

# California State Veteran's Benefits



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

- Housing
- Financial Assistance
- Employment
- Veteran Business
- Education
- Recreation
- Other State Veteran Services

## Housing

### Veterans Homes of California

The mission of the 8 CalVet Homes is "to provide the state's aged or disabled veterans with rehabilitative, residential, and medical care and services in a home-like environment." This mission acknowledges the tremendous sacrifice California veterans have made and recognizes them for their noble service to our nation.

The first Veterans Home in California was established in 1884 for Civil War veterans. Today, the CalVet Homes provide long-term care to resident veterans. The eight current Homes are a system of live-in, residential care facilities offering a comprehensive plan of medical, dental, pharmacy, rehabilitation services and social activities within a homelike, small community environment. Residents engage in a wide range of activities including social events, dances, patriotic programs, volunteer activities, arts and crafts, computer access, shopping trips and other off-site activities. Residents live in an atmosphere of dignity and respect—a true home for each resident veteran.

The Homes range in size from 60 residents on a 20 acre site to over 1,000 residents on 500 acres. When all eight Homes are complete, they will house and care for approximately 3,000 veterans.

Veterans who are age 55 and above and discharged from active military service under honorable conditions, are eligible to apply for admission. The age requirement is waived for disabled or homeless veterans needing long-term care.



**Barstow**

Located in the high desert of Southern California, off interstate 15, VHC-Barstow is midway between Los Angeles and Las Vegas and only about an hour's drive from Ontario Airport. Opened February 1996 VHC-Barstow has 400 beds, providing options for Domiciliary (Independent Living), Intermediate Care, and Skilled Nursing Care. Acute hospital care is provided at either the Jerry L Pettis Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Loma Linda for those veterans eligible for VA care or at the Barstow Community Hospital. Primary medical care is provided to domiciliary residents at the on-site clinic. For Intermediate care residents, contract physicians who visit the home regularly provide this care. The veterans home provides California veterans with a living environment that protects their dignity and contributes to their feeling of self-reliance and self-worth. Nearby Barstow College offers many cultural and educational opportunities for Home residents to enjoy. Veterans desiring to be considered for membership must be residents of California, age 55 or older (or younger if disabled), and have served honorably.

Go to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes/Pages/Barstow.aspx> for features and amenities, admission and eligibility, FAQ, and contact info.



**Chula Vista**

Located on a 30-acre site off Telegraph Canyon Road, adjacent to Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, the Veterans Home of California, Chula Vista (VHC-Chula Vista), is the only veterans home located in coastal, urban Southern California. With views of the Pacific Ocean and downtown San Diego, VHC-Chula Vista's location provides residents with numerous cultural and recreational opportunities. Completed in May 2000, VHC-Chula Vista is a 400-bed long-term care facility providing options for Domiciliary - Independent Living, Licensed Residential, and Skilled Nursing Care. Employed physicians provide medical care in both the licensed outpatient clinic and the inpatient skilled nursing settings. Acute care is provided at either the

La Jolla U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, or at the nearby Sharp Hospital in Chula Vista.

Go to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes/Pages/Chula-Vista.aspx> for features and amenities, admission and eligibility, FAQ, and contact info.



**Fresno**

The Veterans Home of California – Fresno is a 300-bed, long-term care facility located on 30 acres. The Veterans Home opened in October 2013, and provides California Veterans with a living environment that protects their dignity and contributes to their feeling of self-reliance and self-worth. The Home currently offers the assisted living level of care, with plans to open skilled nursing in spring of 2014, and memory care in summer of 2014. VHC-Fresno provides continuity in the lives of residents in a homelike atmosphere of dignity and respect. Go to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes/Pages/Fresno.aspx> for features and amenities, admission and eligibility, FAQ, and contact info.



**Lancaster**

The William J. “Pete” Knight Veterans Home of California–Lancaster is located in the picturesque high-desert area of Southern California, just off the Antelope Valley Freeway (State Route 14), and only an hour’s drive north from the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles. Lancaster boasts one of California's most abundant fields of the vibrant orange poppies that are California's state flower. Edwards Air Force Base, famous for its Space Shuttle landings, is located close by. Completed in November 2009, the beautiful

William J. “Pete” Knight Veterans Home of California–Lancaster is a 60-bed Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE), also known as assisted living. All healthcare needs, meals, transportation and activities are provided by the William J. “Pete” Knight Veterans Home of California –Lancaster, in partnership with the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. The Home was named in honor and memory of the late Senator William J. “Pete” Knight, a former United States Air Force Colonel who spent 32 years in dedicated service to his country and flew more than 253 missions in Vietnam. He was also considered one of the Veterans Home’s strongest and most vocal advocates when he served in the California State Senate. Lancaster and nearby Palmdale, California offer many cultural and educational opportunities for Veterans Home residents and their families to enjoy, including the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, the Aerospace Walk of Honor, the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, the JetHawks Clear Channel Baseball Stadium, the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve, the Lancaster Center for the Performing Arts, lovely parks, shopping centers and movie theaters. The veterans home provides California veterans with a living environment that protects their dignity and contributes to their feeling of self-reliance and self-worth. Go to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes/Pages/Lancaster.aspx> for features and amenities, admission and eligibility, FAQ, and contact info.



**Redding**

With its natural beauty, abundance of recreational opportunities, and excellent quality of life, Redding combines the ambiance of a small town with the amenities of a large city. Redding is located in Northern California, just south of Shasta Lake, nestled between the Cascades and the Trinity Alps, serving the adjacent counties of Tehama, Trinity and Siskiyou. The Pacific Ocean is a 3 hour drive to the west, Reno, NV is a 3 hour drive to the east and the San Francisco Bay area is a 4 hour drive to the south. The Redding and Shasta County area has been selected by The Searchers, a nationally renowned data research company, as one of the best places in the country to retire. The quality of life, clean air, low crime rate and affordability of housing are just a few of the 70-plus sets of criteria used in its determination. Also noted are a vast array of recreational opportunities, excellent medical facilities, and social activities that would enhance anyone’s retirement plans. There are 12 major shopping destinations in the Redding area, including two enclosed malls, nine major shopping centers, and a factory outlet center. Climatologists describe the climate in the Redding area as Mediterranean, with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Average high temperatures during July and August frequently exceed 90 degrees but drop to the low 50’s in winter. Annual rainfall averages 33 inches, most of which falls between November and March. Go to

<https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes/Pages/Redding.aspx> for features and amenities, admission and eligibility, FAQ, and contact info.



**Ventura**

The Veterans Home of California–Ventura is located near the gleaming California Pacific Ocean coastline, about an hour’s drive northwest of Los Angeles, 35 miles south of Santa Barbara and a few short minutes off U.S. Highway 101. Ventura is situated between the Ventura River and the Santa Clara River, with soil so fertile that citrus trees grow better in Ventura than anywhere else in the state. The United States Naval Base Ventura County is located close by. Completed in December 2009, the beautiful Veterans Home of California–Ventura is a 60-bed Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE), also known as assisted living. All healthcare needs, meals, transportation and activities are provided by the Veterans Home of California–Ventura, in partnership with the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. Ventura and nearby Oxnard, California offer many cultural and educational opportunities for Veterans Home residents and their families to enjoy, including the Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura Harbor Village, Oxnard Heritage Square, the nearby harbors areas of Ventura, Oxnard, Port Hueneme and the Channel Islands – as well as California’s historic Missions and Adobes, golf courses, museums, lovely parks and shopping centers. The veterans home provides California veterans with a living environment that protects their dignity and contributes to their feeling of self-reliance and self-worth. Go to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes/Pages/Ventura.aspx> for features and amenities, admission and eligibility, FAQ, and contact info.



**West Los Angeles**



Located in one of the most famous counties in the world, the beautiful Veterans Home of California - West Los Angeles is the largest Veterans Home in the County of Los Angeles. In a region renowned for abundant sunshine and beautiful year-round weather, the Veterans Home of California - West Los Angeles is just minutes from the scenic Pacific Ocean, historical Downtown Los Angeles, legendary Hollywood and the beautiful San Fernando Valley. Completed in September 2010, the beautiful Veterans Home of California - West Los Angeles is located at 11500 Nimitz Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90049 and is a 396-bed, state-of-the-art, long-term healthcare facility for California's Veterans. In close proximity to the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), the Federal Building on famous Wilshire Boulevard, and an extraordinary array of museums, movie theaters, arts and cultural activities, galleries, shopping centers, restaurants, libraries, parks, beaches, family-friendly events and activities for all age groups, the West Los Angeles location offers Veteran residents and their families a wealth of cultural, social and recreational landmarks and opportunities. Adjacent to the Memory Care unit is a beautiful, open-air garden with a cozy seating area where Veteran residents can enjoy being outdoors in a safe and comfortable environment. The first garden of its kind at the Veterans Homes of California, this outside oasis is adorned with lovely trees and landscaping which makes this garden a lush and peaceful location for rest or relaxation, or a perfect spot to visit with other Veteran residents, friends or family members. The beauty of outdoor plants makes this special garden a tranquil retreat that residents of the Veterans Home of California - West Los Angeles will come to love and enjoy. Go to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes/Pages/West-Los-Angeles.aspx> for features and amenities, admission and eligibility, FAQ, and contact info.



Yountville

Located in the heart of scenic Napa Valley, the Veterans Home of California-Yountville (VHC-Yountville) is a community of and for veterans. Founded in 1884, VHC-Yountville is the largest veterans' home in the United States, offering residential accommodations with a wealth of recreational, social, and therapeutic activities for independent living. Some 1,000 aged or disabled veterans (both men and women) or World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, and Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom now live at the home. Future health care needs of veterans admitted to the Yountville Home at the Residential Care level are met by on-grounds facilities for Residential Care for the Elderly (RCFE), intermediate Care, Skilled Nursing Care, and a "Memory Care Center" for residents with various forms of dementia. General acute care is provided at Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa, St. Helena Hospital in St. Helena, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in San Francisco. The Yountville Home is also a focal point for the Napa Valley Community with the 1,200 seat Lincoln Theater, a 9-hole golf course, Borman Field baseball stadium, bowling lanes, a swimming pool, and a military Base Exchange branch store. All of these facilities are available for use by resident veterans at no additional cost. Additionally, the home offers services specifically for residents including a fitness center, a resident operated television station, auto hobby shop, a 35,000 volume library, creative arts center, and a multi-faith

chapel. Go to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes/Pages/Yountville.aspx> for features and amenities, admission and eligibility, FAQ, and contact info.

### **Affordable Housing**

CalVet is committed to providing affordable housing for all its California veterans. CalVet understands that not all individuals are at the same stage in their life and that we need programs to address all stages of life. We believe that every veteran and their family deserve the opportunity to have a roof over their head. Below you will find a link to two programs that are veteran specific, one for home ownership and the other for multifamily rental housing.

- CalVet REN Communities Home Ownership - A program where the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), together with affordable home builders, is bringing affordable home ownership to veterans who have low incomes. These communities are paired with an enriched services model which provides families with resources and services tailored to help them move up into middle class. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/HomeLoans/Pages/CalVetREN.aspx>,
- VHHP Program (Proposition 41) -- The VHHP (Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention) Program was created to assist with the development of veteran specific multifamily rental housing. These funds may be used for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation and preservation of veteran specific affordable multifamily rental housing. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VHHP>

### **CalVet REN Communities**

A program where the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), together with affordable home builders, is bringing affordable home ownership to veterans who have low incomes. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/CalVetREN>

### **Certificate of Eligibility**

The Certificate of Eligibility may be required for to apply for a VA insured home loan. Learn how to get one at <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Certificate-of-Eligibility.aspx>.

### **Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance for veterans and their family members is a component of several benefits and provider programs. To find out what is available to California veterans Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Financial-Assistance.aspx>

## **Financial Assistance**

### **Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemptions**

Property tax exemptions on the assessed value of a home of:

- a) Up to \$122,128 if the total household income from all sources is over \$52,470 per year.
- b) Up to \$183,193 if the total household income from all sources is under \$52,470 per year.
- c) Both exemption amounts and income limits are annually adjusted for cost of living index

Eligibility extends to:

- Wartime veterans who are in receipt of service-connected disability compensation at the totally disabled rate.
- Unmarried surviving spouses or registered domestic partners of veterans who are in receipt of service-connected death benefits.
- Wartime veterans who are service-connected for loss the use of two or more limbs.
- Wartime veterans who are service-connected for blindness.

To apply contact your local County Assessor's Office (located in the county government section of your telephone book).

### **Veterans Exemption**

California provides a \$4,000 real property (e.g., a home) or personal property (e.g., a boat) exemption for honorably discharged veterans or the spouse or pensioned-parent of a deceased, honorably discharged veteran. However, a person who owns property valued at \$5,000 or more (\$10,000 or more for a married couple or for the unmarried surviving spouse of a qualified veteran) is not eligible for this exemption.

### **The California Military Family Relief Fund CMFRF)**

The CMFRF was established to provide short term, financial assistance in the form of grants to California National Guard members and/or families impacted by mobilization and deployment who meet criteria listed below:

- Current member of the California National Guard in good standing.
- Current California resident.
- Deployment to active duty for at least 60 consecutive days in Title 10 USC status.
- Member's salary has decreased by 10 percent or household income of member's family has decreased by at least 10 percent from income prior to deployment.
- The member, within six months of returning from active duty, has experienced a 10 percent loss, or greater, in income, compared to pre-deployment income, as a direct result of deployment.
- The member was injured while serving on active duty and has been discharged from federal active duty and is actively seeking assistance through the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs with regard to disability compensation benefits or treatment, or both. Application for a cash grant under this section shall be submitted within 18 months of being released from federal military active duty, along with written substantiation demonstrating that the member's current financial hardship is a direct result of a military deployment and an injury sustained during the deployment.

Visit their website <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/J1/Pages/California-Military-Family-Relief-Fund.aspx> for further information on how to apply for this program.

### **Motor Vehicle Registration Fees Waived**

Waiver of registration fees and free license plates for one passenger motor vehicle, or one motorcycle, or one commercial motor vehicle of less than 8001 pounds unladen weight. Eligibility extend to:

- Medal of Honor recipients,
- American Ex-Prisoners of War and
- Disabled veterans as defined in the "Disabled Veterans License Plate" section of the Department of Motor Vehicles pamphlet.

### **Calvet Farm and Home Loans**



The State of California offers farm and home loans to honorably discharged veterans. The loans have highly competitive rates, quick processing, unbeatable earthquake and disaster coverage. Eligibility extends to any veteran who served honorably on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, who resides in and wishes to purchase a farm or home in California. Apply at any California Department of Veterans Affairs CalVet District Office (located in the state government section of your telephone book), or California Department of Veterans Affairs, Farm and Home Loan Division, 1227 O' Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Tel: 1-800-952-5626 or visit <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/calvet-programs/home-loans>

## **Employment**

California offers a variety of employment services and benefits to veterans who are unemployed or seeking employment including employment services to help you find a job, unemployment benefits for while you are seeking employment, and apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs that pay you while you prepare for a sustainable career.

### **Jobs**

State and federal employment assistance program, veterans preference programs, How-to-Get-a-State-Job tutorials, veteran-specific job sites, local job fairs and more. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Jobs.aspx>.

### **Apprenticeship & On-The-Job Training Programs**

GI Bill benefits are available for more than college enrollment. Many veterans are not ready or able to commit to a college program, but few veterans and employers know that benefits are also paid to those who are employed and learning a new skill. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Apprenticeship--On-The-Job-Training-Programs.aspx>.

### **Employment Services**

California's Employment Development Department (EDD) offers employment assistance to those veterans looking for employment. The U.S. Department of Labor also offers assistance and translation of military skills to civilian careers. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Employment-Services.aspx>.

### **Federal Employment**

The federal government has laws providing veterans' preference and special appointing authorities for veterans and recognizes that hiring veterans is just good business.

Post-9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Federal-Employment.aspx>.

### **The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008**

Also known as Chapter 33, boasts the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original GI Bill® by providing financial support for education and housing. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Post-911-GI-Bill,-Chapter-33.aspx>.

## **State Employment**

Most jobs with the State of California can only be obtained as a result of successfully completing a civil service examination. The examination will state whether or not veterans' preference credits will be granted. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/State-Employment.aspx>.

## **Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA), Chapter 35**

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, Chapter 35, provides education and training opportunities to dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled with a VA rating of 100% due to a service-related condition. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Survivor-Dependent-Education-Assistance-DEA-Chapter35.aspx>.

## **Tool-Kit For Approved Apprenticeship On-The-Job Training**

The requirements that were met in order to receive approval must be implemented and followed to maintain approval. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Tool-Kit-For-Approved-Apprenticeship-On-The-Job-Training.aspx>.

## **Troops to Teachers**

Thousands of military retirees, separating active duty personnel, and currently drilling members of the reserve components are discovering new and rewarding careers in teaching our nation's children. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Troops-to-Teachers.aspx>.

## **Veterans Preference**

Veterans' Preference can be applied for qualifying open and open, non-promotional examinations. To determine if the exam being administered qualifies for Veterans' Preference, please review the examination bulletin. Veterans' Preference will be awarded as follows:

1. Any veteran, widow or widower of a veteran, or spouse of a 100% disabled veteran, who achieves a passing score in an entrance examination, shall be ranked in the top rank of the resulting eligibility list. Any veteran who has been dishonorably discharged or released is not eligible for Veterans' Preference.
2. An entrance examination is defined, under the law, as any open competitive examination.
3. Veterans' Preference is not granted once a person achieves permanent civil service status.

## **How Veterans' Preference is Applied to Open Eligibility Lists**

If you are currently competing in a State civil service examination for which Veterans' Preference will be granted, you will automatically be added to the top rank, provided your application for Veterans' Preference is approved before the eligible record is created. If you were previously successful in a State civil service exam for which Veterans' Preference was granted, you must provide a copy of your approval letter to the testing office that administered the examination in order to request that your preference be applied.

## **Veterans Business**

### **Business License, Tax and Fee Waiver**

The Business License, Tax, and Fee Waiver benefit waives municipal, county, and state business license fees, taxes, and fees for veterans who hawk, peddle, or vend any goods, wares, or merchandise owned by the veteran. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Business-License-Tax-and-Fee-Waiver.aspx>. Honorably discharged veterans who engage in sales (not services) activities may be eligible. Eligibility criteria differs based upon local jurisdiction.

### **Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunities**

Certified veteran owned businesses can participate in the state goal of awarding 3% of all state contracts to disabled veterans through the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Program. Veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 10% or greater who own at least 51% of a business, and who meet other eligibility criteria.

## **Education**

As a veteran, there are education programs available which you may use for a wide variety of approved education and training programs including: apprenticeship and on-the-job training, college degree and certificate programs, flight training, and correspondence courses. Each program provides different benefits to different groups of individuals and offers a specified number of “months” of benefits. Typically, most education benefits can be collected for 36 months; however, the maximum amount that can be collected under any combination of VA education program is 48 months. Please note that veterans can only use one VA education benefit for training at a time.

### **CSAAVE**

Eligible service members, veterans and dependents can receive GI Bill® benefits when attending college education and job training programs approved and monitored by the California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE). Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/CSAAVE>.

### **CA Community Colleges (CCC)**

Veterans can exercise many of their educational benefits at California Community Colleges. Financial education benefits can pay for up to 100% of fees at most Universities of California, California State Universities, for Veterans or survivors. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CA-Community-Colleges.aspx>.

### **California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNGEAAP)**

The California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program issues financial awards to qualifying members of the California Army or Air National Guard and State Military Reserve. This State Grant can pay for up to 100% of the tuition. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CNGEAAP.aspx>.

### **California State University (CSU)**

The California State University (CSU) offers unlimited opportunities to help veterans, active-duty service members and their families meet their personal and professional goals. Refer to [https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/California-State-University-\(CSU\)-.aspx](https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/California-State-University-(CSU)-.aspx).

### **Comparison of GI Bill Benefits**

Use the following comparison tools may help you in making your decision on which GI Bill® benefit is right for you. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Comparison-of-GI-Bill-Benefits.aspx>.

### **Montgomery GI Bill, Chapter 30**

The Montgomery GI Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Montgomery-GI-Bill-Chapter-30.aspx>.

### **Montgomery GI Bill, Selected Reserve, Chapter 1606**

The Montgomery GI Bill® (MGIB) program, commonly known as Chapter 30, provides up to 36 months of education benefits. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Montgomery-GI-Bill-Selected-Reserve-Chapter-1606.aspx>.

### **Non-Resident College Fee Waiver**

The Non-Resident College Fee Waiver waives non-resident fees at all State of California Community Colleges, California State University, or University of California campuses. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Non-Resident-College-Fee-Waiver.aspx>.

### **Post-9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33**

The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 also known as Chapter 33, boasts the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original GI Bill® by providing financial support for education and housing. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Post-911-GI-Bill,-Chapter-33.aspx>.

### **Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Education Assistance Program (VEAP), Chapter 32**

The Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Education Assistance Program is available if a veteran elected to make contributions from military pay to participate in this education benefit program. Contributions are matched on a \$2 for \$1 basis by the government. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Post-Vietnam-Veteran-Education-Assistance-Program-VEAP-Chapter-32.aspx>.

### **Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), Chapter 1607**

REAP provides financial assistance to eligible persons for a wide variety of training programs. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Reserve-Educational-Assistance-Program-REAP-Chapter-1607.aspx>.

### **Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA), Chapter 35**

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, Chapter 35, provides education and training opportunities to dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled with a VA rating of 100% due to a service-related condition. Refer to

<https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Survivor-Dependent-Education-Assistance-DEA-Chapter35.aspx>.

### **Transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill to a Dependent**

The Post-9/11 GI Bill® also offers some service members the opportunity to transfer their GI Bill® to their spouse or children. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Transfer-Post-911-GI-Bill-to-a-Dependent.aspx>.

### **Troops to College**

The program is designed to help veterans, especially combat veterans, transition to civilian life and the college environment. Veterans and their families may enroll in a course about issues affecting veterans returning to civilian life. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Troops-to-College.aspx>.

### **Troops to Teachers**

Thousands of military retirees, separating active duty personnel, and currently drilling members of the reserve components are discovering new and rewarding careers in teaching our nations children. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Troops-to-Teachers.aspx>.

### **University of California (UC)**

The University of California (UC) enrolls over 1,600 military veterans (approximately 1,300 undergraduates and 300 graduate students) and roughly 100 active duty military personnel. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/University-of-California-UC.aspx>.

### **VA Work-Study Program**

An individual working under this program may work at a school's veterans office, VA Regional Office, VA Medical Facility, CalVet or other approved State employment office. Work-study students are paid at either the State or federal minimum wage. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/VA-Work-Study-Program.aspx>.

### **Veterans Benefits Timetable**

A wide range of services and benefits are available to veteran-eligible military members who leave the service after retirement or after their military obligations have been met. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/VETERANS-BENEFITS-TIMETABLE.aspx>.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program (VR&E), Chapter 31**

VR&E helps veterans with service-connected disabilities of 20% or higher prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. For veterans with service-connected disabilities, VR&E offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Vocational-Rehab-Employment-Program-VRE-Chapter-31.aspx>.



## **College Tuition Fee Waivers for Veterans' Dependents**

Waiver of mandatory system-wide tuition and fees at any State of California Community College, California State University or University of California campus. There are 4 different classes of eligibility:

### **Plan A**

- A child between the age 14 - 27 of a veteran who is totally service-connected disabled, or whose death was officially rated as service-connected is eligible. If the child is a veteran, the age limit is extended to age 30;
- The spouse, Registered Domestic Partner (RDP), or unmarried surviving spouse or RDP of a wartime totally service-connected disabled veteran
- Any dependent of any veteran who has been declared missing in action, captured in the line of duty by hostile forces, or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power

The veteran must have served at least one day of active duty during a period of war as declared by the U.S. Congress, or during any time in which the veteran was awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal. Concurrent receipt of benefits under Plan A and VA Chapter 35 benefits is prohibited. To receive benefits under Plan A, a dependent must sign an "election" statement acknowledging this fact. There are no income restrictions under this plan. To be eligible, the event which caused basic entitlement to benefits (i.e., the date the veteran died of service-connected causes or the date the VA rated the veteran as totally disabled as a result of service-connected disabilities) must have occurred prior to the child's 21st birthday.

### **Plan B**

The child of a veteran who has a service-connected disability, or had a service-connected disability at the time of death, or died of service-related causes is eligible. The child's annual income, which includes the child's adjusted gross income, plus the value of support provided by a parent, may not exceed the annual income limit. The current academic year entitlement is based upon the previous calendar year's annual income. Under Plan B, wartime service is not required and there are no specific age requirements. Children are the only dependents eligible under this plan. There is no prohibition against receiving concurrent VA Chapter 35 benefits.

### **Plan C**

Any dependent of any member of the California National Guard, who in the line of duty while on active service to the state, was killed, died of a disability resulting from an event that occurred while in active service to the state, or is permanently disabled as a result of an event that occurred while in the service to the state is eligible. Surviving spouses or RDPs who have not remarried are also eligible. "Active service to the state," for the purpose of this benefit, means a member of the California National Guard activated pursuant to Section 146 of the Military and Veterans Code. A copy of those orders pursuant to Section 146, not Section 143, must be furnished to establish eligibility.

### **Plan D**

Medal of Honor recipients and children of Medal of Honor recipients under the age of 27 may qualify. Benefits under Plan D are limited to undergraduate studies only, and applicants are subject to both income and age restrictions. There is no prohibition against receiving concurrent VA Chapter 35 benefits.

Refer to: <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/College-Fee-Waiver.aspx>

## Veteran Recreation

### Fishing and Hunting Licenses

Any veteran with a 50% or greater service connected disability may be eligible for reduced annual fees for fishing and hunting licenses - you DO NOT have to be a California resident for this benefit. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Fishing-and-Hunting-Licenses.aspx> for fee amounts and details.

### State Parks and Recreation Pass

Any honorably discharged war veteran who is a resident of California with a 50% or more service-connected disability, former POW, or Medal of Honor recipient can get a free pass to all California state parks. This includes camping and day use. The pass is not valid at units operated by local government, private agencies, or concessionaires and it is not valid for special events, group campsites, and commercial use or for supplemental fees. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/State-Parks-and-Recreation-Pass.aspx> for fee amounts and details.

## Other State Veteran Services

### Disabled Veteran License Plates

Waiver of registration fees and free "DV" handicap parking license plates for one passenger motor vehicle, or one motorcycle, or one commercial motor vehicle of less than 8001 pounds unladen weight.



Who May Be Eligible: A "disabled veteran" is any person who, as a result of injury or disease suffered while on active service with the armed forces of the United States, suffers any of the following:

- a) Has a disability which has been rated at 100 percent by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, due to a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility or,
- b) Is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of an assistant device or,
- c) Has lost, or has lost use of, one or more limbs or,
- d) Has suffered permanent blindness, as defined in Section 19153 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

Obtain a signed doctor's statement that indicates that the veteran in question has a service-connected disability with at least one of the above listed mobility impairments, complete DMV forms REG 195 and REG 256A, and mail the completed package to: DMV PLACARD, P.O. Box 942869, Sacramento, CA 94269-0001 Tel: 1-800-777-0133

### Veteran Organization License Plates



These special California license plates may be ordered with the armed force or veterans' service organization logo/emblem of your choice. Over 100 insignias are available, and your logo will be prominently displayed to the left of a six number/letter combination. Sequential plates are only \$30 per year. You may also "personalize" your Vets Plates (your choice of up to 6 characters) for an additional one-time fee of \$10.

If you are ordering a veterans license plate, make note of the below 3-digit code preceding the name of the organization below. This code will be needed on the DMV order screen or order form.

**Note:** *Click on the following individual logo names to see the images: (Generally, the image quality is better on the actual license plate decal.)*

- V00** 1st Armored Division Assoc.
- V01** 1st Cavalry Division Assoc.
- V02** 1st Division Society
- V03** 1st Marine Division Assoc.
- V04** 2nd Infantry Division
- V06** 3rd Marine Division Assoc.
- V07** 4th Marine Division Assoc.
- V09** 25th Infantry Division Assoc.
- V10** 82nd Airborne Division
- V11** 101st Airborne Division
- V12** 173rd Airborne Brigade
- V14** Air Force Assoc.
- V15** Air Force Sergeants Assoc.
- V16** American GI Forum
- V17** American Legion
- V20** AMVETS
- V22** Blinded Veterans Assoc.
- V24** CA Assoc. of County Veteran Service Officers
- V25** CA Department of Veteran Affairs
- V30** Combat Infantry Badge Veterans
- V31** Corps of Engineers
- V32** Disabled American Veterans
- V38** Jewish War Veterans
- V39** Korean War Veterans Assoc.
- V40** Marine Corps League
- V47** National Guard

**V48** Naval Enlisted Reserve Assoc.  
**V50** Paralyzed Veterans Assoc.  
**V51** Persian Gulf Service  
**V53** Reserve Officers Assoc.  
**V54** Retired Enlisted Assoc.  
**V55** Military Officers Association of America  
**V57** Seabees  
**V58** Special Forces Association  
**V59** US Air Force  
**V60** US Air Force Academy Assoc. of Graduates  
**V61** US Army  
**V62** US Coast Guard  
**V64** US Marine Corps  
**V67** US Military Academy Assoc. of Graduates - West Point  
**V68** US Naval Academy Alumni Assoc.  
**V69** US Navy  
**V71** US Vietnam Veterans of Southern CA  
**V73** Veterans of Foreign Wars  
**V76** Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assoc.  
**V77** Vietnam Veterans of America  
**V78** Vietnam Veterans of CA Incorporated  
**V87** Association of the US Army  
**V92** Navy League of the US  
**V94** US Submarine Veterans Incorporated  
**V95** Air Force Reserve  
**W01** 4th Infantry Division  
**W02** Distinguished Flying Cross Society  
**W03** 63rd Infantry Division Association  
**W04** Lao Veterans of America  
**W05** 11th Airborne Division  
**W06** POW/MIA  
**W09** 10th Mountain Division  
**W13** Merchant Marine Division  
**W21** Tailhook Association  
**W22** UDT/SEAL  
**W23** Afghanistan Campaign Medal  
**W24** American Campaign Medal  
**W25** Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal  
**W26** European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal  
**W27** Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
**W28** Global War on Terrorism Service Medal  
**W29** Iraq Campaign Medal  
**W30** Korean Service Medal

- W31 Kosovo Campaign Medal
- W32 Philippine Defense Medal
- W33 Philippine Independence Medal
- W34 Philippine Liberation Medal
- W35 Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- W36 Southwest Asia Service Medal
- W37 Vietnam Service Medal
- W38 World War II Victory Medal
- W39 Support Our Troops Ribbon

### **Vehicle Registration Fee Waiver**

Waiver of registration fees and free license plates for one passenger motor vehicle, or one motorcycle, or one commercial motor vehicle of less than 8001 pounds unladen weight. The waiver is available to Medal of Honor recipients, American Ex-Prisoners of War and "disabled veterans" as defined in the "Disabled Veterans License Plate" section of this pamphlet. Medal of Honor recipients should complete a DMV form REG 17A, and proof of receipt of the Medal of Honor. Ex-Prisoners of War should complete a DMV form REG 17, and proof of former status as a POW. Applications and necessary documentation should be mailed to: Department of Motor Vehicles, P.O. Box 932345, Sacramento, CA 94232 Tel: 1-800-777-0133 <http://www.dmv.ca.gov>.

### **State of California Veterans Cemetery**

Complete, professional burial services at no cost to veterans (\$500 fee for spouses or dependents). Veterans, dependents and survivors who meet VA eligibility requirements for burial in a national cemetery may be eligible. There are 3 state veterans' cemeteries within California:

- **Northern California Veterans Cemetery.** The Northern California Veterans Cemetery (NCVC) is the first California Veterans Cemetery constructed with the cooperation of the US Department of Veterans Affairs, and is operated by the state. State Veterans Cemeteries are intended to serve areas that are not adequately served by a National Cemetery. NCVC, located near Redding, California, primarily serves the veteran population in the eighteen Northern-most California counties. The currently developed area of the cemetery provides sufficient burial space for more than thirty years. Beyond that, the cemetery has the capacity for expansion of space for well beyond 100 years. Any eligible veteran, along with their spouse and eligible dependents, may be interred at the cemetery.
- **Yountville Veterans Cemetery.** The Yountville Veterans Cemetery is located on 11 acres of oak-covered hills in the northwest corner of the Yountville Veterans Home; this historic cemetery marks the resting place of over 5,700 veterans and dependents. The cemetery currently accepts only the interment of the Veteran Home's residents and their eligible dependents. Eligibility for interment is equivalent to the requirements for burial in a National Cemetery.
- **California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery.** The California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC) will be the second California Veterans Cemetery developed and constructed in cooperation with the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Cemetery Grants Service. The facility will be located in Monterey County in the City of Seaside. CCCVC is currently in the design phase with the construction phase estimated to begin in November 2014. Construction is scheduled for completion in January 2016. The first phase of the cemetery will accommodate cremated remains only. Casketed burials will be included in the second phase of development. While there is currently no scheduled opening date for phase I, the California Department of Veterans Affairs



is committed to widely publishing the dedication and opening. The application requirements and scheduling process will be shared as the opening draws near.

The VA has adopted regulations that establish the eligibility requirements for interment in a state veterans' cemetery. The regulations make the state eligibility requirements equivalent to the requirements for burial in a National Cemetery and provide for CalVet collection of information needed to determine eligibility. For eligibility requirements, go to <http://www.cem.va.gov>. The Eligibility Determination/Pre-need Form is designed to assist in determining eligibility for burial in the NCVV on a pre-need basis. Pre-need determination allows a veteran to establish in advance, his/her eligibility for interment at the NCVV. There is no cost for pre-need determination, and it does not obligate the veteran to be interred at the cemetery. Pre-need determination is intended to simplify and assist the veteran's next-of-kin at the time of death. There will be a \$500 interment fee for eligible spouses and dependent children at the time of need. Associated funeral expenses are incurred by the veteran and/or family. The Eligibility Determination Form can be downloaded or is available from the local County Veterans Service Office <http://www.cacvso.org>.

### **National Veterans Cemetery VA Burial Benefits**

The VA's National Cemetery Administration maintains 131 national cemeteries in 39 states (and Puerto Rico) as well as 33 Soldier's lots and monument sites. There are nine national cemeteries in California, of which five (Riverside National Cemetery, Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery, San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Miramar National Cemetery and Bakersfield National Cemetery) are presently accepting new interments. The other national cemeteries in California are only accepting burials of family members of persons already interred, although Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery (near San Diego) still offers burial of cremated remains.

Persons eligible for burial in a national cemetery include:

- Veterans;
- Service members who die on active duty;
- Certain Reservists and National Guard members;
- World War II Merchant Mariners;
- U.S. citizens who served honorably in the Armed Forces of an Allied government during a war
- Such other persons or classes of persons as may be designated by either the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Secretary of the Air Force.
- Additionally, the spouse and the children (as defined) of eligible persons are also eligible for burial in a national cemetery. In some cases, parents of active duty military killed in action may also be eligible.

Burial benefits may include the following: gravesites for casket or cremation remains, headstones or markers, opening and closing of the graves, and continued perpetual care. Burial of eligible veterans and dependents is at no cost when interred at a national cemetery.

Associated funeral expenses are the responsibility of the veteran and/or family. For assistance in completing applications for cemetery and burial benefits, please contact the local County Veterans Service Office.

### **Burial and Plot-Interment Allowances**

VA burial allowances are partial reimbursements of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is non-service related, the reimbursements are generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot or interment allowance.

A veteran may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

- the veteran paid for a veteran's burial or funeral; and
- the veteran has not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer; and
- the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- the veteran died because of a service-related disability; or
- the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death; or
- the veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay; or
- the veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility; or
- the veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care; or
- the veteran had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death; or
- the veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.

How Much Does the VA Pay?

- **Service-Related Death:** The VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased maybe reimbursed.
- **Non-Service-Related Death:** The VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance for deaths on or after December 1, 2001. As of October 2011, the burial and funeral expenses and the plot allowance increase to \$722. If the death happened while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the veteran's remains may be reimbursed. No plot allowance is paid to the family when the burial occurs in a national or state veteran's cemetery.
- To obtain information regarding associated funeral expenses are incurred by the veteran and/or family, contact the local County Veterans Service Office.

To apply for burial benefits, complete VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. Attach a copy of the veteran's military discharge document (DD Form 214 or equivalent), death certificate, and funeral and burial bills. The bills should indicate they have paid them in full. Please download the form or one can be obtained from the local County Veterans Service Office.

### **CalVet Veteran Services Veteran Designation on California Driver License and ID Card**

California veterans will be able to get a "VETERAN" designation on their California Driver's License/ID Card. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/Veteran-Designation>.

### **California Veterans Registry at the California Veterans Memorial**

The California Veterans Registry is a permanent record of all California Veterans -- past and present -- who have served our nation since statehood was established in 1850. Whether cook or fighter pilot, mechanic or chief of staff, this memorial will honor them all, and forever immortalize the contributions that California veterans have made to their nation. Each California veteran is entitled to the basic information of name, rank and branch of service. To create a truly living memorial, California veterans are encouraged to expand on the basic information by contributing to the enhanced registry. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/California-Veterans-Registry.aspx>.

### **California Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

This memorial lists the names of Californians in military service who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam Conflict. These 5,673 names are inscribed on the California Vietnam Memorial in Sacramento. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/California-Vietnam-Veterans-Memorial.aspx>.

### **California Women Veterans Roster**

Unfortunately, women veterans have not applied for or utilized their veterans benefits as have their male counterparts, which ultimately dilutes the voice of veterans overall. The California Women Veterans Roster is an information bridge that connects California's women veterans to the various resources and benefits available to them. The roster is strictly confidential and used solely as a link among California's women veterans. Help give women the voice they earned through service to our country. If you are a woman veteran, join the California Women Veterans Roster! If you are not a woman veteran, please give the gift of information and pass a copy of the roster application form on to a woman veteran or someone you know associated with women veterans. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/WomenVets/Pages/Women-Veterans-Roster.aspx>.

### **County Veterans Service Offices**

In California, the County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) plays a critical role in connecting veterans and their families with their services and benefits. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/County-Veteran-Service-Organization.aspx>.

### **Crisis Intervention**

If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, responders at the Veterans Crisis Line online chat offer help that can make a difference. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Crisis-Intervention-Suicide-Prevention.aspx>.

### **CVSO Locations**

County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) locations. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CVSO-Locations.aspx>.

### **Family and Readjustment Counseling**

Counseling is available to families of service members for a variety of psycho-social services. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Family-Counseling.aspx>.

### **Fishing and Hunting Licenses**

This benefit reduces annual fees for fishing and hunting licenses for disabled veterans. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Fishing-and-Hunting-Licenses.aspx>.

### **Food Assistance**

Food assistance programs increase food security and reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Food-Assistance.aspx>.

### **HCD Fee and Tax Waiver Program**

Effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019, owners of mobile homes and manufactured homes who are currently not the registered owner on record are eligible to apply for registration or conditional registration with a fee and tax waiver from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/HCD-Fee-and-Tax-Waiver-Program.aspx>.

### **Health Care for Re-entry Veterans Program**

The Health Care for Re-entry Veterans (HCRV) Program is designed to address the community re-entry needs of incarcerated Veterans. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Re-entry-Veteran-Benefits.aspx>.

### **Housing & Supportive Services**

Housing and supportive services that are available to eligible veterans. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Housing-Supportive-Services.aspx>.

### **Housing Resources**

Resources and services that aid in fighting homelessness and the issues surrounding homelessness. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Housing-Resources.aspx>.

### **Incarcerated Veterans**

It is important justice-involved Veterans are familiar with what happens to VA benefits and benefits they are receiving, if they become incarcerated. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Incarcerated-Veterans.aspx>.

### **Itinerant Veteran Vendor**

If you are a qualified itinerant veteran vendor, you are the consumer of items owned and sold, except alcoholic beverages or items sold for more than \$100, and you are not required to hold a seller's permit. Instead, you must pay sales tax. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Itinerant-Veteran-Vendor.aspx>.

### **Legal Assistance**

Organizations that provide legal assistance that work to ensure that veterans and active duty personnel receive the benefits and legal direction which they are entitled. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Legal-Assistance.aspx>.

### **Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender Veterans**

CalVet is committed to ensuring all Veterans have access to and receive the benefits they have earned without regard to sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/MinorityVets/Pages/LGBT.aspx>.

**License Plate Logos for Cars and Trucks.** Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/License-Plate-Logos-for-Cars-and-Trucks.aspx>.

**License Plate Logos for Motorcycles.** Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/License-Plate-Logos-for-Motorcycles.aspx>

**License Plates.** Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/License-Plates.aspx>.

### **Mental Health Services**

Mental health is essential to overall health. Everyone has had some experience with feeling depressed, anxious, or overwhelmed emotionally, but if these feelings persist they can be a sign of a mental health illness. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Mental-Health-Program.aspx>.

### **Military Records**

Veterans or their next of kin who need assistance in obtaining service records, a DD 214, or replacement awards and medals must formally request them through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Military-Records.aspx>.

### **Military Sexual Trauma (MST)**

Some veterans, both men and women, suffered personal or physical assault while on active duty and they may still struggle with fear, anxiety, embarrassment, or profound anger as a result of these experiences. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Military-Sexual-Trauma-MST.aspx/>

### **Minority Veterans**

Minority Veterans Division promotes the use of VA benefits, programs, and services by minority and LGBT veterans. We advocate on behalf of minority and LGBT veterans by identifying gaps in services and making recommendations to improve services. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/MinorityVets>.

### **Minority and Underrepresented Veterans**

Minority Veterans Division promotes the use of VA benefits, programs, and services by minority and LGBT veterans. We advocate on behalf of minority and LGBT veterans by identifying gaps in services and making recommendations to improve services. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/calvet-programs/minority-veterans>.

### **Nonprofit Veterans' Organization**

If you are a nonprofit veterans' organization that makes sales of merchandise or goods, you are required to register for a seller's permit. Generally, items you sell are taxable. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Nonprofit-Veterans'-Organization.aspx>,

### **On-Line California Veteran Registry**

The California Veterans Registry is a permanent record of all California Veterans, past and present, who have served our nation since statehood was established in 1850. Each California veteran is entitled to the basic information. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CVRRegister1.aspx>.

### **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder caused by experiencing traumatic events, such as combat, disasters, terrorism, serious accidents, or physical or sexual assault. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder-PTSD.aspx>.

### **Property Tax Exemptions**

California has two property tax exemptions: one for veterans whose property is valued at \$5,000 or less and one for disabled veterans meeting specific criteria. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Property-Tax-Exemptions.aspx>.

### **Returning Service Members (OIF/OEF/OND)**

If you are returning home from active duty you know that every veteran residing in California is eligible for benefits and services to which they are entitled by law and moral obligation. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Returning-Service-Members-OIF-OEF-OND.aspx>.

### **State Parks and Recreation Pass**

A lifetime State of California Parks pass. The pass is free of charge and entitles the holder to the use of all basic State Park System operated facilities at no further charge. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/State-Parks-and-Recreation-Pass.aspx>.

### **Substance Abuse Disorders**



If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol, drugs, or misuse of prescription drugs, you will find treatment services available throughout California to help you get on the road to recovery. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Substance-Abuse-Disorders.aspx>.

### **Suicide Prevention**

Suicide is a major public health issue in the United States, but it is important to recognize that suicide is a preventable tragedy. With help comes hope. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Substance-Abuse-Disorders.aspx>.

### **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a severe or moderate trauma to the head, where physical portions of the brain are damaged and functioning is impaired. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Traumatic-Brain-Injury.aspx>.

### **Veteran Service Organizations**

Veteran organizations that contain resources for veterans based on eligibility. Veterans are able to access everything from employment training, housing and rental assistance, to mental health and counseling. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Veteran-Designation-on-California-Driver-License-and-ID-Card.aspx>.

### **Veterans Identification Card**

Veterans Identification Card through the USDVA. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Veterans-Identification-Card.aspx>.

**Veterans Tax Benefits.** Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Veterans-Tax-Benefits.aspx>.

### **Veterans Treatment Court**

Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC) is an alternative sentencing court that focus on treatment rather than incarceration and provide tools for rehabilitation and readjustment. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Veterans-Treatment-Court.aspx>.

### **Women Veterans**

Welcome to the CalVet Women Veterans page! California is home to 185,269 women veterans. With California's women leading the nation in military service, it is imperative to acknowledge and address the needs of this growing demographic. Refer to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/WomenVets>.

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Visit the California Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.cdva.ca.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance. [Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/california-state-veterans-benefits.html> | September 2018.

