

Maryland State Veterans' Benefits



2021

The State of Maryland as of Dec. 31, 2020 per Defense Manpower Data Center contained a Military community that consisted of the following:

- 35,531 active-duty service members
- 14,979 active-duty spouses
- 29,868 active-duty children
- 26,516 National Guard and reserve members
- 11,325 National Guard and reserve spouses
- 17,573 National Guard and reserve children

Additionally, as of 2021 there were 430,000 residents who are veterans of the Armed Forces. As veterans they have earned benefits for themselves and potentially for their families, but they must apply to receive these benefits. Maryland is grateful for their service and wants to ensure they receive all the support they deserve. The state's Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) is a state agency that provides several types of programs to assist the veterans. General eligibility requirements include military service and state residency. Specific programs may have additional requirements. Spouses and dependents of deceased veterans who meet eligibility requirements may also be eligible for certain programs and services.

DA provides five VA Medical Centers, 14 Community based Outpatient Clinics, and nine Vet Centers for veteran utilization throughout the state. Field Benefit Representatives certified in filing claims and appeals, as well as, VA healthcare applications, are available free of charge throughout the state. They are and can assist to help make your transition as smooth as possible to civilian life and state residency. You can find their locations by going to <https://veterans.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/06/2021-MDVA-Quick-Ref-Guide.pdf>.

Maryland provides several veteran benefits in conjunction with or in addition to federal benefits. This Bulletin attachment provides a brief description of those benefits in the following areas:

- Housing
- Financial Assistance
- Employment
- Education
- Recreation
- Driver and Vehicle Licensing
- Burial
- Taxation
- Women Veterans
- Other

Housing

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 facility provides a continuum of care from the 126-bed Assisted Living unit to a higher level of care in the 318-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 US Department of Veterans Affairs per diem rates as of October 1, 2020 were:

- \$115.62 per day for **Nursing Home Care** = \$3,370.80 per month savings
- \$49.91 per day for **Assisted Living Care** = \$1,455.00 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.

Financial Assistance

Tax Preparation

Need help finding the nearest free tax preparation program? Go to <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep> and enter your zip code for a 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. For additional information go to Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation <http://www.dat.state.md.us> and <https://dat.maryland.gov/realproperty/Pages/Maryland-Homestead-Tax-Credit.aspx> websites.

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 & SBP 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 reach the age of 55 years old on the last day of the taxable year), 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 for one year. The exemption applies only to vessels currently registered elsewhere and brought into Maryland because of the duty transfer. New purchases are not exempt. For more information on the vessel excise tax credit visit the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website.

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.

Veterans Trust Fund

This is a Non-emergency, temporary financial assistance program. Legislation establishing it 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.

The program aims to assist those that will be self-reliant after receiving the assistance. The program cannot address chronic issues. An application review committee approves or denies all qualified applications. The committee meets, on average, once every 4-6 weeks. The program now has a permanent funding source through slot revenue received from Veteran Service Organizations under the State Lottery. The program is mostly used for assistance with rent/mortgage and utilities. The trust does not assist with: taxes, child support, speeding tickets, legal fees, payday and interpersonal loans, credit card debt, home repairs, food, appliances, and vehicle purchases. Additionally the trust does not find housing for veterans

Applicant Criteria:

- Must be Maryland residents for at least 24 months at the time of application
- Must be eligible for burial in a Maryland State Veterans Cemetery
- Must have an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions
- Applicant income may not exceed 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. For a single veteran 200% is \$23,760. USDVA benefits, Social Security, and Social Security Disability count as income
- Widows and widowers may apply as long as they have the discharge of the deceased veteran and a certificate of death
- All applications must include 3 months of bank statements, DD-214, 2 previous pay stubs (if working), and the bills/invoices they are seeking assistance with
- All awarded grant money goes to vendors on the invoices, not the veteran
- Veterans are vetted during interviews before their application is forwarded to committee

To Apply

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 or by email mark.hendricks@maryland.gov 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

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. Refer to <https://veterans.maryland.gov/maryland-department-of-veterans-affairs-veterans-trust-fund> for more info.

Employment

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.

Certified Disabled Veteran Eligibility

In accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Personnel and Pensions, Section 7–203, if a manager elects to hire from a certified list of disabled veterans, who have served in any U.S. Armed Forces branch, candidates may be selected for employment without a competitive selection process. To qualify, candidates must: be minimally qualified for the position; be able to perform the duties of the job with or without a reasonable accommodation; and present documentation issued by an appropriate department of the Federal government certifying the existence and extent of the veteran’s disability as listed below.

- Documentation of being on an U.S. Armed Forces permanent disability list with a disability rating of at least 30%
- Have been rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having a compensable service-connected disability of at least 30%.

The veteran is not qualified for this option if he/she holds a permanent appointment or has mandatory reinstatement rights to a permanent appointment. For Certified Disabled Vet consideration, complete the free names application process for Certified Disabled Veterans (DV) within our Maryland State Online Employment Center and complete the application at <https://jobapscloud.com/MD/sup/abfreenames.asp>.

Information for Veterans Seeking Employment, State Government Jobs

Refer to <https://veterans.maryland.gov/job-seeker-resources> if any of the following apply to you:

- Are you ready to search for a job or that next career?
- Do you need one on one assistance as you search for a job or that next career?

- Are you in the National Guard or Reserve Component and searching for a job or that next career?
- Are you looking for Maryland State Government Careers for Veterans?

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.

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Refer to <https://veterans.maryland.gov/category/services/employment> for more information on Maryland Veteran employment.

Education

Maryland National Guard State Tuition Waiver (STW): ALL state-supported colleges / universities (Except UMUC) offer tuition waiver for members of the Guard when taking credited, undergraduate or graduate courses. Each institution has their own rules that govern the number of seats available and the number of credit hours eligible for tuition waiver. Classes held at Maryland National Guard locations are available to all Guard members with a 25% or 50% tuition waiver, regardless of space available. Professional courses are not eligible for STW. However, can now be used for Trade Schools in partnership with the Maryland Army National Guard.

Applicant must be a Maryland National Guard Service member in good standing and must have a two-year obligation remaining from the course start date. Also with State Tuition Assistance Reimbursement, Montgomery G.I. Bill, Federal Tuition Assistance. Refer to [https://military.maryland.gov/NG/Documents/State Tuition Waiver%202017%20Waiver.pdf](https://military.maryland.gov/NG/Documents/State_Tuition_Waiver%202017%20Waiver.pdf) for the waiver letter. Learn more about the Maryland National Guard State Tuition Waiver (STW) at <http://mdarmyguard.com/moneyforcollege.htm>.

Maryland National Guard State Tuition Assistance Reimbursement (STAR): STAR reimburses Maryland Guard Members up to 50% tuition and related fees at all Partners in Education colleges and universities. The Guard member receives tuition reimbursement directly from the State of Maryland. STAR reimburses students 50% of the cost of tuition and related fees at all Maryland State supported Colleges/Universities, some private institutions and Trade Schools. It is available for undergraduate courses and may be used in conjunction with State Tuition Waiver, Montgomery GI Bill, and Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA). Tuition is reimbursed for grades “C” and above.

To be eligible you must be a member of the Maryland National Guard in good standing, must be in pay grade E-1 through O-4 and you must have a two-year obligation remaining from the course start date. Refer to <http://mdarmyguard.com/moneyforcollege.htm> to learn more about STAR

Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship & Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program: The Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship & Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program offers 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. This award is not based on financial need.

The amount of your award may not exceed the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees, of a resident undergraduate at a four-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University College and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate. Initial awards made after July 1, 2010 will be automatically renewed by the financial aid office at the institution you are attending for the next academic year. For questions concerning your renewal award, please contact your college's financial aid office.

Awards may be held for five years of full-time study (12+ credits per semester) or eight years of part-time study (6-11 credits per semester) or a combination of both. Audited courses cannot be used to reach the minimum credit hours required for full-time or part-time status. To be eligible you must be:

- Enrolled at a two-year or four-year Maryland college or university, as a full-time or part-time, degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate student or attend a private career school
- A Maryland resident, and if dependent, your parents must also be Maryland residents (except for Spouses and Children of public safety officers killed in the line of duty); or
- The Son, Daughter, step-Child or Surviving Spouse (who has not remarried) of a member of the United States Armed Forces who died or was 100 percent disabled as a direct result of military service; or
- 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; or
- The Son, Daughter, step-Child or Surviving Spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack 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; or
- A POW/MIA of the Vietnam Conflict or their son, daughter or step-Child or Surviving Spouse (who has not remarried).

Your award will be renewed if you continue to meet eligibility requirements as outlined above and maintain the satisfactory academic progress standards of your institution each year. A Program Fact Sheet is available at: <https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Documents/Financial%20Aid/2015-2016%20Conroy%20Conditions%20of%20Award%20Renewal.pdf>. To learn more about this Scholarship Program refer to: https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_conroy.aspx.

Maryland Higher Education Commission Veterans of the Afghanistan & Iraq Conflicts (VAIC) Scholarship Program: This 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 postsecondary institution. Eligibility extend 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.

Applicants must be residents of Maryland, must be accepted for admission or enrolled in a regular undergraduate program at an eligible Maryland institution, or be accepted for admission or enrolled in a 2-year terminal certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program at an eligible Maryland institution. Students must be enrolled as either a full-time (12+ credits per semester) or part-time (6-11

credits per semester) undergraduate student. **Note:** Residents of Maryland include active members of the United States Armed Forces, their Spouses and their dependent Children who are stationed in the State of Maryland or whose home of residency is Maryland.

The application period begins in January; applications must be received by 1 MAR of each year. The application process begins online at the Maryland Higher Education Application webpage <https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us/MDCAPS/login.aspx?c=-8585750315551060342&ReturnUrl=/MDCAPS/int/FinAid/index.aspx>, with all required supporting documentation, including:

- A Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filed by March 1 each year
- Birth Certificate showing the names of both Parents (for Child of a Veteran)
- Marriage Certificate (for Spouse of a Veteran)
- Documentation of GI Bill benefits (Ch 33 or Post-9/11)
- Documentation of military orders:
 - United States Armed Forces - Active Duty: copy of current official military orders: documentation of service in Afghanistan/Iraq
 - United States Armed Forces - Veteran: copy of Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD214)
 - United States Armed Forces - Reserve Component: copy of Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD214)
 - Maryland National Guard: copy of Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD214)

Note: DD214 must include dates served and where served (Afghanistan/Iraq or contiguous waters or air space). If information is not on DD214, other official documentation must be provided with dates and places as listed above.

The award amount may not exceed 50% of the annual tuition, mandatory fees, and room & board of a resident undergraduate at the four-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University College and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate. Award amounts are tentative and may be adjusted based on verification of Veterans Educational Benefits received under Chapter 33 or Post-9/11 GI Bill. The 2019-2020 maximum award amounts are shown below:

- On Campus: up to \$7,316
- With Parents: up to \$4,570
- Off Campus: up to \$5,140

* Note: Awards are subject to availability of funds. The total amount of all State awards may not exceed cost of attendance as determined by the school's financial aid office or \$28,000, whichever is less.

- 2020-2021 VAIC Conditions of Award
- 2020-2021 VAIC Conditions of Award Renewal

Learn more about this Scholarship Program at:
https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_vaic.aspx

Maryland Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children: It is the purpose of this compact to remove barriers to educational success imposed on Children of military Families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

- Facilitating the student placement process through which Children of military Families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content or assessment
- Facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic and social activities
- Facilitating the on-time graduation of Children of military Families
- Providing for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative rules implementing the provisions of this compact
- Providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools and military Families under this compact
- Promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts affecting military Children
- Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents and the student in order to achieve educational success for the student.

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Refer to <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/State/Territory-Benefits/Maryland#Education%20Benefits> for more information on Maryland Veteran education.

Recreation

State Park Day-Use Area Admission Fee Waivers

- *Day-Use Waiver for Active Duty Military / Maryland National Guard* -- Any member of the Maryland National Guard and all active duty military personnel who display their active duty military identification card to the gate attendant at any Maryland State Park day-use area will have their day-use entrance service charge waived. The waiver is valid for the military identification card holder only and not others in the same vehicle, unless a per-vehicle charge is in effect at the time. In that case, the per-vehicle fee is waived. No other facility use service charges will be waived.
- *Day- Waiver for Veterans* -- All applicable day-use entrance charges are waived for all veterans of the United States Armed Forces Use. This waiver applies to both resident and

out-of-state veterans. The waiver is applicable to the veteran only and not others in the same vehicle, unless a per-vehicle charge is in effect at the time. In that case, the per-vehicle fee is waived. No other facility use service charges will be waived.

- Another option for veterans and their families, is the Maryland State Park and Trail Passport that can be purchased for a yearly fee of \$75 (\$100 for non-residents). This pass entitles the holder to unlimited day-use entry for everyone in the vehicle (up to 10 people) to Maryland's state parks, including unlimited boat launching.
- Visit [Maryland Department of Natural Resources Military One Stop Shop](#) website to learn more.

Complimentary Lifetime Hunting/Fishing Licenses

A complimentary lifetime hunting and fishing license is available to Maryland residents certified as a former prisoner of war or a 100% service connected disabled American veteran (Veterans Administration documentation required). The lifetime licenses are available only at DNR Licensing and Registration Service Centers. The fishing license incorporates both the non-tidal angler's license and the Chesapeake Bay sport fishing license. It does not, however, include the trout stamp. The hunting license includes the bow stamp, muzzleloader stamp, and furbearer permit. The Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp is not part of the Complimentary License. The Migratory Game Bird Stamp, Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, and the Big Game Harvest Record are required for each year and can be obtained from a DNR Licensing and Registration Service Center, a sport license agent, or online. To learn more visit the [Department of Natural Resources](#) website. For more information, contact the Department of Natural Resources at 410-260-3220.

Resident Fishing License

- *Resident Senior Consolidated License \$5.00* -- Resident Senior Consolidated License (available to MD residents only) allows a Maryland resident who is 65 years of age or older, or will become 65 years of age in the current calendar year, to fish in the fresh waters of Maryland (including trout) and in Maryland's tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, Atlantic coast and coastal bays 365 days from the date of purchase.
- [*Discounted Fishing and Hunting Licenses for Purple Heart Recipients*](#) -- Any Maryland veteran who has received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained defending our nation now qualifies for a 50 percent discount on Maryland hunting and fishing licenses.
- *Annual exemption to a governmental entity or not-for-profit* to take individuals with physical or mental disabilities who are serving or have served in the armed forces in the tidal or nontidal waters of the state.

Information for Hunters in the Armed Forces

- Maryland residents serving in the United States Armed Forces and stationed in Maryland must purchase a Resident Hunting License before hunting, unless they are on official leave and possess a copy of their official leave orders. Maryland residents serving in the United States Armed Forces, while hunting during official leave in Maryland, 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.
- You must possess a copy of your official leave orders while hunting and comply with the Hunter Education and Safety Requirement.
- Any nonresident serving in the United States Armed Forces whose duty station is in Maryland must purchase a Resident Hunting License before hunting. Any nonresident serving in the United States Armed Forces who is on leave in Maryland, but not stationed in Maryland, must purchase a Nonresident Hunting License before hunting.
- Visit the [Department of Natural Resources](#) website or call 410-260-3220 for more information.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing

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. Refer to https://mva.maryland.gov/Documents/DL-401_10-13_VetBrochure.pdf for amplifying information.



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. They can be viewed at <https://mva.maryland.gov/Pages/License-Plates-Military.aspx#page-9>.

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 <https://mva.maryland.gov/Documents/VR-120.pdf>. Eligible vehicles include:

- Passenger cars
- Multi-purpose vehicles
- Motorcycles
- Trucks (10,000 lbs. or less)

You must submit:

- Application for Military Related License Plates (form #VR-120)
- Applicable fee \$25.00

and one of the following:

- Discharge papers (Form DD-214)
- Medal Certification
- Written proof from National Personnel Records Center or contact the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs 800-230-4444 extension 6450

Burial

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 website <https://military.maryland.gov/mdng/Pages/faq.aspx> 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.

Taxation

Sales Tax

- Statewide: 6.0%
- Counties cannot levy an additional sales tax.
- Common Exceptions at State Level:
 - Prescription Medicine: Exempt
 - Unprepared Foods: Exempt
- Gasoline Tax: 54.70 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local and federal taxes)
- Diesel Fuel Tax: 61.45 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local and federal taxes)
- Cigarette Tax: \$3.75/pack of 20

Personal Income Tax

- Personal Income Tax Rate Range: Eight brackets from 2% to 5.75% (on income over \$250,000)
- Standard deduction: Single filing status: \$2,300. Married Filing Jointly: \$4,650.
- Personal Exemption Allowance: \$3,200 but declines based on income; phased out at \$100,000.
- Dependent Exemption: Same as Personal
- Itemized Deductions Allowed?: Yes, subject to limitations
- Retirement Income
 - Social Security: Exempt
 - IRAs: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - 401Ks/Defined contribution employer retirement plans: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - Private pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - Public Pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
- Military Pay
 - Active Duty Pay: Up to \$15,000 may be exempt if total military pay is less than \$30,000
 - Military Retirement Pay: May be eligible for \$5,000 exclusion if under 55, \$15,000 exclusion if over 55.
 - Military Disability Pay: Exempt
 - VA Disability Dependency & Indemnity Compensation Benefits: Exempt
 - SBP/SSBP/RCSBP/RSFPP: Taxable to the extent included in federal AGI

Income Tax Comments: *Retirement income may be eligible for pension exclusion of \$33,100. Additional exemptions for first responders may be available. State allows county- and city-level income tax.

Property Tax

- Local municipalities average 1.09% of the property's assessed value.

- Calculation of assessed value: 100% of fair market value; increase phased in over three years; reassessed every three years
- Relief programs for:
 - 65 and over: An increase in taxes from prior year may be deferred.
 - Homestead Tax Credit: May be eligible for credit if assessed value increases more than 10% over prior year.
 - Circuit Break Property Tax Deferral: Credit based on income which cannot exceed \$60,000.
 - Disabled Veterans: Full exemption if 100% service-connected disability
- Personal Property Tax: Yes, rates and exemptions are at the discretion of individual municipalities.

Inheritance & Estate Taxes: Property passing to a child or other lineal descendant, spouse of a child or other lineal descendant, spouse, parent, grandparent, stepchild or stepparent, siblings, or a corporation having only certain of these persons as stockholders is exempt from taxation, but a 10% inheritance tax on certain other individuals. A maximum 16% estate tax is imposed on estates over \$5 million.

Department of Revenue website: www.marylandtaxes.gov

Women Veterans

For Women Veterans, VA is Here

VA welcomes women Veterans. We are committed to providing high-quality services in a sensitive and safe environment at all VA facilities. Women Veteran Program Managers are available at [each VA medical center](#) to assist women Veterans with questions and coordinate services (see contact information on this page).

Each woman Veteran is assigned a Women’s Health Primary Care Provider. These experienced providers are trained to deliver comprehensive primary care, as well as routine women’s health care. You will be at the center of a Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) where a provider, nurse, and others will work with you to manage your health care:

- Primary care: general medical care for acute and chronic conditions, such as chronic pain, high blood pressure, and diabetes
- Preventive care: immunizations and cancer screenings (breast and cervical), osteoporosis screening and management
- Gender-specific care
- Birth control, family planning, and preconception counseling

Learn more about the gender-specific services VA has to offer

- [Women Veterans Health Care](#)
- [Health and Wellness](#)
- [Telehealth](#)
- [Maternity Care](#)
- [Infertility](#)
- [Military Sexual Trauma](#)

Women Veterans Call Center

The Women Veterans Call Center provides women Veterans information about VA services and resources, benefits, and eligibility. The toll-free line is available Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. ET and on Saturdays 8:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m. ET. Please see our [Women Veterans Call Center website](#) or call 855-VA-WOMEN (855-829-6636). Call, chat, or text are all available.

Other

Veteran Service Officers

Statistics 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.

Located in communities throughout Maryland, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officers assist veterans and their eligible dependents in acquiring benefits. For assistance, contact the full time office most convenient to you. Appointments for satellite offices may be scheduled through the Program office nearest the satellite location. During your initial visit with MDVA staff, they will review military separation discharge documents, DD214's and individual circumstances of service in order to provide the best possible assistance. Staff will review the three elements of the VA system: the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, and the National Cemeteries Administration. A review of Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs programs will also be completed to include the Maryland Cemetery Program, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, as well as other Maryland programs designed to assist veterans.

A typical visit can also generate a disability compensation/pension claim for submission to the Veterans Benefits Administration. Our Service Officers assist with developing, preparing and submitting compensation/pension claims to the Veterans Benefits Administration. For veterans and dependents who receive our services, staff will track processing claims and assist with additional development requests made by the Veterans Benefits Administration. Once the claims process has been completed, our staff review the Veterans Benefits Administration decision and,

if successful, review all applicable ancillary benefits. It pays to seek representation when filing claims for federal Veterans Affairs disability benefits. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs data shows that veterans represented by accredited organizations receive significantly greater disability benefits than their non-represented counterparts.

To read more about VA benefits, visit the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration website](https://www.va.gov/benefits/) for fact sheets and benefit brochures. Still have questions? Contact a Veterans Benefits Specialist for assistance. For office locations go to <https://veterans.maryland.gov/maryland-department-of-veterans-affairs-service-benefits-program>.

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 WWII



Korean War



Maryland Vietnam Vets



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 the VA 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.

For purposes of a claim before the Federal Government, one copy of marriage licenses, and birth or death certificates, may be acquired free of charge from the appropriate source. Call the local office of the clerk of the Circuit Court (marriage and divorce) or the Bureau of Vital Statistics, 800.832.3277 or 410.764.3038. A veteran or the veteran's surviving spouse can obtain one copy of marriage licenses, or birth and death certificates, from the clerk of the Circuit Court and marriage licenses and divorce certificates from the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene – Vital Statistics Division There is no fee for:

- A copy of a certificate of a current or former Armed Forces member that is requested by the member
- A copy of a certificate of a current or former Armed Forces member or of a surviving spouse or child of the member, if the copy will be used in connection with a claim for a dependent or beneficiary of the member.

To obtain proof of service in the Armed Forces must be provided. You can apply in person or by Mail. Applications can be downloaded at <https://health.maryland.gov/vsa/Pages/certs.aspx>. Fees are not waived on certificates ordered online through the VitalCheck network. To determine fees refer to <https://health.maryland.gov/vsa/Pages/fees.aspx>.

High School Diplomas for WWII and Korean War Veterans

County Boards of Education award high school diplomas to World War II Korean War veterans who withdrew from high school early to enter the Armed Forces. Diplomas are also issued to any veteran upon successful completion of the General Educational Development (GED) test. For more information contact your local [Board of Education](#).

Veterans ID Card

A Veteran ID Card (VIC) is a form of photo ID you can use to get discounts offered to Veterans at many restaurants, hotels, stores, and other businesses. You may be eligible if you meet both of the requirements listed below.

- Served on active duty, in the Reserves, or in the National Guard (including the Coast Guard), and
- Received an honorable or general discharge (under honorable conditions)

If you received an other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable character of discharge, you're not eligible for a Veteran ID Card. If you have an uncharacterized or unknown discharge status, we'll have to verify your eligibility before we approve your application. You'll need to provide a copy of your discharge papers when you apply for a VIC to prove your character of discharge. Please note: Retail vendors volunteer to take part in this discount program. If a business decides to provide discounts to Veterans, it doesn't mean that we're recommending or favoring that business

You can apply online now at <https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic>. When you apply, be sure to have these on hand:

- Your Social Security number
- A digital copy of your DD214, DD256, DD257, or NGB22 that you can upload. This could be in a .pdf, .jpeg, or .png file format.
- A copy of a current and valid government-issued ID, such as a driver's license, passport, or state-issued identification card.

You'll also need a digital color photo of yourself from the shoulders up. The photo should follow all these standards:

- Show a full front view of your face and neck (with no hat, head covering, or headphones covering or casting shadows on your hairline or face), and
- Be cropped from your shoulders up (much like a passport photo), and
- Show you with your eyes open and a neutral expression, and
- Be taken in clothing you'd wear for a driver's license photo, and
- Be a square size and have a white or plain-color background (with no scenery or other people in the photo), and
- Show what you look like now (a photo taken sometime in the last 10 years), and
- Be uploaded as a .jpeg, .png, .bmp, or .tiff file

Once you've submitted your VIC application, we'll check your eligibility and verify that:

- Your character of discharge meets eligibility requirements, and
- The ID you submitted (driver's license or passport) is valid, and
- The image you've chosen to appear on the card meets the photo requirements

After VA has verified your eligibility, they'll send you an email letting you know the status of your application. If you have an unknown or uncharacterized discharge status, your application will take more time to process while they verify your eligibility. (They may need to request your records from the National Personnel Records Center.) If you receive an email from VA asking for additional information or evidence to process your application, you'll need to sign in to AccessVA and update your application with the information they ask for. You can sign in to your AccessVA account to check the status of your VIC application by clicking on [Sign in to your AccessVA account](#). If you have any questions or need help, send an email to: vetidcard@va.gov.

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Visit the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs website <https://veterans.maryland.gov> 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: <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/maryland-state-veterans-benefits.html> | July 2021 ++]