

# Idaho State Veteran's Benefits

January 2015



More than 130,000 Idahoans are veterans of the Armed Forces. As a veteran you have earned benefits for yourself and potentially for your family, but you must apply to receive these benefits. Idaho is grateful for your service and want to ensure you receive all the employment and training support you deserve. The state of Idaho provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

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

## Veteran Housing Programs

### **Veterans Homes**

The Idaho Division of Veterans Services operates three Veterans Homes in Boise Lewiston Pocatello. Their location and contact info is:

- 320 Collins Road, Boise, Idaho 83702 Tel: (208) 780-1616/1617F
- 821 21st Avenue, Lewiston, Idaho 83501 Tel: (208) 750-3600/2523F
- 1957 Alvin Ricken Drive, Pocatello, Idaho 83201 Tel: (208) 235-7800/7891F

All three homes share a common goal of providing responsive medical and supportive care to veterans who can no longer provide for themselves. Applicants may be peacetime or wartime veterans, with wartime veterans retaining priority admission status. They must have been

discharged under honorable conditions and be a bona fide resident of the state of Idaho. In addition, applicants must be unemployable as a result of age, illness, or disability and must apply for and become eligible for Medicaid benefits or must pay the established maximum monthly nursing care charge. In addition to providing outstanding care for veterans and their spouses, Idaho Veterans Homes also offer numerous activities and social services. Residents enjoy recreational and social activities, outings and other programs that keep them active, independent and involved. Our caring team of physical, occupational and speech therapists provide custom programs designed to enhance the quality of life and individual skills and abilities of residents. Facilities include a state-of-the-art therapy room, activity center, dining room, gardens, chapel and more. The facilities provide a safe, comfortable place to call home. The quality of life for residents is the primary focus and an environment that supports privacy, independence, comfort and security, while meeting social needs is provided. To obtain an admission application go to [http://www.veterans.idaho.gov/images/stories/PDF\\_Files/ISVH/Idaho\\_State\\_Veterans\\_Home\\_Admission\\_Application\\_July\\_2012\\_Update\\_December\\_2014.pdf](http://www.veterans.idaho.gov/images/stories/PDF_Files/ISVH/Idaho_State_Veterans_Home_Admission_Application_July_2012_Update_December_2014.pdf)



**Boise Veterans Home**

The "Old Soldiers Home" formally opened in Boise in May 1895. It was eventually replaced by the New Home which was dedicated in November 1966. Situated on a sprawling, tree-lined campus at the base of the beautiful Boise foothills, the Boise Veterans Home provides a quiet, peaceful setting just a few convenient miles from the heart of downtown Boise. The facility offers a 36-bed residential/ domiciliary unit, and a 131 bed skilled nursing care unit including a 17-bed special care unit for veterans with Alzheimer's disease or related conditions. Each room is individualized to provide residents with maximum privacy, and all have windows and individually controlled heating and air conditioning. The facility features a physical therapy center, a spacious dining room, pleasant common areas, a large covered patio and courtyards. Services available to residents include extensive activity programs, onsite veteran and social services, library services, and transportation to medical appointments.



**Lewiston Veterans Home**

Nestled in a park-like setting with a panoramic view of nearby rolling hills, the Idaho State Veteran's Home in Lewiston provides a comfortable and welcoming setting for our veterans and their spouses. We are fortunate to be located right at the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers — one of the premier fishing spots in the nation — which provides residents and visitors alike with a beautiful and peaceful environment. Established in 1994 the Lewiston Veteran's Home was built on the philosophy of supporting the hardworking, rural values of our clients. Our professional staff takes pride in being there to assist residents with a full range of financial, social, spiritual and skilled nursing care needs. Our North Idaho Veteran's organizations provide generous support to the Home. The 66-bed home features daily activities, including physical therapy; a Canteen area to visit with family and a dining hall that serves three wholesome meals a day. For residents who have relatives visiting from outside the local community we are happy to provide a guest room for short term stays. Qualified veterans and their spouses who need nursing home care are encouraged to contact the Lewiston Veteran's Home to learn more about the resources and services we offer.



**Pocatello Veterans Home**

Built on property donated by Idaho State University, the Pocatello Veterans Home provides residents with a beautiful hilltop view of the City of Pocatello just a short two miles away. This 66-bed skilled nursing facility offers a large, newly-renovated therapy room, as well as a recently-remodeled activity room. Other facilities include a chapel, library, multiple lounge areas with big screen televisions, pool tables, a canteen and a dining room. There is also a covered patio, a gazebo, and rose gardens that residents may plant and tend to. The back yard area is fully fenced. Large windows throughout the facility allow residents to watch the wildlife that visits the grounds, including Canada geese, duck, deer, squirrels, chipmunks, and a variety of birds. The facility is beautifully landscaped and is paved all the way around for easy wheelchair and walking access. Our facility is one level with a centrally located nurse station. The double-occupancy resident rooms are spacious and comfortable.

Visit the Idaho Division of Veterans Services website <http://www.veterans.idaho.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

### **Veteran Education Programs**

**SAA.** The Idaho State Approving Agency (SAA) evaluates, approves, and monitors academic institutions, schools, and programs. These programs must lead to educational, vocational, and /or professional objectives so that veterans or other eligible persons can use the POST 9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33) or Montgomery GI Bill® (MGIB). The MGIB may be used for an undergraduate or graduate degree, a vocational certificate or diploma, a high school diploma. Types of training that may be approved include advanced flight training, correspondence training for college work only, or programs leading to a license or certificate required to practice a vocation or profession. The SAA creates and maintains a computer database listing all approved institutions and programs (courses of study) for Idaho schools.

**Operation Education – University of Idaho:** The University of Idaho wishes to honor & assist United States military personnel who have sustained severe & permanent injury while serving our nation since September 11, 2001, by providing the opportunity to attain a college degree. Towards this they screen applicants and select those most deserving to participate in their wrap-around Scholarship Program. The program is designed to financially assist severely injured U.S. military personnel &/or their spouses with continuing education. The program will provide needed resources & support to empower returning Veterans &/or their spouses to pursue a degree program at the University of Idaho. In addition to assistance with direct educational costs such as fees, tuition & textbooks, support may be provided for on-campus housing needs, transportation, adaptive equipment, child care, tutoring & accommodative services. When appropriate & given available funding, the program will assist with out-of-pocket medical expenses or other

requirements to accommodate the special needs of the recipient. Internships & job placement also will be sought by partnering with America's corporations. For further information & how to apply, please contact Dan Button at the University of Idaho: (208) 885-7979, or email [dtbutton@uidaho.edu](mailto:dtbutton@uidaho.edu). Refer to <http://www.uidaho.edu/operationeducation> for details on this program.

**PURPLE HEART:** Scholarship available for a child, step-child, grandchild or great grandchild who is a direct descendant of either (1) A member of the MOPH or (2) A Veteran killed in action or a Veteran who died of wounds, but did not have the opportunity to join MOPH. Refer to <http://www.purpleheart.org/Scholarships/Default.aspx> for details on this MOPH Program.

**IN-STATE TUITION:** In accordance with Idaho Statute §33-3717B and Idaho Administrative Code 08.01.04. Idaho provides Guardsmen and Reservists who live outside the State of Idaho, but whom serve with an Idaho unit in-state college tuition; resident student status to veterans (and in some circumstances their dependents) who move to Idaho for the purpose of establishing domicile within Idaho; and a scholarship for dependents of Idaho's members of the military service who are disabled (totally and permanently from any employment) as a result of injuries incurred while engaged in the conflict in Iraq or Afghanistan.

### **Veteran Employment Benefits**

**Veterans Preference Points.** Idaho Law provides Veterans preference points for individuals who have been in active service, other than active duty for training, of the United States as defined by Idaho Code, Title 65, Chapter 5, Section 502(6), & U.S.C Section 2108. (See specific eligibility information below). Veterans' preference points are also provided for individuals who have served on active duty in the armed services, have been discharged honorably, & who have a present service connected disability of 10% or more, or are a Purple Heart recipient. Veterans' preference points are added to the final passing score & may improve a Veterans position on a list of qualified candidates. The preference points added are used only for initial appointment & not for promotions, transfers, or reassignments. Veterans' preference requires public employers to provide additional consideration for eligible Veterans, but it does not guarantee the Veteran a job. To locate additional information inclusive of eligibility and points allowed refer to <http://www.labor.idaho.gov/dnn/idl/JobSeekers/VeteransServices/VeteransPreference.aspx>.

**Employment Assistance.** Idaho Department of Labor provides several services to Veterans & active duty military.

- Job Priority: Veterans receive priority in job search assistance and referrals.

- Priority in Training Programs: W.I.A., OJT, apprenticeships, etc. Refer to <http://www.veterans.idaho.gov/benefits-a-services/employment-services> for more information on Training, Waivers, Internships, and licensing <http://www.veterans.idaho.gov/benefits-a-services/employment-services>
- Veterans Representatives: Veterans trained and dedicated to help Veterans solve employment issues. To locate the veteran representative in your geographic area refer to <http://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/Default.aspx?TabID=1627&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

Contact Idaho Department of Labor at [www.labor.idaho.gov](http://www.labor.idaho.gov) for additional information.

### **Other State Veteran Benefits**

**Idaho State Parks Veterans Pass.** Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) offers Veteran's Pass that waives all camping fees for Idaho veterans who are 100% service-related disabled. This pass, which is wallet size, is good for one camping site per eligible veteran for his/her family. All an eligible Idaho veteran will typically need to pay a reservation fee and any utility hookups.

**Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.** The State of Idaho's only veteran Cemetery is located on 76.5 acres adjacent to the Dry Creek Cemetery. The site is just North of Hill Road and East of Horseshoe bend Road. The Terteling Company donated approximately 40 acres in two parcels to the state and the remaining acreage was purchased from Dry Creek Cemetery District. The Cemetery was made possible by a grant from the Veterans Administration State Cemetery Grants Program and has funded 100% of the design, construction and equipment costs. This cemetery is located at 10100 Horseshoe Bend Road, Boise Idaho & can be reached at 208-577-2330 or by email [cemetery@veterans.idaho.gov](mailto:cemetery@veterans.idaho.gov).



**View of cemetery during the Fall season**



- **Internment eligibility:** Eligibility for interment in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery mirrors National Veterans Cemetery eligibility requirements. There is no requirement to be a resident of the State of Idaho. Interment fees for eligible Veterans are paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Associated funeral expenses and preparation are not included and are incurred by the Veteran's family or estate. Veterans and families are able to choose:
  - A columbarium niche, cremation inurnment that includes an inscribed, granite niche cover;
  - An in-ground, garden niche, cremation inurnment that includes a flush-to-the-ground inscribed, granite marker;
  - A scattering garden, set in a natural draw of the Boise foothills, that includes a location for an inscribed marker in memory of the deceased;
  - A full casket, in-ground interment that includes an inscribed, upright granite marker.
  
- **Military Honors.** Military Funeral Honors are coordinated by the Cemetery. Honors include the playing of Taps, folding of the flag and its presentation to the next-of-kin. An Honor Guard detail of at least two members of the Armed Services is provided for the interment service of the eligible Veteran.
  
- **Preregistration.** Preregistration allows a Veteran and spouse to establish in advance, their eligibility for interment at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery. There is no cost for pre-registration and it does not obligate the Veteran to be interred at the Cemetery. Preregistration is intended to simplify and assist the Veteran's next-of-kin at the time of death. Refer to [http://www.veterans.idaho.gov/images/stories/PDF\\_Files/Cemetery/Pre-Registration\\_Application\\_4-18-14.pdf](http://www.veterans.idaho.gov/images/stories/PDF_Files/Cemetery/Pre-Registration_Application_4-18-14.pdf) for Application forms. The key items for pre-registration are a copy of the Veteran's discharge papers and, for married Veterans, a copy of the marriage certificate.
  
- **Burial Payments.** Effective July 7, 2014 VA changed its monetary burial benefits regulations to simplify the program and pay eligible survivors more quickly and efficiently. These regulations now authorize VA to pay, without a written application, most eligible surviving spouses basic monetary burial benefits at the maximum amount authorized in law through automated systems rather than reimbursing them for actual costs incurred.
  - **Service-Related Death.** VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. VA will pay up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.
  - **Nonservice-Related Death.** VA will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses for deaths on or after October 1, 2011 (if hospitalized by VA at time of

death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a \$700 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). For deaths on or after December 1, 2001, but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance. For deaths on or after April 1, 1988 but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (for Veterans hospitalized by VA at the time of death). An annual increase in burial and plot allowances for deaths occurring after October 1, 2011 begins in fiscal year 2013 based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

- **Compensation.** Refer to <http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-burial.asp> for Eligibility/Evidence requirements and how to apply for payment.

## Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Veteran Services

1. **License Plates.** \$15 dollars from each new veteran's license plate and \$5 dollars from each renewal goes to the operation and maintenance for the veterans Cemetery. All license plates and registration information can be obtained at: <http://www.itd.idaho.gov/dmv>. To view plates for military go to <https://www.accessidaho.org/secure/itd/personalized/plates.html?ScriptForm.startstep=type>. In addition to vehicle registration fees, this customized plate will cost \$50.00 for the first year with a \$30.00 renewal fee each year thereafter. Souvenir plates may be purchased for \$21.00. For vehicle registration, this plate type requires documentation of military service (copy of DD-214 or equivalent). The following Veterans Specialty Licenses Plates are available through the Idaho Department of Transportation:

- **Reservists**
  - [Air Force Reserve](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [Army Reserve](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [Coast Guard Reserve](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [Marines Reserve](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [Navy Reserve](#) - for souvenirs only
- **Air Force**
  - [Air Force Veteran](#)
  - [Air Force Veteran Afghanistan/Iraq](#)
  - [Air Force Veteran Korea](#)
  - [Air Force Veteran Persian Gulf](#)
  - [Air Force Veteran Vietnam](#)
  - [Air Force Veteran World War II](#)
- **Army**
  - [Army Veteran](#)
  - [Army Veteran Afghanistan/Iraq](#)
  - [Army Veteran Korea](#)
  - [Army Veteran Persian Gulf](#)
  - [Army Veteran Vietnam](#)



- [Army Veteran World War II](#)
- **Coast Guard**
  - [Coast Guard Veteran](#)
  - [Coast Guard Veteran Afghanistan/Iraq](#)
  - [Coast Guard Veteran Korea](#)
  - [Coast Guard Veteran Persian Gulf](#)
  - [Coast Guard Veteran Vietnam](#)
  - [Coast Guard Veteran World War II](#)
- **Marines**
  - [Marines Veteran](#)
  - [Marines Veteran Afghanistan/Iraq](#)
  - [Marines Veteran Korea](#)
  - [Marines Veteran Persian Gulf](#)
  - [Marines Veteran Vietnam](#)
  - [Marines Veteran World War II](#)
- **Navy**
  - [Navy Veteran](#)
  - [Navy Veteran Afghanistan/Iraq](#)
  - [Navy Veteran Korea](#)
  - [Navy Veteran Persian Gulf](#)
  - [Navy Veteran Vietnam](#)
  - [Navy Veteran World War II](#)
- **Other Military Plates**
  - [Gold Star Family](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [Medal of Honor](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [National Guard](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [POW Korea](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [POW Persian Gulf](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [POW USS Pueblo](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [POW Vietnam](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [POW World War I](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [POW World War II](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [Pearl Harbor Survivor](#) - for souvenirs only
  - [Purple Heart](#) - for souvenirs only

2. **Drivers License.** If the expiration date printed on your license is more than 25 months away, and you anticipate being on active duty or out of state when your license expires, you can download an extension of Idaho drivers license application form and submit the extension form to the Idaho DMV within six months—preferably no later than two months—prior to your license's expiration date. As an active member of the military, you can extend your Idaho driver's license for four years.

3. **Driving Skills Test.** The Idaho Transportation Department provides an exemption from the requirement to take a skills test with a CDL Examiner for persons with experience operating heavy duty trucks while in military service. This exemption is for the skills test portion of CDL licensure only; the Military member must still take and pass written

(knowledge) tests before the CDL will be issued. The applicant must possess a valid Idaho Driver's License at the time of application, and heavy vehicle driving experience must be current (within two years of date of application). Application for this waiver must be made to ITD within 90 days of separation from Military Service. Interested persons should contact the CDL Specialist at (208) 334-8294 for application instructions.

- 4. Professional Licenses.** All persons holding occupational or professional licenses issued by the State of Idaho and who are serving in the armed forces of the United States, shall be exempt from the payment of any professional or occupational license or renewal fee required by any law of this state for the period during which such persons shall be engaged in the military services of the United States. And during such period of military service, or service in the auxiliary branches thereof, or servitude and for six (6) months following the discharge from such military service or auxiliary service or servitude in the present war, such license shall remain in good standing without the necessity of renewal and during said period the same shall not be cancelled, suspended or revoked.

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

## **Military Discounts in Idaho**

1. MVDC has a list of close to 1,300 locations in Idaho that have discounts for military personnel or veterans. Similar to businesses, the state of Idaho provides discounts for its veterans and military population. If you are looking for business discounts, use the search tool at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/idaho.html> .
2. **Veterans Designation on driver's license:** No
3. **State of Idaho discounts for veterans and military personnel** - None
4. **Education Discounts** - 100% tuition assistance for active duty and reservists at in state schools

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/idaho.html> Jan 2015 ++]