleges and universities is also available to a dependent of the national guard member or member of the United States armed forces who was a resident of the state of Arizona or stationed in Arizona and who was killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries suffered in the line of duty while traveling to or from duty.

Visit the Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs website <https://dvs.az.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## Other State Veteran Benefits

### Burial and Headstones

When a veteran or a surviving spouse dies without sufficient means for funeral expenses, the County Board of Supervisors is responsible to ensure that burial will not be in a portion of ground used exclusively for burial of paupers. A suitable plot will be used, and the county may apply to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for expenses not to exceed \$150.00.

When the county buries an indigent veteran, the county clerk will make an application to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a suitable headstone and make arrangements for it to be placed at the head of the grave.

### Arizona State Veteran Cemetery

Burial in the Veterans Cemetery is open to all members of the Armed Forces, and with certain exceptions, veterans discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable. Their spouses, unremarried widow or widower, minor children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult dependent children are also eligible for burial. Also eligible for burial are members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, National Guard, and Reserve Officer Training Corps who die while on active duty for training or performing service, or who have 20 years of service in reserve components of the Armed Forces creditable for retired pay.

There is no charge for interment for veterans and a one-time nominal fee for eligible spouses and dependents. The state of Arizona maintains 3 state veterans cemeteries at Sierra Vista., Marana, and Bellemont. In addition there is a National Cemetery located in Phoenix

### Southern Arizona Veterans' Cemetery



1300 Buffalo Soldiers Trail, Sierra Vista, AZ 85659 Tel: (520) 458-7144/F7147

Email: SAVMC@azdvs.gov

Application From at <https://dvs.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/AVMC%20Marana%20Pre-Registration%20Form.pdf>

**Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Camp Navajo**



14317 Veterans Dr. Bellemont, Arizona 86015

**Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Marana**



**National Memorial Cemetery of AZ**



23029 N. Cave Creek Road Phoenix, AZ 85024 Tel: (480) 513-3600/F1412

### **Voting in Elections**

Absentee registration and voting by active duty military personnel and their eligible dependents residing out of state may be accomplished by prior to 7:00 p.m. on an Election Day. The County recorder may accept a federal postcard application in lieu of an affidavit of registration.

### **Recording of Discharges**

Any county recorder, free of charge shall record military discharge papers. Location of each County Recorder's Office may be found in the blue pages of your area telephone directory.

### **Public Record Certification**

Public officials shall issue without charge, certified copies of public records for use in making a claim for pension, compensation, allotment allowance, insurance, or other benefits from the United States.

### **Credit for Military Service for State Retirement Benefits**

A participant of the state system or plan may receive credited past service or future service for active military service if the participant was honorably discharge from service. The period of military service for which the participant receives credited service is not on account with any other retirement system. Contact the nearest state personnel office for additional information and eligibility.

### **Hunting and Fishing Licenses**

Resident hunting and fishing licenses for members of the armed forces on active duty, stationed in state are available upon application. Complimentary licenses may be granted to veteran's 70 years or older who have been residents of this state for 25 years. Complimentary licenses will be issued to veterans verified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be one hundred percent service-connected disabled and who have been a resident for one year ore more. Note: Contact the nearest Department of Game and Fish office.

### **Arizona State Parks**

Arizona State Parks Offers provides Arizona's 100% permanently disabled veterans with a complimentary "Disabled Veterans Annual Day Use pass". The pass allows qualified veterans with day use access to all twenty-seven State Parks.

### **Special License Plates**

Medal of Honor: Any resident of Arizona who is a recipient of the Medal of Honor may apply for a distinctive number plate at no additional cost.





Prisoner of War: Any resident of Arizona who is a former prisoner of war may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial fee of \$15.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee with an annual renewal fee of \$5.00.



Purple Heart: Any resident of Arizona who is a recipient of the Purple Heart may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial fee of \$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee with an annual renewal fee of \$5.00.



Pearl Harbor Survivors: Any resident of Arizona who was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, received an honorable discharge, and was stationed at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu (or offshore not exceeding 3 miles), on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 A.M. to 9:45 A.M., is eligible for a Pearl Harbor distinctive number plate. An initial fee of \$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee with an annual renewal fee of \$5.00.



National Guard: Any resident of Arizona who is or has been a member of the Arizona Air National Guard or Army National Guard may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial and renewal fee of \$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee.



Veteran: Any resident of Arizona who was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and received an honorable discharge may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial and renewal fee of

\$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee. Plays are also available for old Star Family members.



### **Transportation**

Common carriers may give free or reduced rates to residents of homes for soldiers, and, with the consent of the Arizona Corporation Commission, to former soldiers and sailors for the purpose of attending any convention.

### **Arizona Gold Star Military Medal**

The Arizona State Legislature has created the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal to honor Arizona members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America who have been killed in action since Arizona became a State on February 13, 1912 while:

- Engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.
- Engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force.
- Serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.
- Serving in a combat zone as designated by a presidential order.



A member of the Arizona national guard, United States military reserves, or regular United States armed forces who was a legal resident of this state at the time the member was killed in action or died in the line of duty while deployed in support of combat operations from and after February 13, 1912 is eligible to receive the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal. The families of qualifying individuals applying for the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal must complete an application form and forward the request along with a copy of DD Form 1300, Casualty Report attesting to the fact that the qualifying individual was a resident of the State of Arizona at the time of death. In addition, the request must include a copy of proof of relationship as father, mother, marriage, baptismal certificates, or a notarized certificate which clearly show relationship. If you meet the criteria for this award and would like to apply to receive it,

please download, print and complete the form on page 1 of the application document at <https://dvs.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Arizona%20Gold%20Star%20Military%20Medal%20Information.pdf> and mail it with the documents named above to the address shown at the top of the form. Once eligibility has been verified, the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services will contact primary next-of-kin to schedule a presentation ceremony if desired.

Visit the Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs website <https://dvs.az.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance. At [https://dvs.az.gov/sites/default/files/ADVS\\_Veteran\\_Benefits\\_Booklet\\_2015-04b\\_0.pdf](https://dvs.az.gov/sites/default/files/ADVS_Veteran_Benefits_Booklet_2015-04b_0.pdf) is available an Arizona Benefits booklet for downloading or review.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/arizona-state-veterans-benefits.html>  
June 2016

## Military Discounts in Arizona

1. MVDC has a list of close to 5000 locations in Arizona that have discounts for military personnel or veterans. Similar to businesses, the state of Arizona provides discounts for its veterans and military population. Use the search tool at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/arizona.html> If you are looking for business discounts.

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



3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes**

- National Guard income is exempt from state taxes
- Property tax exemption for disabled veterans and widows of disabled veterans
- Free hunting and fishing licenses for military personnel, reservists and disabled veterans
- Free use of state parks

4. **Education Discounts**

- Tuition waivers for Purple Heart recipients and their dependents
- Guardsman, reservists and active duty are eligible for tuition reimbursement

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/arizona.html> June 2016 ++]