

# Tennessee State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts



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

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

## Tennessee Veteran Housing Programs

### State Veterans Homes

Tennessee offers two state veteran homes who's goal is to provide veterans with the best health care in an environment which is pleasant and enjoyable; to provide a safe, warm and happy home for our veterans. To treat our veterans with the dignity and respect they deserve.

The Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs is a liaison between the state and the Tennessee State Veterans' Homes and the Tennessee State Veterans' Homes Board. The Governor appoints the Members of the Board to serve a 3-year term. TDVA's Commissioner is an Ex Officio Member of the Tennessee State Veterans' Homes Board.



**W.D. "Bill" Manning Tennessee**  
2865 Main Street  
Humboldt, TN 38343  
(731) 784-8405



**Tennessee State Veterans' Home**  
345 Compton Road  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130  
(615) 895-8850



**Ben Atchley Tennessee Veterans' Home**  
One Veterans Way  
Knoxville, TN 37931  
(865) 862-8152

[Full Length Video: Introduction to Tennessee State Veterans' Homes](#)  
[Video: Tennessee State Veterans' Homes-Quality of Life](#)  
[Video: Tennessee State Veterans' Homes-Proudly Serving Those Who Served](#)

**Property Tax Relief**

Property tax relief for combat related 100% totally disabled veterans and/or their surviving spouses. Veteran's Disability must meet one of the following categories:

1. A service-connected disability that resulted in:
  - Paraplegia OR
  - Permanent paralysis of both legs and lower part of the body resulting from traumatic injury or disease to the spinal cord or brain; OR

- Loss, or loss of use of, two (2) or more limbs; OR
  - Legal blindness
2. A service-connected permanent and total disability or disabilities, as determined by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs.
  3. A 100% total and permanent disability rating from being a prisoner of war.
  4. Must own and use property as primary residence. The maximum market value on which tax relief is calculated is \$175,000.

To apply for this benefit please contact your nearest [County Service Officer](#) or contact the [TDVA Field Office](#) in your community. For the Fact Sheet on Property Tax Relief for Disabled Veteran Homeowners refer to [http://www.tn.gov/veteran/state\\_benefits/PropertyTaxRelief.pdf](http://www.tn.gov/veteran/state_benefits/PropertyTaxRelief.pdf)

### **Property tax relief for surviving spouses**

State law authorizes property tax relief to surviving spouses of disabled veterans who would have been eligible for relief had the veteran qualified under later amendments to the law. The tax relief is in an amount necessary to pay or reimburse such taxpayers for all or part of the local property taxes paid for a given tax year on that property that the disabled veteran owned and used as the disabled veteran's residence. The property tax relief is extended to the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who, at the time of the disabled veteran's death, was eligible for disabled veterans' property tax relief, as long as the surviving spouse:

- (1) Does not remarry;
- (2) Solely or jointly owns the property for which tax relief is claimed; and
- (3) Uses the property for which tax relief is claimed exclusively as a home.

This bill adds that if a subsequent amendment to the law concerning eligibility as a disabled veteran would have made the deceased veteran eligible for disabled veterans' property tax relief, then property tax relief will also be extended to the surviving spouse. This law applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2011 and amends TCA 67-5-704:

<http://www.tennessee.gov/sos/acts/104/pub/pc0884.pdf>

Visit the Tennessee Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.tn.gov/veteran> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Tennessee Veteran Employment Programs**

### **Employment Programs**

The following employment benefits are available in Tennessee:

- Veterans preference in State employment
- Credit for military service in State employment
- Reemployment rights of public employees

Visit the Tennessee Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.tn.gov/veteran> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Tennessee Veteran Education Programs**

### **Combat Veterans Can Register Early for State Classes**

A military veteran who is a current resident of this state or whose home of record for military purposes is Tennessee and who is a student at a public institution of higher education shall be allowed to register for classes prior to the general student population at any public institution of higher education. Early registration shall occur using the same procedure used by student athletes, disabled students and honor students, if such groups are permitted to early register.

### **Helping heroes grant for veterans**

The grant will be available each year to as many as 375 eligible veterans on a first-come, first-serve basis and will award \$1,000 to students completing at least twelve (12) semester hours each term. Applicants need to have been awarded The Iraq Campaign Medal, The Afghanistan Campaign Medal, or The Global War on Terrorism expeditionary Medal. For further eligibility requirements and information, visit the website:

### **Dependents of certain veterans, tuition fees**

A dependent child (under 23 years of age) or spouse in the state is entitled to receive free tuition, maintenance fees, student activity fees, registration fees, and to be admitted without cost to any of the colleges or universities owned, operated and maintained by the State, whose parent (mother or father) was killed or died as a direct result of injuries received or officially reported as being either a prisoner-of-war or missing-in-action while serving as a member of the Armed Forces during a qualifying period of armed conflict.

To be eligible for these benefits, the dependent child or spouse must present a certificate from the United States Government, and he/she can not be receiving benefits under Public Law 634 or such other Federal Laws offering like or similar benefits, and must meet the above requirements. Notice of the waiver program must be published in the institutional catalogs and class schedules.

### ***Diplomas for world war or korean war veterans***

High School diplomas may be issued to veterans whose education was interrupted by service in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. The veteran is not required to be a current resident of the State of Tennessee at the time of the request for a diploma. A surviving spouse or other immediate family member of a deceased veteran may also request the diploma.

Visit the Tennessee Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.tn.gov/veteran> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Other Tennessee State Veteran Benefits**

### **State Veterans Cemeteries**

1. Tennessee offers eligible veterans their choice of state veteran cemeteries in Knoxville, Memphis, and Nashville. To pre-register for burial, click on the cemetery of your choice.

**[Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery](#)** (Click for more information)

7931 McCrory Lane

Nashville, TN 37221

(615) 532-2238

[MTSV.Cemetery@tn.gov](mailto:MTSV.Cemetery@tn.gov)

**[East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery](#)** (Click for more information)

5901 Lyons View Pike

Knoxville, TN 37919

(865) 577-3228

[ETSV.Cemetery@tn.gov](mailto:ETSV.Cemetery@tn.gov)

**[East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery](#)** (Click for more information)

2200 E. Gov. John Sevier Hwy 168

Knoxville, TN 37920

(865) 577-3228

[ETSV.Cemetery@tn.gov](mailto:ETSV.Cemetery@tn.gov)

**[West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery](#)** (Click for more information)

4000 Forest Hill/Irene Road

Memphis, TN 38125

(901) 543-7005

[WTSV.Cemetery@tn.gov](mailto:WTSV.Cemetery@tn.gov)

2. Eligibility for interment extends to:

- Any person who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States (Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marine Corps) who was discharged or released there from before September 7, 1980 under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who died while on active duty.
- Any person who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States who entered active duty as an enlisted person after September 7, 1980, and officers commissioned who entered active duty after October 17, 1981, and whose discharge or separation from active military service was under "other than dishonorable" conditions. A person whose first tour of duty began on or after the dates listed above is eligible if he or she completed a continuous period of active duty of at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty, whichever is shorter or was released because of a hardship discharge, or has a compensable service connected disability or was released because of a service connected disability.

3. Reserve & National Guard Members are eligible for interment if:
  - They are in receipt of compensation or pension from the VA are eligible for burial.
  - They completed twenty or more years of reserve or guard service and are entitled to retirement pay.
  - They are also eligible for burial under the following five (5) categories.
    - Dies under honorable conditions while undergoing active duty for training.
    - If called to active duty, completes the full period for which called up.
    - Dies under honorable conditions while performing full time AGR service.
    - Completed at least 24 months of active service.
    - Discharged due to service connected disability while on active duty.
  
4. There is no cost for the veteran if eligibility requirements are met. There is a \$700.00 fee for the interment of a veteran's spouse or eligible dependent children that must be paid prior to or the day of the burial. The same guidelines apply for cremations. The State of Tennessee does not require an outside container for burial. This is a personal preference of the family. All veterans are entitled to a white, upright marble headstone at government expense when buried in a State Veterans Cemetery. A temporary grave marker is used to identify grave site until the permanent headstone is delivered in approximately three to four months.
  
5. For information about National Cemeteries established and maintained by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs go to <http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/listcem.asp>

**Retiree Driver Licenses**

Authorizes honorably discharged veterans to have language or a symbol indicating their military service placed on their driver license; requires the department of veterans' affairs, in consultation with the department of safety, to develop appropriate language or military symbol. Now being issued at Driver Service Centers across the state

**Special/Memorial License Plates**

There are more than 20 Veteran related specialty plates offered in the state of Tennessee to include four more added in 2012. We have provided links to find out more about each specialty plate, but to find out more about all specialty plates and how to obtain them, visit the [Tennessee Department of Revenue](#) website. License plates are free for 100% service connected disabled veterans, Ex-POW's, and recipients of MOH, DSC, NC or AFC. Following lists what is available:

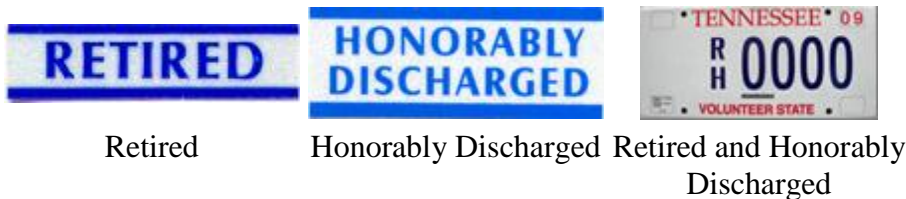


**Active/Retired/Honorable Discharge** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and who are active/retired/honorable discharged members or members spouse of the United States military and military reserves in good standing. Active military applicants

must provide a current copy of their LES and stationing orders, along with a copy of the vehicle's registration. The retired and honorable discharge military applicants must provide a military ID card and show one of the following official military forms to prove their status: DD Form 2A (RES), DD Form 2N (RES), DD Form 2MC (RES), DD Form 2AF (RES), DD Form 2CG (RES) or DD214. A surviving spouse of such a deceased active, retired or honorably discharged member, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon paying the regular fee applicable to the vehicle and the fee prescribed by Tenn. Code Ann. 55-4-203, shall be issued a registration plate pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 55-4-244, until the surviving spouse remarries.

**Please note:** Applicants must submit proof of their status each year upon renewal of their vehicle's registration. Retired and Honorable Discharged members can elect to choose to obtain a retired and honorable discharged plate instead, which only requires the submission for proof upon initial application.

The annual fee for automobile registration is \$21.50 with an initial fee of \$25.75 required. The annual fee for motorcycle registration is \$14.50 with an initial fee of \$16.75. The plate cannot be personalized.



**Air Medal** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and who are recipients of the Air Medal. Applicants must provide a letter or DD214 from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicating they are an Air Medal recipient. The annual fee for automobile registration is \$21.50 with an initial fee of \$25.75. The annual

fee for motorcycle registration is \$14.50 with an initial fee of \$16.75 required. The plate can not be personalized.



**Blue Star Family** - Blue Star Family license plates are offered for purchase to any eligible person whose spouse, parent, sibling, or child is currently serving in the armed forces of the United States at the time of application. Armed forces includes members serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard (when mobilized to augment the Navy) to include reservists and National Guard members.

To obtain this license plate, a registrant must:

1. Submit proof of current service from their service member. Examples of this documentation include copies of one of the following:
  - a. Current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES),
  - b. Member's military ID card, or
  - c. A letter from their unit commander on official letterhead stating the family member's current status as a member of the U.S. armed forces; and
2. Provide a written statement by the service member indicating the family relationship with the registrant.

Proof of eligibility must be submitted for each renewal year. The initial fee for obtaining this license plate is \$25.75, and the subsequent annual fee is \$21.50. Additional charges for county and/or city wheel tax, where imposed locally, plus county clerk fees will apply. The plate cannot be personalized.

Retired members of the military may apply for this license plate if they also meet the criteria above, but may wish to obtain one of several choices of registration plates available for them in honor of their service.



**Bosnia Veterans** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and are honorary discharged veterans who served in Bosnia with the United States Armed Forces. The applicant will be required to show proof of service. The annual fee for automobile registration is \$21.50 with an initial fee of \$25.75

required. The annual fee for motorcycle registration is \$14.50 with an initial fee of \$16.75 required. The plate cannot be personalized.



**Bronze Star (Meritorious)** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and who are recipients of the Bronze Star - Meritorious. The applicant must provide a letter or DD214 from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicating they are a recipient of one of the applicable medals. The annual fee for

automobile registration is \$21.50 with an initial fee of \$25.75 required. The annual fee for motorcycle registration is \$14.50 with an initial fee of \$16.75 required. The plate cannot be personalized.





**Bronze Star (Valor)** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and who are recipients of the Bronze Star - Valor. The applicant must provide a letter or DD214 from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicating they are a recipient of one of the applicable medals. The annual fee for automobile registration is \$21.50 with an initial fee of \$25.75 required. The annual fee for motorcycle registration is \$14.50 with an initial fee of \$16.75 required. The plate cannot be personalized.



**Congressional Medal of Honor** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and who are recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, the Air Force Cross or the Legion of Valor. Applicants must provide a letter or DD214 from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicating they are a recipient of one of the applicable medals. There is no annual fee for this plate and it can not be personalized.



**Desert Storm Veteran** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and are honorably discharged veterans of Desert Storm. Applicants must provide proof of service. The annual fee for automobile registration is \$21.50 with an initial fee of \$25.75 required. The annual fee for motorcycle registration is \$14.50 with an initial fee of \$16.75 required. The plate cannot be personalized.



**Disabled Veteran** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle, are veterans of the United States military and are entitled to compensation under the laws administered by the Veterans Administration; due to disability incurred in or aggravated by active military services of the United States (Tenn. Code Ann. 55-4-237). For more information on obtaining a disabled veteran plate, [click here](#).



**Distinguished Flying Cross** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and who are recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross. Applicants must provide a letter or DD214 from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicating they are a Distinguished Flying Cross recipient. There is no annual fee

for this plate and it cannot be personalized.



**Enemy Evadee** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and are certified as an enemy evadee by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The application must be accompanied by discharge papers from the United States Armed Forces that have been certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs. A copy of the death certificate should be supplied in the event a surviving spouse wishes to renew such plate. The annual fee for automobile registration is \$21.50 with an initial fee of \$25.75 required. The annual fee for motorcycle registration is \$14.50 with an initial fee of \$16.75 required. The plate cannot be personalized.



**Gold Star Family** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and are a person whose spouse, parent, sibling or child served and died in the line of duty in the United States Armed Forces or its allies, or died as a result of injuries sustained in such service. Applicant must provide a DD Form 1300 Report of Casualty. The first plate is free. Additional plates will cost \$25.75 for initial issuance and \$21.50 for renewal. The plate cannot be personalized.



**Handicapped Veteran** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle, are veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces and has a service-connected disability which is determined by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs to constitute less than one hundred percent (100%) permanent total disability. **Note:** This plate does not have handicapped parking privileges with it. The annual fee for automobile registration is \$21.50 with an initial fee of \$25.75 required. The annual fee for motorcycle registration is \$14.50 with an initial fee of \$16.75 required. The plate can not be personalized.



**Honorably Discharged** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and are honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces. An applicant must provide proof of service. The annual fee for automobile registration is \$21.50 with an initial fee of \$25.75 required. The annual fee for motorcycle registration is \$14.50 with an initial fee of \$16.75 required. The plate cannot be personalized.



**Korean War** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and are honorably discharged veterans of the Korean War. An applicant must provide proof of service. The annual fee for automobile registration is \$21.50 with an initial fee of \$25.75 required. The annual fee for motorcycle registration is \$14.50 with an initial fee of \$16.75 required. The plate cannot be personalized.



**Legion of Valor** - This plate is available to Tennessee residents who are registering a private passenger motor vehicle and are recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, the Air Force Cross or the Legion of Valor. Applicants must provide a letter or DD214 from the Department of Veterans

Affairs indicating they are a recipient of one of the applicable medals. There is no annual fee for this plate and it cannot be personalized.

### **Free Hunting and Fishing Licenses**

Free hunting and fishing licenses for Veterans with 30% or more war service connected disabilities, after an initial one time fee of \$10.

### **Parking Privileges**

Procedures are available for handicapped persons, including veterans, to apply for and receive a special handicapped parking permit.

### **Motor Vehicle Privilege Tax Exemption**

Motor vehicle privilege tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans.

As provided in Public Chapter 842, Tenn. Code Ann. Section 67-6-303(a)(1) exempts from sales tax the sale of motor vehicles in this state to members of the Tennessee National Guard or reserve members of a uniformed service of the United States who are called into active military service and who are stationed outside the United States during hostilities in which such person is actually engaged in combat.

### **No-Fee Registration of Discharges**

Registration of discharges by county registrar at no fee.

### **Discounted rates at state parks**

The commissioner offers discounted rates for activities at state parks to veterans who are Tennessee residents. The specific activities for which the discounts apply, as well as the timing and amount, is left to the commissioner's discretion; provided, that the discounts shall only be offered to resident veterans during the off season.

Visit the Tennessee Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.tn.gov/veteran> for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/content/veteran-state-benefits/tennessee-state-veterans-benefits.html> Feb 2014 ++]

## **Military Discounts in Tennessee**

**1. MVDC** has close to 5300 business locations in Tennessee that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of Tennessee 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/tennessee.html>

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

**3. Discounted Fees and Taxes**

- \$10 one-time fee for hunting and fishing license for eligible disabled veterans
- Distinctive motorcycle and vehicle license plates; no fee for enlisted personnel
- Exemption from motor vehicle privilege tax for eligible permanently and totally disabled veteran or former POW
- Reduced fee state park lodging, camping, and golf

**4. Property tax and Financial Benefits** -- Property tax relief for the primary residence of veterans, and eligible surviving spouses, with a 100% permanent and total disability

**5. Education Discounts**

- Free tuition and fees to any state supported college or university for eligible children or spouse whose parent deceased, declared POW or MIA during qualified periods of armed conflict
- Helping Heroes Grant for Veterans

**6. State Ranking For Military Discounts: 10**

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/tennessee.html> Feb 2014 ++]