

# Arkansas State Veteran's Benefits



**2018**

The state of Arkansas provides several veteran benefits. Following is a brief description of each

## **Veteran Housing Programs**

### **Arkansas Veteran Homes Admission Criteria**

Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs operates two state Veterans Homes located in Fayetteville and North Little Rock. With twenty-four hour nursing service and a staff physician, medical needs are fully met. Criteria for admission for both homes is:

- Honorable discharge
- Arkansas residents have first priority.
- Veteran's spouses and Gold Star parents may apply for admission.
- Have a medical need for nursing home placement

### **Services Provided**

- Hospice and respite care
- Medical Director available and RN, LPN, CNA on-site care around the clock.
- Physical, occupational and speech therapy
- Daily activities coordinated by a Certified Activities Director.
- A Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- On site beautician/barber shop
- Designated smoking area under staff guidance

- An Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits Officer who assists all veterans with VA Benefits.
- Transportation available, personal laundry done at no additional charge, and security provided 24 hours a day.

### **Fayetteville Veterans Home**

Officials broke ground for the Arkansas State Veterans Home in Fayetteville on Sept. 3, 2004. They welcomed their first resident on June 21, 2006. This licensed Medicaid/Medicare 108 bed skilled care nursing facility, provides a comfortable and supportive atmosphere for our Veterans. It is operated under the direction of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs and has been approved and recognized by the Federal Veterans Administration as a qualified State Veterans Home. A benefit of being a resident of the State Veterans Home is that they provide RN coverage for all three shifts, 24 hours a day. Additionally, they have security personnel on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Fayetteville Veterans Home is located at 1179 North College Avenue, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703 and can be reached at Tel: (479) 444-7001/695-0184F or email [fvh@arkansas.gov](mailto:fvh@arkansas.gov). A tour of the: facility can be arranged upon request prior to submitting an application. The application process:

- Submission of an Application for Admission which includes basic medical and financial information along with a Medical Release of Information form. Call or write for an application packet which will include:
  1. Admission letter  
[http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/uploads/1/9/1/5/19152923/application\\_for\\_admission\\_cover\\_letter.pdf](http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/uploads/1/9/1/5/19152923/application_for_admission_cover_letter.pdf)
  2. Application for Admission  
[http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/uploads/1/9/1/5/19152923/application\\_for\\_admission.pdf](http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/uploads/1/9/1/5/19152923/application_for_admission.pdf)
  3. Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information Form  
<http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/uploads/1/9/1/5/19152923/vha-10-5345-fill.pdf>
- Submit DD-214 or Separation Papers, copies of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and/or other insurance cards, and written verification of a service-connected disability rating showing the percentage of the disability rating (if applicable).
- A one-on-one interview with the applicant may be conducted by a registered nurse.
- Reviewed by the Admissions Committee of the application, medical history and nurse interview.



If you have a Service Connected Disability (SCD) at 60%, and rated unemployable, or 70% or more, it is possible that the Veterans Administration (VA) would pay for your stay at the Arkansas Veterans Home. The cost per day is \$130.00 for a semi-private room and \$145.00 for a private room. Medications will be billed to the veteran or a responsible party separately from a pharmacy with whom the nursing home is

contracted. Your medication will be billed separately to you, or your responsible party, or your prescription drug insurance carrier from a pharmacy with whom the facility is contracted. Only Veterans already on VA Aid and Attendance compensation can continue to obtain their medication through the VA system. The State Medicaid program pays for medications for all residents receiving nursing home Medicaid. Veterans service groups may request the use of the meeting room or outdoor patio for special events. Use of these areas is at the discretion of the home's administrator. The use of tobacco products are not allowed inside the facility. However, they do allow smoking in the designated area (outside) on the ground floor. Smoking products and lighters are kept in a secure area. They are not allowed in residents rooms.

### **North Little Rock Veterans Home**

Officials broke ground for the Arkansas State Veterans Home at North Little Rock (ASVH-NLR) on July 29, 2015. It is the first Veterans home in Arkansas developed from the ground-up for the sole purpose of long-term care for our Veterans. ASVH-NLR is a “small home” design with eight individual homes that serve 12 residents each. Each resident will have a private room and private bathroom. Less than one percent of long-term care facilities across the nation are built and operated as small homes. The small home concept seeks to de-institutionalize care and provide a warm, home-like environment in a setting that encourages social activity. As a result of the design, the operating model differs substantially from that of a traditional skilled nursing facility.



**ASVH-NLR**

The North Little Rock Veterans Home is located at 2401 John Ashley Drive, Fayetteville, North Little Rock, AR 72114 and can be reached at Tel: (501) 683-2382 or [NLRVH@arkansas.gov](mailto:NLRVH@arkansas.gov). A tour of the facility can be arranged upon request prior to submitting an application.

### **Application Process**

- Fill out an [Inquiry Form](#) to request an application packet.
- Submit an Application for Admission which includes basic medical and financial information along with a Medical Release of Information form.
- A one-on-one interview with the applicant might be conducted by a RN.
- The application, medical history and nurse interview are reviewed by the Admissions Committee.

## **Financial Assistance**

### **Personal Property Tax Exemption**

Arkansas' disabled veterans who have been awarded special monthly compensation by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the loss of, or the loss of use of, one or more limbs, for total blindness in one or both eyes, or for service-connected one hundred percent (100%) total and permanent disability shall be exempt from payment of all state taxes on their homestead and personal property. Un-remarried surviving spouses, and dependent minor children may also get this benefit. Surviving spouses are also eligible if the veteran was killed or died within the scope of his military duties, is missing in action, or died from service connected causes. If subsequent marriage is terminated, surviving spouse may be reinstated. In all cases, annual re-certification of continued entitlement by the VA is required.

### **Gross Receipt of Tax Exemption**

Gross receipts or gross proceeds received from the sale of motor vehicles and adaptive equipment to disabled veterans who have purchased the motor vehicles or adaptive equipment with the financial assistance of the VA are exempt from taxes.

### **Income Tax Exemption**

- Active duty pay is tax-free.
- All retired pay is tax-free beginning in 2018.

## **Education**

### **Free Tuition for Dependents**

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education may provide free tuition and fees at any state supported college, university, technical school, or vocational school; to the wife and children of any Arkansan who has been declared to be POW or MIA since January 1, 1960. The same provisions apply to the surviving spouse and children of any Arkansas resident killed in action since 1960.

### **In State Tuition**

Regardless of residence, a state-supported institution of higher education, trade schools, or vocational schools shall classify a student as in-state, in-county, in-district, or resident for the purpose of tuition and fees applicable for all programs of study, including distance learning programs, if the student is a:

- (1) Veteran who was discharged or released from a period of not 34 less than ninety (90) days of active duty in the military, naval, or air service within three (3) years before the date of enrollment in a program of study;
- (2) Dependent of a veteran under subdivision (1) of this 2 section;
- (3) A member of the armed forces
- (4) A spouse of a member of the armed forces (AR Code § 6-60-205)

Visit the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Arkansas Veteran Recreation**

### **Discounted Hunting & Fishing Licenses for Military Retirees**

Military retirees can get a discounted lifetime hunting, fishing or combination license.

### **Free Lifetime Hunting & Fishing Licenses for Disabled Veterans**

Permanently and totally disabled Arkansas veterans can get discounted lifetime hunting, fishing, or combination licenses.

### **Arkansas State Parks**

Half price camping in most Arkansas State Parks for 100% permanently disabled veterans.

## **Other State Veteran Benefits**

### **Arkansas Veteran Hiring Preference**

- Veterans with an honorable discharge or reserve/guard members with at least six years service will get a 5 point preference on state hiring exams.
- Disabled veterans and their spouses will get a 10 point preference.

### **Employment**

The [Arkansas Department of Workforce Services](#) provides employment counseling and referral services tailored to the special needs of veterans. They also maintain an ongoing program of job development designed to create jobs and preferences for all veterans, through the Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER's) and the Disabled Veterans Outreach program (DVOP).

### **Diplomas for Veterans**

High School Diplomas can be obtained for **WWII veterans** as well as **Korean and Vietnam veterans** who were called up for active duty service before finishing high school. Qualifying veterans should contact their **school superintendent** or the [Arkansas Department of Education](#).

### **License Plates for Veterans**

The Revenue Division will provide (upon receipt of proper certification letters) a number of special privileges and benefits for Arkansas residents, including the below 23 military related special license plates. For eligibility, requirements, and fees click on the plate name:

**Military Specialty Plates and Placards**



#### [Armed Forces Reserve License Plate](#)

Must be Arkansas resident, active in the Reserve of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard.



#### [Armed Forces Retired License Plate](#)

Must be Arkansas resident who is a retired member of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, or National Guard and Reserves.



#### [Cold War Veteran License Plate](#)

For a current or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States who served during the period of September 2, 1945 through December 26, 1991.



#### [Congressional Medal of Honor License Plate](#)

Issued to Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients. One (1) plate issued to the eligible veteran may be reissued to his or her surviving spouse at the regular registration fee for the vehicle.



#### [Disabled Veteran License Plate - Free](#)

Disabled veterans may qualify for these plates under Act 36 of 1969 as certified by the Veterans Administration (VA). An eligible veteran may receive one (1) additional plate at the fee of \$3.89. One (1) plate issued to the eligible veteran may be reissued to his or her surviving spouse at the fee of \$3.89.



#### [Disabled Veteran License Plate - Free](#)

Disabled veterans may qualify for these plates under Act 7 of 1949, or Act 30 of 1979 as certified by the Veterans Administration (VA). An eligible veteran may receive one (1)

additional plate at the fee of \$3.89. One (1) plate issued to the eligible veteran may be reissued to his or her surviving spouse at the fee of \$3.89.



**Distinguished Flying Cross Plate**

Issued to an Arkansas resident who has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, or a resident who is the surviving spouse of a Distinguished Flying Cross Medal recipient. One (1) plate issued to the eligible veteran may be reissued to his or her surviving spouse at the regular registration fee for the vehicle.



**Ex-Prisoner Of War License Plate**

Issued to any Arkansas resident who was a prisoner of war while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or surviving spouse.



**Gold Star Family License Plate**

Under Act 493, the applicant must be the spouse, sibling, child or parent of a member of the armed forces of the United States, killed in a conflict recognized by the United States Department of Defense, and who has received a Gold Star Lapel Button issued by the United States Department of Defense.



**Korean Veteran License Plate**

Issued to any Arkansas resident who is a veteran of the Korean War.



**Merchant Marine Retired License Plate**

Issued to any Arkansas resident who is a retired veteran of the United States Merchant Marine and served during the period of October 1, 1940 through December 31, 1945.



**National Guard License Plate**

Contact your local Guard Unit.

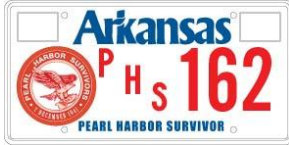
**Operation Enduring Freedom Veteran License Plate**

Issued to any Arkansas resident who is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.



**Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran License Plate**

Issued to any Arkansas resident who is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



**Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plate**

Issued to Arkansas residents who were a member of the US Armed Forces on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 am to 9:45 am Hawaii time at Pearl Harbor, the Island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance not to exceed three (3) miles. One (1) plate issued to the eligible veteran may be reissued to his or her surviving spouse at the regular registration fee for the vehicle.



**Persian Gulf War Veteran License Plate**

Issued to any Arkansas resident who is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War.



**Purple Heart - Combat Wounded License Plate**

Issued to an Arkansas resident who has been awarded the Purple Heart Medal while serving in the U.S. Armed forces. One (1) plate issued to the eligible Arkansas resident may be reissued to his or her surviving spouse at the regular registration fee for the vehicle.



**Purple Heart Motorcycle License Plate**

Issued to an Arkansas resident who has been awarded the purple Heart medal while serving in the U.S. Armed forces, or a resident who is the unmarried surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient.





### Support Our Troops License Plate

Issuance is restricted to passenger cars, all 1/2 ton and 3/4 ton trucks, and 1 ton trucks used for private transportation only. One (1) ton trucks used for commercial purposes must be registered with a commercial license by gross loaded weight.



### Veteran of Foreign Wars Motorcycle License Plate

For initial issuance copy of membership card for Veterans of Foreign Wars and DD214 or other document evidencing their service in a theatre of operations of a war/conflict

### Veterans of Foreign Wars

Issuance is restricted to passenger cars, all 1/2 ton and 3/4 ton trucks, and 1 ton trucks used for private transportation only. One (1) ton trucks used for commercial purposes must be registered with a commercial license by gross loaded weight. For initial issuance copy of membership card for Veterans of Foreign Wars and DD214 or other document evidencing their service in a theatre of operations of a war/conflict.



### Vietnam War Veteran License Plate

Issued to any Arkansas resident who is a veteran of the Vietnam War.



### World War II Veteran License Plate

Issued to any Arkansas resident who is a veteran of World War II.

## **Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery(2)**

There are two Arkansas State Veterans Cemeteries

- North Little Rock (<http://veterans.arkansas.gov/cemeteries/NLR>); and
- Birdeye (<http://veterans.arkansas.gov/cemeteries/Birdeye>) .

Administrative Operating Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Interments will be held on weekdays only. No Interments on Saturday, Sunday or Holidays. Firearms are prohibited on the premises,

except for under official purposes such as military funeral honors. Eligibility requirements follow federal guidelines. State Cemetery Interment Benefits include:

- No cost for veteran interment (\$300 for spouse or qualified dependent).
- Gravesite, opening and closing of grave and perpetual care.
- Upright federal government supplied headstone or niche cover.
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate (more than one may be requested).
- A burial flag (funeral home provides).
- Military honors (funeral home makes arrangements).

To pre-register, the following forms must be provided:

1. Veteran's military discharge papers (DD-214 or equivalent).
2. Marriage License (if married).
3. Check for \$300 (spouse and dependent only) payable at the time of burial.
4. Signed cemetery pre-eligibility application. See forms on each cemetery
  - a. <http://veterans.arkansas.gov/assets/uploads/2016/08/20160801135627-20160801-pre-eligibility-nlrpdf.pdf> **North Little Rock**
  - b. <http://veterans.arkansas.gov/assets/uploads/2016/02/20160218175855-pre-eligibility-application-birdeye-cemetery-fillable-form-1pdf.pdf> **Birdeye**



(1)



(2)

- (1) **North Little Rock** 1501 West Maryland Avenue, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72120 Tel: (501) 683-2259/992-1049F, Email: [mada.stanley@arkansas.gov](mailto:mada.stanley@arkansas.gov).  
<http://veterans.arkansas.gov/cemeteries/NLR>
- (2) **Birdeye** 3600 Hwy 163, Birdeye, Arkansas 7232 Tel: (870) 588-4608/4666F Email: [parker@arkansas.gov](mailto:parker@arkansas.gov).

### **Arkansas Federal Grave Sites (3)**

Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces who have met a minimum active duty service requirement and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. A Veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor dependent children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran. Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty or who die while on training duty, or were eligible for retired pay, may also be eligible for burial. For more information visit the National Cemetery Administration eligibility web page <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftsmith.asp>.

- **Fayetteville National Cemetery**, 700 Government Avenue, Fayetteville, AR 72701 Phone: 479-442-2566 FAX: 479-442-3046. Visitation Hours: Open daily from sunrise to sunset. This cemetery has space available to accommodate casketed and cremated remains.
- **Fort Smith National Cemetery**, 522 Garland Avenue and South 6th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901 Phone: 479-783-5345 FAX: 479-785-4189. Visitation Hours: Open daily 7:30 a.m. to sunset. This cemetery has space available to accommodate casketed and cremated remains.
- **Little Rock National Cemetery**, 2523 Confederate Blvd, Little Rock, AR 72206 Phone: (501) 324-6401 FAX: 479-785-4189. Visitation Hours: Open daily from dawn until dusk. Little Rock National Cemetery is closed to new interments. The only interments that are being accepted are subsequent interments for veterans or eligible family members in an existing gravesite. Periodically however, burial space may become available due to a canceled reservation or when a disinterment has been completed. When either of these two scenarios occurs, the gravesite is made available to another eligible veteran on a first-come, first-served basis. Since there is no way to know in advance when a gravesite may become available, contact the cemetery at the time of need to inquire whether space is available.



**Fayetteville National Cemetery**



**Fort Smith National Cemetery**



**Little Rock National Cemetery**

### **ADVA Military Funeral Honors Stipend**

The procedures laid out in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will enable the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) to reimburse Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) Honor Guard Teams that augment Active Duty Military Branch Honor Guard Teams as an authorized provider under the Department of Defense MFH Authorized Provider Partnership Program (AP3) in the delivery of military funeral honors. Before starting the process of applying for the ADVA MFH Stipend, it is essential for the Veteran Service Organization to read the detailed instructions in the [MOA](#) at

<http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/assets/uploads/2016/02/20160226171645-20160226-moa-between-adv-and-vsopdf.pdf>

### **Arkansas Veteran Resource Directory**

The online directory located at <http://veterans.arkansas.gov/assets/uploads/2018/04/20180402102005-adv-resoource-april-2-downloadupate-oopdf.pdf> provides veteran amplifying and contact information on the following:

- ADVA District Offices
- Veterans Cemeteries
- State Veteran Homes
- ADVA Verified Non-Profits
- County Veteran Service Officers
- Veteran Organization Headquarters

- Employment
- VA Medical Centers
- VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics
- VA Vet Centers
- Women Veteran Resources
- Homeless Veteran Resources
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Claims/Benefits Offices
- DD-214s
- State Government Offices
- Arkansas Congressional Delegation
- Arkansas State Senate
- Arkansas House of Representatives
- Frequently Called Phone Numbers

Visit the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html> | August 2018 ++]