

# Illinois State Veteran's Benefits 2019



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

- Housing
- Financial Assistance
- Employment
- Education
- Recreation
- Other State Veteran Benefits/Programs

## **Veteran Housing Programs**

### **Veteran Homes**

IDVA provides quality skilled care and a homelike environment to aging veterans at each of their four Veterans' Homes. A planned fifth home in Chicago has not yet opened and has no proposed completion date. Veterans who served during a period of war are given precedence in admission, though peacetime veterans, spouses, surviving spouses, and Gold Star parents are also eligible. OTHER QUALIFYING CONDITIONS MUST ALSO BE MET. Since each of the Veterans' Homes is unique, each Home provides a special brochure describing the services available. Click [here](#) to learn more about each of the Homes. The four current veteran homes are located at:



**Illinois Veterans Home, 792 N. Main Street, Anna, IL 62906 Tel: (618) 833-6302**

This modern, single story structure opened in August 1994. Situated on 16 acres, the Home provides skilled nursing care services to eligible veterans. The Home has a 50-bed nursing care capacity and twelve beds in six adjoining apartment-style domiciliary units.



**Illinois Veterans Home, 1015 O'Conor Avenue, LaSalle, IL 61301 Tel: (815) 223-0303 ext. 210**

The LaSalle Veterans' Home opened in December 1990. Located in a residential area on the northeast side of LaSalle in LaSalle County, on a campus of slightly more than four acres, the Home provides skilled nursing services for veterans. They provide care for up to 184 Veterans, to include 40 special needs veterans.



**Illinois Veterans Home, 1 Veterans Drive, Manteno, IL 60950 Tel: (815) 468 – 6581**

The Manteno Veterans' Home opened in 1986, located east of the city of Manteno in Kankakee County. The home is located on a 122 acre campus and comprised of five major nursing care

units and two ancillary service and support buildings. They provide care for up to 294 Skilled Care and Special Needs Veterans.



Illinois Veterans Home, 1707 N. 12th Street, Quincy, IL 62301 Tel: (217) 222 – 8641

The Quincy Veterans' Home is located in the northern part of picturesque, historic Quincy in Adams County. The Quincy home, founded in 1886, is the largest and oldest of the Illinois Veteran Homes. It was the original Soldiers and Sailors Home until 1974 when the name was changed. Sitting on 210 beautiful acres, the campus provides a broad range of facilities and services including domiciliary and skilled care to almost 400 veterans and their spouses. Sunset Cemetery, located on the campus, provides interment and perpetual care for eligible veterans and spouses. Over 7,000 veterans and spouses, dating back to the Civil War are at rest here. Accommodations in the on-campus Northern Guest House are available to families of residents at a nominal charge.

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Each veteran home provides long-term skilled care and services to residents. Quality nursing and health care services are provided to Illinois veterans with military service of one (1) day or more, Veterans who served during a period of war are given precedence in admission, though peacetime veterans, spouses, surviving spouses, and Gold Star parents are also eligible. Monthly costs are based on income (not assets) but are capped at \$1,429 per month. This covers room, food (including special diets and supplements), medication, all levels of medical care, recreation and activities, and any special therapy or treatment prescribed by the attending physician. Some costs of care are not covered. These include, but may not be limited to, eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, prostheses, and special wheelchairs or mechanical devices. Such costs must be paid directly to the providers by the resident or responsible surrogate.

Any honorably discharged veteran is entitled to admission if he or she:

- Has served in the U.S. Armed Forces at least one day during a period recognized by the USDVA as a war period or served in a hostile fire environment and was awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal; or
- Was retired for a service-connected disability or injury, or
- Has served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for 24 months of continuous service or more and enlisted after September 7, 1980 or
- Has served as a Reservist or National Guard member, and the service included being called to Federal Active Duty (excluding service for Active Duty Training only) and

completed the term or completed 20 years of satisfactory service and is otherwise eligible to receive reserve or active duty retirement benefits; or

- Has been discharged for reasons of hardship or released from active duty due to a reduction in the U.S. Armed Forces before the completion of the required period of service; and
- Entered the service as a resident of Illinois or has been a resident of Illinois for one year immediately preceding the date of application for admission; and
- Is disabled by disease, wounds, or otherwise, and because of disability is incapable of earning a living.
- Peacetime veterans with one year of honorable military service may also be eligible for admission; other qualifying conditions, as required, must be met.

Admission for a veteran certified to be eligible, is based upon:

- The ability of the Home to provide adequate and appropriate care and services required by the veteran's medical diagnoses and assessed needs.
- An available bed in the category required by the veteran's medical conditions and assessed needs.
- All veterans applying for admission **must** meet with an assigned IDVA veteran service officer (VSO) for a benefits screening. Those deemed eligible will complete application for federal Veterans Administration benefits. **Other qualifying conditions must be met.**

Admission Priorities

In addition to a veteran's military service, admission to an Illinois Veterans' Home is based upon:

1. The ability of the Home to provide the care and services required by the veteran's medical diagnoses and assessed needs.
2. An available bed in the category of care required by the veteran's medical conditions and assessed needs.

Veterans whose applications are accepted, but who cannot be immediately admitted to the facility, are placed on the facility waiting list and are prioritized on a "first come-first served" basis. Absolutely no exceptions are permitted to this policy. Click on following file to get recent admission application in .pdf format [admissionapplication.pdf](#)

**GI Loan for Heroes**

The G-I Loan for Heroes is the new Illinois Homeownership Program for Veterans and Active Service Personnel. The G-I Loan offers significantly below market homeownership financing and counseling. There are two program packages, one for Veterans and one for active duty personnel. Learn more about the GI Loan for Heroes at [www.ihda.org/homeowner/heroes.htm](http://www.ihda.org/homeowner/heroes.htm)

**Veterans' Program**

The Veterans' Program is designed for honorably discharged Veterans who qualify under the income and purchase price limits of the IHDA MRB Program. Participants will receive a substantially below market rate financing package, closing cost assistance and homeownership counseling. In addition, under federal legislation passed in December 2006, Veterans do not have to be first-time homebuyers to qualify.

### **Active Duty Program**

The Active Duty program is designed for active duty service personnel in the Armed Services and Reserve Forces. Under this program, they will receive the same package as the Veterans, except they must qualify as a first time homebuyer under the IHDA MRB Program.

### **Specially Adapted Housing**

Assistance is provided for service-connected disabled veterans for the purpose of acquiring or remodeling suitable dwelling units with special fixtures or moveable facilities made necessary by the veteran's permanent and total service-connected disabilities.

### **Mortgage Assistance**

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs is committed to serving and assisting those Illinois veterans seeking mortgage assistance, as well as resources to assist those experiencing difficulty with mortgage payments. Download the list of official resources by clicking here: [Veteran Mortgage Assistance Resources.pdf](#)

### **Property Taxes**

- **Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption** -- Provides qualifying veterans a one-time \$5,000 reduction to their homes' equalized assessed value (EAV). Qualifying veterans who return from active duty in an armed conflict involving the U.S. armed forces can file an application upon their return home to receive this exemption. To apply for this exemption, contact or visit your local County Assessor's Office.
- **Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption** -- Provides a reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a veteran with a service-connected disability. Beginning in tax year 2015, a \$2,500 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 30% but less than 50%; a \$5,000 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service connected disability of at least 50% but less than 70%; veterans with a service-connected disability of at least 70% are exempt from paying property taxes on their primary residence. This exemption is available to the unmarried surviving spouse of a service connected veteran provided that the veteran was in receipt of the exemption prior to his/her death. Additionally, beginning in tax year 2015 and thereafter, the unmarried surviving spouse of a service member killed in the line of duty is exempt from paying property taxes on the primary residence. Once approved, qualifying veterans and surviving spouses must file an annual application by their counties' deadlines to continue to receive this exemption. To apply for this exemption, please contact or visit your local County Assessor's Office.
- **Specially Adapted Housing Tax Exemption** -- This exemption is allowed on the assessed value of real property for which federal funds have been used for the purchase or construction of specially adapted housing; the exemption is valid for as long as the veteran, the spouse, or the unmarried surviving spouse resides on the property. Federal and state financial assistance is provided for service-connected disabled veterans for the purpose of acquiring or remodeling suitable dwelling units with special fixtures or moveable facilities made necessary by the veteran's permanent and total service-connected disabilities as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs. For further information, please contact your local [Veteran Service Officer](#).

- **Tax Exemption for Mobile Home** -- Veterans are exempt from the full amount of the mobile home tax. This exemption applies to the tax levied by each county to the owner of a mobile home that meet all of the following criteria:
  - Mobile home must be owned and used exclusively by a disabled veteran or spouse or unmarried surviving spouse as their primary residence;
  - The disabled veteran must have been awarded the Specially Adapted Housing Grant by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a primary residence that they owned and resided in prior to purchase of the mobile home; and
  - The disabled veteran, spouse or unmarried surviving spouse must be a permanent resident of the State of Illinois on January 1 of the tax year for which the exemption is being claimed.

Contact your county tax assessor's office or contact your local [Veteran Service Officer](#) for further information.

## **Financial Assistance Benefits**

### **Income Tax**

Active duty and retired pay are tax-free.

### **Bonus Application & Armed Forces Certificate**

To apply for any of the following bonuses, applications can be downloaded, completed and mailed to the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, P.O. Box 19432, 833 South Spring Street, Springfield, IL 62794-9432. Individuals currently on active duty may apply for the Persian Gulf and or Global War on Terrorism Bonus prior to discharge by also including the Armed Forces Certificate.

- [Bonus Application \(PDF, 43 KB\)](#)
- [Armed Forces Certificate \(PDF, 16 KB\)](#)

### **World War II Bonus Payment**

A bonus of \$10 per month for domestic service and \$15 per month for foreign service is payable to a veteran who was a resident of Illinois at time of entering service, served at least 60 days on active duty between September 16, 1940 and September 3, 1945, and received an honorable discharge. Survivors are entitled to a benefit of \$1,000, if the veteran's death was service-connected and within the period specified.

### **Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Conflict Bonus**

A \$100 bonus is payable for service during one of the following periods:

- Korea - June 27, 1950 thru July 27, 1953
- Vietnam - January 1, 1961 thru March 28, 1973
- Vietnam Frequent Wind - April 29 thru 30, 1975

The claimant must also be in receipt of one of the following medals: Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal Vietnam Era or the Southwest Asia Service Medal; and have been a resident of Illinois for 12 months immediately prior to entering service. Some service periods require an Honorable Discharge and foreign service requirements.



### **Global War on Terrorism (Operation Iraq Freedom and/or Operation Enduring Freedom and/or Operation New Dawn) Bonus Payment**

A \$100 bonus is payable to veterans who serve on or after September 11, 2001 and were residents of Illinois for 12 months immediately prior to entering service. The claimant must also have served at least 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days of foreign or sea service and be in receipt of one of the following medals:

- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Individuals currently on active duty who served in the Global War on Terrorism may apply prior to discharge by also including the Armed Forces Certificate.

### **Vietnam Veteran Survivors Compensation**

Survivors are entitled to a payment of \$1,000 if veteran's death is service-connected or is the direct result of service-connected disabilities incurred in the period specified. A separate application is required.

### **POW Compensation**

Persons on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or employed by the United States Government on, or after, January 1, 1961, who were residents of Illinois 12 months prior to entry, and who were taken and held prisoner by hostile forces in Southwest Asia, are entitled to \$50 for each month or portion thereof while being held captive.

### **Tax Exemption for Mobile Home**

This exemption applies to the tax imposed by the Mobile Home Local Services Tax Act when that property is owned and used exclusively by a disabled veteran, spouse or unmarried surviving spouse as a home. The veteran must have received authorization of the Specially Adapted Housing Grant by the USDVA, whether benefit was used or not. Applicant must be a permanent resident of the State of Illinois on January 1 of the tax year for which the exemption is being claimed. Disabled veterans that now live in a mobile home and never received the Specially Adapted Housing Grant are not eligible. Please contact your local service office for more information.

### **The Illinois Military Family Relief Fund**

The Illinois Military Family Relief Fund (IMFRF) provides monetary grants to Illinois National Guard members and Illinois residents serving in the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Components and their families who were called to active duty as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

IMFRF grants are intended to help Service Members and their families defray the costs of food, housing, utilities, medical services and other expenses that become difficult to afford when a wage earner has temporarily left civilian employment to be placed on active military duty. The fund also provides for those wounded in combat. Toll-Free in IL: (866) 524-4564 or 217-761-

3452. Refer to [http://www.standingupforillinois.org/homefront/military\\_family\\_relief\\_fund.php](http://www.standingupforillinois.org/homefront/military_family_relief_fund.php) for more info.

## **Employment Benefits**

### **Veterans Employment Preference**

Honorably discharged veterans who served during wartime get preference in state job hiring.

### **Education Requirements for Illinois State Police, Conservation Police, Municipal Police & Firefighters**

The educational requirements needed to join the Illinois State Police will be waived for veterans who have been honorably discharged with a campaign service medal for Afghanistan or Iraq. The Illinois Conservation Police will waive their educational requirements for honorably discharged veterans who have certain campaign medals. The educational requirement of an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree will be waived for a firefighter or municipal police officer for veterans discharged honorably after 24 months of active duty or 180 days in combat.

### **State Licenses & Credentials**

Licenses & Credentials testing and fees for EMT, CNA, EMR, and CDL may be waived if you have military experience in that job.

## **Education Benefits**

### **Educational Opportunities for Children (10-18 Yrs)**

Financial aid is available for children between 10 and 18 years old of those who died or became totally disabled as a result of wartime military service. The financial aid applies to a state educational institution of elementary grade, high school or vocational training school. [Educational Opportunities for Children application form \(PDF, 180 KB\)](#),

### **MIA/POW Scholarship**

Dependents of a veteran who has been declared by the Department of Defense or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be a prisoner of war; missing-in-action; to have died as the result of a service-connected disability; or be permanently disabled from service-connected causes with 100% disability; and, who was an Illinois resident or was an Illinois resident within six months of entering service may be eligible for the scholarship. Eligible dependents are entitled to full payment of tuition and certain fees to any state supported Illinois institution of higher learning consisting of the equivalent of four (4) calendar years of full-time enrollment including summer terms (i.e., 120 points). [MIA/POW Scholarship form \(.pdf\)](#)

### **Illinois Veterans' Grant**

The Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program pays tuition and certain fees at all Illinois state-supported colleges, universities and community colleges for Illinois residents. An individual must:

- Be an honorably discharged veteran; and



- Reside in Illinois six months before entering the service; and
- Have at least one full year of active duty in the military; and
- Return to Illinois within six months of discharge from the service.

Applications and additional information are available from the [VSO Offices](#) of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, college financial aid offices or the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, 60015, telephone 847-948-8550 or 800-899-ISAC, [www.isac.org](http://www.isac.org).

### **Illinois National Guard Grant**

The Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant pays tuition and eligible fees (registration, graduation, general activity, matriculation and term fees) at all Illinois public universities or public community colleges. Recipients who have completed less than 10 years of active guard time may accumulate up to 120 eligibility units. Recipients who have completed more than 10 years of active duty guard time may accumulate up to 180 eligibility units. In order to receive benefits under this program an applicant must:

- Be an Illinois National Guard member, defined as meeting one of these two criteria:
  - Be active in the Illinois National Guard or
  - Have been active in the Illinois National Guard for at least five consecutive years and have been called to federal active duty for at least six months and be within the 12 month period immediately following the applicant's discharge from the ING.
- Have completed one full year of service in the Illinois National Guard;
- Be enrolled at an Illinois public 2 or 4 year college;
- Not be in default on any educational loan or, if in default, have reinstated eligibility in accordance with ISAC Rules;
- Not owe a refund on any state or federal grant;
- Maintain an acceptable grade point average (GPA) according to the policy determined by the applicant's college;
- File a complete application each academic year, indicating the college to be attended;
- Meet the applicable deadline for the term for which he/she is applying; and
- Notify ISAC, in writing, of name, address or college choice changes as they occur.

Information about the grant program and the online application may be obtained at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's website at [www.isac.org](http://www.isac.org).

### **Get Academic Credit for Military Training**

[Making Military Training Count](#) The Office of the Governor and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, in cooperation with the Illinois Community College Board, several community colleges, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and *MyCreditsTransfer*, completed a collaborative project to grant student veterans appropriate academic credit for the education and training they gained in military service.

As a result of the Making Military Training Count initiative, veterans and service members can enter college with earned course credits, useful credits that apply toward meeting degree requirements, simply by documenting their already-completed military training. See how your military coursework, exams, and/or learning experiences count at specific schools using Transferology. Visit [www.iTransfer.org/MyCreditsTransfer](http://www.iTransfer.org/MyCreditsTransfer) to learn more. You can also find out

what your options are for taking classes at another school to transfer back to your current school by using the "Find a Replacement Course" feature.

Many Illinois colleges have developed transfer credit for military learning experience, including City Colleges of Chicago, College of DuPage, College of Lake County, DePaul University, Kaskaskia College and Southwestern Illinois College.

### **Veteran Coordinators at Public Universities and Colleges in Illinois**

Veteran Coordinators are tasked to be the central point of contact for all veterans, service members, and dependents at universities and colleges. Veteran applicants and student veterans are encouraged to contact these staff to learn about eligibility to veteran education benefits, benefit application processes, academic counseling, financial aid counseling, and student support services. [Click here](#) to obtain a list of Veteran Coordinators at public universities and community colleges for the 2018-2019 academic year (with names, phone numbers, and email addresses).

### **State Approving Agency G.I. Bill**

The State Approving Agency (SAA) approves college and non-college degree programs, vocational flight training, apprenticeships and other on-the-job training so that federal educational assistance benefits may be paid to veterans and other eligible persons under the several programs administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to approvals, the SAA assists the US Department of Veterans Affairs in conducting compliance surveys at institutions and training establishments where eligible veterans and their dependents are attending. The types of approved training establishments include the following:

- Colleges and Universities
- Vocational Schools
- Business Schools
- Professional Schools
- Vocational Flight Schools
- High Schools
- Apprenticeships
- On-the-Job Training Programs
- Licensing and Certification Tests

If you have questions about the approval of a program, call one of the following Illinois State Approving Agency representatives:

|                 |             |              |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Enrique Cabrera | Joliet      | 815-730-4358 |
| Melissa Cushman | Springfield | 217-785-4578 |
| Kent Ketter     | Bloomington | 309-661-7506 |
| Andrew Pieper   | Wheaton     | 630-690-6270 |
| Emily Siefkin   | Chicago     | 312-814-1831 |
| Tiffany Perry   | Chicago     | 773-292-2789 |
| Dan Wellman     | Springfield | 217-782-7838 |

### **Children of Veterans Scholarship**

Each county in the state shall be entitled, annually, to one honorary scholarship at the University of Illinois, for the benefit of children of veterans of WWI, WWII, Korean War, the Vietnam

Conflict and any time on or after August 2, 1990 and until those persons in service are no longer eligible for the Southwest Asia Service Medal. Preference is given to the children of deceased and disabled veterans. Such children shall be entitled to receive, without charge for tuition, instruction in any or all departments of the University for a term of at least four (4) consecutive years. Details may be obtained from the University's Financial Aid Office.

### **VA Work Study Locations -- IDVA**

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs provides VA work-study opportunities at its numerous offices throughout Illinois. The federal VA work-study program provides part-time employment to students receiving VA education benefits who attend school three-quarter time or more. Work-study students are paid either the State or Federal minimum wage, whichever is greater. Other available opportunities may exist at the school veteran's office, VA Medical Facilities, the VA Regional Office, and at approved veteran service organizations.

For further information, visit the [VA Work-Study Program page](#).

For more information on approved programs, call 312-814-2460 or 217-782-7839. For information on VA Work Study locations available at IDVA, call 312-814-5538.

## **Recreation Benefits**

### **Camping & Admission Fees**

Illinois veterans are exempt from admission and camping fees at Illinois state parks for a time period equal to their military service spent abroad or mobilized. To apply, please contact IDVA's [local Veteran Service Office](#).

### **Hunting and Fishing Licenses**

Fishing and hunting licenses are not required for disabled veterans receiving 10% or greater service-connected compensation, or total disability pension benefits. Veterans who served abroad may be eligible for half-price licenses. To apply, please contact IDVA's [local Veteran Service Office](#).

### **State Fair**

Honorably discharged veterans of all ages and their families shall be admitted FREE, when they properly identify themselves, on Veterans' Day at the fair. Veterans Day includes a day-long program of drum corps, drill teams, and color guard competition. Admission is FREE to people 60 and older on Senior Day. For dates, check the [Illinois State Fair Homepage](#).

## **Other State Veteran Benefits/Programs**

### **Benefits Assistance**

To assist veterans in navigating the complex web of services and benefits available, IDVA runs 46 full-time and 35 part-time (itinerant) offices in 80 out of the 102 counties. These offices are staffed by more than 70 individual Veteran Service Officers (VSO's), fellow veterans who are

experts on federal, state and local veteran resources. They are trained and accredited by the US Department of Veterans Affairs to provide free assistance to veterans and their dependents and survivors. This includes not only applying for federal and state benefits but also providing resources related to the following:

- Compensation and Pension
- Health Care
- Education & Training
- Employment
- Burial & Survivor
- Housing
- Permits
- Transportation
- Military Records
- And more

To locate Veteran Service Officers in your area go to the [Nearest Veteran Service Office](#) map and click on tab nearest where you reside. You can also use (800) 437-9824 if calling from within Illinois; out-of-state (217) 782-6641; or TDD (217) 524-4645. If you are calling from within the Chicago area you can call (312) 814-2460. Finally, if you are a woman veteran who prefers to speak with one of our 27 female VSOs, please click on this map of [women veteran service officers](#). Fellow women veterans are available to help!

### **Disabled Veterans License Plates and Parking**

Special military plates are available to all veterans who can meet the requirements for issue. Disabled Veteran License Plates may be issued at no cost for the first set of plates to any U.S. Armed Forces Veteran if

- (1) the veteran holds proof of a service-connected disability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- (2) A licensed physician has certified that because of the service-connected disability the veteran qualifies for the issuance of a disabled placard or plate.

The below plates are available to Veterans who qualify. To determine eligibility requirements, costs, availability, and renewal procedures click on the title of the plate below that you would like to obtain.



[Afghanistan Campaign Medal](#)



[Air Force Service Cross](#)



[Armed Forces Reserves](#)



[Bronze Star](#)



[Congressional Medal of Honor](#)



[Disabled Veteran](#)



[Distinguished Flying Cross](#)



[Distinguished Service Cross](#)



[Ex-Prisoner of War](#)



[Ex-Prisoner of War](#)



[Gold Star](#)



[Illinois National Guard](#)



[Iraq Campaign Medal](#)



[Korean Service](#)



[Korean War Veteran](#)



[Marine Corps](#)



[Navy Service Cross](#)



[Paratrooper](#)



[Pearl Harbor Survivor](#)



[POW/MIA Illinois Remembers](#)



[Purple Heart](#)



[Purple Heart Motorcycle](#)



[Retired Armed Forces](#)



[Silver Star](#)



[Universal Veteran](#)



[Universal Veteran Motorcycle](#)



[U.S. Air Force](#)



[U.S. Army Veteran](#)



[U.S. Navy Veteran](#)



[Vietnam Veteran](#)



[West Point Bicentennial](#)



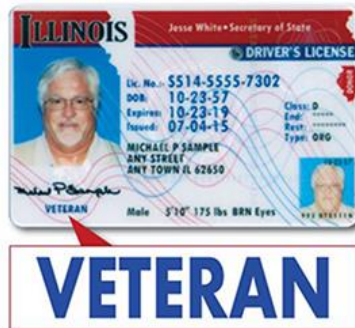
[Women Veterans](#)



[World War II Veteran](#)

[Source: [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/vehicles/license\\_plate\\_guide/military/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/vehicles/license_plate_guide/military/home.html)]

### Veteran's Designation on Illinois driver's license or ID Cards



The veteran's designation will help ensure our military veterans receive the services and benefits for which they are entitled. First, veterans must visit their nearest IDVA Veteran Service Officer and get their DD-214 certified. The former members of the Guard and Reserve will need to



provide different forms. Then the veteran may apply for a new, renewal or updated driver's license or ID card at any Secretary of State Driver Service's facility. There is no additional cost for first-time driver's license applicants and renewals, but if veterans chooses to update there's a small charge. For more information, veterans may contact the IVDA at 1-800-437-9824 or visit [www.illinois.gov/veterans](http://www.illinois.gov/veterans).

### **Cartage Fees**

When the federal government has furnished a headstone or marker, the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS shall pay up to the allowable reimbursement amount for the setting of such marker within Illinois. Currently, the maximum amount is \$100.00 payable upon approval of the application.

### **Indigent Veterans**

The county Veterans Assistance Commission provides burial for any honorably discharged indigent veteran, or their mothers, fathers, spouse or surviving spouse, or minor children who are without sufficient means to defray the funeral expenses. The expense of such burial to be reimbursed cannot exceed \$900. Emergency food, transportation, and other assistance are also provided in certain cases. Please contact your local county Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) for more information; IDVA's VSO's can assist you in finding your local VAC, as well [click here to start](#).

### **Graves Registration**

To preserve the memory of Illinois veterans, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs maintains a -Roll of Honor- for all veterans buried in the State of Illinois. Individuals and entities responsible for cemeteries in Illinois regularly provide the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs with information regarding veteran burials in order to maintain our -Roll of Honor- up to date. For further information on the -Roll of Honor-, please contact IDVA's [local Veteran Service Office](#).

### **Veteran Entrepreneurship**

This is an IDVA and CMS jointly-led initiative (originally launched in June 2012) that brings together pertinent government agencies, educational institutions, trade associations, business sector experts, and employers to educate returning servicemembers and veterans regarding resources and advancement opportunities available to veteran-owned businesses.

Veteran Entrepreneurship provides a variety of venues to (1) help returning servicemembers and veterans start their own business and (2) assist existing veteran-owned businesses in expanding their operation and accessing procurement opportunities. These include training seminars, educational sessions, and other related events that enable veterans and veteran business owners to gain targeted assistance relating to:

- Procurement opportunities;
- Business certifications;
- Application procedures;
- Writing a business plan;
- Managing business finances;
- Gaining access to capital;
- Marketing and branding; and

- Other key steps in the entrepreneurial process.

At the same time, participants have a unique opportunity to network and exchange best practices with agency experts, key business associations, and like-minded professionals. For additional information on the Illinois Veteran Entrepreneurship program refer to

- <http://www.illinois.gov/veterans/programs/Pages/Veterans2Entrepreneurs.aspx>; and
- <https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/benefits/Pages/Entrepreneurship.aspx>

### **Illinois Joining Forces**

Illinois Joining Forces (IJF) is a joint Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and Department of Military Affairs (DMA) effort designed to better serve veterans, service members, and their families throughout the state. IJF will bring together, under a common umbrella, a field force of public, non-profit, and volunteer organizations in order to continually foster increased awareness of available resources and better partnership and collaboration between participating organizations. Illinois Joining Forces will establish a state-wide public and private organizational network that will identify, collaborate, and marshal available resources and services in order to create efficient access and delivery of these programs to the State's military and veteran communities (<https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/programs/Pages/IllinoisJoiningForces.aspx> & <https://www.facebook.com/illinoisjoiningforces>).

### **National Cemeteries**

- Rock Island National Cemetery, Rock Island Arsenal, Bldg. 118, Rock Island, IL 61299 Tel: (309) 782-2094/2097F [www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/rockisland.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/rockisland.asp).
- Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery (near Chicago) 27034 South Diagonal Road, Elwood, IL 60421 Tel: (815) 423-9958/5824F [www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp)
- Danville National Cemetery, 1900 East Main Street, Danville, IL 61832, Tel: (217) 554-4550/4291 FAX: (217) 554-4803 <http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/danvilleil.asp>
- Camp Butler National Cemetery, 5063 Camp Butler Road, Springfield, IL 62707 Tel: (217) 492 – 4070/4072F [www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/campbutler.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/campbutler.asp).
- Mound City National Cemetery, HWY Junction 37 & 51, Mound City, IL 62963 Tel: (314) 260-8691 or (800) 535-1117 or (314) 260-8723F [www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/moundcity.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/moundcity.asp).
- Quincy National Cemetery, 36th and Maine Street, Quincy, IL 62301 Tel: (309) 782-2094/2097F [www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/quincy.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/quincy.asp).
- Alton National Cemetery, 600 Pearl Street, Alton, IL 62003 Tel: (314) 260-8691 or (800) 535-1117 or (314) 260-8723F [www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/alton.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/alton.asp).

Abraham Lincoln, Danville, Camp Butler and Mound City national cemeteries have space available for casketed and cremated remains. Alton has space available for cremated remains and can accommodate casketed remains in the gravesites of previously interred family members. Quincy is closed to new interments, but can bury family members in existing gravesites.

### **Incarcerated Veterans Program**

The Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program (IVTP), is a multi-agency initiative operated by the Illinois Departments of Corrections, Veterans' Affairs and Employment Security, and aimed

at cutting down the recidivism rate among veterans. To date, nearly 300 incarcerated veterans have voluntarily participated in the program, which is expected to further expand to all of the state's medium and minimum-security correctional centers.

### **Veterans Conservation Corps**

The Veterans Conservation Corps is a joint program from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Volunteers are needed and there is a variety of opportunities available so there is something for everyone. If you are interested in becoming a member of Conservation Corps, the first step is to meet with a Veteran Service Officer in your area or call the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

### **Veteran of the Month**

Each month, on behalf of the Illinois Governor, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Director will recognize an individual who contributes to the betterment of communities and other Veterans across the State of Illinois. For more information, contact IDVA at (312) 814-5538.

### **Memorials**

Illinois has three state Veterans Memorials dedicated to those Illinoisans who fought for and some who lost their lives for our nations freedom during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Middle East Conflicts. Learn More at:

- World War II Memorial [state memorial]  
<https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/features/memorials/Pages/WWIIIllinoisVeteransMemorial.aspx>
- Korean War Memorial [state memorial]  
<https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/features/memorials/Pages/korean-war-memorial.aspx>
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial [state memorial]  
<https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/features/memorials/Pages/vietnam-veterans-memorial.aspx>
- Middle East Conflicts Memorial Wall [non-state memorial]  
<https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/features/memorials/Pages/middle-east-conflicts-memorial.aspx>

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Visit the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs website for contact information and benefits assistance at <https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/default.aspx>.

[Source: <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/illinois-state-veterans-benefits.html> | February 2019 ++]