

Arkansas State Veteran's Benefits



2020

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

- Arkansas Veterans Home
- Financial Assistance
- Education
- Recreation
- Burial
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Veteran Housing Programs

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:

- No criminal record
- 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

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. Have a medical need for nursing home placement.

The Fayetteville Veterans Home is located at 1125 North College Avenue, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703 and can be reached at Tel: (479) 444-7001/695-0184F or email kathie.j.gately@arkansas.gov. It is a licensed Medicaid/Medicare 108 bed skilled care nursing facility which provides a comfortable and supportive atmosphere for veterans. Criteria for admission is no criminal record, honorable discharge, and a medical need for nursing home placement. Arkansas residents have first priority. Veteran's spouses and Gold Star parents can apply for admission. 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
 2. Application for Admission
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.

The facility provides the following services:

- 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 Social Worker
- 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.



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 and is scheduled to open Fall 2016. 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 is currently not accepting applications for admission. To request information when it becomes available please fill out the form at <http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/homes/ASVH-NLR>.



ASVH-NLR

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

Financial Assistance Benefits

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 (1) or more limbs, for total blindness in one (1) 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 the homestead and personal property owned by the disabled veteran. Surviving spouses are also eligible so long as they remain unmarried, and dependent children, during their minority, continue this entitlement. Entitlement is also available if the veteran was killed or died within the scope of his military duties, is missing in action, or died from service connected causes as certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs. If subsequent marriage is terminated, surviving spouse may be reinstated. In all cases, annual re-certification of continued entitlement by the VA is required. In all cases, annual re-certification of continued entitlement by the VA is required.

Gross Receipt of Tax Exemption

Gross receipts or proceeds derived from the sale of a new automobile to a veteran who is blind as a result of a service-connected injury. Registration will require an entitlement letter from the VA and will be limited to one new vehicle every two (2) years. This exemption defines automobile as a passenger vehicle or pickup truck but does not include trucks with a maximum gross load in excess of three-quarter (3/4) ton and does not include any trailer.

Income Tax Exemption

- Active duty pay is tax-free.
- Retired pay and SBP payments are tax-free effective 1 January 2018.

The exemptions include Reserve and National Guard Components or for retired members who are residents of the State of Arkansas.

Education Benefits

Free Tuition for Dependents

Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) has the authority to 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 Prisoner of War or placed in a missing-in-action status since January 1, 1960. The same provisions apply to the surviving spouse and children of any Arkansas resident killed in action since 1960 or is 100% totally and permanently disabled as a result of their military service.

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 less than thirty-four (34) 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 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.

Recreational Benefits

Arkansas State Parks: The [Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism](#) provides Arkansas resident veterans, who have a permanent service connected 100% disability rate, the ability to camp for half price in Arkansas State Parks. Proof of 100% status is required. For veterans, this should be a copy of the Awards letter (dated within the last two years) from the Veterans Administration Regional Office or an Arkansas license plate with the letters DV. The discount offered to senior citizens and disabled citizens does not apply to winter rates or Rent-A-Camp options.

Discounted Hunting & Fishing Licenses for Military Retirees

Military retirees can get a discounted lifetime hunting, fishing or combination license. All special stamps and endorsements must still be purchased.

Hunting and Fishing License: The [Arkansas Game and Fish Commission](#) provides discounted hunting and fishing licenses to Arkansas veterans who are 100% totally and permanently disabled or military retirees over the age of 60. **Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Fishing License (\$10.50)** Entitles totally and permanently disabled veterans the privileges of the Resident Fisheries Conservation License. A Resident Trout Permit also must be purchased to retain trout or to fish in certain waters. Holders of this license, along with another licensed individual to assist, may fish at Family Fishing locations. Veterans must be 100% totally and permanently disabled with certification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Proof of 60 days Arkansas residency is required. This license is available from the AGFC Little Rock office and by mail. Call (800) 364-4263 or (501) 223-6388 in the Little Rock area, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, for details.

Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Hunting License (\$25)

Entitles totally and permanently disabled veterans the privileges of the Resident Sportsman's License. Annual Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration is required to hunt migratory game birds. To hunt waterfowl, state and federal waterfowl stamps also are required. Veterans must be 100% totally and permanently disabled with certification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Proof of 60 days Arkansas residency is required. This license is available from the AGFC Little Rock office and by mail. Call (800) 364-4263 or (501) 223-6388 in the Little Rock area, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, for details.

Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Combination License (\$35.50)

Entitles totally and permanently disabled veterans the privileges of the Resident Sportsman's License (hunting) and the Resident Fisheries Conservation License (fishing). Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration is required to hunt migratory game birds. To hunt waterfowl, state and federal waterfowl stamps are also required. A trout permit must be purchased to fish in certain waters. Veterans must be 100% totally and permanently disabled with certification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Proof of 60 days Arkansas residency is required. This license is available from the AGFC Little Rock office and by mail. Call (800) 364-4263 or (501) 223-6388 in the Little Rock area, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, for details.

Resident Military Retiree Lifetime Fishing License (\$10.50)

Entitles military retirees the privileges of the Resident Fisheries Conservation License. A Resident Trout Permit also must be purchased to retain trout or to fish in certain waters. Military retirees must be 60 years of age or older and provide proof of military retirement (Military ID Card). Proof of 60 days Arkansas residency is required. This license is available from all AGFC Regional Offices and by mail. Call (800) 364-4263 or (501) 223-6300 in the Little Rock area, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, for details.

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Active Duty Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Active duty members stationed in Arkansas can get licenses at the resident rate. All special stamps and endorsements must still be purchased.

Arkansas State Parks

Half price camping in most Arkansas State Parks for 100% permanently disabled Arkansas resident veterans. Proof of 100% status is required.

Burial Benefits

Arkansas State Veterans Cemeteries

There are two Arkansas State Veterans Cemeteries, one in North Little Rock and one in Birdeye, plus the Little Rock National Cemetery.



[Fayetteville National Cemetery](#)



[Fort Smith National Cemetery](#)



[Little Rock National Cemetery](#)

Veterans who have an other-than-dishonorable discharge are eligible for interment, along with certain others. Spouses and dependent children are also eligible. There is no cost for the veteran and a \$300 cost for the spouse or dependent. Arkansas burial eligibility requirements follow federal guidelines.

- Veterans and Members of the Armed Forces:
 - Must be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
 - Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.
 - Any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. With certain exceptions, service beginning after Sept. 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and service after Oct. 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum 24 continuous months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty.
- National Guard or Reserve Service:
 - Eligible for retirement pay at age 60; or
 - Members called to active duty for 2 years or more, (does not have to be consecutive) or completed the full period for which they were called up.
 - Members who die under honorable conditions or while hospitalized or undergoing treatment, at the expense of the United States, for injury or disease contracted or incurred while performing active duty for training.
 - Members who die under honorable conditions while performing full time AGR service.
 - Members who receive a Hardship Discharge while on active duty.
 - Members discharged due to a service-connected disability while on active duty.
 - Commissioned Officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commissioned Officers of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service, WWII Merchant Mariners, and Philippine Armed Forces.
- The Veteran's Dependents:
 - The veteran's spouse.
 - Unmarried child, (under the age of 21 or 23 if still enrolled in school); or
 - A verifiable life-long dependent of the veteran.

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 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://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/uploads/1/9/1/5/19152923/burial_nlrvtcemap.pdf
North Little Rock
 - b. http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/uploads/1/9/1/5/19152923/pre-eligibility_application_birdeye_cemetery_fillable_form.pdf **Birdeye**



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- (1) **North Little Rock** 1501 West Maryland Avenue, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72120 Tel: (501) 683-2259/992-1049F, Email: bill.wussick@arkansas.gov
- (2) **Birdeye** 3600 Hwy 163, Birdeye, Arkansas 7232 Tel: (870) 588-4608/4666F Email: mark.frank@arkansas.gov

Gravesite and Niche Locations

Gravesite and niche locations cannot be reserved. Assignment of graves and niches are without regard to military rank, race, creed, or gender of the qualifying service member and are assigned by next available location.

Columbariums

Niches are available for entombment of cremations. The eligibility requirements and costs are the same as full size grave spaces. The niche covers are not big enough for the same amount of inscription as the upright headstones, so there is no space for additional inscription. Internal size is 15" H x 20" L x 10 1/2" W.

Military Funeral Honors

Military Funeral Honors must be arranged and coordinated by the Funeral Home Director and/or the family. The Arkansas Department of Veteran Affairs and the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery do not conduct or arrange these services.

Contacts:

Arkansas National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program: 1-866-280-7542 Fax: 501-212-5843

Army, Casualty Assistance Center, Ft. Sill, OK:

580-442-4627

580-442-4547

580-442-4014

580- 442-8592

Fax: 580-442-6914

United States Marine Corps: 866-826-3628

Air Force: 501-987-6317

Navy: 877-478-3988

Coast Guard: 314-269-2321 (M-F 8am to 4pm) 314-606-6361 (afterhours number)



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-adva-and-vsopdf.pdf>

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

Other State Veteran Benefits

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). 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.

- To search for state jobs refer to <https://www.ark.org/arstatejobs/index.php>
- To review a list of ADVA position available refer to <http://veterans.arkansas.gov/jobs>
- To search for federal jobs refer to <https://www.usajobs.gov>
- Go to <https://godefense.cpmss.osd.mil/veterans/hiringheroes.aspx> to search the DOD Hiring Heroes Program
- Refer to <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap> to register for the Transition Assistance Program
- To locate a Workforces Center refer to <https://www.dws.arkansas.gov/index.htm>

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](#).

Arkansas License Plates

The Revenue Division will provide (upon receipt of proper certification letters) a number of special privileges and benefits for Arkansas residents, including the below 20 military related special license plates. For eligibility, requirements, and fees click on the plate name:

Preview	Specialty Plate/Placard
	<u>Armed Forces Reserves Retired License</u> Must be Arkansas resident, active in the Reserve of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard.
	<u>Armed Forces Retired License</u> 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.
	<u>Cold War Veteran License</u> 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.
	<u>Congressional Medal of Honor License</u> 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 (At least 30%)

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 \$3.75. 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 (100% & and DAV Member)

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 \$3.75. 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.



Distinguished Flying Cross

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

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

The applicant must be the spouse 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

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



Merchant Marine Retired

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

Contact your local Guard Unit.



Operation Enduring Freedom

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



Operation Iraqi Freedom

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



Pearl Harbor Survivor

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

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



Purple Heart

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

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.



Vietnam War Veteran License

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



World War II Veteran License

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

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To get more details, contact information, benefits assistance, and learn how to apply for benefits visit:

- Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs <http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov>
- American Legion <https://www.legend.org/veteransbenefits/arkansas>
- Military.com <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/arkansas-state-veterans-benefits.html>
- Arkansas Veteran Service Officers <https://va.arkansas.gov/serviceofficer>
- Arkansas Federal VA Healthcare Facilities locator
https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/fac_list_by_state.cfm?State=AR&dnum>All&isflash=0
- Little Rock Air force Base <https://www.littlerock.af.mil>
- Veterans Justice Outreach Program <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/VJO.asp>
- Center for women Veterans <https://www.va.gov/womenvet>

- Resource Guide <http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/assets/uploads/2018/04/20180402102005-adva-resoource-april-2-downloadupdate-oopdf.pdf>.

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