

Delaware State Veteran's Benefits

As of August 2016



The state of Delaware 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

Veteran Housing Programs

State Veterans Home Fund

The Delaware Veterans Home Fund provides for individuals who claim an overpayment of taxes on their income tax return to voluntarily designate a tax deductible contribution to the Veterans Home. The fund will be used for the construction, operation and maintenance of a Veterans Home in the State of Delaware.

The Delaware Veterans Home

The Delaware Veterans Home, established in 2007, is a long-term care facility located on 24 acres in Milford, Delaware. The Home offers skilled nursing care on four units with a total of 150 beds. Their mission is to provide outstanding long-term care services to Delaware veterans that uphold dignity and respect while sustaining and improving their quality of life. Their vision is to be a recognized state and national leader in long-term veteran care, and a driving force in providing the best in nursing care, family wholeness, and ultimate enrichment for our heroes.



Delaware Veterans Home. 100 Delaware Veterans Boulevard, Milford, DE 19963

At the Home, residents enjoy the comfort of modern accommodations as well as the convenience of common living and dining areas for socializing with new friends. Assistance with daily living activities is available whenever needed. From personal grooming and hygiene to diet and exercise, their team is there to help. They adjust their level of care and support to meet each resident's needs and preferences. In addition to the everyday comforts of home, they strive to provide their residents with special veterans' programs that are not found anywhere else. Memorial Day, Independence Day, Flag Day and Veterans' Day are very special days at the Home, and are celebrated in ways that residents genuinely appreciate. Other ways that they make daily life more enjoyable include a wide range of daily activities, including games, arts and crafts, entertainment, and day trips.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily in the main dining room. The dietary staff coordinates the selection of all menu items to ensure nutritional value and compliance with any unique dietary needs as well as resident preferences. A Canteen is available for lighter fare or a change of scenery. The Home will take care of your loved one's housekeeping needs and also provide other essential services for a safe, healthy and dignified experience at the facility including laundry services available at a minimal cost. The facility provides physical, occupational, and speech therapy as needed. There are no defined visitors' hours at Delaware Veterans Home. Family members have 24-hour access to our facility. Frequent visits are encouraged in order to maintain relationships and friendships. Our library is also equipped with computers with internet/Skype access for keeping in touch with far-flung relatives and friends.

Call 302-424-6000 or email dosdvh_admissions@state.de.us for admission information. The Admissions Coordinator will work with you to begin the admissions process. This process will include an in-person medical assessment. Overall the process can take as many as 30 days. Admission to the Home is dependent upon meeting each of the three requirements listed below:

- **Military Service:** Honorably discharged from active service (peacetime or wartime) or Any National Guard Service or Reservist who is eligible for retirement pay at age 60 or has served on active duty at least 180 days (does not have to be consecutive)
- **Residency:** Applicant must have resided in the State of Delaware for 3 years or more prior to application.
- **Level of Care:** Must meet federal and state requirement for having a skilled nursing home level of care.

Financial Assistance Benefits

Pension Benefits for Paraplegic Veterans

Each paraplegic veteran eligible for benefits hereunder shall receive a pension from the State of \$3,000 per year payable in equal monthly installments at the end of each month in which such veteran is eligible. The veteran must file evidence with the Pension Office that: he/she is a paraplegic and fully disabled to the extent that he/she has no voluntary control over either of his/her legs, and he/she is listed on the rolls of the U.S. Veterans Administration as totally disabled for the cause, and the disability is a direct result of service in the armed forces of the United States while the United States was officially at war or during a period when the United States was engaged in hostilities with another nation as a member of the United Nations.

Persons under age 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 pension by persons age 60 or older from employers, the United States, the State or any subdivision thereof may deduct up to \$12,500 off of their federal adjusted gross income.

Visit the Delaware Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://veteransaffairs.delaware.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Veteran Employment Benefits

State Employment Veterans Preference

The rules shall provide for preference to be given to veterans of the armed forces of the U.S. who served during wartime. Such rules shall provide that: Preference shall be confined to original entrance and shall not be applied to promotion within the classified service or to retention in case of reduction in force; Preference shall be granted only in the form of credits to be added to earned ratings in examinations, with disabled veterans receiving no more than 10 points and other veterans no more than 5 points. A definition of a disabled veteran shall be set forth in the rules; All veterans shall be required to obtain a passing examination mark before preference credits. Employees in the classified service who, while in good standing, leave or have left the state service to engage in military service shall be given credit for seniority purposes for the time served in the armed forces not to exceed three years. Any preference points for which a veteran would qualify after complying with the provisions above, may be claimed by his or her unmarried widow or widower providing he or she achieves a passing examination grade.

Tax Credit for Employers Hiring Veterans

Veteran's Tax Credit in Delaware will be 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. According to the new law, a "qualified veteran" is anyone who has served in a hostile environment such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Visit the Delaware Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://veteransaffairs.delaware.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Veteran Education Benefits

Educational Benefits For Children Of Deceased Veterans, Etc.

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 who shall have been 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. The per pupil benefits may include funds for the payment of room, board, tuition and required institutional fees for an academic year. Benefits shall be limited to four years of training or education. The amount of benefit per pupil shall not exceed \$525 per year or the amount of tuition per academic year, whichever is greater. Benefits are administered by the Delaware Postsecondary Education Commission.

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.

High School Diploma For WWII Veterans

House Bill No. 60 provides a High School Diploma to those World War II veterans who did not graduate from high school due to their military service. Any World War II veteran who performed wartime service between December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946 shall be eligible to receive a High School Diploma.

Visit the Delaware Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://veteransaffairs.delaware.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Other State Veteran Benefits

Copies of Statement of Service

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs has established a repository for veterans' "Statement of Service" or similar documentary verification of active armed service. Records maintained are World War I through the Vietnam era. In 1987 the State of Delaware again started keeping records and have records from 1987 to present.

Free Death Certificates for Veterans

The State Registrar shall furnish free of charge to the relative of a veteran, one time, a certified copy of the veteran's certificate of death providing that said certified copy is essential to the settlement of a claim involving the settlement of the veteran's affairs. All other copies shall be issued at the statutory fee.

No Charge for Notary Services for Veterans

Service organizations' appointed notaries public may notarize documents and papers in connection with and for the benefit of any veteran, their families, or dependents. These notaries public shall make no charge for any service rendered in connection with filing claims on behalf of the veteran, their families, or dependents. The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs provides free notary service.

Veterans Preference - Admission to Governor Bacon Health Center

The Department of Health and Social Services shall give veterans of World War I, World War II, the

Indigent Veteran Burial

The Adjutant General shall provide out of funds appropriated to the Delaware National Guard for the proper interment of each and every indigent soldier, sailor or marine who shall have served in the Army, Marines, Navy or Air Force of the U.S. in any war in which it has been engaged and been honorably discharged there from, who shall at the time of his or her death be a resident of this State leaving insufficient means to defray the expenses of interment.

Korean Conflict and the Vietnam era who are eligible for admission to the Health Center a preference over other persons with respect to admission thereto.

Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery Burial

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:
 - Any term of service is qualifying for enlisted persons that entered active duty on or before September 7, 1980.
 - Any term of service is qualifying for commissioned officers who entered active duty on or before October 16, 1981.
 - 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:
 - Eligible to receive retired pay or would have been entitled to receive retired pay at the age of sixty (60).
 - 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:
 - At the time of entry into active service.
 - At the time of Death.
 - For a period of three (3) years.

- (d) Veterans and members of the Armed Forces of the U.S. who qualify under the following:
 - Honorable Military Service
 - Legal Residence In Delaware
 - The Spouse Widow, Widower Or Dependent Minor Children

Go to <https://dvmc.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov/dvmc/controller?JSPName=TESTDB> to complete a burial application on line. Submit this application using the "Submit" button and then also you must send a copy of your Discharge, Separation (DD-214) to the cemetery of burial choice: (Do not send the original). There are two burial sites. Submit your application to whichever you desire. Mail to:

- **New Castle County Cemetery**, 2465 Chesapeake City Road, Bear, Delaware 19701 | Tel: (302) 834-8046/F3787 | Email: Barbara A. Cooke: barbara.cooke@state.de.us



- **Sussex County Cemetery**, 26669 Patriots Way, Millsboro, Delaware 19966 | Tel: (302) 934-5653/F5647 | Email: Gregory Bee: gregory.bee@state.de.us



Special License Plates

Special License Plates For Former Prisoners Of War, Missing-In-Action, Purple Heart Recipients, Disabled Veterans, Members Of The Delaware National Guard & Reserves, Valor, Retired Military & Korean War Veterans.

The owner of any private passenger vehicle or a truck with a 3/4 ton or less manufacturer's rated capacity may apply to the Department of Transportation for the assignment to that vehicle of a special Prisoner-of-War (POW), Missing-in-Action (MIA), Purple Heart or disabled veteran (DAV) registration number.

Service



Delaware Veterans



American Legion Disabled American Vets



DAV / Special Parking



Gold Star Family



Korean War Veteran



Missing In Action



National Guard



OEF



OIF



Pearl Harbor Survivor



Prisoner of War



Purple Heart



Reserve Forces



Submarine Service



Support Veterans

Retired Military



Veterans Foreign War



Vietnam Veteran



Army (Dept of)



Coast Guard



Marines



Navy (Dept. of)



United States Air Force

Valor



Air Medal



**Air Force
Commendation Medal**



**Army
Commendation Medal**



Bronze Star



**Distinguished
Flying Cross**



**Distinguished
Service Cross**



**Navy Commendation
Medal**



Navy Cross



Silver Star

Registration and Inspection of Motor Vehicles of Disabled Veterans

Any motor vehicle owned by a disabled veteran who shall ever have been eligible for 'adaptive equipment' benefits under Title 38 U.S.C. (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 registered, but shall be exempted from the payment of registration fees, provided that such exemption shall be limited to one automobile per eligible

veteran at any one time. The Division of Motor Vehicles shall furnish, without cost, number and registration plates for all such vehicles of such design as will distinguish them from other plates for which fees are paid. Nothing herein contained shall be construed as exempting such vehicles from the requirement of inspection.

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 veterans shall mean: Those who first became an employee before July 1, 1976, 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. 13 Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs Veterans Resource Guide Employers may take the credit the year a veteran is hired and the two subsequent tax years.

Auctioneer and Book Agent Exemption for Veterans

No honorably discharged soldier or sailor shall be required to procure any license to follow the occupation of canvassing for the sale of books or for the occupation commonly known as that of "book agent" or for the occupation of auctioneer. The certificate of honorable discharge of any such soldier or sailor shall be conclusive evidence of the right of such soldier or sailor to follow the occupations herein before mentioned without having procured a license thereof.

Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Licenses

Any member of the armed forces of the United States of America while actually stationed within the State shall be deemed a resident of this State for the purpose of obtaining a license to hunt, trap and fish in this State. (Title 7, Chapter 5, Section 505) Any veteran having at least a 60% service-connected disability (certified by the Veterans Administration), or 65 years or older, or are blind, are exempt from the licensing requirements.

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.

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.

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

Visit the Delaware Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://veteransaffairs.delaware.gov> and the Veterans Resource Guide http://veteransaffairs.delaware.gov/pdf/Veterans_Resource_Guide_2016.pdf for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/delaware-state-veterans-benefits Aug 2016 ++]

Military Discounts in Delaware

1. MVDC has a list of over 1,000 locations in Connecticut that have discounts for military personnel or veterans. Similar to businesses, the state of Connecticut provides discounts for its veterans and military population. If you are looking for business discounts, use the search tool for business discounts at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/delaware.html>

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

3. Discounted Fees and Taxes

- Paraplegic veterans are eligible for \$3000 per year from the state
- Property tax exemptions, at the county level, for active duty and veterans
- One year of free fishing and hunting licenses for veterans returning from OIF and OEF
- Disabled veterans exempt from paying for hunting and fishing licenses

4. Education Discounts

- Educational benefits for children or spouses of disabled veterans or service members that have died in action at in state schools
- Tuition assistance for active duty and reservists at in state schools

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/delaware.html> Aug 2016 ++]