

Vermont State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts

2017



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

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

Vermont Veteran Housing Programs

The state of Vermont runs a veterans home in Bennington. Vermont Veterans have priority for admission to the Vermont Veterans Home. Veterans from other states are welcome to apply. Eligible Veterans are those who served at least ninety days in the Armed Forces of the United States and were discharged under honorable conditions. Gold Star parents and spouses of qualified Veterans also are eligible for admission.

Bennington Vermont Veterans' Home

The original estate that houses Vermont Veterans' Home was constructed in 1860. In 1884, recognizing the need to care for veterans disabled in the Civil War, the State General Assembly appointed Trustees of a Soldiers' Home and authorized a \$10,000 appropriation as initial funding. The first of twenty-five residents was admitted on May 18, 1887. On April 14, 1971, the Soldiers' Home was renamed the Vermont Veterans' Home.

Construction of a cemetery began in 1884 with one acre devoted to the burial of Civil War veterans. Expanded to 17 acres, and containing about 300 gravesites, burial is now restricted to residents of the

VVH. Significant capital construction began in the 1960's including renovation of the administration building, residential areas, and dining room, and construction of new nursing care units, a chapel, social hall, gazebo, and bandstand.

In the past several years, other significant additions and renovations occurred, including a geothermal system for heating and cooling, and renovation of four residential units, and development of a memorial area which includes monuments dedicated to Vermont Medal of Honor winners, Gold Star Mothers, and Vermont Veterans. Lighting systems, electronic controls, and information systems have been updated. The home publishes a monthly newsletter "**The Buzz**" accessible at <http://vvh.vermont.gov/about-us/newsletter>.

The 177 bed nursing home provides a full range of care, including skilled nursing home care, and accepts Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance. Veterans without Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance will have to pay for their care, but the home's staff will help make sure all available insurance programs are used if the individual is eligible. Goals focus on dignity, independence, and the highest quality of life for each resident. The home is located at 325 North Street, Bennington, VT 05201 Tel: 1-802-447-6523 E-mail: vvh-admissions@state.vt.us. The home offers a complete range of specialized health care services which include:

- Skilled Nursing Care
- Certified Alzheimer's Unit
- Namaste and Music and Memory Therapy
- Rehabilitation Therapy
- Medical Social Work
- Respite Care
- Registered Dietician
- Podiatry Care
- Dental Services
- End of Life Care
- Chapel and Pastoral Care on Campus
- Transportation to Medical Appointments
- Guest Room for Family Members

The Vermont Veterans' Home is a community for all Veterans of military service, not just those that have served during war time. You can confirm your eligibility with their admissions team. To apply for residency at the Vermont Veterans' Home, there are a few steps that need to be taken.

1. At http://vvh.vermont.gov/sites/vahome/files/VVH_Admission_Application_.pdf download the application and fill it out to the best of your ability
2. Fill out the supporting documents indicated at <http://vvh.vermont.gov/Admissionsat>
3. Call to set up a tour and meet with an admission representative
4. Submit the applications with all current medical information attached and a copy of discharge paperwork from the armed forces (DD 214 of VA HINK)



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Visit the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs website <http://veterans.vermont.gov/> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Vermont Financial Assistance Programs

Income Tax Benefits

Active duty pay earned while out-of-state is not taxed. Up to \$2,000 in guard/reserve pay is not taxed.

Emergency Financial Assistance

The Office of Veterans Affairs provides emergency financial assistance to veterans and their dependents by providing a one-time payment. Applications are processed over the phone or in person. Applicants will need to provide detailed information on their income and expenses to apply.

Property Tax Reduction

The following are eligible for the exemption:

- Veterans receiving Disability Compensation at a rating of 50% or higher
- Veterans receiving Non-Service Connected Pension (also called Improved Pension)
- Veterans collecting military retirement pay for a medical military retirement
- Surviving spouses of veterans who had received the exemption (surviving spouses may also be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation or Death Pension)

The exemption level varies from town to town. State law mandates a minimum \$10,000 exemption, although towns are given the option of increasing the exemption to \$40,000.

Vermont Veteran Employment Programs

High School Diplomas for WWII and Korean War Era Veterans

Veterans of the World War II and Korean War Eras who do not have a high school diploma may be eligible to receive one from a Vermont high school. Applications are verified by the Office of Veterans Affairs, and the diplomas are issued by a secondary school picked by the veteran

Vermont Veteran Education Assistance

High School Diplomas for WWII and Korean War Era Veterans

Veterans of the World War II and Korean War Eras who do not have a high school diploma may be eligible to receive one from a Vermont high school. Applications are verified by the Office of Veterans Affairs, and the diplomas are issued by a secondary school picked by the veteran.

Other Vermont State Veteran Benefits

Veteran Advocacy

The application process for veterans benefits can be confusing and intimidating. If you would like someone to work for you to help make sure you receive the state and federal benefits you and your family deserve, contact our Veteran Service Officer, Mr. Richard Reed. He is a trained and certified professional veterans' advocate who will work on your behalf for no fee.

Discharge Records

The Office of Veterans Affairs maintains copies of active duty discharge records for most veterans who entered the service from Vermont. We help veterans locate their records, will store copies of their records, and will make certified copies of records...all free of charge. Because of the federal Privacy Act, we need

to have your request for your discharge in writing. You can come to our office, mail a request, or fax a request. Although we have a Records Request Form, you don't have to use it. If you don't want to use the form, just send us a letter requesting a copy of the discharge (it doesn't have to be typed) with the veteran's name, Social Security Number, date of birth, and approximate dates of service. Make sure to sign the letter and include the address you would like the discharge mailed to. We only release the discharge to the veteran, or the veteran's next of kin if the veteran is deceased.

If the requestor is the next of kin, please provide the veteran's date of death and the relationship to the veteran. Requests can be faxed or mailed...sorry, we can't take Email requests for records. If we don't have your discharge, you can request it from the state you entered the military from or from the National Personnel Records Center. If you need a full copy of your records, to include your medical records, you would need to get them from the records center. Requests from them take a minimum of two months.

Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery

The Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery is located at 487 Furnace Rd, Randolph Center, VT 05061 Tel: (802) 828-1211 It provides veterans with a resting-place that honors their service at a cost lower than a commercial cemetery. In addition, certain family members may also be buried with the veteran. Applicants can choose from government markers or custom made commercial markers.



Veterans who wish to be interred at the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery should contact the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs in Montpelier.

Vermont Veterans License Plates

Veterans can receive a Vermont Veterans License Plate when they register their vehicle. Veterans can have a Vermont Veterans License Plate on each of their cars. The Department of Motor Vehicles will charge \$10 the first time a vehicle is registered with the plate. Of this fee, \$5 goes towards the Office of Veterans Affairs to fund their activities. Military specialty plates available include:

Ex-POW Plate



Additional Fee: None

Personalized/Vanity Plate Available? No

Required Document(s): Application must be accompanied by written certification of eligibility from U.S. Veteran's Administration

Application: [VT Veteran's Recognition Plate Application](#)

Former prisoners of war, Pearl Harbor veterans and Purple Heart veterans may complete an application for special number plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate. The application must be accompanied by certification of the applicant's status as a former prisoner of war (P.O.W.), Pearl Harbor veteran or Purple Heart veteran. This certification must be completed by the Veterans' Administration or state veterans' affairs office, respectively. The prisoner of war (P.O.W.), Pearl Harbor or Purple Heart plates are not subject to any special plate fees.

Gold Star Family Plate



Additional Fee: None

Personalized/Vanity Plate Available? No

Required Document(s): Submit a completed application and [DD form 1300](#) , Report of Casualty, to the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs for certification as a Gold Star Family member. The Office of Veterans' Affairs will forward the completed application and the copy of the DD form 1300 to the Department of Motor Vehicles for processing.

Application: [Gold Star Family Plate Application](#)

The Gold Star Family License Plate is a special motor vehicle license plate for Gold Star Families, as defined in 10 U.S.C. §1126. The Gold Star Family license plate identifies widows, parents, and next of kin of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who lost their lives during a war, military conflict, international terrorist attack, or military operations.

Family members who may receive these plates are: Widows - Widowers - Mother - Father - Stepmother - Stepfather - Son - Daughter - Stepson - Stepdaughter - Brother - Sister - Half Brother - Half Sister - Mother (through adoption) - Father (through adoption) - Son (by adoption) - Daughter (by adoption) - Foster Father in Loco Parentis - Foster Mother in Loco Parentis

The Gold Star Family plates are not subject to any special plate fees. These license plates may be issued for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate or on trucks registered for less than 26,001 lbs. at the applicable fee. The plates will be reissued only to the original holder of the plates.

Pearl Harbor Survivor Plate



Additional Fee: None

Personalized/Vanity Plate Available? No

Required Document(s): Application must be accompanied by copy of Discharge Record, DD-214, or other document indicating eligibility which bears the stamp and certification of the State of Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs.

Application: [VT Veteran's Recognition Plate Application](#)

Former prisoners of war, Pearl Harbor veterans and Purple Heart veterans may complete an application for special number plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate. The application must be accompanied by certification of the applicant's status as a former prisoner of war (P.O.W.), Pearl Harbor veteran or Purple Heart veteran. This certification must be completed by the Veterans' Administration or state veterans' affairs office, respectively. The prisoner of war (P.O.W.), Pearl Harbor or Purple Heart plates are not subject to any special plate fees.

Purple Heart Plate



Additional Fee: None

Personalized/Vanity Plate Available? No

Required Document(s): Application must be accompanied by copy of Discharge Record, DD-214, or other document indicating eligibility which bears the stamp and certification of the State of Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs.

Application: [VT Veteran's Recognition Plate Application](#)

Former prisoners of war, Pearl Harbor veterans and Purple Heart veterans may complete an application for special number plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate. The application must be accompanied by certification of the applicant's status as a former prisoner of war (P.O.W.), Pearl Harbor veteran or Purple Heart veteran. This certification must be completed by the Veterans' Administration or state veterans' affairs office, respectively. The prisoner of war (P.O.W.), Pearl Harbor or Purple Heart plates are not subject to any special plate fees.

U.S. Veteran Plate



Additional Fee: None

Personalized/Vanity Plate Available? No

Required Document(s): Application must be accompanied by written certification of eligibility from Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs.

Application: [U.S. Veteran's Plate Application](#)

U.S. Veterans and members of the Armed Forces may complete an application for Veteran number plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate, on trucks registered for less than 26,001 lbs at

the applicable fee, or at the motorcycle rate. The application must be accompanied by certification of the applicant's status as a U.S. Veteran or a current member of the U.S. Armed Forces. This certification must be completed by the Veterans' Administration or state veterans' affairs office, respectively. The U.S. Veteran plates are not subject to any special plate fees.

Vermont National Guard Plate



Additional Fee: [One-time](#)

Personalized/Vanity Plate Available? No

Required Document(s): Must provide authorization from the Office of the Adjutant General, State of Vermont.

Application: [Safety/Service Organization Plate Application](#)

Groups which provide police and fire protection, rescue squads, national guard, together with those organizations required to respond to public emergencies and amateur radio operators licensed by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission may obtain special (safety organization) plates. At the request of the leader of a safety organization, upon application and payment of an annual fee for each set of plates (in addition to the annual fee for registration), special plates indicating membership in one of the "safety organizations" may be issued to registrants (who are members of these organizations) of:

- pleasure cars
- other vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate
- trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds

The applicant must provide a written statement from the appropriate official of the organization, authorizing the issuance of the plates. At the time that an organization requests the plates, it must deposit a set fee with the department. For each set of plates issued, a portion of this deposit will be applied as the safety organization special plate fee for each authorized applicant. When the initial deposit is depleted, applicants shall be required to pay the annual fee.

When an individual's membership in a qualifying organization ceases or is terminated, the individual must surrender any special registration plates issued to the Department of Motor Vehicles immediately.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Plate



Additional Fee: [One-time](#)

Personalized/Vanity Plate Available? No

Required Document(s): Copy of valid membership card or an authorization signed by VFW

Quartermaster.

Application: [Safety/Service Organization Plate Application](#)

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) can display the VFW insignia on their Vermont license plate. The plate is available to Vermont members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The design features the official insignia of the VFW on the right side of the plate.

Vietnam Veterans of America Plate



Additional Fee: [One-time](#)

Personalized/Vanity Plate Available? No

Required Document(s): Copy of a valid VT Membership card or signed authorization.

Application: [Safety/Service Organization Plate Application](#)

Vietnam Veterans can proudly display their colors through their Vermont license plate. The plate is available to Vermont members in good standing of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). The design features the official insignia of the VVA on the right side of the plate.

Any veteran may apply for a non-specific Veterans' Plate which displays an American flag and "V" designation ([see "VT Veterans' Plates"](#)).

American Legion Plate



Additional Fee: [One-time](#)

Personalized/Vanity Plate Available? No

Required Document(s): Copy of a valid membership ID card or letter of authorization from Post Adjutant.

Application: [Safety/Service Organization Plate Application](#)

Members of the American Legion can display the American Legion logo on their Vermont license plate. The plate is available to Vermont members of the American Legion. The design features the official logo of the American Legion on the left side of the plate.

The following plates are also available.

- US Veteran Afghanistan
- US Veteran Gulf War
- US Veteran Iraq
- US Veteran Korean War
- US Veteran Vietnam War
- US Veteran World War II

US Veteran, Disabled

Hunting and Fishing Licenses; Green Mountain Pass

Veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs Service Connected Disability rating of 60% or greater can receive a free lifetime hunting and fishing license. They can also receive a free Green Mountain Pass, which provides free access to state parks. For the hunting and fishing license, you will need to obtain a verification letter from the White River Junction Benefits Office (1-800-827-1000). Submit the verification letter with a standard license application and send it to the Fish and Wildlife Department in Waterbury.

Green Mountain Pass

Veterans may receive a Green Mountain Pass for a \$2 fee. Use the Green Mountain Pass for free admission to Vermont State Parks (overnight camping and other park fees are excluded), Vermont State Historic Sites, and events which are fully State sponsored.

Vermont Medals

Veterans who entered the military when they were a resident of Vermont, regardless of where they live now, and received an honorable discharge may be eligible for a state medal honoring their service.

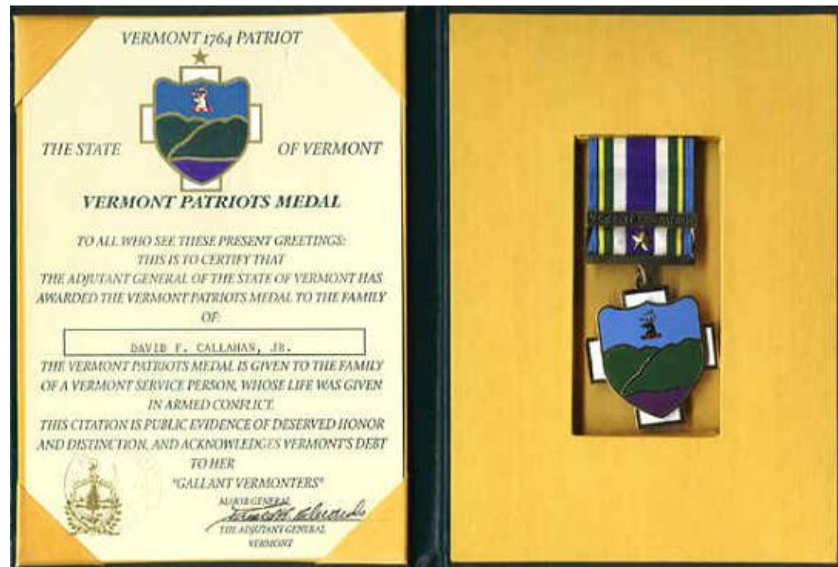
- The Vermont Veterans Medal is awarded to most veterans with an honorable discharge.



- The Vermont Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to veterans who received an honorable discharge and who served in a combat theater.



- The Patriots Medal is presented to the next-of-kin of Vermont soldiers killed in action.



Veterans may choose to have the medals mailed to them or presented in a ceremony. In cases where the veteran is deceased, the medals may be requested by a family member. Medals are usually mailed within 4 weeks of our office receiving an application; those who request a ceremony may have to wait up to a year before there will be a presentations. Distribution of the Veterans Medal and Distinguished Service Medal is not automatic. Veterans must apply for them, or have someone apply on their behalf. Applications are quick and easy... most can be completed over the phone by calling the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs at (888) 666-9844 or (802) 828-3379.

Visit the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs website <http://veterans.vermont.gov/> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/content/veteran-state-benefits/vermont-state-veterans-benefits.html> Feb 2017 ++]

Military Discounts in Vermont

1. MVDC has close to 500 business locations in Vermont that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zip code and category in the search box at the top of <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/vermont.html>

2. **Veterans Designation on drivers license:** No

3. Discounted Fees and Taxes -

- Eligibility for moose permit special lottery for veterans who served in a combat theater in support of the Global War on Terror
- Exemption from vehicle sales tax, registration fees, and license fees for specific disabled veterans

4. Property tax and Financial Benefits - Minimum \$10,000 property tax exemption for specific disabled veterans or their surviving spouses

5. Education Discounts -

- Tuition assistance programs and scholarships for Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, Veterans and family members through the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
- Tuition assistance for members of the Vermont National Guard from the Guard's Education Office
- Payment of tuition for surviving family members of a National Guard member who dies on active duty

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/vermont.html> Feb 2017 ++]