

Pennsylvania State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts

November 2015



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

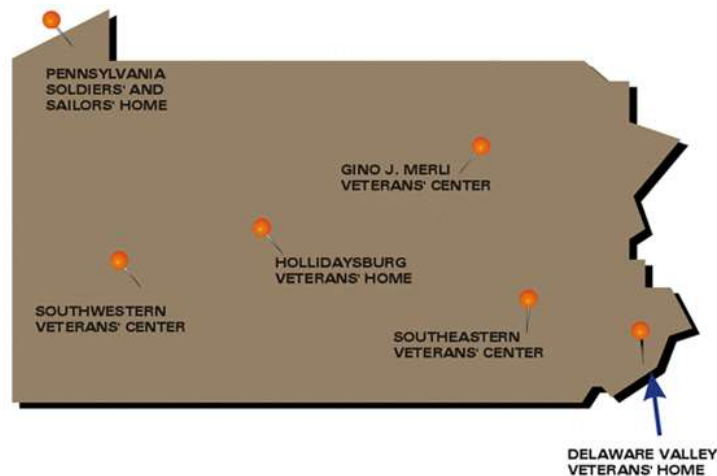
- [Veteran Housing Benefits](#)
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Veteran Housing Programs

State Veterans Homes

- The State of Pennsylvania runs six Veterans Homes:
- The Delaware Valley Veterans Home in Philadelphia
- The Gino J. Merli Veterans Center in Scranton
- The Hollidaysburg Veterans Home
- The Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Erie
- The Southeastern Veterans Center in Spring City
- The Southwestern Veterans Center in Pittsburgh

The level of care provided includes personal care, skilled nursing care, domiciliary care, and dementia care. These facilities offer qualified veterans and their spouses dedicated, superior care.



An applicant shall be an eligible veteran, spouse or surviving spouse of an eligible veteran. An "eligible veteran" is defined as an individual who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States or the Pennsylvania Military Forces and was discharged under honorable conditions. An applicant shall be a bona fide resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the eligible veteran or spouse of an eligible veteran for who the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is his/her home of record upon entry into the Armed Forces of the United States or the Pennsylvania Military Forces. Current residents have priority, however, in admission. A resident of a state veterans home shall be required to make monthly payments against maintenance fee liability in accordance with the resident's ability to pay.

The veteran must be a bona fide resident of the Commonwealth when applying. Spouses and surviving spouses of eligible veterans may also apply. Applications are processed on a "first come, first served" basis. Contact information for admission is Bureau of Veterans Homes, Bldg S-0-41, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003 Tel: (717) 861-8906 Email: RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov. Applications can be downloaded at http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/Docs_BVA/Forms/homesapp.pdf. NOTE: Only the original application with original signatures will be accepted (i.e. no FAX) and must be mailed directly to the following address: Bureau of Veterans Homes, Attn: Admission's Office, Bldg. 0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Pennsylvania 1700

Financial Assistance Benefits

Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus Program

The Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus pays eligible Pennsylvania residents \$75 per month served in the Persian Gulf Theatre of Operations (maximum benefit \$525) during the Persian Gulf War, August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991. The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Benefit Program is August 31, 2015.

Veterans Emergency Assistance

Provides financial aid in an emergency and temporary basis (not to exceed three months in a 12-month period) to veterans, their widows, infant children or dependents who reside in Pennsylvania for the necessities of life (food, dairy, shelter, fuel and clothing). An honorably discharged veteran must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during established war service dates or during peacetime

hostile fire or terrorist attack as determined by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Upon the recent death of a veteran, his widow or orphan children are eligible provided the veteran would have qualified prior to his/her death.

Real Estate Tax Exemption

Any honorably discharged veteran who is a resident of the Commonwealth shall be exempt from the payment of all real estate taxes levied upon any building, including the land upon which it stands, occupied by him as his principal dwelling, provided that as a result of wartime military service the veteran has a 100% service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; that such dwelling is owned by him solely or jointly with his spouse (an estate by the entirety); and that the financial need for the exemption from the payment of real estate taxes has been determined by the State Veterans' Commission. Upon the death of the qualified veteran, the exemption passes on to the unmarried surviving spouse if the financial need can be shown.

Blind Veterans Pension

Provides for a pension of \$150.00 per month for a person who served in the military or naval forces of the United States, or women's organization officially connected therewith, who gave the Commonwealth as his/her place of residence when entering the military and while performing duties connected with the service, suffered an injury or incurred a disease which resulted in loss of vision so that the visual acuity with the best correcting lens is 3/60 or 10/200 or equivalent, or less normal vision in the better eye. Less normal vision than 3/60 or 10/200, or equivalent, includes circumstances where the widest diameter of the visual field of the better eye has contracted to such an extent that it subtends an angular distance of not greater than 20°. The term does not include a person separated from the military or naval forces of the United States or a women's organization officially connected therewith under other than honorable conditions.

Paralyzed Veterans Pension

Provides for a pension of \$150.00 per month for any person separated under honorable conditions from the Armed Forces of the United States, who gave the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as his or her place of residence at time of entering the military or naval forces of the United States, and who currently resides in Pennsylvania. Veterans qualify for the pension if they suffered an injury or disease resulting in the loss or loss of use of two or more extremities (arms/hands or legs/feet).

Education Benefits

Educational Gratuity

Payment of educational gratuities are for children of honorably discharged veterans who have been certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having wartime service-connected disabilities rated as totally and permanently disabled or children of veterans who die or have died of war service-connected disabilities or died in service during a period of war or armed conflict. Children must be between the ages of 16 and 23, living within the Commonwealth five years prior to application and must attend a school within the Commonwealth to be entitled to this educational gratuity. Applicants must demonstrate financial need, the maximum gratuity amount is \$500 per semester.

Other State Veteran Benefits

Antlerless Deer License

Application can be made at a county treasurer of your choice, regardless of the county allocation

Military Special License Plates

The Honoring Our Veterans plate became available on November 26, 2012. Fifteen dollars from every "Honoring Our Veterans" plate sold will benefit the Veterans Trust Fund. To apply for license plate, please complete [Form MV-914](#), "[Application](#)"



For information about all other military license plates refer to the below or, download the [U.S. Military Veteran Registration Plates Fact Sheet](#). Images of the military license plates may be viewed by clicking on the links to the left of the license plate's description. For fees, eligibility requirements, and ordering forms click the MV-150 link indicated on each plate description.

Several military and veterans organizations participate in PennDOT's Specialty Plate Program. For a listing of approved organizations, visit the [Specialty Plate Program](#) page.

[Medal of Honor License Plate](#)

This plate has 13 white stars and white lettering on a light blue background. Recipients of the Medal of Honor are entitled to receive this plate. Requests for this plate must be submitted through the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, Bureau of Veterans Affairs Office, Bldg S-0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003.



[Purple Heart](#)

This license plate features the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow with a detailed color image of the Purple Heart medal in a 3" x 3" canvas area on the left side of the plate. The word "Pennsylvania" appears across the top and the words "Combat Wounded Veteran" appear on the bottom of the plate. Applicants must submit a legible photocopy of one of the following, clearly indicating that a Purple Heart was awarded: A copy of the general order, a copy of the Certificate of Award or a certification of the award from the Veterans' Administration. To apply for this plate,

complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Ex-Prisoner of War](#)

This plate features the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow with a detailed color image of the Prisoner of War medal in the center of the plate. Applicants must provide a Certificate of Imprisonment from the appropriate branch of the Armed Forces or from the Veterans' Administration. The documentation must indicate the dates of imprisonment while in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).

[Pearl Harbor Survivor](#)

This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible photocopy of one of the following, which indicates the applicant was present at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941: A copy of the verification made by the U.S. service unit from the appropriate branch of the Armed Forces in which the applicant served or for non-military applicants, documentation from the U.S. Civil Service Commission such as an I.D. card or other written verification. NOTE: Members of a Pearl Harbor Survivors Organization may have the organization verify their qualification in Section D on Form [MV-150](#) in lieu of a copy of documents above.



[World War II Veteran](#)

This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible, certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates service any time during the period of Dec. 7, 1941, through Dec. 31, 1946. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Korean War Veteran](#)

This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible photocopy of one of the following, which indicates the applicant served in Korea any time during the period of June 27, 1950, through Jan. 31, 1955: A copy of the Korean Service Medal Award or a Statement of Service in Korea during the period of time listed above from the Records Center at Department of Army, National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63132. To apply for

this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Vietnam War Veteran](#)

This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible, certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates one of the following medals was awarded for service in Vietnam and contiguous waters or airspace there over: A copy of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal if applicant served in Vietnam between July 1, 1958, and July 3, 1965 or a copy of the Vietnam Service Medal, if applicant served in Vietnam between July 3, 1965, and March 28, 1973. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).






[Persian Gulf War Veteran](#)

This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible photocopy of the following, which indicates service beginning Aug. 2, 1990 in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations: A copy of the Southwest Asia Service Medal Award was awarded between Aug. 2, 1990 to Nov. 30, 1995, or the Armed Forces Expedition Medal awarded between Dec. 1, 1995 to present date and when the applicant is currently on active duty, a statement of service from the applicant's commanding officer verifying duty in the Southwest Asia Theater. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Expeditionary Forces](#)

This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible, certified copy of Form DD214, which indicates that either a Naval or Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, a Kosovo Campaign Medal or a Global War on Terrorism Expedition Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).

	
<p>Veteran Motorcycle License Plate</p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow. This plate is only available for motorcycles. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces of the U.S. or a reserve component of the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)", Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)", Form DD2S(RESRET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Reserves Retired)" or Form DD2S(RES), "Armed Forces of the United States Geneva Conventions Identification Card (Reserves Retired)." NOTE: National Guard Reservists will need to submit Form NGB22, "Report of Separation and Record of Service" in lieu of Form DD214. To apply for this plate, complete Form MV-150.</p>
<p>Operation Iraqi Freedom</p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and the Iraqi Campaign Medal. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214,"Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates an Operation Iraqi Freedom service or an Iraqi Campaign Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form MV-150.</p> 
<p>Operation Enduring Freedom</p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and the Afghanistan Campaign medal. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates an Operation Enduring Freedom service or an Afghanistan Campaign Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form MV-150.</p> 
<p>Veteran</p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and a waving American flag. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)", Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)", Form</p>

DD2S(RESRET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Reserves Retired)" or Form DD2S(RES), "Armed Forces of the United States Geneva Conventions Identification Card (Reserves Retired)." NOTE: National Guard Reservists will need to submit Form NGB22, "Report of Separation and Record of Service" in lieu of Form DD214. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Korean Defense Service](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and the Korean Defense Service Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD215, "Correction to DD214," indicating the Korean Defense Service Medal was applied for and issued. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[U.S. Coast Guard Veteran](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)." To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[U.S. Marine Corps Veteran](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)." To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[U.S. Air Force Veteran](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)." To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).







[U.S. Navy Veteran](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)." To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[U.S. Army Veteran](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)." To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).

	 <p>A sample Pennsylvania registration plate with a blue top section containing the word "PENNSYLVANIA". The main white section features a gold star in a black square on the left with "U.S. ARMY" below it, followed by the number "0000" in blue. To the right of the number is the word "SAMPLE" written vertically, and the letters "A" and "R" stacked vertically. The bottom yellow section contains the text "U.S. ARMY VETERAN" in blue.</p>
<p>Bronze Star</p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Bronze Star Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Bronze Star Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form MV-150.</p>  <p>A sample Pennsylvania registration plate with a blue top section containing the word "PENNSYLVANIA". The main white section features a Bronze Star Medal on the left, followed by the number "0000" in blue. To the right of the number is the word "SAMPLE" written vertically, and the letters "B" and "Z" stacked vertically. The bottom yellow section contains the text "BRONZE STAR" in blue.</p>
<p>Silver Star</p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Silver Star Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Silver Star Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form MV-150.</p>  <p>A sample Pennsylvania registration plate with a blue top section containing the word "PENNSYLVANIA". The main white section features a Silver Star Medal on the left, followed by the number "0000" in blue. To the right of the number is the word "SAMPLE" written vertically, and the letters "S" and "I" stacked vertically. The bottom yellow section contains the text "SILVER STAR" in blue.</p>
<p>Bronze Star for Valor</p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Bronze Star for Valor Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Bronze Star for Valor Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form MV-150.</p>  <p>A sample Pennsylvania registration plate with a blue top section containing the word "PENNSYLVANIA". The main white section features a Bronze Star for Valor Medal on the left, followed by the number "0000" in blue. To the right of the number is the word "SAMPLE" written vertically, and the letters "B" and "V" stacked vertically. The bottom yellow section contains the text "BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR" in blue.</p>
<p>Distinguished Service Cross</p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Distinguished Service Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Distinguished Service Cross Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete</p>

Form [MV-150](#).



[Distinguished Flying Cross](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Navy Cross](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Navy Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Navy Cross Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).




[Air Force Cross](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Air Force Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Air Force Cross Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Gold Star Family](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, which features a gold star in 3" x 3" canvas area on the left side of the plate. The word "Pennsylvania" appears across the top and the words "Gold Star Family" appear on the bottom of the plate. For more information and to apply for this plate, download Form

	<p>MV-912.</p> 
<p>Merchant Marine</p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and the service-approved emblem. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates service as a Merchant Marine anytime during the period of December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946. To apply for this plate, complete Form MV-150W.</p>
<p>Airborne Unit</p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and images of the Jump Wings and Glider Wings. Applicants must submit documentation that indicates the applicant satisfactorily completed the prescribed proficiency tests who are/were assigned or attached to an Airborne Unit and any other military personnel determined by PennDOT to be appropriately classified as a member of a U.S. Military Airborne Parachutist or Glider Unit. NOTE: U.S. Military Airborne Units include Parachutist or Glider Units, Glider Troopers, Paratroopers, Air Assault Troopers, Rangers, U.S. Army Special Forces, USMC Recon, U.S. Navy Seals, U.S. Air Force Special Operations, Troop Carrier Command, including Glider Pilots and the 160th SOAR. To apply for this plate, complete Form MV-150.</p>

For additional contact information and benefits assistance visit the Pennsylvania Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs website http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/dmva_home/5902 .

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/pennsylvania-state-veterans-benefits.html> Nov 2015 ++]

Military Discounts in Pennsylvania

1. MVDC has close to 8000 business locations in Pennsylvania that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of Pennsylvania also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zipcode and category in the search box at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/pennsylvania.html>.

2. **Veterans Designation on drivers license:** Yes

3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes**

- Reduced price for hunting and fishing licenses for service members returning from deployment or former POWs.
- Free fishing and hunting licenses and select other licenses for disabled veterans.

- No fee for license plates and placards for disabled veterans

4. **Property tax and Financial Benefits**

- Military retirement pay is not taxable.
- National Guard pay for state active duty for emergencies is exempt from state income tax.
- Federal military pay earned outside of the state is exempt from state income tax.
- Qualifying 100% disabled veterans may be exempt from real estate tax.
- Bargain rate loans for honorably discharged veterans from Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

5. **Education Discounts**

- Payment of tuition, fees, room/board at state schools for surviving children of member who dies in the line of duty. Payment of tuition and fees for spouse of member who dies in the line of duty.
- Up to 100% tuition assistance for National Guard members at all state schools.
- In accordance with PHEAA, "Student loan forgiveness may be granted for those members of the military who use federal teacher loans or agriculture education loans.
- Full refund of tuition granted to students enrolled in state schools who are members of the National Guard or Reserves who are ordered to duty.

6. Refer to <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com> to find businesses that provide military and veteran discounts in your area.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/pennsylvania.html> Nov 2015 ++]