

North Dakota State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts



2016

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

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

Housing Benefits

Veterans Home. The North Dakota Veterans Home was established to provide service to an eligible veteran who is:

- A bona fide resident of North Dakota for at least one year; or
- Served in a North Dakota regiment (activated N. D. National Guard); or
- Entered the Armed Forces as a North Dakota resident; or
- Is the spouse or surviving spouse of one of the above veterans.

Admission Criteria:

- No veteran may be considered eligible for residency whose last period of service in the armed services was terminated under dishonorable conditions.
- No veteran may be admitted to the Veterans Home that has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, without producing sufficient evidence of subsequent good conduct and reformation of character so as to satisfactory to the board of admissions.
- The Basic Care Unit requires that potential residents have total independence with personal care needs; such as, bathing, dressing, eating, ambulating (walking), toileting, transferring, etc. NDVH

is unable to accept residents who are receiving dialysis treatment. NDVH requires that applicants who have a diagnosis of alcohol or substance abuse have nine to twelve months of documented sobriety before being accepted to NDVH. If the potential resident has a mental health condition it must be stabilized at the time of admission.

- The Skilled Care Unit requires that a potential resident meet the North Dakota criteria for nursing home placement.

In May 2011 the NDVH moved into their new facility offering two levels of care (basic & skilled) to meet the individual needs of residents. It is a state of the art Veterans Home located in Lisbon, North Dakota designed in the household/neighborhood concept. The new home focuses on individual households designed for 12-13 residents. There are two pods with four households per pod. The facility has 142 private rooms and 4 semi-private rooms, each room with its own private bathroom. The household centers around a large living room area, open kitchen and dining area. Each household looks and feels like a home, with few medical signposts. The Basic Care Unit has 98 beds.

The Skilled Care Unit (Nursing Home Care) is the unit in which the Resident requires ongoing nursing supervision and/or assistance in one or all areas of physical needs and activities of daily living. Care in this area ranges from total assistance in all care needs to supervision of one or two care needs, depending upon the resident's capabilities. Medical care is available on a regular and frequent, but not continuous, basis. The North Dakota Veterans Home Skilled Unit (Nursing Home Care) is a licensed Medicare/Medicaid provider. It has a capacity of 52 residents

Other features of the home include --

- Geothermal heat
- Built in patient lifts for skilled nursing
- Family visiting rooms
- Main street area with a barber shop, library, pool room, bank and post office
- Expanded therapy room
- Sally port
- Nursing Services & Restorative Therapy
- Dietary
- Activities
- Laundry & Housekeeping
- Maintenance
- Social Services
- Transportation
- Barber/Hairdresser: Barber and Hairdressing services are offered on a weekly basis
- Mail Delivery: Each resident has mail delivered to an individual locked mailbox
- Pastoral Services: Pastoral Services are offered to meet residents spiritual needs
- Resident Council: Resident Council meetings are held to ensure that resident concerns are addressed
- Work Therapy Program: Residents who are capable of working may do so under supervision and receive minimum wage pay

- Volunteer Ombudsmen Program: The NDVH ombudsmen may assist residents with any complaints, concerns or resident rights issues. He may also refer residents to the Region ombudsmen

Amenities of the home include: Pool Room, Libraries, Computers, Internet Access, Family/Visitor Lounges, Hobby Area, Town Hall. Theater, Chapel, Exercise Room, Gazebo, Free popcorn, Free coffee, Pop machines, Wheelchair Accessible Van, Barber Shop and Beauty Shop, Museum, Moffit Park, Bank, Post Office, Resident Parking Spaces, and 50's Sitting Area

Application Forms for Admission

1. [Application Form](#) (183kb pdf) Please specify on application basic or skilled unit and complete the form thoroughly; otherwise you will not be considered for admission.
2. [Medical Certificate-VA Form 10-10SH](#) (583kb pdf) this form may also be obtained from a [County Veterans Service Officer](#).
3. [Discharge Certificate of Service](#) from the last period of service in the Armed Services (DD 214).
4. Certification of residency must be completed.
5. [Criminal History Record Information form](#) (113kb pdf) this must be signed by the applicant and processed prior to Admission.
6. [Authorization to Disclose Information Blank](#) (148kb pdf)
7. [Authorization to disclose information for VA](#) (148kb pdf)



**North Dakota Veterans Home, 1600 Veterans Dr., Lisbon, ND 58054-0673
Tel: (701) 683-6500/6550F Email: ndvh@nd.gov**

Learn more about the North Dakota Veterans Homes at <http://www.nd.gov/ndvh>

Financial Assistance Benefits

Hardship Grant

- The purpose of this assistance is to provide monies to give aid and comfort to veterans and their spouses, or unremarried widow/widowers of eligible veterans.
- The individual must have an emergency need of dental work, eye glasses, hearing aids, transportation for medical treatment, or any special need approved by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

Grant available for ND Veterans with PTSD

North Dakota Veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) may now apply for a grant which may provide them with a specially trained Service Dog. PTSD service dogs have proven to greatly assist Veterans in returning to a more normal life and reintegrating back into their community. To meet the minimum qualifications for a PTSD service dog the Veteran must be a North Dakota resident, have a diagnosis of PTSD, be engaged in counseling or therapy and have a doctor's recommendation for a PTSD Service Dog. All qualified Veterans are urged to apply.

Loan Program

The Veterans Aid Fund is a permanent fund to be used solely for the purpose of making loans to veterans or their widow/widowers.

- To qualify, the applicant is required to be a: peacetime veteran, wartime veteran or, National Guard with active duty, or unremarried widow/widower of eligible veteran; a citizen and resident of North Dakota for at least one year, and have the financial ability to make payments.
- The maximum loan amount is \$5,000. The interest rate is 8% per annum. Time limit can be from six months to 48 months.

Disabled Veterans (VA rating 50% or more)

A disabled veteran of the United States armed forces with an armed forces service-connected disability of 50% or greater or a disabled veteran who has an extra-schedular rating to include individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability rating to 100% as determined by the VA, who was discharged under honorable conditions or who has been retired from the armed forces of the United States, or the unremarried surviving spouse if the disabled veteran is deceased, is eligible for a credit applied against the first \$6750 of taxable valuation (\$150,000 true value) of the fixtures, buildings, and improvements of the homestead owned and occupied by the disabled veteran or unremarried surviving spouse equal to the percentage of the disabled veteran's disability compensation rating for service-connected disabilities as certified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs for the purpose of applying for a property tax exemption. An unremarried surviving spouse who is receiving Department of Veterans' Affairs dependency and indemnity compensation receives a one hundred percent exemption.

Property tax exemption for paraplegic and permanent and totally disabled wheelchair bound veterans.

The home of a permanently and totally disabled veteran who is either paraplegic or permanently confined to a wheelchair is exempt from the first \$120,000 of valuation for property taxes. This applies to the unremarried surviving spouse in case of death.

Education Benefits

Veterans Educational Training (VET) is a free program of study funded by the state of North Dakota to prepare you for a certification program, two-year or four-year college degree. We will work to help you succeed in post-secondary education through classes and programs designed to ease the transition into life in higher education. Our classes are located on campus, or are available online to individuals outside a campus location.

Veterans Educational Training provides

- Refresher course work
- Basic mathematics through pre-calculus
- English composition and literature
- Computer skills
- Study skills
- Academic and career guidance
- College enrollment assistance
- VA Vocational Rehabilitation assistance
- Financial aid application
- Agency referrals
- Department of Veterans Affairs benefit advocacy

Eligibility

- U.S. Citizens
- Any North Dakota veteran planning on attending a North Dakota school
- Veterans who have served a minimum of 181 days or received a service disability under 181 days
- Any discharge other than dishonorable

Free Tuition to qualified Dependents in North Dakota Institution of Higher Education.

Any dependent of a resident veteran who was killed in action or died from wounds or other service-connected causes, was totally disabled as a result of service-connected causes, died from service-connected disabilities, was a prisoner of war, or was declared missing in action, upon being duly accepted for enrollment into any North Dakota state-supported institution of higher education or state-supported technical or vocational school, must be allowed to obtain a bachelor's degree or certificate of completion, for so long as the dependent is eligible, free of any tuition and fee charges.... provided that the bachelor's degree or certificate of completion is earned within a forty-five month or ten semester period or its equivalent; and further that tuition and fee charges shall not include costs for aviation flight charges or expenses.

Other State Veteran Benefits

License Plates

Distinctive numbered license plates may be issued to individuals eligible for interment in the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery. The surcharge collected will be divided between the Veterans' Cemetery Trust Fund and the Veterans' Cemetery Maintenance Fund. In addition the following specialty plates are available to qualifying veterans:

Prisoner of War



To be eligible the Veteran's Affairs Office must certify the applicant was a Prisoner of War. Complete, sign and return form [SFN 2872 Application for Certificate of Title](#) form with the certification letter and annual \$5.00 license fee. Qualified veterans are eligible for one (excise tax) exempt vehicle licensed with a POW license plate at a time. Plates may not be displayed on a vehicle with a gross weight equal to or exceeding 10,000 lbs. Upon the death of a former prisoner of war, the surviving spouse may elect to retain the POW plates for their own use until such time as they remarry. However, the surviving spouse is not entitled to the special registration rate for former prisoners of war. The surviving spouse must contact the Motor Vehicle Division to determine the correct registration fees due. Within 30 days of remarriage the surviving spouse must surrender the plates to the Motor Vehicle Division. If requested, a free commemorative plaque will be issued by the division as a keepsake for the family.

Veterans



Individuals eligible for interment in the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery qualify for the above plates. The [SFN 51628 Application for ND Veterans Number Plate](#) form must be completed, signed and returned with appropriate fees. To qualify for a Purple Heart plate the application must also be signed by the County Veterans' Service Officer verifying eligibility. There is an initial fee of \$15.00 (\$5 goes to Veterans Cemetery maintenance fund) to receive the Veterans' Number plates, with an annual fee thereafter of \$10.00 (\$5.00 goes to Veterans Cemetery trust fund and \$5 to Veterans Cemetery maintenance fund). Personalized Veterans' Number plates are an annual fee of \$25.00 in addition to the annual fee of \$10.00 and the yearly license fees.

National Guard



Distinctive numbered plates may be issued to members of the National Guard. The Adjutant General shall certify those members of the National Guard eligible to receive the plates. You must be a member of the National Guard or retired after 20 years or more of service to be eligible for these plates. A registrant must contact the Adjutant General's office to be assigned a National Guard license plate number. They will issue a form listing the plate number assigned and the individual eligible. [SFN 2872 Application for Certificate of Title](#) form must be completed, signed and returned with the form from the National Guard and the one-time \$5.00 fee. Personalized plates are available with a maximum of four (4) characters (to include spaces) the fees due would be the one time \$5.00 plus the annual personalized plate fee of \$25.00.

[Check availability of personalized plate](#) Upon termination of the registrant's eligibility, the registrant shall return the distinctive number plates to the Motor Vehicle Division, who shall issue a replacement plate for a fee of \$5.00.

Purple Heart



Available to those recipients of the Purple Heart award as listed on the DD214 or Certificate. The [SFN 51628 Application for ND Veterans Number Plate](#) form must be completed, signed and returned with appropriate fees. To qualify for a Purple Heart plate the application must also be signed by the County Veterans' Service Officer verifying eligibility. There is an initial fee of \$15.00 (\$5 goes to Veterans Cemetery maintenance fund) to receive the Veterans' Number plates, with an annual fee thereafter of \$10.00 (\$5.00 goes to Veterans Cemetery trust fund and \$5 to Veterans Cemetery maintenance fund). Personalized Veterans' Number plates are an annual fee of \$25.00 in addition to the annual fee of \$10.00 and the yearly license fees.

Gold Star



The director (DOT) may issue distinctive number plates to a surviving spouse, parent, including stepmother, stepfather, parent through adoption, and foster parent who stands or stood in loco parentis, grandparents, child, including stepchild and child through adoption, and sibling, including half-brother and half-sister, of a member of the armed forces of the United States who died while serving on active duty during a time of military conflict. Payment of an initial fee of fifteen dollars, of which ten dollars is to be deposited in the highway tax distribution fund and five dollars is to be deposited in the veterans' cemetery maintenance fund. One set of plates may be issued to an eligible family member.

Yellow Ribbon



The Yellow Ribbon "Support our Veterans Plates" Available to the general public through the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. You do NOT need to be a Veteran to apply for these plates. The fee for the plates is \$25. Of which \$15 will be donated to the North Dakota Veterans Emergency Needs Charitable Fund. See below "Purpose of the fund" to learn more. You will be assessed \$25 when you renew your plates. Your plate renewal date will not change from the date you currently have. You can personalize the plates for an additional \$25 (optional-as with any plate) with up to 5 characters. You will receive a new "expiration date" sticker with your new plates, which will be adjusted to your current plate

expiration. Not available for motor cycle plates at this time. Must be a passenger vehicle not exceeding twenty thousand pounds.

North Dakota State Park Fees

North Dakota veterans with a 50 percent or greater, service-related disability and former POWs are eligible for a free annual permit. All other North Dakota veterans with service related disabilities are eligible to receive an annual permit for \$20.

Game License

A resident disabled veteran can get a combined general game, habitat stamp, small game, and fur-bearer license for \$3.00, with an additional \$1.00 fee to purchase the resident certificate. Veterans must have a 100% service-connected disability or have an extra-schedular rating to bring the total ratio to 100%.

Fishing License

\$5.00 (plus a \$1.00 fee to purchase the certificate) for a resident fishing license if a resident disabled veteran has a fifty percent service-connected disability as determined by the Department of Veterans' Affairs or has an extra-schedular rating to include individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability ratio to fifty percent.

Transportation

The veterans transportation system is designed to aid veterans in transportation to a Veterans Hospital. Currently, there are 5 vans on scheduled routes bringing veterans to Fargo, North Dakota or Miles City, Montana. The cost of this program is underwritten in part by the Post War Trust Fund.

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

1. *Location.* The North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery was established by an act of the 1989 Legislative Assembly. The cemetery was opened in July 1992, and is operated by the Adjutant General of North Dakota. It is located 6.5 miles south of Mandan on Highway 1806 on a 35 acre tract of land in the southwest corner of Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. The Kiosk gravesite locator is available in the foyer of the visitors center. The cemetery office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm., closed weekends and on State Holidays. The cemetery grounds are open twenty four hours a day for grave visitation.



North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, 1825 46th Street, Mandan, ND 58554 Tel: (701) 667-1418/1419F

2. Eligibility for Burial

- Any Veteran of wartime or peacetime service who is eligible for burial in a "National Cemetery", in accordance with VA Publication VA-NCS-IS-1, regardless of state of residency.
- VA-NCA-IS-1 Interments In VA National Cemeteries - Present & past National Guard members and present & past members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard

Reserve forces. Length of service in the National Guard and Reserve, for enlisted personnel will be completion of at least one term of enlistment and officers who have completed at least four years of service. All military people interred in the cemetery must have received a discharge shown as: "Honorable", "Under Honorable Conditions" or "General". Undesirable, bad conduct, and any type of discharge other than honorable may or may not qualify the individual for burial, depending upon a determination made by the Adjutant General of North Dakota.

- The eligible spouse, widow, or widower of any person listed above. Normally the veteran and spouse (and other eligible dependents of the veteran) will be interred in the same gravesite or an adjoining gravesite, as appropriate.

3. *Application*

- It is not required that you have an application on file at the cemetery. However, the cemetery will accept applications if you so desire.
- To pre-register, complete the application form and submit a copy of your discharge (DD Form 214 or the equivalent) for active duty or the NGB 22 for National Guard and reservists. These documents must verify that you meet the eligibility requirements prior to any interments taking place. The funeral director will contact us to complete final arrangements. Use the application at <http://www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/benefits/veteranscemetery/applicationforburial/Documents/Application%20for%20Burial%202012.pdf>
- For veterans with multiple enlistments, it is imperative all discharges are considered. Information on the headstone is taken from the discharges; therefore war service, highest rank earned, significant decoration's and branches of service will reflect what is displayed on the headstone.

4. *Burial Cost*

- There is no cost to the veteran for burial.
- If a spouse or eligible dependent is to be interred at the cemetery there is a \$550.00 interment fee, subject to change over time. Lot determination is normally the next one available in the area currently being utilized. As in National Cemeteries, only one plot would be used for the veteran, spouse and/or eligible dependent. The first vault would be placed at a depth sufficient to accommodate additional vaults. A basic grave liner is required, but can be up graded to a vault through the funeral homes. The grave liner or vaults are purchased thorough the funeral home, they are not provided by the cemetery. There is no vault requirement for cremated remains, whatever urn or container provided will be placed directly into the grave.

5. *Veterans Cemetery Headstones*

- Every grave will be marked with an upright granite headstone at no cost to the veteran, non-military spouse, eligible dependents, and National Guard and Reserve retirees.
- National Guard and Reserve members with less than 20 years of service and are not on active duty at the time of their death are required to purchase the headstone through the cemetery. Contact the cemetery for current pricing.

6. *Cemetery Regulations regarding placement of items on graves:*

- FRESH CUT FLOWERS. Fresh cut flowers may be placed on graves at any time. Only temporary flower containers are permitted. Floral items will be removed from graves when they become faded or unsightly.

- **ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.** Artificial flowers may be placed on graves during the period of October 15th to the 10th day following Memorial Day.
- **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS.** Christmas wreaths or blankets are permitted on graves during the Christmas season commencing 1 December and will be removed by caretakers on 1 February each year.
- **PERMANENT PLANTINGS.** Permanent plantings will not be permitted on graves at any time. Potted plants will be permitted on graves during the period 10 days before and 10 days after Easter Sunday and Memorial Day.
- **COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS.** Statues, vigil lights, glass objects of any nature or any other commemorative items are not permitted on the graves at any time. All graves will be decorated on Memorial Day by the cemetery staff with 8"x12" United States Flags. U.S. Flags are not permitted on graves at any other time.
- **REMOVAL OF DECORATIVE ITEMS.** During lawn mowing and ground maintenance season all floral items will be removed from graves when that section of the cemetery requires mowing or other maintenance.

7. *Additional info.* Go to www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/benefits/veteranscemetery/Pages/default.aspx to learn more about the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

Visit the North Dakota Department of veteran Affairs website <http://www.nd.gov/veterans> for contact information and benefits assistance

[Source: www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/north-dakota-state-veterans-benefits.html Feb 2016 ++]

Military Discounts in North Dakota

1. MVDC has a list of close to 700 locations in North Dakota that have discounts for military personnel or veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of North Dakota also provides discounts for those that have served.

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

3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes**

- Free annual permit to state parks for North Dakota veterans with a 100%, service-related disability and former POWs.
- \$20 reduced annual permit for all other North Dakota veterans with service-related disabilities.
- Special hunting deadlines and privileges.

4. **Property tax and Financial Benefits** - Property tax reduction for veterans with 50% or greater service-related disability

5. **Education Discounts**

- Tuition assistance up to 100% combining federal payments with state and school reimbursements

- Option to withdraw from any/all classes, even after any established deadlines, for a full refund of tuition and fees upon receiving federal mobilization orders
- Free tuition for qualified dependents

6. To find businesses that provide military and veteran discounts refer to <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com>.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/north-dakota> Feb 2016 ++]