

Maryland State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts



2019

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

- Housing Benefits
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Recreation Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Maryland Veteran Housing Programs

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

Maryland's veteran's home is located on 125 acres on the site of the former Charlotte Hall Military Academy in Charlotte Hall, Maryland. Opened in 1985, the 504-bed facility provides a continuum of care from the 168-bed Assisted Living unit to a higher level of care in the 286-bed Skilled Nursing Home. The Home is Medicare/Medicaid certified, and all veterans receive a per diem subsidy from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This benefit is used to lower the veteran's out of pocket expenses. Needless to say, this enables veterans and their families to save significantly. The current US Department of Veterans Affairs per diem rates as of October 1, 2018 are:

- \$109.73 per day for Nursing Home Care = \$3,291.90 per month savings.
- \$47.36 per day for Assisted Living Care = \$1,420.80 per month savings

The cost to a veteran requiring Assisted Living Care is calculated at 90% of the veteran's monthly net income, but not more than the full monthly cost. Sources of income include Social Security, Pension, Annuity and Retirement Income, etc. In most cases, veterans are permitted to keep 10% of their net monthly income as a spending allowance, and pay a monthly cost of 90% of their net income. The US Department of Veterans Affairs Per Diem is calculated as a credit to the monthly statement. The balance between the per diem credit and the veteran's monthly income is subsidized by the State of Maryland. A non-veteran spouse wishing to reside in Assisted Living is required to pay the full cost of their care, prescriptions and ancillary services.

The cost to a veteran requiring Nursing Home Care is based on the veteran's personal resources, long term care insurance, Medicare and Medicaid (if you meet eligibility requirements). Highly trained staff is available to assist you in understanding your individual circumstances in relation to payment for skilled and long term care services rendered by Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. A veteran rated 70% or greater with a service connected disability may be entitled to the full cost of nursing home care. Our on-site Veterans Service Officer, Lisa Donor, can assist you with benefit questions at ldonor@hmrmd.com or 301-884-8171, Ext. 429.

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home provides on-site medical services including Physicians, Rehabilitation, Dentistry, Optometry and Podiatry. The home has an on-site Pharmacy services including a Pharmacist, which will improve the quality of services, reduce waste, and provide readily available pharmacist support on a daily basis. In addition to long-term and primary medical care, the Home makes available diagnostic and medical services such as psychiatric, dental, podiatry, optometry, laboratory and radiology that are furnished to residents by outside providers. The Home offers full range of on-site rehabilitation services including Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. Our Rehab gym is filled with state-of-the-art equipment, and staff who strive to help residents achieve their optimum level of function and return to an independent life as quickly as possible.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs works closely with the management contractor's staff to ensure veterans receive the best care possible in a clean, caring environment. The staff understands and respects the sacrifices veterans have made and "Serving Those Who Served" is a privilege. The Home is inspected annually, as required by the Office of Health Care Quality, MD Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene, and by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Refer to <http://www.charhall.org> to view a monthly activity calendar for assisted living, skilled nursing, and memory care patients

Admission eligibility requirements:

- Honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the legal spouse of a veteran eligible to be admitted to Charlotte Hall*
- Maryland resident
- Age 62 or older, unless disabled and unable to work

To apply for admission you will need a:

- Copy of your DD 214 and a completed Admission Application downloadable at the website <http://www.charhall.org/content/admissions/file/ADMISSION%20APPLICATION%20WITH%20CHECKLIST%2011.28.14.pdf>
- Medical Documentation (must be dated within 30 days of admission date)

Send your completed application to: admissions@charhall.org, or Lisa Murphy, Admissions Coordinator, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, 29449 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, Maryland 20622 Tel: 301-884-8171 Ext. 1409# or 1-800-522-VETS | FAX 301-263-7194. For additional information refer to <http://www.charhall.org>



Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
29449 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Housing Services

Maryland offers a number of programs designed to support home ownership and to ensure the availability of affordable housing. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development facilitates a number of these programs, in addition to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs which provides services under the U.S. VA Health Care System. Programs exist to help low income citizens pay heating bills and make energy costs more affordable. The Maryland Department of Human Resources offers a number of homeless and home ownership programs through local Departments of Social Services, as well as food assistance through a variety of collaborative partnerships.

Refer to <http://veterans.maryland.gov/housing-services> for amplifying information on available housing services.

Maryland Financial Assistance Benefits

Tax Preparation

Maryland CASH Campaign through its partners offers free tax preparation for those earning under \$54,000 annually. For tax site information, visit: <http://mdcash.org/free-tax-preparation/info-for-taxpayers/free-tax-prep-locations>. Need help finding the nearest free tax preparation program? Go to <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep> for a full listing of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE).

Property Tax Exemption

A property tax exemption is available to veterans who are permanently and totally disabled from service-connected causes, for their primary residence located in the State of Maryland. The exemption passes to the veteran's spouse upon his or her death. The surviving spouse of active duty military personnel who

died in the line of duty as well as the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran, or a spouse who receives the dependency and indemnity compensation (effective June 30, 2006) may also receive an exemption. Go to <http://www.dat.state.md.us>, Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, website at for additional information.

Active Duty Pay Income Tax Exemption

Up to \$15,000 of military pay may be excluded if earned while serving outside the United States or its possessions.

Military Retired Pay Income Tax Exemption

Military retirees are exempt from Maryland income tax on the first \$5,000, with an increase to the first \$15,000 (once they become over the age of 65), of their retirement income.

Maryland Exclusion

If you are 65 or older, totally disabled, or your spouse is totally disabled, you may qualify for Maryland's maximum pension exclusion of \$27,100. If you're eligible, you may be able to subtract some of your taxable pension and retirement annuity income from your federal adjusted gross income. This subtraction applies only if:

- You were 65 or older or totally disabled, or your spouse was totally disabled, on the last day of the tax year; and
- You included on your federal return income received as a pension, annuity or endowment from an "employee retirement system." A traditional IRA, a Roth IRA, a simplified employee plan (SEP), a Keogh Plan or an ineligible deferred compensation plan does not qualify

Vessel Excise Tax

Active duty military personnel are exempt from the 5% vessel excise tax levied on the sale, resale or transfer of a vessel. The exemption is for not more than one year to current owners of vessels who are members of the armed services and who are serving on active duty.

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax – Exemption for Returning Military Members

As a new resident of Maryland, you must title your vehicle within 60 days of moving to Maryland. Proof of military status (i.e. military ID or equivalent) must be submitted to be eligible for an excise tax credit. Active duty military personnel who are residents of Maryland seeking to register an out-of-state vehicle may not be required to pay the full Maryland excise tax if they apply for a transfer of title and tags to Maryland within one year of becoming a Maryland resident or within a year of returning from deployment. For more information on titling an out-of-state vehicle in Maryland visit the Motor Vehicle Administration website <http://www.mva.maryland.gov> for more information.

Scholarships

A number of scholarships are available to veterans, military personnel, and dependents in Maryland. In addition to the following scholarships listed, more information on financial assistance, programs, applications, and condition of awards, can be found by going to the Maryland Higher Education Commission at <http://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/default.aspx>

1. Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship

The Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program is designed to provide financial assistance to United States Armed Forces personnel who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts, and their sons, daughters, or spouses who are current high school seniors, and full-time and part-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students enrolled in an eligible accredited Maryland post secondary institution. Eligibility extends to Uniformed Services Members of the United States who served in Afghanistan, or contiguous air space as defined in federal regulations, on or after October 24, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense; or in Iraq, or contiguous waters or air space as defined in federal regulations, on or after March 19, 2003, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense, may apply for a scholarship if they are:

- A veteran who served at least 60 days in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts, as defined above;
- An active duty member of the Armed Forces who served at least 60 days in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts, as defined above;
- A member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts and served at least 60 days, as defined above; or
- A son, daughter, or spouse of:
 - A veteran or active duty member of the Armed Forces who is serving or has served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts at least 60 days, as defined above; or
 - A member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces or Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts and served at least 60 days, as defined above.

2. Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship

The Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship is designed to provide aid for tuition and other educational expenses to veterans and their family members who are attending an institution of higher learning within the borders of the State of Maryland. You must be:

- The son or daughter of a member of the United States Armed Forces who died, or is 100 percent disabled as a direct result of military service;
- A veteran who suffers, as a direct result of military service, a disability of 25 percent or greater and has exhausted or is no longer eligible for federal veterans educational benefits;
- The son, daughter or surviving spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, who died as a result of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the attack on the Pentagon in Virginia, or the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania;
- A POW/MIA of the Vietnam Conflict or his/her son or daughter;
- Or a state or local public safety employee or volunteer who was 100 percent disabled in the line of duty.

Veterans Trust Fund

Legislation establishing the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund was passed during the 2009 Session of the Maryland General Assembly and signed into law on May 19th, 2009. In 2013, the legislation was amended and the Trust is now a 501(c)(3) fund. The legislation authorizes the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to receive donations, and then make grants and loans to veterans and their family

members who are in dire financial situations, or to private organizations that help veterans (homeless programs, substance abuse programs, etc.). The Trust Fund gives citizens, businesses, and other organizations a way to express their support to veteran causes through their donations and contributions.

Applications for grants/loans from the Trust Fund are reviewed by the Maryland Trust Fund Review Committee, which consists of the Deputy Secretary, MDVA Directors, and representatives from the Maryland Veterans Commission and the Maryland Veterans Home Commission. Recommendations are made to the Secretary or designee, who makes the final decision on whether or not an application is approved.

For more information and to request an application for the Veterans Trust Fund contact the MDVA Grant Administrator, Mark Hendricks at 800-446-4926, ext. 6460. Please note, incomplete applications will not be accepted. Upon completion of the application, mail to:

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Attn: Grant Administrator

Federal Building, Room 3020

31 Hopkins Plaza

Baltimore, MD 21201

Refer to <http://veterans.maryland.gov/category/services/finance> for amplifying information on available financial assistance benefits.

Maryland Employment Benefits

Employment Veterans' Preference (State)

The appointing authority for skilled and professional appointments will award a credit of ten points on any selection test to:

- An eligible Veteran,
- The Spouse of an eligible Veteran who has a service-connected disability, or
- The surviving Spouse of a deceased eligible Veteran.

A credit of two additional points will be given to any Veteran with a service-connected disability.

Military Personnel Veteran-Owned Small Business No-Interest Loan Program

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, in consultation with the MDVA, offers no-interest loans via the Military Personnel and Veteran-Owned Small Business No-Interest Loan Program for the following categories:

- A small business owned by a military reservist or a National Guard member called to active duty
- A small business that employs a military reservist or National Guard member called to active duty
- A Veteran small business owner or a Veteran seeking to start a small business
- A small business that employs a service disabled Veteran

CDL License

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration will waive the CDL skills test requirements for Veterans discharged within 12 months of application date, and active-duty personnel who meet the specific criteria and wish to obtain a CDL for classes A or B.

Employment & Business Assistance Programs

Maryland offers several employment assistance programs to help veterans successfully transition to a civilian career. In addition the state offers several programs to help veterans start and run their own small business enterprises. Refer to <http://veterans.maryland.gov/category/services/jobs-and-training> for amplifying information on available employment and business assistance benefits

Maryland Veteran Recreation Benefits

Free Hunting Licenses for Disabled Veteran

A free lifetime hunting license is available to Maryland residents certified as a former Prisoners of War, or 100% service connected disabled veterans. The lifetime license includes the bow stamp, muzzleloader stamp, and furbearer permit. The Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp is not part of the Complimentary License.

Free Fishing Licenses for Disabled Veterans

A free lifetime license is available to Maryland residents who are 100% service connected disabled American Veterans or former Prisoners of War (POW).The license incorporates both the non-tidal angler's license and the Chesapeake Bay sport fishing license. It does not, however, include the trout stamp.

Active Duty MD Resident Hunting Licenses

Maryland residents on active duty and home on leave do not need to purchase a hunting license, deer stamps, or DNR Managed Hunt Permit; however, they must purchase a Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp, a federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, and a Furbearer Permit.

Active Duty MD Resident Fishing Licenses

Maryland residents on active duty and home on leave do not need to purchase a fishing license for fishing in tidal waters.

Admission to State Parks

The Maryland Park Service offers an Access MD Pass for free entry to State Parks to individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the Golden Age Pass allows free entry to individuals 62 and older.

Other Maryland State Veteran Benefits

Veterans Benefit Claims Assistance Program

The Service and Benefits Program of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs assists veterans and eligible dependents in acquiring their benefits. The staff of the Service Program is authorized to represent veterans and their dependents before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as well as provide general information to those seeking assistance, regardless of representation.

Statistic indicates that veterans represented by accredited organizations receive significantly greater disability benefits than their non-represented counterparts. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs certified Service Officers honor and assist veterans, their dependents and survivors with all aspects of their Federal and State benefits. The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has 10 Service Offices and 14 Satellite Outreach Offices throughout the state ensuring quality representation in the community. You are encourage to use them. To contact the Maryland service offices refer to the below. To contact the Outreach offices call the nearest Service Office or refer to the Maryland Service guide at: <https://veterans.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/04/MDVA-Benefits-Guide-Proof-April-2015-Compressed.pdf>

- Baltimore: Regional Office, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Room 3020, Baltimore, MD 21201 Tel: 800-446-4926, ext. 6450
- Bel Air: State Office Building, Bel Air, MD 21014 Tel: 410-836-4900 Russ Biondo, Veterans Service Officer
- Camp Springs: Harriet Hunter Building, 6420 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20748 Tel: 301-248-0463 Telisha Johnson, Veterans Service Officer
- Charlotte Hall: 29431 Charlotte Hall Road, Room 211, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 Tel: 301-884-8171 extension 7155
- Cumberland: 12501 Willowbrook Road, Room 2-014, Cumberland, MD 21502 Tel: 301-759-5251/5252 Aaron Clark, Veterans Service Officer
- Easton: 11 South Harrison Street, P.O. Box 1148 (mailing address), Easton, MD 21601 Tel: 410-690-7181 Janet C. Thomas, Area Supervisor
- Frederick: Multi-Service Center, 100 West Patrick Street, Rm 2120, Frederick, MD 21701 Tel: 301-600-2155 George Kauffman, Area Supervisor
- Hagerstown: District Court, 33 W. Washington Street, Room 201, Hagerstown, MD 21740 Tel: 301-791-0356 James Lichtinger, Veterans Service Officer
- Rockville: Montgomery College, Counseling & Advising Bldg, Room CB103, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, MD 20850 Tel: 240-567-5405, 240-567-4361
- Salisbury: 201 Baptist Street, Salisbury, MD 21801 Tel: 410-713-3482 Michelle Licata, Veterans Service Officer

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Centers

The VA provides readjustment counseling at community-based Vet Centers located near veterans and their families. All Vet Center services are prepaid through military service. Readjustment counseling is offered to eligible Veterans and their families to help make a successful transition from military to civilian life. If you, or a family member, served in any combat zone and received a military campaign ribbon (Vietnam, Southwest Asia, OEF, OIF, etc.) than your family is eligible for Vet Center services which are located at:

- Aberdeen Vet Center Outstation 223 W. Bel Air Avenue Aberdeen, MD 21001 410-272-6771

- Annapolis Vet Center 100 Annapolis Street, Suite 102 Annapolis, MD 21401 410-605-7826
- Baltimore County – Dundalk Vet Center 1553 Merritt Blvd. Dundalk, MD 21222 410-282-6144
- Baltimore Vet Center 1777 Reisterstown Road, Suite 199 Baltimore, MD 21208 410-764-9400
- Elkton Vet Center 103 Chesapeake Blvd., Suite A Elkton, MD 21921 410-392-4485
- Prince George’s County Vet Center 7905 Malcolm Road, Suite 101 Clinton, MD 20735 301-856-7173
- Salisbury Vet Center Outstation 926 Snowhill Road, Bldg.3 Salisbury, MD 21804 443-257-1487
- Silver Spring Vet Center 2900 Linden Lane Silver Spring, MD 20910 301-589-1073
- Washington DC Vet Center 1250 Taylor Street, NW Washington, DC 20011 202-726-5212

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers

- Baltimore VA Medical Center 10 North Greene Street Baltimore, MD 21201 410-605-7000
- Martinsburg VA Medical Center 510 Butler Avenue, Martinsburg, WV 25405 304-263-0811
- Perry Point VA Medical Center VA Medical Center Perry Point, MD 21902 410-642-2411
- Loch Raven VA Community Living and Rehabilitation Center 3900 Loch Raven Blvd Baltimore, MD 21218 410-605-7000
- Washington DC VA Medical Center 50 Irving Street NW Washington, DC 20422 202-745-8000

U.S. Department Of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinics

- Cambridge 830 Chesapeake Drive Cambridge, MD 21613 410-228-6243
- Charlotte Hall 29431 Charlotte Hall Road Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 301-884-7102
- Cumberland 200 Glenn Street Cumberland, MD 21502 301-724-0061
- Fort Detrick 1433 Porter Street Frederick, MD 21702 301-624-1200
- Fort Howard 9600 North Point Road Ft. Howard, MD 21052 410-477-1800
- Fort Meade 2479 5th Street Ft. Meade, MD 20755 410-305-5300
- Glen Burnie 808 Landmark Drive, Suite 128 Glen Burnie, MD 21061 410-590-4140
- Greenbelt 7525 Greenway Center Dr. Greenway East Professional Center, Suite T-4 Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-345-2463
- Hagerstown 1101 Opal Court Hub Plaza Bldg. Hagerstown, MD 21742 301-665-1462
- Loch Raven VA Outpatient Clinic 3901 The Alameda Loch Raven (Baltimore), MD 21218 410-605-7650
- Pocomoke City 1701 Market Street, Unit 211 Pocomoke, MD 21851 410-605-7650
- Southern Prince George’s County 820 Chesapeake Street, SE Washington, DC 20032 202-745-8685
- Southeast Washington DC 820 Chesapeake Street, SE Washington, DC 20032 202-745-8685
- Community Resource and Referral Center 1500 Franklin Street, NE Washington, DC 20018 202-636-7660

State Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Program

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs’ Cemetery Program is the largest State Veterans Cemetery Program in the nation and provides a dignified and compassionate interment for veterans and their dependents. Interment services are conducted Monday through Friday, excluding State holidays and weekends. Cemeteries are open to visitors daily from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The gates close at 4:45

p.m. to allow visitors to exit the cemetery; however, on Memorial Day (the date of State observance) the cemetery remains open until 8:00 p.m.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs administers a system of five state veterans' cemeteries, across the State and oversees the Washington Confederate Cemetery located in the Rose Hill Cemetery. A burial plot is provided to eligible veterans and their eligible dependents, when the veteran is a resident of the State of Maryland and has received an honorable discharge. Plots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to the veteran for burial plot, opening/closing, headstone and State liner (if used). Eligible dependents have a minimal opening/closing cost and a direct cost for State liner (if used). There is also a pre-interment program where veterans can indicate their desire to be buried in one of the five State veteran's cemeteries below and verify their eligibility for burial. On a pre-need basis this Program provides initial eligibility for burial. Please note that a pre-approved interment letter does not finalize eligibility for burial in a Maryland Veterans Cemetery. The MDVA reserves the right to confirm final eligibility for burial at the time of death. To apply complete the [Pre Interment Application](#) and mail to the MDVA Cemetery Program.

- **Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery**, 11301 Crain Hwy, Cheltenham MD 20623 Tel: (301) 372-6398. The Cemetery is located on U.S. Route 301, approximately 8 miles south of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The site consists of 112-acres and was formerly used for agricultural purposes. Currently, the Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery is conducting more than 825 burials each year and is the final resting place for over 23,000 Maryland veterans and their eligible dependents. The cemetery opened for burial in July 1978 and is expected to provide a total of over 50,000 burial sites. The Chapel at the cemetery was dedicated to the memory of Senator Edward T. Conroy, who was instrumental in the passage of legislation enabling the development of Maryland's State Veterans Cemeteries. [Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery Map](#)
- **Crownsville Veterans Cemetery**, 1122 Sunrise Beach Rd, Crownsville MD 21032 Tel: (410) 987-6320. Crownsville State Veterans Cemetery is located off State Route 178 on Sunrise Beach Road. The 103-acre site, originally used for farming, is surrounded by a peaceful Severn River residential community. Near the center of the cemetery is a one-acre family cemetery dating back to 1875. The cemetery is retained by the heirs and assigns of the Carter family in perpetuity. The Crownsville Veterans Cemetery opened in 1980 and has interred more than 21,000 Maryland veterans and their dependents. When fully developed, the site is expected to provide more than 48,000 burial plots. [Crownsville Veterans Cemetery Map](#)
- **Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery**, 6827 East New Market Ellwood Rd, Hurlock MD 21643 Tel: (410) 943-3420 Also offers claims assistance. Phone: (410) 943-0417 or (866) 497-3684 calls from Maryland phone numbers only. Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery at Hurlock is located 2 miles south of Preston and about 5 miles northwest of Hurlock on State Route 331. Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery opened in December 1976 and has utilized approximately 6,300 of the 14,000 available burial sites. Donated by the citizens of Dorchester County, the site was formerly a 51-acre wheat field. The design of this cemetery is unique. The layout of the burial sites is based on a system of radials and concentric circles centered on the American flag in the plaza area of the Chapel. [Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery Map](#)

- **Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery**, 11501 Garrison Forest Rd, Owings Mills MD 21117 Tel: (410) 363-6090. Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery is the most active of Maryland’s 5 Veterans Cemeteries, conducting more than 1,300 burials per year. Currently, this cemetery is the second busiest State Veterans Cemetery in the nation. Since December 1983, when the facility opened, more than 37,000 veterans and their dependents have selected this cemetery as a final resting place. Five phases of cemetery development are expected to provide approximately 46,000 burial sites at this location. The Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery is located on Garrison Forest Road, near the Rosewood State Hospital, in Owings Mills, Maryland. Formerly used for agricultural purposes, the site consists of 110 acres bounded by woodlands. [Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery Map](#).
- **Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery**, 14205 Pleasant Valley Rd, NE, Flintstone MD 21530 Tel: (301) 777-2185. Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery is a 27-acre site located within the Rocky Gap State Park, just off Interstate 68 in Allegany County. Opened in June 1981, The Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery is approximately 5 miles east of Cumberland and is one of the most picturesque cemeteries given the backdrop of mountains. Approaching the cemetery, visitors are treated to views of both Lake Habeeb and Evitt’s Mountain. Over 4,100 veterans and their eligible dependents are interred at the cemetery. Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery has approximately 6,000 available burial sites. Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Sergeant Robert W. Hartsock, is interred at this cemetery. [Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery Map](#)
- **Washington Confederate Cemetery**, 600 South Potomac, St. Hagerstown MD 21740 (No longer open for burials)



Cheltenham



Rocky Gap



Eastern Shore



Crownsville



Garrison Forest

Assignment of Grave Sites

One grave site will be assigned for the burial of an eligible veteran and the eligible members of his or her immediate family. If a family member is to be buried, interment will be either above or below the veteran. Assignment of a grave site will be made on the basis of availability at the cemetery closest to the veteran's home at the time the request for interment is received and after the eligibility of the veteran or family member is established. A particular grave site may not be reserved in advance. All grave sites are assigned on the scheduled date of burial. However, at the time of a veteran's death, if it is established that the surviving spouse is an eligible veteran entitled to a separate grave site, the Department may approve a request to adjoin the grave sites of husband and wife.

The Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery no longer has independently apportioned burial sites for Jewish Veterans. If it is the wish of a Jewish Veteran or family member to be interred in an apportioned section, there are limited burial sites available at the Cheltenham and Crownsville Veterans Cemeteries. The practice of establishing reserved sections for certain categories of individuals is prohibited at all Veteran Affairs National Cemeteries and grant funded State Veteran Cemeteries. The US Department of Veterans Affairs no longer allows apportioning sections of a cemetery to Jewish Veterans. In order for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to meet eligibility criteria for a 100% funded grant from the US Department of Veterans Affairs, the State of Maryland must certify compliance with Section 39.11 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations including all Federal Statutes relating to non-discrimination. Please forward questions relating to this information to Chris Piscitelli, Cemetery Program Director, 410-923-6981.

Interment Receptacles

Maryland law requires the use of an interment receptacle for the interment of all casket remains in a Maryland State Veterans Cemetery. An interment receptacle is either a burial vault or liner constructed of concrete and is intended to protect the casket from water and other elements. A burial liner will be provided by the State for the casket remains of each eligible veteran interred. The liner is provided at no cost to the veteran's next-of-kin. A veteran's eligible dependent may either purchase a liner from the Veterans Cemetery at the actual cost incurred by the Department or may purchase an alternate interment receptacle through the funeral home. If a grave liner that exceeds the standard dimension is required for the burial of an eligible family member, it is the responsibility of the deceased's next-of-kin or their agent to purchase, deliver, and install the grave liner. If a burial vault is desired, arrangements for its delivery and installation must be made independently by the veteran or his/her survivors or his/her legal representative. The cost of the vault and its installation is the responsibility of the veteran or his/her survivors or his/her legal representative.

Caskets

The remains of a veteran or a member of their immediate family shall arrive at the cemetery and be interred in a casket that is acceptable for viewing in a funeral home establishment. The interment of shipping containers, wooden boxes, and other similar containers is not permitted. Once the casket has entered the State Veterans Cemetery, it may not be opened or stored in a cemetery building pending final determination of eligibility. All viewings of the veteran's or family member's remains are to be conducted at a funeral home or other establishment outside the State Veterans Cemetery.

Grave Markers

A permanent grave marker with an appropriate inscription will be furnished for each veteran or eligible dependent by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Each grave site in a State Veterans Cemetery is marked with a single granite marker which contains, when appropriate, the inscription of information about the veteran and other eligible family members interred. The standard grave marker in a State Veterans Cemetery is the flat granite type. Placement of any type other than the standard flat granite marker is prohibited. The Superintendent of the Veterans Cemetery will file an application for a marker on the day of the eligible veteran's or family member's interment. The grave marker shall be installed and maintained by the cemetery at no expense to the veteran or the veteran's estate. Headstones are generally received from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs within 6 months after the date of burial. Please be aware that the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has no jurisdiction over the timeliness of headstone delivery. The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs is not responsible for damage to, or destruction of, a grave marker by individuals other than employees assigned to that cemetery by the Department. In accordance with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs policy, government-provided headstones and markers remain the property of the United States and no one is authorized to alter them in any manner. Flower vases and other objects are not permitted to be affixed to Government markers.

Burial Costs

An eligible veteran receives a burial plot, a grave liner, headstone and interment services at no expense. Other expenses incurred in the preparation or transportation of the remains, including funeral costs, is borne by the veteran's next-of-kin, legal representative or estate. A veteran's dependent will be buried in the plot assigned to the veteran after payment of the following fees:

- An opening and closing charge of \$780 for all eligible dependents of the veteran;
 - This cost is inclusive of casketed and cremated interments and liner cost for dependent spouse(s) or children
- For disinterments or re-interments of casketed or cremated remains, an opening/closing cost of \$780 will be charged for veterans, dependent spouse(s) or children.

The burial of an eligible dependent will be equal to the burial plot allowance provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for burial of a veteran in a State Veterans' Cemetery. The cost is subject to change yearly (October 1) when the burial plot allowance could be adjusted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The MDVA Cemetery Program requires only one check for burial. Checks and money orders should be made payable to *Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs* prior to interment. The following forms of payment for opening/closing and liners are acceptable:

- funeral home/mortuary business check
- cashier's check
- money order

Placement of Floral Tributes

The placement of floral items and flags on graves, other than on the day of interment, is subject to the following conditions:

- Fresh cut flowers may be placed on graves at any time in metal containers. Glass containers are not permitted.
- Flowers and temporary containers will be removed from graves as soon as bouquets become unsightly. During the growing season, when grass requires cutting, both fresh flowers and those that have become unsightly will be removed from graves prior to grounds maintenance.

- Artificial flowers and wreaths may be placed on graves from November 1 through March 31 only.
- Wreaths and seasonal displays are permitted only from December 1 through January 31. Any seasonal displays remaining on graves as of February 1st will be removed and discarded. It is recommended that family members and friends retrieve valuable floral arrangements before that date to avoid disappointment.
- With the exception of Christmas, potted plants and holiday wreaths may be placed on graves 10 days before and 10 days after Easter Sunday and Memorial Day (the date of State observance). Potted plants and wreaths are not permitted on graves at any other time.
- Permanent plantings, statues, vigil lights, glass objects, commemorative and religious items are not permitted on graves. All unauthorized items will be removed and discarded by cemetery personnel.
- Floral items and seasonal or other decorations may not be secured or placed on trees, shrubs or other appurtenances within the cemetery.

Over 40,000 interments have been conducted in Maryland State Veterans Cemeteries. The Department cannot adequately police all grave sites to deter theft and cannot be responsible for stolen or missing floral items. It is recommended that family members or friends avoid placing expensive, elaborate, floral tributes that may invite theft on grave sites. Small United States flags will be placed on graves by Department personnel at least one day preceding Memorial Day (the date of State observance) and will be removed the day following the holiday, weather permitting. Flags are not permitted on graves at any other time. Effective September 1, 1997, the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs will no longer accept permanent in-ground flower containers in its five veterans cemeteries.

Military Funeral Honors

The Maryland National Guard Honor Guard (MDNGHG) offers Military Funeral Honors to veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and were separated with a discharge other than Dishonorable. The MDNGHG operates out of 4 locations throughout the state providing professional and dignified services to departed Maryland veterans. They also participate in presenting Colors at special occasions and events such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and various patriotic ceremonies. These highly motivated and well trained Honor Guardsmen are governed by their motto "In Solemn Dignity." Visit the Maryland Military Department's [Funeral Program](#) for more information. To speak with someone regarding Military Funeral Honors contact the Maryland National Guard Honor Guard at 410-576-6133.

Note: The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, including its employees, or representatives, cannot assume responsibility for providing military honors. If military honors are desired, the survivors of the veteran should address their request to the funeral director.

Refer to <http://veterans.maryland.gov/cemetery-and-memorial-program> for more information on Maryland's veteran cemeteries including costs and visitation policies.

Maryland Veterans Memorials

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs manages three veteran memorials. The Maryland World War II Memorial is in Annapolis, Korean War and Maryland Veterans Vietnam Memorials are in

Baltimore. The Department shares joint responsibility for the War Memorial Building in Baltimore with the City of Baltimore. Location are:

- Maryland World War II Memorial, Route 450 at Naval Academy Bridge 1920 Ritchie Highway, Annapolis, MD 21401
- Maryland Korean War Memorial, Canton Water Park, 2903 Boston Street, Baltimore, MD 21224
- Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Middle Branch Park 2825 South Hanover Street Baltimore, MD 21225
- War Memorial Building, 101 North Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21201



Maryland World War II Memorial



Korean War Memorial



Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial



War Memorial Building

Obtaining Copies of Documents

Whenever a veteran requests benefits and services, a copy of the individual's discharge papers is required to verify eligibility. This includes admission to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland's five veteran cemeteries, VA claims and a myriad of other services provided to veterans and their families. World War II veterans who were Maryland residents at the time of entry into the service, and veterans who were discharged after October 15, 1979 and had a Maryland address at the time of discharge, can contact our Baltimore Office to inquire if we have a copy of their discharge papers. Veterans and their next of kin can also request a copy of the service member's DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty from the National Archives.

Veteran Designation on Maryland Driver's Licenses

Maryland residents can now have 'veteran' designated on driver's licenses. Request this designation at renewal time at no cost to you; or, you may request the veteran designation before your license is up for renewal at the cost of \$20. Please take a copy of your DD214 with you to your local Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) Branch Office.

Disabled Auto Tags

The MVA will accept a letter from the Veterans Administration stating that you have a total (100%) disability and will issue a disability license plate. You can choose any plate, including a veteran plate, and it will display the universal wheelchair symbol.

Veteran Designation on Maryland License Plates

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) has service license plates available for veterans who wish to convey their sense of pride in having served in the U.S. Military. Honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces are eligible to apply for one of the license plates which display the logos of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, or Navy. Combat-related license plates can only be issued to a veteran or active member of the military who furnishes documentation proving receipt of the military award or honor recognized on the plates. Samples of combat-related license plates are available for you to view. You can apply for the plates in person at any of the MVA's full service branch offices. You also can mail your application to the MVA's Specialty Tag Unit in the Glen Burnie office, or go to an MVA licensed tag and title service where they will assist you in applying. To download an application go to <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/resources/docs/VR-120.pdf> Typically, the application documents needed include:

- Application for Military Related License Plates (form #VR-120) – Be sure to include the vehicle's information.
- Proof of combat-related award:
 - Copy of military discharge papers (form #DD214); or
 - Copy of document verifying award (e.g., Purple Heart Certificate); or
 - Written proof from the National Personnel Records Center that the applicant received the award.

Vehicles in the following classes only are permitted to display combat-related license plates:

- A (passenger car)
- M (multi-purpose vehicle)
- EPO (truck with a one ton or less manufacturer's rate capacity)

The following Military Specialty plates are available at a fee of \$25:



[Afghanistan Campaign](#)



[Afghanistan Campaign \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Air Force Cross](#)



[Air Force Distinguished Service Medal](#)



[Air Medal](#)



[Air-Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Airman's Medal](#)



[Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal](#)



[Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Army Commendation Medal - Motorcycle](#)



[Army Commendation Medal - Vehicle](#)



[Army Distinguished Service Medal](#)



[Asiatic Pacific Medal](#)



[Bronze Star Medal](#)



[Bronze Star Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Coast Guard Commendation](#)



[Coast Guard Commendation \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal](#)



[Coast Guard Medal](#)



[Coast Guard Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Combat Action Badge](#)



[Combat Action Badge \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Combat Action Medal](#)



[Combat Action Ribbon](#)



[Combat Action Ribbon \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Combat Infantry Badge](#)



[Combat Infantry Badge \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Combat Medical Badge](#)



[Combat Medical Badge \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Congressional Medal of Honor](#)



[Congressional Medal of Honor \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Defense Distinguished Service Medal](#)



[Defense Meritorious Service Medal](#)



[Defense Superior Service Medal](#)



[Distinguished Flying Cross Medal](#)



[Distinguished Flying Cross Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Distinguished Service Cross Medal](#)



[Global War on Terror \(GWOT\) Expeditionary Medal Plate \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Global War on Terrorism \(GWOT\) Expeditionary Medal](#)



[Global War on Terrorism \(GWOT\) Service Medal](#)



[Gold Lifesaving Medal](#)



[GWOT Service Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Honorably Discharged Veteran](#)



[Honorably Discharged Veteran \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Iraq Campaign Medal](#)



[Iraq Campaign Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Joint Service Commendation Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Joint Service Commendation Medal Vehicle](#)



[Korean Service Medal](#)



[Korean Service Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Kosovo Campaign](#)



[Legion of Merit](#)



[Legion of Merit \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Marine Corps Expeditionary](#)



[Meritorious Service Medal](#)



[Meritorious Service Medal \(Motorcycle\)](#)



[National Defense Service Medal](#)



[National Defense Service Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Navy and Marine Corps Medal](#)



[Navy Commendation Medal](#)



[Navy Commendation Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Navy Cross](#)



[Navy Distinguished Service Medal](#)



[Navy Expeditionary Medal](#)



[Navy Expeditionary Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Navy Unit Commendation](#)



[Navy Unit Commendation \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Presidential Service Badge](#)



[Purple Heart Medal](#)



[Purple Heart Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Silver Star \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Silver Star Medal](#)



[Soldier's Medal](#)



[Southwest Asia Service Medal](#)



[Southwest Asia Service Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Transportation Distinguished Service Medal](#)



[United States Air Force](#)



[United States Air Force \(motorcycle\)](#)



[United States Army](#)



[United States Army \(motorcycle\)](#)



[United States Coast Guard](#)



[United States Coast Guard \(motorcycle\)](#)



[United States Marine Corps](#)



[United States Marine Corps \(motorcycle\)](#)



[United States Navy](#)



[United States Navy \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Veteran U.S. Air Force](#)



[Veteran U.S. Air Force \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Veteran U.S. Army](#)



[Veteran U.S. Army \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Veteran U.S. Coast Guard](#)



[Veteran U.S. Coast Guard \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Veteran U.S. Marine Corps](#)



[Veteran U.S. Marine Corps \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Veteran U.S. Navy](#)



[Veteran U.S. Navy \(motorcycle\)](#)



[Vietnam Service Medal](#)



[Vietnam Service Medal \(motorcycle\)](#)



[World War II Veteran](#)



[Gold Star Family](#)

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Visit the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.mdva.state.md.us/index.html> and Services Guide <https://veterans.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/04/MDVA-Benefits-Guide-Proof-April-2015-Compressed.pdf> for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/maryland-state-veterans-benefits> October 2017 ++]

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