

# Alabama State Veteran's Benefits



**2020**

The state of Alabama 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
- Recreation Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

## **Veteran Housing Programs**

### **Alabama State Veterans Home Program**

The people of the United States have always held a tradition, mandated by law, that those who serve the country in the armed services, especially in time of war, shall receive consideration and care when they are in need. The hospitals maintained by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have filled the needs of acutely ill or injured veterans. But a different type of facility is needed for aging or chronically disabled veterans. The State of Alabama is extending this special kind of care to veterans through a partnership with the federal government and private industry by proudly operating four state-of-the-art Veterans Homes located within the state. The Alabama State Veterans Homes are a very affordable solution for you or your loved ones. There is a monthly fee for residence in the homes.

Applications may be obtained from your local Veterans Service Office, downloading at <https://va.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ADVA-33.pdf> or by contacting the ADVA veterans home directly. Upon initial receipt of the application, basic veteran eligibility and residency requirements

are reviewed and the veteran's name is added to the applicable waiting list. The Admissions Committee reviews updated medical information for approval/denial once their name reaches near the top of the list.

**Eligibility:**

- Must be honorably discharged from military service with a minimum of 90 days of Active Duty service. Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980 and those commissioned after October 16, 1981 must have served a minimum of 24 continuous months or the full period for which the person was called and be honorably discharged. Active duty service means full-time service other than Active Duty for Training. A DD-214 or equivalent must be included in the application package. Veterans with war-time service are given preference for admission prior to peace time veterans.
- Must meet the qualifications asset forth by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs criteria for skilled nursing care or domiciliary/assisted living.
- Must have been a resident of the State of Alabama during the immediate past 12 months.
- Must have had a medical examination by a physician that shows that veteran does not have:
  - ✓ Medical or nursing care needs that the Home is not equipped or staffed to provide.
  - ✓ Behavioral traits that may prove to be dangerous to the well-being of the resident, other residents, staff or visitors.
  - ✓ A diagnosis or confirmed history of mental illness or mental retardation that outweighs their medical condition.
- Veterans who do not have war-time service may be admitted to the Home on a space available basis. These veterans will not be placed on a waiting list or placed before wartime veterans.
- Must meet the requirements of Alabama's immigration laws.

<p><b>Note: Applicants for the State Veterans Home will be checked against the Sex Offender Registry and a background check for active felony status. Anyone found to be on the Sex Offender Registry or in a felony fugitive status shall not be considered for admission.</b></p>
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**Services Provided:**

- Quality food service with individual diet counseling by a certified dietician.
- Skilled nursing care and assisted living care by licensed professionals with around the clock supervision by Registered Nurses.
- Medical supervision by a Veterans Home Medical Director, a licensed physician knowledgeable in long term care.
- Initial dental examination and an annual exam thereafter.
- Social Services programs tailored to meet the individual needs of the resident.
- Activity program designed to appeal to the interests of the individual resident.
- Appropriate resident education programs
- In house pharmacy and licensed pharmacist to dispense medications as dictated by physicians' orders.
- Basic supplies for personal care.
- Transportation to local activities and routine medical appointments, including transportation to VA Medical Centers during normal business hours.
- Laundry and linen services to include personal laundry.
- Around the clock security staff.

- Maintain licensure and certification standards established by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Appropriate support groups for families and responsible parties.
- T.V. and cable provided.

**Services /Not Provided:**

- Free nursing home care
- Acute or sub-acute care
- One-on one care
- Dispense medications not prescribed by a physician
- Restraints requested by family members, responsible parties, or friends
- Special adaptive appliances/devices (NOTE: we do assist in securing these items through the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs for those eligible.)
- Replacement for loss, damage or destruction of personal items.
- Free ambulance service.

**Resident/Sponsor Responsibilities:**

The below listed items are examples of non-covered charges and are the responsibility of the Resident/Sponsor. This list is not all inclusive:

- Services not covered by insurance. (Third party provider charges that are billable include but are not limited to physician services, therapy services, labs, and x-rays).
- Charges/co-pays for pharmaceuticals.
- Barber/Beauty Shop
- Private telephone installation and services
- Physician specialist consultation fees
- Durable Medical Equipment (including oxygen), not furnished by the Veterans Administration
- Private duty nurses and sitters
- Definitive dental treatment and repairs
- Maintenance and repair of personal property
- Non-covered transportation charges
- Bed Hold charges

**Homes**

The Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City has been "home" to hundreds of veterans since its opening in 1989. In July 1995, Alabama opened two more homes to veterans, the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville and the William F. Green State Veterans Home in Bay Minette. In November 2012, the Colonel Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home opened in Pell City.



**Bill Nichols State Veterans Home**

1784 Elkahatchee Road, Alexander City, AL 35010 Tel: (256) 329-3311/3350F

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**Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home**

2701 Meridian Street, Huntsville, AL 35811 Tel: (256) 851-2807/2967F

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**William F. Green State Veterans Home**

300 Faulkner Drive, Bay Minette, AL 36507-1461 Tel: (251) 937-8049/2472F

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**Colonel Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home**  
7054 Veterans Parkway, Pell City, AL 35125 Tel: (205) 338-6487

Go to <http://www.va.state.al.us/VeteransHome.aspx> or <https://va.alabama.gov/vets-home-program> to learn more about the Alabama Veterans' Home Program.

## **Financial Assistance Programs**

**The following Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions apply in Alabama:**

### **Homes of Totally Disabled Persons or Those Over Age 65:**

Exemption is provided from ad valorem taxation of the home of any person who is totally disabled or who is 65 years of age or older, and who had a net annual income of \$12,000.00 or less for income tax purposes for the last preceding year.

### **VA Specially Adapted Homes of Veterans/Widows Acquired Under Public Law 702:**

The home of any veteran which is or was acquired by him under the specially adapted housing grant regardless of its value is tax exempt as long as it is owned and occupied as a home by the veteran or his unremarried widow.

### **Military Retiree Income Tax Exemption**

Effective January 1, 1989, and for all successive tax years, all retirement or compensation received as retirement benefits by any person retired from the military service of the United States of America and survivor benefits derived therefrom is hereby exempt from any state, county or municipal income tax or like tax whatever name called.

### **Motor Vehicle Paid for by VA Grant:**

Any disabled veteran of WW II or of any hostilities in which the United States was, is or shall be engaged against any foreign state who owns an automobile which has been, is or shall hereafter be all or partly paid for with funds furnished for such purposes by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), under the authority of any act of the Congress of the United States is entitled to exemptions from all license fees and ad valorem taxes on such motor vehicle provided the veteran keeps the vehicle only for private use.

### **Veterans Organizations:**

All property owned by the American Legion or by Veterans of Foreign Wars or by the Disabled American Veterans, or any post thereof; provided, that such property is used and occupied exclusively by their organization.

#### **Exemption of Debts Incurred Pursuant to National Housing Act or Veterans' Benefits**

All debts or extensions of credit incurred pursuant to any provision of the act of Congress known as the National Housing Act, as the same now exists or may hereafter be amended or supplemented, and all debts or extensions of credit incurred pursuant to any act of Congress relating to veterans' benefits, as the same now exists or may hereafter be amended or supplemented, are exempt from any law of this state relating to usury or prescribing or limiting interest rates.

#### **Unemployment Compensation**

A person who served in the armed forces of the United States and who is unemployed may be entitled to unemployment compensation based on their honorable military or naval service. Contact the nearest State Employment Compensation Claims Office. Pension or disability payments provided by the United States to the individuals who have completed the period of military service may disqualify such individual from receiving unemployment compensation.

## **Veteran Employment Programs**

#### **Preference in State Classified Employment**

All persons who have been honorably discharged from the United States armed forces at any time shall have five points added to any earned ratings in examination for entrance to the state classified service. Those honorably discharged veterans with the present existence of a service-connected disability and entitled to pension, compensation or disability allowance under existing laws shall have 10 points added to any earned ratings. Wives and widows of certain disabled or deceased veterans may have the 10 point preference extended to them and added to any earned ratings. Veterans also get preference over non-veterans with the same ratings on the classified service employment registers.

#### **Job Status and Reemployment Rights**

County and municipal officials who enter the military or naval service at a time when a state of national emergency has been declared to exist by the President of the United States, have preservation of job status and reemployment rights.

Any teacher entering the military service of the United States, who is not on continuing service status but who has accumulated one or more years of teaching experience immediately prior to entering military service, shall be given credit for such experience if such teacher is re-imposed within one year after release from military service.

#### **Membership in State Employees'/Teachers' Retirement System**

Retirement benefits rights of state employees and teachers who enter the armed forces and return to state employment after discharge are preserved. A member who enter the armed services and does not withdraw contributions, and who returns to said employment within one year after being honorably discharged, may be granted credit for military service up to four years, provided the employee pays an amount equal to four

percent of the average compensation paid to a state employee during each claimed year of full-time military service, plus and together there with eight percent interest compounded from the last date of such claimed military service. The contributions must be made within a period of time equal to the length of service in the armed forces or before attainment of age 60, or in the case of a state policeman, age 56, whichever occurs first. No credit for military service shall be granted if such member is receiving military service retirement benefits.

## **Alabama Education Assistance Programs**

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

Purple Heart recipients may be eligible for free education at Alabama public institutions of higher learning including two-year and four-year technical colleges, community colleges, and junior colleges. Check with your school to see if they participate in the program.

### **G. I. Dependents' Scholarship Program**

This program is administered by the ADVA and is governed by ALA. CODE §§ 31-6-1, et seq. The state of Alabama will waive up to \$250 per semester hour and \$1,000 for books each semester at any Alabama institution of higher learning including two-year and four-year technical colleges, community colleges, and junior colleges. Any dependent child under 26 whose parent is, or was, an Alabama resident veteran with a VA disability of at least 20 percent may qualify for up to five years of benefits. Spouses or un-remarried surviving spouses of veterans rated 100% permanently and totally disabled can also get five years of benefits. Spouses and un-remarried surviving spouses of veterans rated 40-90% disabled can get three years of benefits. The veteran must meet the following qualifications to establish eligibility of his/her dependents:

*Military Service:* The veteran must have honorably served at least 90 days of continuous active federal military service or honorably discharged by reason of service-connected disability after serving less than 90 days of continuous active federal military service.

*Disability Requirements:* The veteran must be rated 20% or more by the USDVA due to service-connected disabilities or have held the qualifying rating at the time of death, a former prisoner of war (POW), or declared missing in action (MIA), or died as the result of a service-connected disability, or died while on active military service in the line of duty.

*Residency Requirements:* The veteran must have been a permanent civilian resident of the State of Alabama for at least one year immediately prior to (a) the initial entry into active military service or (b) any subsequent period of military service in which a break (1 year or more) in service occurred and the Alabama civilian residency was established. Permanently service-connected veterans rated at 100% who did not enter service from Alabama, may qualify after establishing at least five years of permanent residency in Alabama prior to filing of an application or immediately prior to death, if deceased.

*Entitlement:* Dependent children are awarded five standard academic years or part-time equivalent at any Alabama state-supported institution of higher learning or a prescribed course of study at any Alabama state-

supported technical school without payment of any tuition, required textbooks or instructional fees for eligible dependents initially enrolling in school on or after Fall 2009. Children who enrolled in school prior to Fall 2009 receive four academic years of scholarship benefits.

*Application Assistance* – Applications may be obtained at any Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Office. Please contact the ADVA Veterans Service Office nearest you. Out-of-state applicants may receive additional information by contacting: Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, Alabama G. I. Dependents Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 1509, Montgomery, AL 36102-1509 Phone: (334) 242-5077 For additional information on the G. I. Dependents' Scholarship Program refer to <https://va.alabama.gov/dependents-scholarship>

### **Alabama National Guard Education Assistance Program (ANGEAP)**

The Alabama National Guard Education Assistance Program (ANGEAP) provides tuition assistance to eligible National Guard Service members. For the 2019-2020 school year the maximum amount is \$5,406 per semester. You can only be paid what costs you have after any federal GI Bill payments are made. Only tuition and fees are covered, not books or living expenses. You must be over 17, active in the AL Guard, an Alabama resident, show financial need and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. Undergraduate degrees only.

### **Veterans and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement (OPPE) announced Mar 26, 2018 up to \$8.4 million in available funding for training and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers.

## **Veteran Recreation Benefits**

### **State Parks**

Active duty and honorably discharged veterans who are residents of Alabama are granted free admission to state parks.

### **Discounted Fishing License**

Alabama resident veterans who are at least 20% disabled can get a discounted freshwater fishing license.

### **Disabled Veteran Special Hunting License**

A special hunting license is available to 100% service-connected veterans at a cost of \$2 plus the applicable issuance fee. A special hunting license is available to 50% service-connected veterans at half of the usual cost plus the applicable issuance fee

### **Non-Resident Licenses**

Active duty members stationed in Alabama or neighboring states as well as their families pay the in-state license rates.

### **Retired Military Pistol Permit**



A pistol permit is available for free to individuals who are otherwise eligible for a pistol permit and who retired from active duty the Reserves, or National Guard.

## Other Alabama State Veteran Benefits

### Veteran Service Offices

The Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs (ADVA) has Veterans Service Offices located in 50 counties throughout the State of Alabama. While they do not have an office in every county, they have taken steps to ensure anyone seeking assistance can find it close to their home. To locate the nearest Veterans Service Office to you, select your home county using the dropdown menu at [http://www.va.state.al.us/county\\_select.aspx](http://www.va.state.al.us/county_select.aspx), then click on the 'Get County Information' button OR click on the desired county using the map.

### Updates

To stay current on your Alabama benefits and veteran related events fill out the form at <http://www.va.state.al.us/Subscribe.aspx> to receive all Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs communications by email including quarterly newsletters. By subscribing to the ADVA mailing list, you will always stay up to date with the latest news affecting Alabama veterans.

### Alabama State Veterans Cemetery

The Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort sits on over 120 acres of land in Baldwin County, Alabama. The cemetery was dedicated in December 2012 and began interments in April 2013. The initial phase of the cemetery is 22.8 acres and has 2,776 burial sites (2,392 in-ground). The lifespan of the entire cemetery is 100 years. A cemetery brochure is available at <https://va.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Cemetery-Brochure-corrected.pdf>.



Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 34904 Alabama Highway 225, Spanish Fort, AL 36577 Tel: (251) 625-1338 Website: [www.va.alabama.gov](http://www.va.alabama.gov)

The Eligibility for interment in the State Veterans Cemetery follows National Cemetery Administration [eligibility requirements](#). In general, U.S. Veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and their spouses and dependent children are eligible. Committal services are conducted Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Services are held in the committal shelter. The cemetery does not offer graveside services. For veterans, the cemetery provides the following at no cost:

- Burial plot or columbarium niche
- Concrete liner for casket burials
- Opening and closing of the grave

- Perpetual care of the gravesite
- Inscribed gravestone
- 30 minute committal service

All other funeral expenses are paid by the veteran's family or estate

Alabama state residency requirements for burial in the State Veterans Cemetery must meet one of the following:

- Legal resident of Alabama at the time of death; or
- Legal resident of Alabama when he or she entered the Armed Forces of the United States; or
- Legal resident of Alabama for a period of 10 or more years (any cumulative period of 10 or more years, regardless of residency at the time of death).

The surviving spouse of an eligible veteran that has been interred who remarries retains his or her eligibility for burial. Unmarried children who are under 21 years of age, or who are under 23 years of age and are pursuing full-time education at an approved institution; or an unmarried adult child of an eligible veteran of any age if the child became physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support by reason of mental or physical disability before reaching 21 years of age or before reaching 23 years of age if pursuing full-time education at an approved institution are eligible. For spouses or dependent children, a \$375.00 fee will be charged on the day of interment. For veterans, there is no cost.

Pre-registering allows a veteran and their spouse to establish, in advance, their eligibility for burial. There is no cost for pre-registration and it does not obligate the veteran to be interred at the cemetery. Pre-registration is intended to simplify and assist the veteran's next-of-kin at the time of death. The key items needed for pre-registration are a copy of the veteran's discharge certificate (DD Form 214) and, for married veterans, a copy of the marriage certificate. For veterans who are determined eligible, the burial includes a two-person gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, a grave liner, ongoing care of the gravesite and a government-furnished headstone or marker. These benefits come at no cost the veteran or his or her family. To learn more about pre-registration and the cemetery, contact Tony Ross, cemetery director, or Joseph S. Buschell, assistant cemetery director, at (251) 625-1338. Pre-registration forms and more information are available at <http://va.alabama.gov/spanishfort.aspx>. For additional information on burial in a Alabama state veterans cemetery refer to <https://va.alabama.gov/veterans-memorial-cemetery>.

Refer to [https://www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits/index.asp](https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/index.asp) for information on burial in a Veterans National Cemetery There are two National Cemeteries located in Alabama. The Fort Mitchell Cemetery at 553 Highway 165, Ft. Mitchell, AL 36856 Phone: 334-855-4731 FAX: 334-855-474 which is open to new internments and the Mobile National Cemetery at 1202 Virginia Street, Mobile, AL 36604 Phone: 850-453-4846 FAX: 850-453-4635 which is closed to new interments.

### **Vet Legal Assistance**

The VA and lawyers across the state have partnered to bring free legal advice exclusively to veterans and their families. For Clinic locations. Contact information, and hours during which services are provided refer to <http://va.alabama.gov/legalclinic.aspx>. In some cases, an attorney may be found to provide free legal representation on the following matters:

- Driver's License Reinstatement
- Bankruptcy and Predatory Lending (Payday Loans)
- Divorce and Protective Orders
- Wills and Power of Attorneys
- Housing Issues
- Past Legal Fines

Common types of criminal cases include DUIs, possession of a controlled substance, domestic violence, assault, and theft/robbery. To locate resources for assistance and information regarding criminal matters refer to:

- Veteran Treatment Courts <http://www.va.state.al.us/vtc.aspx>
- Guidebook <http://www.va.state.al.us/documents/vetguide.pdf> for Incarcerated Veterans in Alabama
- Alabama State Bar Resources <https://www.alabar.org/for-the-public/need-legal-help>
- Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) Program <https://www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp>
- Contact an Alabama VJO Specialist <https://www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp#contacts>
- Healthcare for Re-entry Veterans Services and Resources <https://www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp>

### **Homeless Veterans**

The United States Code contains the official federal definition of homelessness, which is commonly used because it controls federal funding streams. In Title 42, Chapter 119, Subchapter 1, “homeless” is defined as follows: §11302. General definition of homeless individual (a) For purposes of this chapter, the term “homeless” or “homeless individual or homeless person” includes:

- An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
- An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is
  - A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
  - an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
  - A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.”

VA has created a national hotline for homeless veterans 1-877-424-3838 which is staffed around the clock, seven days a week. Responders can help callers find food, shelter, clothing and other assistance for homeless veterans. Also, if you or someone you know is homeless or at risk of homelessness, immediate help is available:

- For emotional crises, call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press 1.
- For 24/7 assistance, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838).
- For emotional crises, call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press 1.

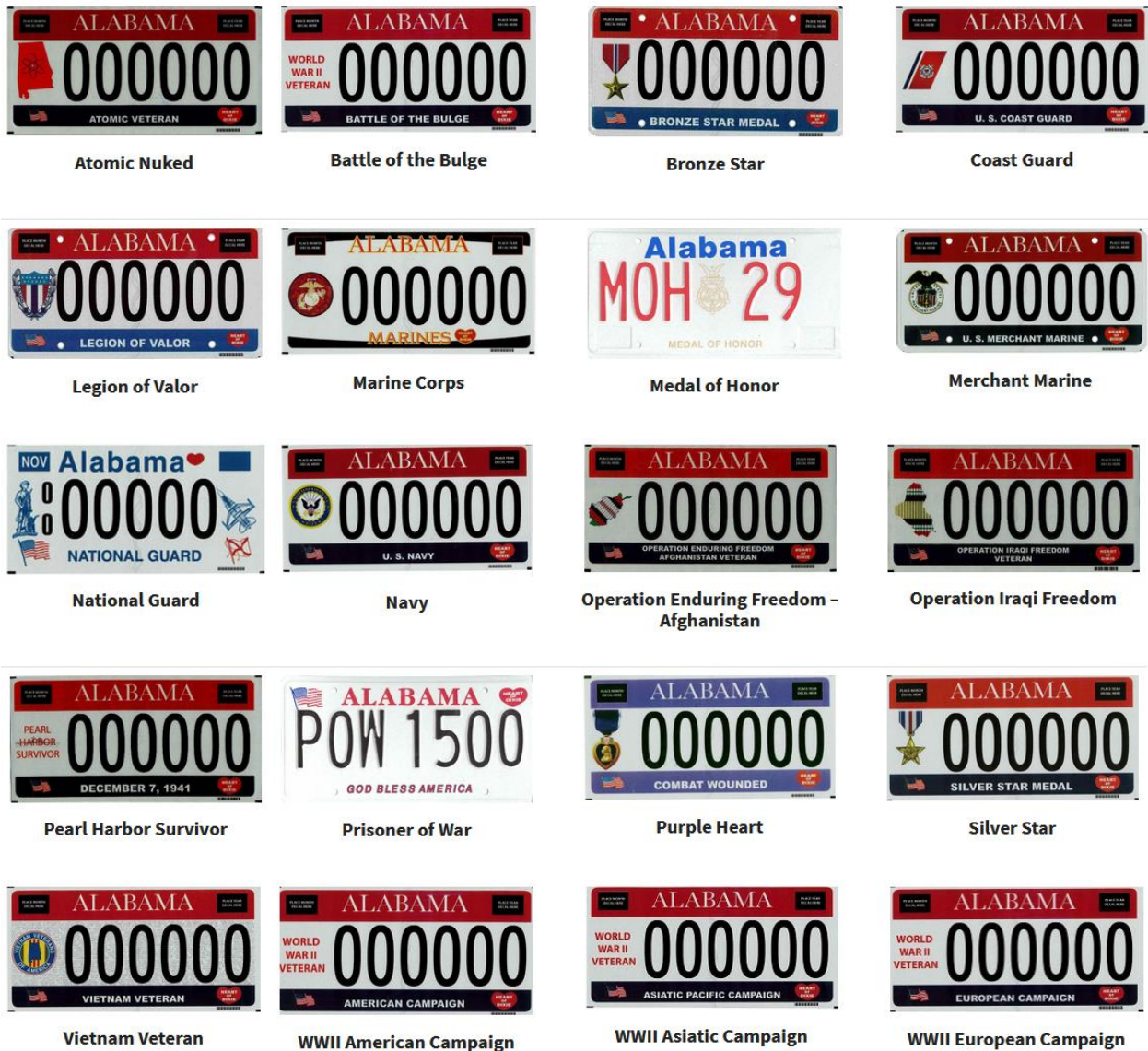
- For domestic violence issues, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).
- To find a local food bank visit [www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx](http://www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx)
- For assistance with disability and other benefits claims, contact your nearest Veterans Service Office. At [www.va.alabama.gov/county\\_select.aspx](http://www.va.alabama.gov/county_select.aspx) you can find the office closest to you.
- For non-VA resources and links to various federal and community resources, visit [www.va.gov/homeless/nonvaresources.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/nonvaresources.asp).
- The VA Housing Coordinator (Montgomery) can be reached at (334) 558-8543/8599/7740; (334) 318-7956; or (334) 657-5498.
- The Alabama Rural Coalition for the Homeless can be reached by visiting [www.archconnection.org](http://www.archconnection.org) or by telephone at (334)273-0668/6386.
- For emergency financial assistance for rent and utilities, contact Family Endeavors at [www.familyendeavors.org/programs/veteran-services](http://www.familyendeavors.org/programs/veteran-services) or by telephone at (334) 513-1855.
- For assistance finding permanent, stable housing, contact Priority Veterans at (334) 440-8162 or (334) 303-4446.
- For help getting HUD funding, visit the Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless at [www.midalhomeless.org](http://www.midalhomeless.org) or call (334) 261-6182.
- For assistance in transitioning back to civilian society, visit 3 Hots and a Cot at [www.cotsforvets.org/who-we-serve](http://www.cotsforvets.org/who-we-serve) or by telephone at (205) 730-1852.
- For furniture, pots and pans, etc., contact Veterans of North Alabama Services Assistance Programs, Inc., at (256) 585-3475.
- At [www.hud.gov/states/alabama/homeless/serviceorgs](http://www.hud.gov/states/alabama/homeless/serviceorgs), can be found other homeless service organizations listed.

There are many VA benefits that may support your specific needs, so it is important you know what benefits you may be eligible for. VA benefits include disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and burial. You can see all the VA programs for veterans facing homelessness on the federal VA website at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-homeless.asp>, or visit your local Veterans Service Office at [http://va.alabama.gov/county\\_select.aspx](http://va.alabama.gov/county_select.aspx) to find local resources nearest you.

### Veterans License Plates

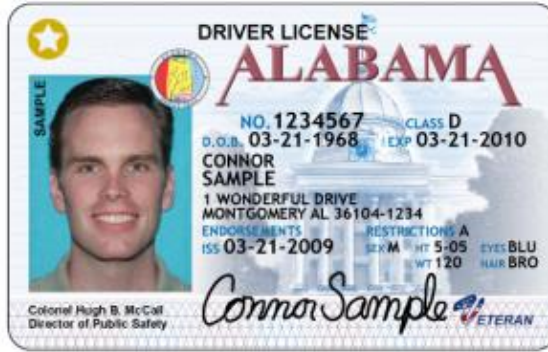
Go to <https://revenue.alabama.gov/motor-vehicle/license-plate-information/military-license-plates> and click on the license plate image shown below to view more information about the plate. Disability access license plates are available for each category below unless otherwise noted.





### **Veteran Driver License**

Since May 1, 2013, Alabama veterans have had the option of displaying proof of military service on their driver licenses. To establish proof of service, a veteran must visit one of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's Driver License examining offices, a license commissioner's office or probate office, and present a DD-214 form from the U.S. Department of Defense that shows an "honorable" or "general under honorable conditions" status. There is no additional charge for the veteran designation for a first-time driver license applicant or for an individual seeking to renew his or her license. A veteran who chooses to add the designation before his or her renewal date, however, must pay the standard fee for a duplicate license. Visit <https://www.alea.gov/dps/driver-license/driver-license-information> for more information about drivers licenses.



### **Commitment of Incompetent Veteran**

Whenever it appears that an incompetent veteran of any war, military occupation or expedition is eligible for treatment in a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center is necessary for the proper care and treatment of such veteran, the courts of this state are hereby authorized to communicate with the administration with reference to available facilities and eligibility and, upon receipt of a certificate from the administration stating that there are facilities available in a VA Medical Center is entitled to hospitalization therein, the court may then direct such veteran's commitment to such hospital. Notice of such pending proceedings shall be furnished the person so committed, and his right to appear and defend shall not be denied.

### **Executive, Attestation and Acknowledgment Certification**

Acknowledgments, proof of conveyance and affidavits may be taken by certain government, state or municipal officials or by any commissioned officer of any of the armed forces of the United States, within or outside the limits of the United States, and when such acknowledgment is taken by the latter, no seal of office is required and the signature of such commissioned officer is prima facie proof of his authority, and is retroactive as of December 7, 1941.

### **Fiduciaries in War Service**

Any fiduciary engaged in war service may be removed from this office as such upon petition filed in the proper court having jurisdiction and again serve as such fiduciary at any time after the termination of their war service upon petition of the court.

### **Guardianship for Veterans and Minor Dependents**

The Uniform Veterans' Guardianship Act provides for the appointment of a guardian for veterans and their minor dependents who are mentally or physically incapacitated. This Act outlines the appointment process, duties, responsibilities, limits, taxing of costs and fees of guardianship. The control and accountability of the beneficiary's estate and income include only moneys received by the guardian from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and all earnings, interest and profits derived.

### **Military Leave of Absence**

All officers and employees of the State of Alabama, or of any county, municipality, or other agency or political subdivision thereof, who shall be active members of the Alabama National Guard or naval militia, or of the Officers' Reserve Corps of the United States Army, or of the reserve components of the United States armed forces, shall be entitled to military or naval leave of absence from their respective civil duties and occupations on all days that they shall be engaged in field or coast defense or other training or on other service ordered under the provision of the below cited statute, or of the National Defense Act, or of the

federal laws governing the United States reserves, without loss of pay, time, efficiency rating, annual vacation, or sick leave, but no such person granted such leave of absence with pay shall be paid for more than 21 working days at any one time.

#### **Notice of Armed Forces Death**

A written notice or communication from the Department of Defense, the Adjutant General of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy or other officer charged with the duty of sending such notice or communication to the effect that any person in the armed forces of our country, or serving as auxiliary thereto, is dead shall be accepted as evidence of the death of such person.

#### **Official Report of Person Missing, Etc.**

An official written report or record or duly certified copy thereof, that a person is missing, missing in action, interned in a neutral country, or beleaguered, besieged or captured by an enemy or is dead or is alive, made by any officer or employee of the United States authorized by any law of the United States to make same, shall be received in any court, office or other place in this State as evidence as to the status of the person.

#### **Peace Officers' Credit for Military Service**

Any peace officer who becomes a member of the fund and who left employment and entered directly into the armed forces of the United States and who returned to work as a peace officer within six months after release or discharge shall receive prior employment service credit for service in the military not to exceed five years.

#### **Validation of Marriage of Divorced Persons**

Marriages of all persons subsequent to a divorce decree granted in the State and not prohibiting the person from remarrying, are declared to be valid, notwithstanding that the decree of divorce did not specifically confer on such person the right to remarry. Many claims for pension and compensation against the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have been made effective by this law.

#### **Wills**

The will of a person, executed while in the armed forces, is admitted to probate when subscribing witness or witnesses are out of the state at the time the will is offered for probate; or when places of address of witnesses are unknown, upon oath of at least three persons that the signature to said will is in the handwriting of the person whose will it intends to be. Such will is acceptable when so proved.

#### **Business and Occupation License Exemptions for Disabled Veterans**

Any bona fide permanent resident of Alabama who is a veteran WW II or at any time past, present or future, when the United States was, is or shall be engaged in hostilities with any foreign state and who has physical disabilities of 25% or more whether service-connected or not, who conducts their business as a means of livelihood through their personal efforts and has no more than one employee and whose property (both real and personal) is valued at less than \$5,000.00 and net income is less than \$2,500.00 is entitled to businesses and occupations license exemptions of \$25.00 for each state, county and municipality. There is not a deadline on these exemptions.

#### **Forfeiture of Franchise**

No corporate franchise shall be forfeited for non-use, if any of the managing officers of such corporation become engaged in military service of the United States and as a result thereof the corporation suspends operations, if the corporation has paid all its franchise and other taxes to the State.

## Alabama Veteran Newsletter

Go <https://va.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Spring-Newsletter.pdf> to access the Spring 2020 newsletter.

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To get more details and learn how to apply for veteran benefits visit:

- Alabama State VA websites <http://www.va.state.al.us/default.aspx> & <http://www.va.state.al.us/otherbenefits.aspx>
- American Legion <https://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/alabama>
- Military.com <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/alabama-state-veterans-benefits.html>
- Alabama Veteran Service Officers <https://va.alabama.gov/serviceofficer>

[Source: <https://va.alabama.gov> & <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/alabama-state-veterans-benefits.html?comp=7000022835803&rank=2> | April 2020 ++]