

# Pennsylvania State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts

February 2018



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

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## **Housing Benefits**

### **State Veterans Homes**

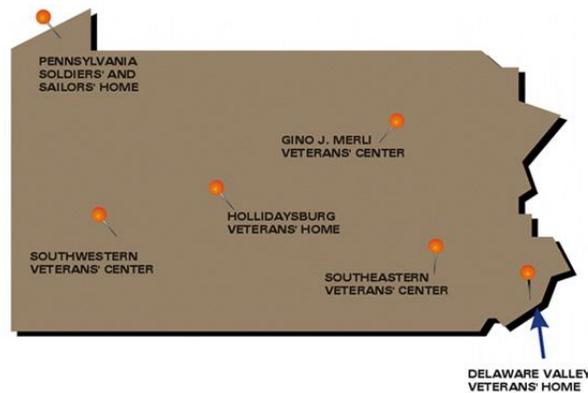
The State of Pennsylvania runs six Veterans Homes:

- The Delaware Valley Veterans Home in Philadelphia
- The Gino J. Merli Veterans Center in Scranton
- The Hollidaysburg Veterans Home
- The Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Erie
- The Southeastern Veterans Center in Spring City
- The Southwestern Veterans Center in Pittsburgh

The level of care provided includes personal care, skilled nursing care, domiciliary care, and dementia care. These facilities offer qualified veterans and their spouses dedicated, superior care. An applicant shall be an eligible veteran, spouse or surviving spouse of an eligible veteran. An "eligible veteran" is defined as an individual who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States or the Pennsylvania Military Forces and was discharged under honorable conditions. An applicant shall be a bona fide resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the eligible veteran or spouse of an eligible veteran for who the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is his/her home of record upon entry into the Armed Forces of the United States or the Pennsylvania Military Forces. Current residents have priority, however, in admission. A resident of a state veterans home shall be required to make monthly payments against maintenance fee liability in accordance with the resident's ability to pay.

The veteran must be a bona fide resident of the Commonwealth when applying. Spouses and surviving spouses of eligible veterans may also apply. Applications are processed on a "first come, first served" basis. Contact information for admission is Bureau of Veterans Homes, Bldg S-0-41, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003 Tel: (717) 861-8906 Email: [RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov](mailto:RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov). Applications can be downloaded at [http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/Docs\\_BVA/Forms/homesapp.pdf](http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/Docs_BVA/Forms/homesapp.pdf). NOTE: Only the original application with original signatures will be accepted (i.e. no FAX) and must be mailed directly to the following address: Bureau of Veterans Homes, Attn: Admission's Office, Bldg. 0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Pennsylvania 1700



## **DELAWARE VALLEY VETERANS' HOME**



The Delaware Valley Veterans' Home was dedicated on November 1, 2002 and is the commonwealth's sixth and newest veterans home operated by the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It is architecturally designed to seize full advantage of its peaceful setting. Every room in the facility has at

least one wall of glass to fill it with natural light and offer views of meadows and woodland. Hallways have skylights to add to the bright and cheery environment. The public areas are large, bright and welcoming. The main thoroughfare in the facility is called "Main Street." Here visitors will find a fully-stocked library, including computers for resident use; a canteen where residents and visitors can purchase everything from sodas to ice cream to t-shirts and gifts; and inviting places to sit and walk, complete with park benches, aquariums and aviaries.

The home can serve up to 171 veterans and their eligible spouses. It is designed to meet a variety of levels of care:

- The 30-bed Dementia unit is secured to help protect residents who have a tendency to wander.
- There are two 50-bed skilled nursing units for residents who need more help with activities of daily living, including dressing, eating and bathing.
- The Personal Care unit has 41 beds and is designed for residents who are more independent.

All rooms are double occupancy. Roommates are chosen based upon ability to motivate one another, encouraging socialization, while discouraging isolation. Rooms are equipped with automatic beds, state-of-the-art mattresses, armoires, locking bedside cabinets, radios and televisions with remote controls. Families are encouraged to provide pictures, bed spreads and knick-knacks to promote a home-like environment for loved ones. The home strives to meet the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of each resident. The units are staffed with registered nurse supervisors, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants. Each resident is offered physical, occupational and speech therapies, as needed, to maintain or improve their physical capabilities. The facility employs a full time physician who handles resident's day-to-day medical needs. More complex situations are referred to outside services.

Religious services are held at the facility at least weekly. Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths are served by priests, pastors and rabbis from the surrounding community. In addition, the home offers counseling services through its Social Services department to help residents and families. Exciting activity programs are offered to residents seven days a week. Activities include everything from bowling, to bingo, to trips to the local malls and Philadelphia Phillies baseball games. Wonderful family nights are planned monthly, bringing together parents, grandparents and children for an afternoon or evening of fun. Held on a quarterly basis is Family Counsel, where families are invited to attend, meet each other, hear interesting speakers and ask questions of facility management. Use the following to contact the home:

- Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, 2701 Southampton Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154
- Phone: 215-856-2700 Fax: 215-856-2777
- Email: [RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov](mailto:RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov) or Web: [www.dvvh.pa.gov](http://www.dvvh.pa.gov)

### **GINO J. MERLI VETERANS' CENTER**

The Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center provides a broad spectrum of health care and related services to those commonwealth veterans and their eligible spouses who are disabled, chronically ill, or in need of specialized care. We assist residents in functioning independently and at their optimal level. Most importantly, all residents are treated with respect and dignity. Our facility includes a chapel, pharmacy, barber and beautician services, dining rooms and a multi-purpose room for large gatherings. Outdoor areas include a courtyard with a covered pavilion and a 'victory' garden area where residents plant flowers and vegetables. Our staff considers it a privilege to serve those who served their country. We extend an invitation to all interested persons to visit the Center and witness the first-class care which we provide.



When the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center opened as the Northeastern Veterans' Center in January 1994, it held the distinction of being the first newly constructed home for veterans within the state system. In July 2002, it was renamed the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, in honor of the noted World War II hero and Medal of Honor recipient from northeastern Pennsylvania. It was built on the site of the former Scranton State General Hospital. The old building was razed and ground was broken for the new four-story Center on May 31, 1991. The Center provides 196 beds, including 156 for full nursing care and 40 for dementia. The major difference in the types of residency is the level of care:

- The Nursing Care Unit provides 24-hour care, seven days a week. Residents receive a complete range of clinical services under the direction of physicians and other licensed health care professionals.
- The Dementia Care Unit provides long-term care in a safe and secure environment. The focus is to provide specialized care tailored to meet the needs of these unique residents in an atmosphere that promotes sensory stimulation.

Additional services of a specialized nature, such as psychological evaluations and podiatry, are provided as necessary to maintain a resident's quality of life. All residents receive medical, clinical and nursing services; drug and nutritional therapy; rehabilitative services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy and recreational therapy; speech therapy; dental services; social services; transportation; housekeeping; maintenance; business management; and related services. Use the following to contact the home:

- Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, 401 Penn Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503
- Phone: 570-961-4300
- Email: [RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov](mailto:RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov) or Web: [www.gmvc.pa.gov](http://www.gmvc.pa.gov)

## **HOLLIDAYSBURG VETERANS' HOME**

"We care for our veterans" is not only the philosophy of the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, it is our commitment to serving the current health care requirements of those veterans and their spouses. Furthermore, we remain diligent in planning for anticipated needs of an aging veteran population that will require improved and innovative services. Our dedicated staff provides services that range from medical care and rehabilitative programs to housekeeping and 24-hour security. Therefore, Hollidaysburg is a true "veterans' community" designed specifically with the commonwealth's veterans of the armed services and their spouses as its focus.



This perspective of community and the home's history of professional care prompt us to remain confident about the future quality of life for our veterans. Our staff is ever mindful of our mission and we consider it a privilege to serve those who served their country in time of need. We extend an invitation to all interested persons to visit Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home and witness the first-class care available to our deserving veteran residents.

Hollidaysburg is the largest of the state's veterans homes. It opened with just five residents on June 30, 1977, but the facility's history as a care-provider goes back to 1904, when the Blair County Hospital for Mental Diseases opened on what had been 150 acres of farmland. The original red brick building survives as the Old Administration Building, now home for the Pennsylvania National Guard's 28th Infantry Division Band. The state took over operation of the facility in 1941, renaming it Hollidaysburg State Hospital, treating the mentally ill. But it was not until after World War II that it began the expansion that resulted in the building of Rush Hall, Neil Hall and Sommer Hall as the main housing and administration units of the complex. The grounds doubled in size, to 326 acres. As the care of the mentally ill changed from custodial care to outpatient care, the population here dwindled until a decision was made in the 1970s to shut it down.

However, the Department of Military Affairs was looking to expand its veterans homes system. At the time, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Erie was the only facility available. The decision to shut down Hollidaysburg was reversed and it was transferred to Military Affairs in September 1977. Rush Hall, built in 1953, is now the administration building and nursing care facility. It was renamed Eisenhower Hall after the five-star general and president, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Neil Hall, built in 1949, was renamed MacArthur Hall after the former five-star general, Douglas MacArthur. On April 10, 1992, the old Sommer Hall, built in 1954, officially became Arnold Hall, named after the five-star general and native Pennsylvanian, Henry H. (Hap) Arnold, who is considered the father of the Air Force.

Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home consists of a total of 506 beds, including 66 for domiciliary care, 167 for personal care and 339 for skilled nursing care with 52 beds in two secure units. The major difference in the types of residency is the level of care required:

- The personal care/domiciliary care unit provides food and shelter, medical and nursing care, ancillary therapeutic services and recreational activities. Residents receive a supervised, protected

environment. When needed, assistance is provided for eating, bathing, shaving and other activities of daily living which do not require constant nursing care.

- The nursing unit provides 24-hour care, seven days a week. Residents receive a complete range of clinical services under the direction of physicians, nurses and other licensed health care professionals.
- Two specialty units provide long-term care within a secure setting.

Available to all residents are medical, clinical and nursing services; drug and nutritional therapy; rehabilitative services such as physical therapy and occupational therapy; dental services; social services; laundry; transportation; housekeeping; maintenance; security; fiscal management; and other related services. Additional services of a specialized nature, such as mental health services, podiatry, and speech/audiology therapy, are provided as necessary to maintain a resident's quality of life. Use the following to contact the home:

- Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, 500 Municipal Drive, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
- Phone: 814-696-5201
- Email: [RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov](mailto:RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov) or Web: [www.hvh.pa.gov](http://www.hvh.pa.gov)

## **PENNSYLVANIA SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOME**



The home is situated on 26 pastoral acres overlooking Lake Erie and is steeped in history. Remodeled and modernized, the home provides state-of-the-art care and treatment in a homelike atmosphere. A little-known fact is that spouses of veterans are eligible for admission. Merchant Marines with "oceangoing" service between December 1941 and August 1945 and veterans of the Pennsylvania National Guard are also eligible for admission. The Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Erie has been in operation for more than a century. It was dedicated and opened on February 22, 1886, although the actual construction began nearly two decades earlier. Work began in 1867 when it was conceived as a Marine hospital to be used by the federal government as part of its system of homes for disabled volunteer soldiers. The government declined the offer, however, and work was halted in 1885 when the project ran out of funds.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly decided there should be a home for indigent and disabled ex-soldiers from Pennsylvania and created a commission to pursue this objective. The commission chose the Marine hospital site in Erie. It purchased an additional four acres adjacent to the 100 acres in the original plot, and constructed new buildings around the Marine hospital. At first, a board of trustees, an administrative agency within the Department of Military Affairs, managed the home. The Adjutant General was given full responsibility 90 years later and the board of trustees was replaced by an advisory board, later replaced by an advisory council. The annex was dedicated in June 1980, with 75 beds available to provide quality nursing care. The main building has 100 beds, divided into personal care and domiciliary care. The major difference in the types of residency is the level of care required.

- The personal care/domiciliary care unit provides food and shelter, medical and nursing care, ancillary therapeutic services and recreational activities. Residents receive a supervised, protected environment. When needed, assistance is provided for eating, bathing, shaving and other activities of daily living which do not require constant nursing care.
- The nursing unit provides 24-hour care, seven days a week. Residents receive a complete range of clinical services under the direction of physicians, nurses and other licensed health care professionals.
- The 32-bed Dementia/Alzheimer's unit provides veterans suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's disease with long-term care in a safe and secure environment. The ward has an open layout with a large lounge area, designed to put residents in familiar, home-like surroundings. During treatment for early stages of dementia, the entrance to each resident's room contains a "memory box" with items from a resident's past to help jog their memory as to where his or her room is located.

Available to all residents are medical, clinical and nursing services; drug and nutritional therapy; rehabilitative service such as physical therapy, occupational therapy and recreational therapy; dental services; social services; laundry; transportation; housekeeping; maintenance; security; fiscal management; and other related services. There is a landmark Civil War cannon on the building grounds, one of only 12 Napoleon field pieces brought back to Pennsylvania by Union troops. Several of the others were melted down during the two world wars. The cannon was completely refurbished in 1985 by vocational students at the George Junior Republic, in a project underwritten by the Erie Chapter of the 40 et 8 Club. Also located on the grounds is the veterans cemetery, established in 1896. It is the resting place for 1,100 veterans who served the United States in wars dating back to the early 19th century. It was rededicated April 3, 1992, following a rehabilitation project. Use the following to contact the home:

- Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, 560 East Third Street, Erie, PA 16507
- Phone: 814-871-4531
- Email: [RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov](mailto:RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov) or Web: [www.pssh.pa.gov](http://www.pssh.pa.gov)

## **SOUTHEASTERN VETERANS' CENTER**

Since its dedication in December 1986, Southeastern Veterans' Center (SEVC) has developed new and improved services, expanding its capabilities to keep pace with technological advancements. SEVC is located in Spring City, Chester County. It houses 238 skilled nursing care residents and 54 personal care residents. It is one of six state facilities operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

A search by a special selection committee began November 22, 1983 to determine a site for a third veterans home. At the time, there was only the Erie Soldiers' and Sailors' Home and the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, providing space for approximately 370 veterans. Spring City was designated as the new site on January 3, 1985. The Department of Military Affairs took possession of the 120 acres a few days before Christmas in 1986. In February 1990, work began on a project to convert Horizon Hall, one of the 40 buildings of Pennhurst, to skilled nursing care facility for 194 veterans. Horizon Hall was dedicated on May 20, 1993 as Coates Hall, named after retired Brigadier General John B. Coates.



SEVC currently accommodates 292 veterans. The new four-story building, with 140,000 square feet of living space, has 154 skilled nursing beds of which 30 are reserved for veterans with memory impairment and are located on the ground floor of the new building. The building was designed based on "Community Living Center" concept, intended to de-institutionalize long-term care by eliminating large nursing facilities and creating a more home-like setting. Each resident in the new building has a private bedroom, full bath and television. This innovative concept offers privacy, support, enjoyment and a place to call home.

The rooms are arranged in family style units that house no more than 15 residents. The focus of each unit is the kitchenette/ dining room which congregates the residents in a homelike setting for meals. At the entrance to each unit are the living and adjacent activity rooms which allows for group activities and for residents to socialize with their neighbors. Each unit provides our residents 24-hour care and offers a complete range of clinical services under the direction of physicians and other licensed health care professionals. Additional services of a specialized nature, such as mental health services, podiatry and speech/audiology therapy, are also provided as necessary to maintain a resident's quality of life. Immediately off each living room residents can exit unto a screened porch which affords the resident opportunities to "go outside" while the structural screen offers safety and supervision for all residents.

- The second floor of Coates Hall houses 64 skilled nursing beds in a variety of private, semi-private and quad rooms. A common dining room is shared between each of the two housing units. Each housing unit serves 32 residents and is equipped with a kitchenette, combination television and activities room as well as a quiet room.
- The fourth floor of Coates Hall was renovated to house 54 personal care beds in a variety of private and semi-private rooms. A common dining room is shared between each of the two

housing units. Each housing unit serves 27 residents and is equipped with a kitchenette, combination television and activities room as well as a quiet room.

- The ground floor of Coates Hall contains a large multipurpose room sufficient to house large group activities. In addition, the Tighlman Hall dining facility is located immediately adjacent to both buildings and is an ideal venue for bringing together residents of both buildings for large group activities, wood shop and festivals.

Attached to the new building is a glassed-lined passage way to “Main Street,” which supports a resident bank, post office, all denominational chapel, library, clinic, barber/stylist shop, canteen and a multipurpose meeting room. Use the following to contact the home:

- Southeastern Veterans' Center, One Veterans Drive, Spring City, PA 19475
- Phone: 610-948-2400
- Email: [RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov](mailto:RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov) or Web: [www.sevc.pa.gov](http://www.sevc.pa.gov)

## **SOUTHWESTERN VETERANS' CENTER**



The Southwestern Veterans' Center provides a broad spectrum of health care and related services to veterans who are disabled, chronically ill or in need of specialized care. The center serves 236 veterans and spouses; 196 beds with full nursing care and 40 beds for residents with Dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Our focus is to assist veterans in functioning independently and at their optimal levels within the limitations of their illnesses. Specialized services include a chapel, pharmacy, canteen, barber and beautician services, dining rooms, library and a multi-purpose room for large gatherings. We also participate in the HealthNet System, which provides a telecommunications link between the center and medical experts throughout the state.

Act 188 of 1992 provided the mechanism to operate the Southwestern Veterans' Center. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs transferred 10.5 acres to the Department of Military Affairs on February 11, 1994. Ground was broken on May 19, 1995. The building was dedicated by Governor Ridge on July 14, 1997, and the first resident was admitted November 7, 1997. The center is comprised of 196 nursing care beds, including a 40-bed dementia unit. The second, third and fourth floors house the resident units. The second floor, divided into two wings, houses the domiciliary veterans and an Alzheimer's Care Unit. The second floor units include outdoor patios.

The resident bedrooms are semi-private rooms and more in the aspect of a small studio apartment than a traditional nursing care room. Two semi-private rooms share a full bathroom and shower. Each bedroom features a floor-to-ceiling bay window affording a variety of views. Outside the resident rooms there are a variety of lounge, dining and activity rooms, as well as nourishment centers and laundry rooms. Niches for benches, artwork, telephones and wheelchair parking break up the hallways between wings. Nursing control is maximized for efficiency and control, with the placement of nursing stations at the crossing of the intersecting wings. The major difference in the types of residency is the level of care.

- The nursing unit provides 24-hour care, seven days a week. Residents receive a complete range of clinical services under the direction of physicians and other licensed health care professionals.
- In addition to the other services, the dementia-specialty unit provides long-term care in a safe and secure environment.
- Additional services of a specialized nature, such as mental health services, podiatry and speech/audiology therapy, are provided as necessary to maintain a resident's quality of life.
- Health care delivery support services include physicians' services, drug therapy, 24-hour medical support and physical, recreational, occupational and speech therapy. Dental, podiatry, x-ray and lab services are provided through contracted vendors.

## **Financial Benefits**

### **Income Tax**

Military retirement pay is not taxed. Active duty pay earned outside Pennsylvania is not taxed.

### **Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus Program**

The Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus pays eligible Pennsylvania residents \$75 per month served in the Persian Gulf Theatre of Operations (maximum benefit \$525) during the Persian Gulf War, August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991. The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Benefit Program is August 31, 2018.

### **Veterans Emergency Assistance**

Provides temporary financial aid to Veterans and their beneficiaries who reside in Pennsylvania for the necessities of life (food, shelter, fuel, clothing and medical expenses). If eligible, a Veteran or their beneficiary can qualify for an amount not to exceed \$1,600 in a twelve month period.

### **Military Family Relief Assistance Program**

Provides emergency financial assistance to eligible PA service members and their eligible family members, and must have a direct and immediate financial need as a result of circumstances beyond their control.

### **Real Estate Tax Exemption**

Any honorably discharged veteran who is a resident of the Commonwealth shall be exempt from the payment of all real estate taxes levied upon any building, including the land upon which it stands, occupied by him as his principal dwelling, provided that as a result of wartime military service the veteran has a 100% service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; that such dwelling is owned by him solely or jointly with his spouse (an estate by the entirety); and that the financial need for the exemption from the payment of real estate taxes has been determined by the State

Veterans' Commission. Upon the death of the qualified veteran, the exemption passes on to the unmarried surviving spouse if the financial need can be shown.

### **Blind Veterans Pension**

Provides for a pension of \$150.00 per month for a person who served in the military or naval forces of the United States, or women's organization officially connected therewith, who gave the Commonwealth as his/her place of residence when entering the military and while performing duties connected with the service, suffered an injury or incurred a disease which resulted in loss of vision so that the visual acuity with the best correcting lens is 3/60 or 10/200 or equivalent, or less normal vision in the better eye. Less normal vision than 3/60 or 10/200, or equivalent, includes circumstances where the widest diameter of the visual field of the better eye has contracted to such an extent that it subtends an angular distance of not greater than 20°. The term does not include a person separated from the military or naval forces of the United States or a women's organization officially connected therewith under other than honorable conditions.

### **Paralyzed Veterans Pension**

Provides for a pension of \$150.00 per month for any person separated under honorable conditions from the Armed Forces of the United States, who gave the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as his or her place of residence at time of entering the military or naval forces of the United States, and who currently resides in Pennsylvania. Veterans qualify for the pension if they suffered an injury or disease resulting in the loss or loss of use of two or more extremities (arms/hands or legs/feet).

## **Employment Benefits**

### **Veterans' Preference For State Jobs**

Honorably discharged veterans who served on active duty since August 2, 1990; spouses of disabled veterans, and surviving spouses of disabled veterans can get 10 additional points on their final earned ratings, provided they pass the examination and will get mandatory appointment preference over non-veterans when their names appear together within the Rule-of-Three on certifications.

### **State Retirement**

Honorably discharged Veterans employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a period of at least three years may be eligible to purchase retirement credit for active duty military time.

## **Education Benefits**

### **Educational Gratuity**

Payment of educational gratuities are for children of honorably discharged veterans who have been certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having wartime service-connected disabilities rated as totally and permanently disabled or children of veterans who die or have died of war service-connected disabilities or died in service during a period of war or armed conflict. Children must be between the ages of 16 and 23, living within the Commonwealth five years prior to application and must

attend a school within the Commonwealth to be entitled to this educational gratuity. Applicants must demonstrate financial need, the maximum gratuity amount is \$500 per semester.

## **Recreation Benefits**

### **Free Hunting/Fishing/Fur Trapper License for Certain Disabled Veterans**

Application can be made at your county treasurer.

### **Fishing License For Active Duty Personnel**

Non-resident military members stationed in Pennsylvania can get a fishing license for the resident rate, Pennsylvania residents stationed outside of the state can fish free while on leave.

### **Hunting License For Active Duty Personnel**

Active duty personnel, be they Pennsylvania residents home on leave, PA National Guard, or non-residents stationed in-state can get a reduced fee hunting license.

### **Antlerless Deer License For Active Duty**

Active duty personnel, be they Pennsylvania residents home on leave, PA National Guard, or non-residents stationed in-state can get a reduced fee license.

### **Antlerless Deer License For Disabled Veterans**

Totally disabled veterans, or those missing a limb, or use of a limb can get a reduced fee license.

## **Other State Veteran Benefits**

### **Burial Allowance**

County burial allowances are provided whether or not the person died in the county or was buried in the county.

### **Grave Markers**

A county grave marker is provided free of charge by the county. Future replacements, deteriorated or missing markers may be replaced by the county in which the Veteran is buried.

### **Military Special License Plates**

The Honoring Our Veterans plate became available on November 26, 2012. Fifteen dollars from every "Honoring Our Veterans" plate sold will benefit the Veterans Trust Fund. To apply for license plate, please complete [Form MV-914](#), "Application



For information about all other military license plates refer to the below or, download the [U.S. Military Veteran Registration Plates Fact Sheet](#). Images of the military license plates may be viewed by clicking

on the links to the left of the license plate's description. For fees, eligibility requirements, and ordering forms click the MV-150 link indicated on each plate description.

Several military and veterans organizations participate in PennDOT's Specialty Plate Program. For a listing of approved organizations, visit the [Specialty Plate Program](#) page.

[Medal of Honor License Plate](#)

This plate has 13 white stars and white lettering on a light blue background. Recipients of the Medal of Honor are entitled to receive this plate. Requests for this plate must be submitted through the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, Bureau of Veterans Affairs Office, Bldg S-0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003.



[Purple Heart](#)

This license plate features the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow with a detailed color image of the Purple Heart medal in a 3" x 3" canvas area on the left side of the plate. The word "Pennsylvania" appears across the top and the words "Combat Wounded Veteran" appear on the bottom of the plate. Applicants must submit a legible photocopy of one of the following, clearly indicating that a Purple Heart was awarded: A copy of the general order, a copy of the Certificate of Award or a certification of the award from the Veterans' Administration. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Ex-Prisoner of War](#)

This plate features the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow with a detailed color image of the Prisoner of War medal in the center of the plate. Applicants must provide a Certificate of Imprisonment from the appropriate branch of the Armed Forces or from the Veterans' Administration. The documentation must indicate the dates of imprisonment while in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).

[Pearl Harbor Survivor](#)

This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible photocopy of one of the following, which indicates the applicant was present at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941: A copy of the verification made by the U.S. service unit from the appropriate branch of the Armed Forces in which the applicant served or for non-military applicants, documentation from the U.S. Civil Service Commission such as an I.D. card or other written verification. NOTE: Members of a Pearl Harbor Survivors Organization may have the organization verify their qualification in Section

Do on Form [MV-150](#) in lieu of a copy of documents above.



[World War II Veteran](#)

This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible, certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates service any time during the period of Dec. 7, 1941, through Dec. 31, 1946. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Korean War Veteran](#)

This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible photocopy of one of the following, which indicates the applicant served in Korea any time during the period of June 27, 1950, through Jan. 31, 1955: A copy of the Korean Service Medal Award or a Statement of Service in Korea during the period of time listed above from the Records Center at Department of Army, National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63132. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Vietnam War Veteran](#)

This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible, certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates one of the following medals was awarded for service in Vietnam and contiguous waters or airspace there over: A copy of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal if applicant served in Vietnam between July 1, 1958, and July 3, 1965 or a copy of the Vietnam Service Medal, if applicant served in Vietnam between July 3, 1965, and March 28, 1973. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).

	
<p><a href="#">Persian Gulf War Veteran</a></p>	<p>This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible photocopy of the following, which indicates service beginning Aug. 2, 1990 in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations: A copy of the Southwest Asia Service Medal Award was awarded between Aug. 2, 1990 to Nov. 30, 1995, or the Armed Forces Expedition Medal awarded between Dec. 1, 1995 to present date and when the applicant is currently on active duty, a statement of service from the applicant's commanding officer verifying duty in the Southwest Asia Theater. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p> 
<p><a href="#">Expeditionary Forces</a></p>	<p>This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible, certified copy of Form DD214, which indicates that either a Naval or Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, a Kosovo Campaign Medal or a Global War on Terrorism Expedition Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p> 
<p>Veteran Motorcycle License Plate</p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow. This plate is only available for motorcycles. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces of the U.S. or a reserve component of the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)", Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)", Form DD2S(RESRET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Reserves Retired)" or Form DD2S(RES), "Armed Forces of the United States Geneva Conventions Identification Card (Reserves Retired)." NOTE: National Guard Reservists will need to submit Form NGB22, "Report of Separation and Record of Service" in lieu of Form DD214. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p>
<p><a href="#">Operation Iraqi</a></p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and</p>

<p><a href="#">Freedom</a></p>	<p>the Iraqi Campaign Medal. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates an Operation Iraqi Freedom service or an Iraqi Campaign Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p>  <p>The image shows a Pennsylvania license plate with a blue top section containing the word "PENNSYLVANIA". Below this is a white section with the number "0000" in blue. To the left of the number is the Iraqi Campaign Medal. To the right of the number is the text "SAMPLE" written vertically. Below the number is a yellow section with the words "OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM" in blue. On the far right, the letters "I" and "F" are stacked vertically.</p>
<p><a href="#">Operation Enduring Freedom</a></p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and the Afghanistan Campaign medal. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates an Operation Enduring Freedom service or an Afghanistan Campaign Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p>  <p>The image shows a Pennsylvania license plate with a blue top section containing the word "PENNSYLVANIA". Below this is a white section with the number "0000" in blue. To the left of the number is the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. To the right of the number is the text "SAMPLE" written vertically. Below the number is a yellow section with the words "OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM" in blue. On the far right, the letters "E" and "F" are stacked vertically.</p>
<p><a href="#">Veteran</a></p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and a waving American flag. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)", Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)", Form DD2S(RESRET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Reserves Retired)" or Form DD2S(RES), "Armed Forces of the United States Geneva Conventions Identification Card (Reserves Retired)." NOTE: National Guard Reservists will need to submit Form NGB22, "Report of Separation and Record of Service" in lieu of Form DD214. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p>  <p>The image shows a Pennsylvania license plate with a blue top section containing the word "PENNSYLVANIA". Below this is a white section with the number "0000" in blue. To the left of the number is a waving American flag. To the right of the number is the text "SAMPLE" written vertically. Below the number is a yellow section with the word "VETERAN" in blue. On the far right, the letters "U" and "S" are stacked vertically.</p>
<p><a href="#">Korean Defense Service</a></p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and the Korean Defense Service Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD215, "Correction to DD214," indicating the Korean Defense Service Medal was applied for and issued. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p>



[U.S. Coast Guard Veteran](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)." To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[U.S. Marine Corps Veteran](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)." To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[U.S. Air Force Veteran](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)." To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[U.S. Navy Veteran](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)." To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[U.S. Army Veteran](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicant must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces OR a certified photocopy of the front and back of either Form DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or Form DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)." To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Bronze Star](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Bronze Star Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Bronze Star Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).



[Silver Star](#)

This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Silver Star Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Silver Star Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form [MV-150](#).

	
<a href="#">Bronze Star for Valor</a>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Bronze Star for Valor Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Bronze Star for Valor Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p> 
<a href="#">Distinguished Service Cross</a>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Distinguished Service Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Distinguished Service Cross Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p> 
<a href="#">Distinguished Flying Cross</a>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p> 
<a href="#">Navy Cross</a>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Navy Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Navy Cross Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p>

	 <p>A sample Pennsylvania registration plate with a blue top section containing the word "PENNSYLVANIA". Below this is a white section with a gold Navy Cross medal on the left, the number "1000" in large blue digits, and the word "SAMPLE" written vertically on the right. The bottom section is yellow with the words "NAVY CROSS" in blue.</p>
<p><a href="#">Air Force Cross</a></p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and an image of the Air Force Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified copy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Air Force Cross Medal was awarded. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p>  <p>A sample Pennsylvania registration plate with a blue top section containing the word "PENNSYLVANIA". Below this is a white section with a gold Air Force Cross medal on the left, the number "0000" in large blue digits, and the word "SAMPLE" written vertically on the right. The bottom section is yellow with the words "AIR FORCE CROSS" in blue.</p>
<p><a href="#">Gold Star Family</a></p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, which features a gold star in 3" x 3" canvas area on the left side of the plate. The word "Pennsylvania" appears across the top and the words "Gold Star Family" appear on the bottom of the plate. For more information and to apply for this plate, download Form <a href="#">MV-912</a>.</p>  <p>A sample Pennsylvania registration plate with a blue top section containing the word "PENNSYLVANIA". Below this is a white section with a gold star on the left, the letters "GSF" in large blue digits, and the word "SAMPLE" written vertically on the right. The bottom section is yellow with the words "GOLD STAR FAMILY" in blue.</p>
<p><a href="#">Merchant Marine</a></p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and the service-approved emblem. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates service as a Merchant Marine anytime during the period of December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150W</a>.</p>
<p><a href="#">Airborne Unit</a></p>	<p>This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and images of the Jump Wings and Glider Wings. Applicants must submit documentation that indicates the applicant satisfactorily completed the prescribed proficiency tests who are/were assigned or attached to an Airborne Unit and any other military personnel determined by PennDOT to be appropriately classified as a member of a U.S. Military Airborne Parachutist or Glider Unit. NOTE: U.S. Military Airborne Units include Parachutist or Glider Units, Glider Troopers, Paratroopers, Air Assault Troopers, Rangers, U.S. Army Special Forces, USMC Recon, U.S. Navy Seals, U.S. Air Force Special Operations, Troop Carrier Command, including Glider Pilots and the 160th SOAR. To apply for this plate, complete Form <a href="#">MV-150</a>.</p>

For additional contact information and benefits assistance visit the Pennsylvania Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs website [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/dmva\\_home/5902](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/dmva_home/5902) .

## **Veterans Registry**

The PA VETERANS REGISTRY is an online application that allows veterans, family members and people who work with veterans to connect with DMVA to request information related to the valuable state benefits, programs and services offered. All registrants' information will be shared with County Directors for Veterans Affairs and other Commonwealth of Pennsylvania agencies in order to facilitate local connections. By connecting with DMVA, registrants can also opt-in to receive ongoing communications such as the weekly DMVA DIGEST ([view our most recent edition here](#)), breaking news and other updates. The PA VETERANS REGISTRY is DMVA's first step in a long-term strategy to achieve a higher level of communication with our veterans as well as our partners who support them. To register go to <https://register.dmva.pa.gov>.

## **Veterans' Trust Fund**

The mission of the Veterans' Trust Fund (VTF), administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), is to assist and support Pennsylvania veterans and their families. The VTF issues grants to statewide charitable organizations that assist veterans, veterans service organizations and county directors of veterans affairs to assist veterans in need of shelter and necessities of living. Funding for the Veterans' Trust Fund was established by law (51 Pa.C.S. § 1721) and it includes:

- Transfer of funds after the sale of the former Scotland School for Veterans' Children
- Proceeds from the voluntary \$3 donations from people applying for or renewing their Pennsylvania driver's license or photo ID and renewing motor vehicle registrations
- Proceeds from the sale of the "[Honoring Our Veterans](#)" standard and motorcycle license plate
- Grants, gifts and donations from a person, business, or governmental entity ([Make an online donation now](#))
- Money appropriated to the fund

One hundred percent of all donations go into the VTF, and DMVA charges no administrative costs, salaries or contract costs to the Fund. Please note that a portion of the VTF is used to reimburse the Pennsylvania Dept. Transportation (PennDOT) for the costs PennDOT incurred in implementing the check-off for applications for drivers' licenses and vehicle registrations and the veterans' designation on drivers licenses. These one-time start-up costs are being paid to PennDOT over a period of years. Go to <http://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/Programs%20and%20Services/Veterans'%20Trust%20Fund/Veterans-Trust-Fund.aspx>.

## **Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial**



At its site at the [Indiantown Gap National Cemetery](#) in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial is the first in the Commonwealth to honor veterans of all eras from the Revolutionary War forward. Maintained by DMVA, it is the largest veterans' memorial located in any of the 133 national cemeteries operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/pennsylvania-state-veterans-benefits.html> & <http://www.dmva.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx> FEB 2018 ++]

## **Military Discounts in Pennsylvania**

1. MVDC has close to 8000 business locations in Pennsylvania that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of Pennsylvania also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zipcode and category in the search box at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/pennsylvania.html>.
2. **Veterans Designation on drivers license:** Yes
3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes**
  - Reduced price for hunting and fishing licenses for service members returning from deployment or former POWs.
  - Free fishing and hunting licenses and select other licenses for disabled veterans.
  - No fee for license plates and placards for disabled veterans
4. **Property tax and Financial Benefits**
  - Military retirement pay is not taxable.
  - National Guard pay for state active duty for emergencies is exempt from state income tax.
  - Federal military pay earned outside of the state is exempt from state income tax.
  - Qualifying 100% disabled veterans may be exempt from real estate tax.
  - Bargain rate loans for honorably discharged veterans from Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.
5. **Education Discounts**
  - Payment of tuition, fees, room/board at state schools for surviving children of member who dies in the line of duty. Payment of tuition and fees for spouse of member who dies in the line of duty.
  - Up to 100% tuition assistance for National Guard members at all state schools.
  - In accordance with PHEAA, "Student loan forgiveness may be granted for those members of the military who use federal teacher loans or agriculture education loans.
  - Full refund of tuition granted to students enrolled in state schools who are members of the National Guard or Reserves who are ordered to duty.
6. Refer to <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com> to find businesses that provide military and veteran discounts in your area.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/pennsylvania.html> FEB 2018 ++]

