

Mississippi State Veteran's Benefits

2013



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

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

Mississippi Veteran Housing Programs

Mississippi Veterans Home Purchase Board

The Veterans Home Purchase Board provides low interest mortgage loans for eligible veterans and unmarried surviving spouses to purchase an existing single family home or to construct a new home.

Eligibility requires that the veteran be a Mississippi resident prior to entering military service or be a resident for two (2) consecutive years prior to applying for the loan. The veteran must have or obtain a Certificate of Eligibility for Home Loan Guaranty from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and be discharged from extended active duty under honorable conditions. The unmarried surviving spouse of eligible persons who died as a result of service or service-connected injuries qualifies, as well as the unremarried spouse of any eligible veteran who has not purchased a home since the veteran's death are eligible.

State Veterans Nursing Homes

Each of the four State Veterans Nursing Homes have 150 beds and they provide skilled nursing home care for

eligible veterans and spouses. Eligibility for admission to the Homes requires that a veteran be or have been a Mississippi resident, have active duty military service, have a "good" military discharge, or be the spouse of a veteran who resides in one of the Veterans Homes. Out of state veterans may be admitted to the Homes if there are no Mississippi residents waiting to accept a bed. Applicants must have a medical need for nursing home care and must be able to pay the daily charge for care in the Home. Applications for admission to the Veterans Homes can be obtained from any of our offices. Indigent veterans can request assistance with the expense of care in the facilities.

Visit the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board website <http://www.vab.ms.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Mississippi Financial Assistance Benefits

Privilege Tax

Persons who are 65 or older, blind, deaf, dumb, or with loss of hand or foot, or loss of use of the hand or foot or who can provide documentation that they are 50% disabled to perform physical labor and whose annual gross income is \$900.00 or less are exempt from payment of privilege tax for specified businesses.

Ad Valorem Tax

Service-connected, totally disabled (100%) American veterans who were honorably discharged from military service are exempt from all ad valorem taxes on homesteads of \$7,500.00 or less in assessed value.

Visit the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board website <http://www.vab.ms.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance

Mississippi Employment Benefits

Re-employment

Any person who is a member of any reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States who, in order to perform duties or receive training with the Armed Forces of the United States or of the State of Mississippi leaves a position, other than a temporary position, in the employ of any employer, and who shall give evidence of the satisfactory completion of such duty or training, and who is still qualified to perform the duties of such position, shall be entitled to be restored to his previous or a similar position, in the same status, pay, and seniority. Such period of absence for military duty or training shall be construed as an absence with leave but may be without pay.

Employment Preference

The State Personnel Board grants each veteran who is fully qualified preference over other applicants for initial or promotional appointments (5 points). Disabled veterans are given additional preference (10 points). In state layoffs, veterans are granted preference and additional preference is given disabled veterans.

State Retirement

Members of the State Public Employees Retirement System who served in the Armed Forces of the United States or who served in Maritime Service during periods of hostility in WWII shall be entitled to up to four (4) years credit for active duty in the Armed Forces or in such Maritime Service, provided they entered State Service after discharge from the Armed Forces or after completion of such Maritime Service. Credit may be extended beyond four (4) years for those persons who can provide positive proof that they were retained in the Armed Forces or such Maritime Service during WWII by causes beyond his control and without opportunity for discharge.

Visit the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board website <http://www.vab.ms.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance

Mississippi Education Benefits

Educational Assistance

Children of any member of the armed services whose official home of record and residence is within the State of Mississippi and who is officially reported as being either a prisoner of a foreign government or missing in action can receive an eight-semester scholarship, without cost, exclusive of books, food, school supplies, materials and dues or fees for extracurricular activities at any state supported college or university within the State.

The Adjutant General is authorized to pay the tuition for any member in good standing with the active Mississippi National Guard who is enrolled within the State of Mississippi in an accredited institution of higher learning and who is not eligible for GI Bill educational assistance and who meets requirements specified in Mississippi law. Military personnel stationed in Mississippi are classified as state residents for the purposes of payment of tuition at state colleges and universities.

Mississippi Employment Security Commission

Veterans seeking assistance regarding employment or unemployment insurance benefits should contact their local Mississippi Employment Security Commission Office for assistance. MS Employment Security Commission offices are located in larger cities and towns throughout the state.

Visit the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board website <http://www.vab.ms.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance

Other Mississippi State Veteran Benefits

Documents

The State Bureau of Vital Statistics is to furnish, without charge, copies of birth and death certificates when they are needed to establish claims for dependency, disability, or survivors benefits for any veterans who are legal residents of the State of Mississippi or their claimants.

The State Bureau of Vital Statistics is to furnish, at no expense, and immediately upon application a certified copy of birth certificates for any person volunteering for service in one of the armed forces of the United States.

Chancery and Circuit Clerks are to furnish, without charge, copies of marriage licenses, divorce decrees, adoption decrees and any and all other records when the same are needed to establish claims for dependency, disability or survivors benefits for any veterans who are legal residents of the State of Mississippi or their claimants.

Chancery Clerks shall record, without cost whatsoever to any person of the Armed Forces of the United States residing in the same county, all honorable discharges and all certificates of service of any and all members of the Armed Forces of the United States. Certified copies will be furnished free without cost to the soldier, sailor, marine, coast guardsman, or nurse.

Visit the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board website <http://www.vab.ms.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Veterans who have a total service-connected disability from the Veterans Administration are not required to purchase a hunting or fishing license, but must have on their person proof of age, residency and disability status while engaged in hunting or fishing.

Vehicle License Plates

The following are special vehicle military license plates issued to eligible persons in Mississippi:

- Medal of Honor
- Disabled American Veteran
- Distinguished Flying Cross & Air Medal
- Former Prisoner of War
- Killed on Active Duty
- Missing in Action - Prisoners of War
- Mississippi Veterans Monument
- Pearl Harbor Survivors
- Purple Heart
- Reserve, National Guard, Merchant Marine, Retired
- Silver Star or Bronze Star Medal
- United States Air Force Academy
- United States Armed Forces Active Duty
- United States Army Special Forces
- United States Coast Guard Academy
- United States Military Academy
- United States Naval Academy
- Veteran
- Vietnam Service



Photos of Mississippi Veteran and military license plates can be viewed on the web site for the Mississippi Department of Revenue <http://www.dor.ms.gov> . Once you enter the Dept. of Revenue web site click on Tag/Titles, then click on Special Plates and then click on Available License Plates. Color photos of available specialty plates will be displayed.

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[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/mississippi-state-veterans-benefits.html> May 2013 ++]