

# Utah State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts



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

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

## Utah Veteran Housing and Tax Programs

### **Property Tax Abatement**

A Utah permanent place-of-residence property tax exemption equivalent to the military service-connected disability rating percentage is provided for disabled veterans or for their unremarried widows or minor orphans.

Veteran's disability rating must be at least 10%. The maximum property tax exemption, rated at 100% military service-connected disability, is \$219.64. To figure out how much your tax abatement will be multiply your percentage of disability by 219,164. Example: 10% disability X 206,214 = \$21,916.40 tax abatement.

To apply for Utah Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption, request VA Form 20-5455 from U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) at 1-800-827-1000, then file VA Form 20-5455, along with a copy of the veteran's U.S. Military active duty release/discharge certificate or other satisfactory evidence of eligible military service, and the tax exemption application, on or before September 1, to the applicable county treasurer, tax assessor or clerk/recorder located in the county courthouse or county government building of each county seat.

All property must be on record as of January 1st of the year you wish to file. However, a recent change allows qualified widows and orphans an exemption to that rule.

Disabled veterans are only required to file for property tax abatement one time. After the initial filing it will automatically renew each year although the counties may require recertification of home address. However, veterans will have to re-file if all or a portion of their abatement is used towards tangible personal property (i.e. vehicles), if their service-connected disability percentage changes, the veteran dies, sales the property or no longer claims that property as their primary place of residence. (Utah Code 59-2-1104 & 1105)

Visit the Utah Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://veterans.utah.gov/homepage/stateBenefits/index.html> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Utah Veteran Employment Programs**

### **Veterans Job Representatives**

Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Person (DVOP) are located statewide in the larger employment offices of the Utah Dept. of Workforce Services. They provide intensive employment related services for targeted veterans: referral to job opportunities, resume writing, referral letters, veteran's preference, employment counseling, etc.

### **Veterans Job Preference**

Eligible veterans or un-remarried spouses are granted either 5 or 10 points, as applicable, for employment preference, added to the results of any written &/or oral exam or other related qualifying technique, by any Utah government entity (state, county, municipality, special district or other political subdivision or administration.) The U.S. Dept. of Labor will protect the veteran's rights to the Veterans Job Preference.

### **Veterans Hiring Priority**

Any officers, agents or representatives of the state, or any contractor performing work for Utah state government, who willfully fails to hire a military veteran shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Visit the Utah Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://veterans.utah.gov/homepage/stateBenefits/index.html> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Utah Veteran Education Assistance Programs**

### **Veterans Upward Bound**

VUB is funded by the Department of Education and sponsored by Weber State University. VUB provides a valuable service by assisting veterans in obtaining admission to post-secondary schools. Instruction and tutoring are provided free of charge to veterans in math, English and basic computer applications. The services are provided to veterans in Salt Lake, Davis and Weber Counties.

### **Tuition Waiver for Purple Heart Recipients**

Utah public institutions of higher learning are required to waive the tuition of a Utah resident admitted to an undergraduate program of study leading to a degree or certificate, if the student is a recipient of a Purple Heart. Recent changes have expanded this benefit to include a Masters Degree.

### **Scott B Lundell Tuition Waiver for Military Members' Surviving Dependents**

This Bill waives the undergraduate tuition at state institutions of higher education for surviving dependents of Utah resident military members killed in the line of duty after 9/11/2001. The waiver in this section does not apply to fees, books, or housing expenses. The Utah Department of Veterans Affairs is the administering agency for this benefit. Call 1-800-894-9497 or (801) 326-2372 for information on how to use this benefit.

### **Honorary High School Diplomas**

Veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam who left High School for military service are eligible to receive Honorary High School Diplomas from the school they left. Contact the local school district for information on how to receive the diploma.

Visit the Utah Dept. of Veterans Affairs website

<http://veterans.utah.gov/homepage/stateBenefits/index.html> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Other Utah State Veterans Benefits**

### **Drivers License Privileges**

Driver licenses possessed by persons on U.S. military active duty shall be valid 90 days after active duty discharge, unless driver licenses are suspended or revoked for cause by a police department or other judicial entity.

### **Veterans License Plates**

Utah veterans license plates may be purchased for an initial \$25.00 contribution to the Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs plus a \$10.00 plate transfer fee, in addition to normal vehicle registration and property tax fees. Plates can be purchased at any Utah Department of Motor Vehicle office. There will also be a yearly \$10.00 renewal fee. Proceeds from the sale and renewal of these plates help fund veteran programs within the state. Utah veteran's license plates display colored decal emblems of the U.S. military branch in which served (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Marines as well as the American

Legion) and are further inscribed "UTAH HONORS VETERANS". Utah special group license plates for Purple Heart recipients, Pearl Harbor Survivors or former POW's are exempt of application and renewal fees: however, regular registration and property tax fees still must be paid. Proper evidence to present for special group plates includes Military Order of the Purple Heart or Pearl Harbor Survivors Association membership cards, or DD-214 (& equivalent WD AGO 5355) military discharge certificates. You need not wait until renewal time to purchase the license plates. Form TC 817 required for application for a personalized plate with up to 5 alpha-numeric characters is available at <http://tax.utah.gov/forms/current/tc-817.pdf>

## Disabled Veteran



This license plate recognizes Utah resident disabled veterans for their military service. As Utah Tax Code Section 41-1a-414 does not provide handicapped parking space privileges for the Disabled Veteran license plate, a disabled windshield placard must be obtained separately. This plate may be transferred to the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran so long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

### Requirements:

- Letter from Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs or other United States military entity certifying the disabled status of the veteran
- \$15 Special Plate Fee
- No Annual Contribution
- If a disabled windshield placard is desired, Form TC-842 available at <http://tax.utah.gov/forms/current/tc-842.pdf> is required and must be signed by a licensed physician or nurse practitioner

## Former Prisoner of War



This plate recognizes Utah resident military veterans held as a prisoner of war. This plate may be transferred to the surviving spouse of a former prisoner of war so long as the surviving spouse remains

unmarried. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

**Requirements:**

Form DD214 or Statement of Service from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, \$15 Special Plate Fee, and No Annual Contribution

**Gold Star**



This plate honors the family of a member of the military who is killed while serving in the United States armed forces. The applicant must be a recipient of the Gold Star award, issued by the U.S. Secretary of Defense. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

This is a centrally distributed license plate. It may be ordered at any DMV office and will be mailed from the Utah State Tax Commission.

**Requirements:**

- One of the following documents: Document showing classification of death as listed by the U.S. Secretary of Defense, or a Casualty report, or a Telegram from the U.S. Secretary of Defense, or any other document that verifies the applicant is a recipient of the Gold Star award
- \$15 Special Plate Fee, No Annual Contribution, \$3 Postage and Handling

**National Guard**



This plate recognizes current members of the Utah National Guard. Once separated from the Utah National Guard, the plate must be replaced with a new license plate. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

**Requirements:** Military photo ID verifying membership in Utah National Guard, \$15 Special Plate Fee, and No Annual Contribution

### Pearl Harbor Survivor



This plate recognizes those on duty and surviving the attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

**Requirements:** Membership card issued by the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, \$15 Special Plate Fee, and No Annual Contribution

### Purple Heart/Combat Wounded



The Purple Heart decoration is awarded to members of the armed forces who are wounded in combat. This plate recognizes recipients of the award. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

**Requirements:** A membership card in the Military Order of the Purple Heart Association or military discharge form DD-214 issued by the National Personnel Records Center. There is no Special Plate Fee or Annual Contribution.

### Veterans – Air Force



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

**Requirements:** \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

### **Veterans – American Legion**



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

**Requirements:** \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

### **Veterans – Army**



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

**Requirements:** \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

### **Veterans – Coast Guard**



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

**Requirements:** \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

### Veterans – Marines



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

**Requirements:** \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

### Veterans – Navy



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.



**Requirements:** \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

### **Purple Heart Fee Exemption**

Recipients of a Purple Heart is exempt from paying the following motor vehicle license and registration fees: automobile driver education fee; motor vehicle registration fee; license plate issuance fees; uninsured motorist identification fee; and local option transportation corridor preservation fee. The only fee due is property tax or age-based fee.

### **Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs**

The *Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs* is located at 550 Foothill Dr. Suite #202, Salt Lake City, Utah 84113 (the corner of Wasatch & Foothill) on the VA Medical Center Campus. The mission of the office is to provide counsel, assist veterans and their dependents with VA claims processing, establish veterans' rights to state and federal benefits and to provide information and advisory services. Veteran service officers under contract provide an outreach assistance program to rural Utah veterans, in conjunction with the Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs. U.S. active duty military service discharge certificates (DD-214's) are on file in the office for veterans discharged after 1980. DD-214's are only on file for veterans with Utah residency or with a Utah forwarding address at the time of release from active duty.

### **Utah State Veterans Nursing Home**

The first Utah State Veterans Nursing Home, located on the Salt Lake City VA Medical Center Campus, address, 700 Foothill Drive, SLC, UT. 84113-1104, was dedicated on 22 April 1998 and became operational in May 1998. Quality nursing and health care services are provided for Utah veterans with U.S. military service during peacetime or wartime. While wartime service is not a requirement for admission to the nursing home, wartime veterans with one day or more of wartime service, as recognized by state and federal laws, have top priority. A veteran's spouse or surviving spouse may also qualify for admittance to the Utah State Veterans Nursing Home, providing the marriage to the veteran occurred at least one year before the application. Note: The Utah Legislature has authorized a \$4,500,000 bond to construct a veterans nursing home in Ogden. The bond will be repealed on December 31, 2008 if the VA's portion of the funding remains unavailable.

At present the Utah State Veterans Nursing Home has a 100% occupancy rate with 81 residents using its 81 beds. They are part of a multiple nursing home ownership and are a For Profit nursing home. The Home has a below average registered nurse per resident per day of 43 minutes compared to the Utah state nursing home average of 76 minutes. They had 8 deficiencies in its past 2 state inspections compared to the UT average of 10 and complaints compared to the UT average of 3. Utah State Veterans Nursing Home had 7 fire safety deficiencies in the past 2 state inspections which is better than the Utah state nursing home average of 11.

### **Utah State Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Park**

Located at 17111 Camp Williams Road in Bluffdale. This states veteran's cemetery generally follows the eligibility requirements of VA National Cemetery System, including: any U.S. Armed Forces active personnel dying while performing duty or after having served during wartime. Reservist and National Guard retired personnel with 20 years of service are eligible for burial also. Surviving spouses and dependent children also are eligible to be buried in the Utah State Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Park,

under rules established by the state of Utah. Authorized in 1988 by act of the Utah State Legislature, dedication occurred on Memorial Day, 1990. Veterans are not to be buried in any portion of any cemetery or burial ground used for paupers; cities, towns, counties or other political subdivisions of the state of Utah may provide proper sites for burial of veterans.

### **Military Discharge Records**

Utah State Archives has military discharge records for Utah (ACTIVE DUTY) veterans from the territorial times, World War II and the Korean War. Utah State Archives will provide a copy of U.S. military discharge records on file free of charge. The Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs has active duty only U.S. military service DD-214's for Utah Veterans from 1980 to the current year. DD-214 certified copies are provided free of charge; toll free 1-800-894-9497. The Utah National Guard Headquarters in Draper Utah maintains file copies of National Guard Bureau record of separation certificates (NGB 22's) for completed service in the Utah Army National Guard & Utah Air National Guard (1950-present). NGB 22 certified copies are free of charge. NOTE: For many years, veterans were encouraged to place their DD-214 on file with their local county recorders office. We no longer recommend this practice because of issues with identity theft.

### **Free Use of Armories**

Organizations of war veterans are entitled to have free use of state of Utah armories as meeting places, provided such use shall not interfere with the use of armories by the National Guard or organized militia of Utah.

### **Fishing License Privileges**

Utah Disabled Veteran Fishing Licenses are available for Veterans, free of charge, from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. To qualify a Veteran must have obvious physical handicaps, such as, permanently confined to a wheelchair, paraplegic, minus at least one limb, permanently requiring crutches or blind.

### **Special Fun Tags.**

Free admission to most of the 41 state-controlled parks, campgrounds and other recreation areas throughout Utah.

Effective July 1, 2009, the new policy now allows Utah veterans to receive a special Fun Tag, free of charge, if they are:

- Legally Blind, which is defined as vision of 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction, or a field restriction of 20 degrees or less in both eyes; or
- Non-Ambulatory, which is defined as being permanently confined to a wheelchair or the use of a cane, crutches or mobility device, or who has lost either or both lower extremities.

Special Fun Tag allows day use access to most Utah state parks, but does not include This Is The Place Heritage Park and does not cover the \$2 Davis County Causeway Fee at Antelope Island State Park. The Special Fun Tag does not apply to camping or other special fees. Please call the State Parks and Recreation office at (801) 538-7220 or toll free at 1-877-UTPARKS to have an application mailed to you or log on to [www.stateparks.utah.gov](http://www.stateparks.utah.gov) to download.

Applications can be mailed or faxed to (801) 538-7378.

### **Bus / Trax Reduced Fare Cards**

Greatly discounted fares (65% reduced) to ride Utah Transit Authority (UTA) busses and TRAX light rail system are available for veterans meeting one of the following criteria: Forty percent (40%) or greater military service-connected disability rating by VA, in receipt of VA non-service connected pension or regardless of disability rating for veterans & others with transportation disabilities that cause either difficulty boarding or getting off a bus/light rail system, difficulty standing in a moving bus/light rail system, difficulty reading bus/light rail system schedules & understanding information signs, difficulty hearing announcements by bus/light rail system, or difficulty hearing announcements by bus/light rail systems operators.

Persons receiving Social Security Disability benefits, SSI, or Medicare also may get UTA Reduced Fare Cards. Elderly persons age 65 and over qualify for Senior Passes at the same price as Reduced Fare Cards. To obtain UTA Reduced Fare Cards 1. Go to either UTA location at 24 West 100 South or 3600 S 700 W in SLC, 2. Complete UTA Reduced Fare Card application form, 3. Present evidence (a VA letter verifying service connected disability rating or non service connected pension. 4. Pay for UTA photo identification to incorporate on UTA Reduced Fare Card.

Learn more about Utah Veteran Benefits at <http://veterans.utah.gov/homepage/stateBenefits/index.html> .

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

## **Military Discounts in Utah**

1. MVDC has close to 2,100 business locations in Utah 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/utah.html>.

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

**3. Discounted Fees and Taxes**

- Free Disabled Veteran fishing license
- Credit toward professional licensure for education, training and experience earned by veterans, military members and their spouses

**4. Property tax and Financial Benefits**

- Property tax exemption for eligible disabled veterans
- Free access to most of the state controlled parks, national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas and national wildlife refuges for qualified veterans

- Bus and tax reduced fares for qualifying veterans

#### **5. Education Discounts**

- Tuition assistance for National Guard members
- Tuition waiver for Purple Heart recipients for undergraduate programs
- Undergraduate tuition waiver to surviving dependents of Utah resident military members killed on federal and state active duty
- Free of charge admission to post-secondary schools for instruction and tutoring in the areas of math, English, and basic computer applications for qualifying veterans

#### **6. State Ranking For Military Discounts: 9**

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/utah.html> Mar 2014 ++]