

# Washington State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts



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

- Veteran Housing Benefits
- Veteran Financial Assistance Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

## Washington Veteran Housing Programs

### **Homeless Veterans Program**

WDVA provides outreach services for homeless veterans in Puget Sound. These services are designed to assist homeless veterans to become employable and reintegrated back into the labor market. Services include needs assessments, enrollments in appropriate programs, shelter and transitional housing placements, employment and training support services.

Eligible homeless veterans are provided with case management services and financial support to meet the needs of housing, transportation, food and clothing. The primary strategy for WDVA homeless veterans services is to promote job readiness development to improve homeless veterans competitiveness in the employment market.

### **Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP)**

The HVRP offers a structured, individually designed case management plan to make veterans employable and secure by providing, housing, food, transportation, living stability and employment support services.

Visit the Washington State Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.dva.wa.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

### **State Veterans Homes**

The Washington Veterans Home at Retsil, the Washington Soldiers Home and Colony near Orting, provide high-quality, long-term nursing and assisted-living care for honorably discharged veterans. The newly opened Spokane Veterans Home serves 100 residents needing long-term nursing care. The proposed Walla Walla State Veterans Home on the campus of the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center will be operational Coming Soon! All homes are Title 19 (Medicaid) certified. Contact info for each of the homes is as follows:



**Washington Soldiers Home**  
1301 Orting-Kapowsin Hwy.,  
PO Box 500  
Orting, WA 98360  
Main Number (360) 893-4515  
Admissions (877) 838-7787 [SophieP@dva.wa.gov](mailto:SophieP@dva.wa.gov)



**Washington Veterans Home**  
1141 Beach Dr.  
PO Box 698  
Retsil, WA 98378  
Main Number (360) 895-4700  
Admissions (877) 838-7787 [RobinW@dva.wa.gov](mailto:RobinW@dva.wa.gov)



**Spokane Veterans Home**  
222 East 5th Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99202  
Main Number (509) 344-5770  
Admissions (877) 838-7787 Becky@dva.wa.gov

To be eligible for admission, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Served at any time, in any branch of the United States Armed Forces including the National Guard;
- Received an honorable discharge;
- Reside in Washington State;
- " Be the spouse or widow of an eligible veteran; or
- " Be a Gold Star Parent.

To request an application by mail send an email to [robinw@dva.wa.gov](mailto:robinw@dva.wa.gov) and provide your mailing address, or call 1-877-VETS-R-US (1-877-838-7787) for more information. Applications can be downloaded at <http://www.dva.wa.gov/PDF%20files/AdmissionPacketWDVA.pdf>. For large print applications go to <http://www.dva.wa.gov/PDF%20files/Low%20Vision%20Application.pdf>.

Residents at each home receive comprehensive, no-cost medical benefits, prescription drug benefits and 24-hour nursing care. All Washington State Veterans Homes are Medicare and Medicaid certified facilities.

Licensed medical staff, including registered nurses (RN), licensed practical nurses (LPN) and certified nursing assistants (CNA) provide personal care specifically tailored to each individual.

Visit the Washington State Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.dva.wa.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

### **Washington Financial Assistance Program**

#### **Veterans Estate Management Program**

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Veterans Estate Management Program offers protective payee services for veterans and family members who are incapable of managing their own financial affairs. By assuming custody of the individual's finances, the department ensures basic needs -- such as housing, food, clothing and medical care are provided.

The WDVA director is authorized to provide protective financial services to veterans and beneficiaries deemed in need of assistance. These services may include the following:

- Fiduciary appointment by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Representative payee appointment by the Social Security Administration; or
- Act as an executor of a veteran's estate.

### **Property Tax Exemption**

To qualify for the Exemption Program, you must be at least 61 years of age OR disabled OR a disabled veteran with a 100 percent service-connected disability. You must also own and occupy your residence and your combined disposable income must be \$35,000 or less.

Visit the Washington State Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.dva.wa.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Other Washington State Veteran Benefits**

### **PTSD Counseling Services**

The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program attempts to create community-based avenues to counseling service that are less formal in nature, offering the highest level of confidentiality possible. Services provided throughout the program include individual, couples, family, and veteran group counseling. Some contractors offer group services to women veterans and spouses of veterans. Veterans may be referred to specialized inpatient or outpatient treatment offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers or Vet Centers within Washington State.

Washington State offers several other benefits including special license plates, returning veterans transition assistance, reduced public transportation fees, reduced fee hunting and fishing licenses, and more.

Visit the Washington State Dept. of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.dva.wa.gov> to learn more.

### **Cemeteries & Burial Services**



**Tahoma National Cemetery**

18600 Southeast 240th Street  
Kent, WA 98042- 4868  
Phone: (425) 413-9614  
FAX: (425) 413-9618

Burial benefits in National Cemeteries include a gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains. This cemetery has space available to accommodate casketed and cremated remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

The Veterans family should make funeral or cremation arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation office will be at the family's expense. To schedule a burial Fax all discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-866-900-6417 and follow-up with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117. Tahoma National Cemetery has a Veterans Service Organization Honor Guard Association. These veterans provide honors to 90 percent of the veterans interred here. The Association is made up of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Elks Club, and other organizations.



**Washington State Veterans Cemetery**

21702 W. Espanola Rd.  
Medical Lake, WA 99022  
Office Phone 509-299-6280  
Office Fax 509-299-6286

Eligibility for interment in the Washington State Veterans Cemetery mirrors National Veterans Cemetery eligibility requirements. In general: All U.S. Veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable; Spouses; and Dependent Children

The Washington State Veterans Cemetery will serve veterans and other eligible individuals from Washington and other States. \$300.00 will be collected for interment of eligible spouses or eligible dependent children. Veterans who are eligible for interment are also eligible for a Federal VA Plot Allowance. The State Veterans Cemetery Office applies for and collects this plot allowance. Neither the State nor the Federal VA pay for other funeral expenses, such as preparation. These fees are paid by the Veteran's family or estate.

Some Veterans or their widows/widowers are eligible for Federal VA benefits in addition to the plot allowance. To determine whether the veteran or family member is eligible for additional benefits call 1-800-562-2308. Internment and preregistration applications with instructions can be downloaded at

- <http://www.dva.wa.gov/PDF%20files/cemetery%20Interment%20Application.pdf>
- <http://www.dva.wa.gov/PDF%20files/cemetery%20preregistration.pdf>

### **Military Community License Plates**

Disabled American veterans may be exempt from license fees on 1 vehicle per year. These special plates or tabs are good for the life of the vehicle, but don't grant disabled parking privileges. For information about disabled parking, go to <http://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/parking.html>.



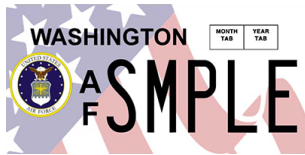
To qualify for these special plates, applicants must have served in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, Reserves, or National Guard and have received both of the following:

- An honorable discharge or a discharge for medical reasons with an honorable record.
- A 100% service-connected disability rating from the Veterans Administration or the military service from which the veteran was discharged.

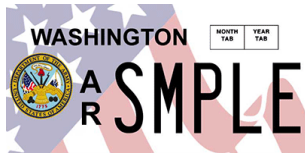
How to apply

1. Get a letter of eligibility from the Department of Veterans Affairs verifying a 100% service-connected disability.
2. Complete the online Military License Plate at <http://www.dol.wa.gov/forms/420500.pdf>
  - Check the box for Disabled American Veteran plates **or** Disabled American Veteran tabs.
  - Be sure to sign and date the form.
3. Mail the completed application **and** letter of eligibility to: Vehicle Licensing, Department of Licensing, PO Box 9909, Olympia, WA 98507-8500

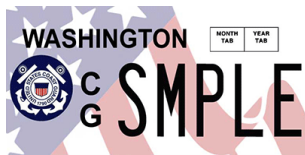
The Washington Department of Licensing issues license plates to eligible veterans/military/family members with six separate designs, each containing a symbol representing a different branch of the armed forces to include Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and WA National Guard. Purchasers also receive a decal indicating their military status. The following plates are available:



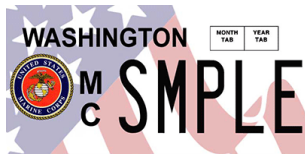
[Air Force](#)



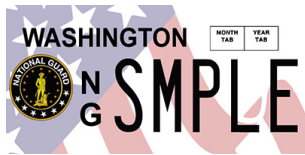
[Army](#)



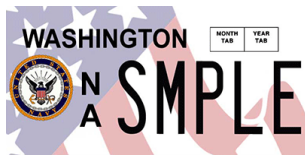
[Coast Guard](#)



[Marine Corps](#)



[National Guard](#)



[Navy](#)



[Gold Star](#)



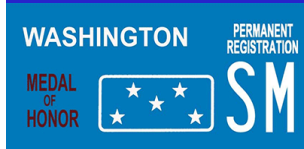
**Disabled American Veteran**



**Purple Heart**



**Former Prisoner of War**



**Medal of Honor**



**Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)**



**Pearl Harbor Survivor**



**Veteran/Military Service Award emblems**

The special license plates may be used in place of regular or personalized license plates for motor vehicles, including motorcycles, required to display one and two motor vehicle license plates. The original cost to purchase an Armed Forces plate(s) is \$40.00 plus any applicable licensing fees. When the vehicle registration becomes due, you will need to pay an additional \$30.00 to keep the Armed Forces plate(s) on your vehicle, even if you have not had the plate(s) for a full year. \$28 from the purchase and renewal of each plate will be directed to the Veterans Stewardship Account and is tax deductible. The Veterans Stewardship Account will be used for activities that benefit veterans, such as maintaining the state veteran’s cemetery in eastern Washington and providing programs and services for homeless veterans.



Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/washington-state-veterans-benefits.html>  
Apr 2014 ++]

## Military Discounts in Washington

**1. MVDC** has close to 5000 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/washington.html>.

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

**3. Discounted Fees and Taxes -**

- Free or reduced hunting, fishing, and camping privileges for certain veterans.
- Reduced ferry transportation fee.
- Free Disabled Veteran license plate for veterans with a 100% service-connected disability.
- Free recording of Veterans Discharge Documents in County Recorder's Offices

**4. Property tax and Financial Benefits -** Benefits for disability are exempt from income when determining property tax exemption

**5. Education Discounts -**

- Partial or full tuition waivers for eligible veterans and National Guard members to state universities, regional universities, The Evergreen State College and community colleges
- Partial or full tuition waivers for child, spouse, or surviving spouse of an eligible veteran or National Guard member who became totally disabled, deceased, or POW/MIA while engaged in active federal military service

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/washington.html> Apr 2014 ++]