

New Jersey State Veteran's Benefits



2019

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

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

Veteran Housing Programs

NJ Veterans Memorial Homes

If you're responsible for the long-term care and well being of a New Jersey veteran, a New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home may be the right nursing home choice for your loved one. The facilities are open to Veterans of all wars who served on active duty and were honorably discharged, qualified National Guard/Reserve Retirees, the Veteran's Spouse, and Spouses and parents of members of the military who were killed in action during a period of war (Gold Star Parent). A Spouse/Widow/Widower must be at least 50 years of age and must have been married to the Veteran for a period of not less than 10 years. Preference is given to applicants who were state residents for at least two years immediately prior to application for admission. Applicants must meet certain asset limitation criteria. Residents pay according to ability based on income.

Programs include ceramics, dinner parties, socials, bingo, shopping, movies, and games. Off-site events include day trips to places such as Atlantic City, the racetrack, and many sporting events. Other services provided at each home include barber and beauty shops, lounges and recreation rooms, outdoor patios, chapels, snack bars, transportation, and libraries. Tours of all facilities are available by appointment. To complete an application for admission refer to www.nj.gov/military/veterans/application_full.pdf. Contact the homes directly for additional information on admission or refer to:

- Parmus <http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/paramusmh/index.html>
- Edison <http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/menloparkmh/index.html>
- Vineland <http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/vinelandmh/index.html>



VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME - Paramus
1 Veterans Drive
Paramus, NJ 07652
Tel: 732-452-4100



VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME - Menlo Park
132 Evergreen Road
P.O. Box 3013
Edison, NJ 08818-3013
Tel: 201-634-8435



VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME - Vineland
524 North West Boulevard
Vineland, NJ 08360-2895
Tel: (856) 405-4217

Stand Down Operations

Stand Down helps the New Jersey's homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets by providing a broad range of necessities, including food, clothing, medical, legal and mental health assistance, job counseling, and referrals, but most importantly, companionship and camaraderie. Membership is open to Veterans and volunteers over the age of 18 who are willing and able to give of their time, efforts and resources in assisting programs for homeless veterans. For information on upcoming stand downs and/or participating as a volunteer refer to

- <http://www.standdownofnorthjersey.org>
- <http://www.standdownsouthjersey.org>

Homeless Intervention Program

- DMAVA offers referral assistance to those who are homeless, involuntarily displaced or in imminent danger of losing their home. Call 609-530-6826.
- The National Coalition of Homeless Veterans provides help for homeless Veterans nationwide. Call to find a local shelter at (800) VET-HELP.
- For information about the VA New Jersey Health Care System Program for Homeless Veterans call the 24-hour toll-free hotline for a screening appointment at 888-725-3000.

Veterans Haven

Veterans Haven is a transitional housing program for homeless veterans. The Program occupies one large building on state property in Winslow Township. The program is divided into three phases: treatment; self-reclamation; and community reintegration. Each phase lasts three to six months and is tailored to individual treatment needs and vocational interests.

Eligible veterans are referred from a VA Medical Center after receiving a medical evaluation. To be admitted into the program, the veteran must agree to a long-term program focusing on psychological, social and vocational rehabilitation. The program is drug and alcohol free, and has a staff comprised of professionals in the fields of mental health, addictions, social work, vocational rehabilitation and nursing.

NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA)

The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) offers low interest rate HMFA mortgages that provide veterans and their families with increased buying power and a savings of thousands of dollars in interest over the life of the loan. HMFA offers residential mortgages to United States veterans through the Veterans Administration (VA) home buyer program. Most HMFA homeownership loans are originated by private lenders that are approved to participate in the programs. Refer to <https://www.state.nj.us/dca/hmfa> for additional info on HMFA.

Financial Assistance

Active Duty New Jersey State Income Tax Exclusions

If your permanent home was New Jersey before entering the military, active-duty income is not subject to state taxes, IF you meet all three of the following conditions:

- Did not maintain any permanent home in New Jersey during tax year;
- Spent less than 30 days in New Jersey state during tax year.
- Maintained a permanent home outside New Jersey during the entire year (barracks, bachelor officers' quarters, quarters assigned on vessel do not count as a permanent home). However, if you pay for and maintain, either by out-of-pocket payments or forfeiture of quarters allowance, an apartment or a home (either owned or rented) outside New Jersey, that does count as a permanent home outside New Jersey.

Non-Active New Jersey State Income Tax Exclusions

U.S. military pension and survivor's benefit payments are not taxable for New Jersey gross income tax purposes, regardless of the recipient's age or disability status.

Veteran Income Tax Deduction

Honorably discharged veterans qualify for one-time \$3,000 tax deduction in the year they are discharged from active duty.

New Jersey Property Tax Deduction

Honorably discharged New Jersey resident veterans who served at least 14 days in a combat zone are eligible for an annual \$250 property tax deduction. The exemption should be permanent and total, partial or temporary is non-qualifying. The property must be owned and occupied by the claimant, and must be their legal residence in this state. Disabled Veteran Exemption requires a 100 % VA Certificate of Disability.

New Jersey Property Tax Exemption

Permanently and totally disabled war veterans can qualify for a total exemption of property tax on their home. Surviving spouses may also qualify. Eligibility for Veterans who meet all of the following criteria:

- Served during a specified wartime period.
- Received an honorable discharge or under honorable conditions.
- Rated 100 percent permanent service-connected by the VA. The 100 percent rating cannot be temporary or as a result of hospitalization, surgery or recuperation.

The exemption unlike the deduction is PRORATED from the date the veteran or spouse filed the application with ALL required documentation. EXAMPLE: A veteran completes the application on April 7, but does not submit all the documentation until May 3. The veteran's property tax

exemption is effective May 3. Many tax assessors exempt the property tax January 1 of the next year. The same proration process applies to the surviving spouse.

New Jersey Catastrophic Entitlement

Eligible Veterans/surviving spouses can qualify for a monthly entitlement of \$62.50. Criteria: A Veteran must be a New Jersey resident in receipt of a permanent service-connected disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that resulted from wartime service resulting in one of the following catastrophic disabilities resulting in a 100% rating: loss of sight; amputation of both hands, both feet or one hand and one foot; hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm on either side of the body; paraplegia and permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body; osteochondritis and permanent loss of use of both legs; multiple sclerosis and the loss of use of both feet or both legs; quadriplegia.

Employment

Veterans Preference and Pension Status

NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is the agency to determine veterans preference for hiring in New Jersey civil service and veterans status for New Jersey civil service pension plans.

Veterans Preference for Hiring in New Jersey Civil Service

The NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is the agency that determines veterans preference for hiring in New Jersey civil service and veteran status for New Jersey civil service pension plans.

Veterans Preference for Hiring in New Jersey Civil Service: War period veterans who pass state civil service examinations are given absolute preference over non-veterans when applying for state, county and municipal employment. Absolute preference is not extended to promotions, but if a veteran ranks highest on a promotional certification, a non-veteran cannot be offered the appointment before the veteran. Veterans with service-connected disabilities (at least 10%) who pass civil service examinations are given preference over other veterans and non-veterans for state, county and municipal employment.

Veterans Status for Civil Service and Pension Plans

A pension is available to qualified veterans. To qualify, a veteran must apply for veterans status for civil service pension plans after employment and must be in active employment until the effective date of retirement. These benefits cannot be deferred. Veterans who continue in employment covered by Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) until they are at least age 60 with 20 or more years of service credit are entitled to an annual benefit equal to one-half of the salary on which pension contributions were made in any consecutive 12-month period which would provide the largest possible benefit to the member.

Veterans who are at least age 55 with 35 or more years of service credit are entitled to an annual allowance based on the following formula: Years of Service divided by 55, multiplied by the last 12 months salary, which yields the Maximum Annual Allowance. Veterans benefits cannot be deferred and members must meet all the requirements to qualify. Veteran members may retire on the same basis as non-veteran members if it would result in a higher benefit.

Other Civil Service Benefits for Veterans Preference

The following are other civil service benefits for veterans preference:

- Appointment of veterans
- Application of statutes to promotions
- Preference in appointment in noncompetitive division
- Preference to veterans in layoffs
- Hearing on dismissal of veterans
- Veterans not to be discriminated against because of physical defects

Employment or Promotion

Any individual who has served in the Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States and who has been awarded the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or Navy Cross, while a resident of this State, and any individual who has served in the United States Coast Guard and who has been awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross while a resident of this State, shall be appointed or promoted without complying with the rules of the Merit System Board. The appointing authority to whom the individual applies for appointment or promotion shall, at its discretion, appoint or promote that person. Upon promotion or appointment, that person shall become subject to the rules of the Merit System Board. A person who qualifies under this section shall not be limited to only one appointment or promotion.

Education

Operation Recognition: High School Diplomas for Veterans

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) and the Department of Education jointly launched a program October 5, 2000 to honor World War II era veterans who left school to join the military and never received a high school diploma. Known as Operation Recognition, the program will award a state-endorsed high school diploma to any New Jersey veteran who left a New Jersey high school to enter military service during World War II. Because of the overwhelming success of this program, The Adjutant General and the Commissioner of Education are expanding the program to include veterans from the Korean and Vietnam wars.

POW and MIA Tuition Benefits

Free undergraduate college tuition is available to any child born or adopted before, during or after the period of time his or her parent was officially declared a prisoner of war (POW) or person missing in action (MIA) after Jan. 1, 1960. The POW-MIA must have been a New Jersey resident at the time he or she entered the service or whose official residence is in New Jersey. The child must attend either a public or private institution in New Jersey. A copy of DD- 1300 must be furnished with the application. For more information, contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at 609-530-6949 or vbb@dmava.nj.gov.

War Orphans Tuition Assistance

Children of those service personnel who died while in the military or due to service-connected disabilities, or who are officially listed as missing in action by the U.S. Dept. of Defense may claim \$500 per year for four years of college or equivalent training. To qualify, the child must be a resident of New Jersey for at least one year immediately preceding the filing of the application and be between the ages of 16 and 21 at the time of application. The veteran must have been a state resident. For more information, contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at 609-530-6949 or vbb@dmava.nj.gov.

Veterans Tuition Credit Program

The Veterans Tuition Credit Program provides additional education benefits to veterans eligible for federally funded education programs and who served on active duty from December 31, 1960 to May 7, 1975 and who were legal residents of New Jersey at the time of induction into the Armed Forces or at the time of discharge from active service or for a period not less than one year prior to making application. The amount of the award is \$400 annually or \$200 per semester for full-time attendance. For more information, contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at 609-530-6949 or vbb@dmava.nj.gov. Download the [Application for Veterans Tuition Credit](#).

New Jersey National Guard Educational Benefits

New Jersey National Guardsman (Army or Air) who are eligible must:

- Have completed Initial Active Duty Training.
- Be in good standing with your unit.

Tuition Assistance: Pays up to 75% of tuition costs at Accredited schools only with a maximum of \$100 per undergraduate credit and a maximum of \$170 per graduate credit. Tuition Assistance may NOT be used together with any other federal program (i.e. the GI Bill)

Recreation

State Parks Admission

The New Jersey Division of State Parks and Forestry does not charge an admission fee for entrance into a State park or forest by any resident of the State who is an active member of the New Jersey National Guard who has completed Initial Active Duty Training.

Fishing and Hunting Licenses for Disabled Veterans

Honorably discharged New Jersey disabled veterans can get free hunting & fishing licenses as well as pheasant, quail and trout stamps.

Licenses for Active Duty Service Personnel

Active duty members, no matter where they are stationed, can get NJ hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses at the resident rate.

Licenses for NJ National Guard Members

Eligible active NJ National Guard personnel are entitled to free licenses, permits and stamps. While each type of license has specific eligibility criteria that needs to be met prior to being issued. Below are the general criteria they all share:

- Completed Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT) / Officer Basic Branch Course.
- Have participated in unit training assemblies within last 90 days.
- Be up-to-date on any court-mandated child support payments.

For the purposes of this licensing, “Initial Active Duty for Training” means Basic Military Training for members of the NJ Air National Guard and Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training for members of the NJ Army National Guard. The following required documentation must be submitted to apply for a NJ National Guard Hunting or Freshwater Fishing License:

- A completed NJDMAVA Form 799-1 (Resident) or NJDMAVA Form 799-2 (Non-Resident).
- An original copy of a current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) or MyPay statement, proving that you have participated in unit training assemblies within last 90 days.
- A NJ Child Support Certificate proving you are up-to-date on any court-mandated child support payments (see section below). This requirement is completed online. Note: All applicants must complete this certification regardless if the individual is required to submit child support payments or not.
- Any license specific documentation (see section below).

Mail, email, or fax the completed documentation as outlined below:

- Mail: NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Attn: MSG(Ret) Robert Greco (ASB-RALV), PO Box 340 Trenton, NJ 08625-0340
- Email: robert.greco@dmava.nj.gov
- Fax: 609-530-7193

If applying for a Freshwater Fishing License, you can complete our online fishing license application at <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/benefits-resources/fishing-license-application.shtml> in place of the NJDMAVA Form 799-1/2 and submit the other required documentation separately via mail, email, or fax.

Other New Jersey State Veteran Benefits

Replacement of Medals

Veterans may request issuance or replacement of their medals and awards. Family members may only request medals and awards of living veterans by obtaining their signed authorizations. For deceased veterans, requests will be accepted from next-of-kin (unremarried widow or widower, son or daughter, father or mother, brother or sister of the deceased veteran.)

Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Free interment and perpetual care, in the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, is available to veteran residents of New Jersey, their spouses and dependent children. The Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery is located at 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562. For general information, grave location and interments call Phone: 609-738-2400 or Fax: 609-758-0169. To locate a grave, call (609) 738-2400, or visit the Administration Office. There is also an electronic grave locator at the Public Information Center. For more information visit: www.nj.gov/military/veterans/services/cemetery Doyle Cemetery is open to visitors every day of the year. The grounds are open from 8:00 am to dusk. Office hours are Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 3:30 pm except State Holidays. Refer to <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/services/cemetery/documents/doyle-brochure.pdf> for a copy of the cemetery brochure



The BG William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, a state- operated cemetery dedicated to veterans, is located on 225 acres in a picturesque setting of partially wooded land in Arneytown, North Hanover Township, Burlington County. The cemetery features a modern, nondenominational chapel/administration building. The cemetery will accommodate 215,000 veterans and eligible family members. Areas are provided for the interment of those cremated and for those veterans whose remains have never been recovered.

No Fee Automobile Registration






The veteran must be 100 percent disabled and be eligible for the automobile financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In addition, the veteran must have sustained the following injuries incurred or aggravated during active military service:

- Loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet
- Loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands
- Permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a prescribed degree. Veterans with best-corrected vision no better than 20/200 or less or field defect of 20 degrees or less are considered eligible.

No Fee Automobile Registration for Medal of Honor Recipients: Medal of Honor recipients are eligible for a no-fee registration and will receive special license plates noting their award. Contact - For information call 1-888-486-3339.

Military Organization Specialty Plates

The following plates listed at <http://www.state.nj.us/mvc/Vehicle/serviceorg.htm> are available for purchase.

Plate Type	Assigned Series	Bottom Rim
 New Jersey A B SAMP AIRBORNE	AB1000-AB9999	Airborne
 New Jersey A SAMP AMERICAN LEGION	AL1000-AL9999	American Legion
 New Jersey A SAMP AMVETS	AV1000-AV9999	AMVETS
 New Jersey C P SAMP CIVIL AIR PATROL	CP1000-CP9999	Civil Air Patrol
 New Jersey C A SAMP USCG AUXILIARY	CA1000-CA9999	USCG Auxiliary
 New Jersey M SAMP LEATHERNECK	ML1000-ML9999	Leatherneck
 New Jersey M SAMP Merchant Marine	MM1000-MM9999	Merchant Marine

<p>New Jersey K P SAMP USMMA</p>	<p>KP1000-KP9999</p>	<p>Kings Point</p>
<p>New Jersey SAMP PH PEARL HARBOR 41</p>	<p>1000PH-1500PH</p>	<p>Pearl Harbor 41</p>
<p>New Jersey PH SAMP COMBAT WOUNDED</p>	<p>PH1000-PH9999</p>	<p>Combat Wounded</p>
<p>New Jersey SS SAMP SILENT SERVICE</p>	<p>SS1000-SS9999</p>	<p>Silent Service</p>
<p>New Jersey DD SAMP TIN CAN SAILORS</p>	<p>DD1000-DD9999</p>	<p>Tin Can Sailors</p>
<p>New Jersey WV SAMP VFW OF THE US</p>	<p>WV1000-WV9999</p>	<p>VFW of the US</p>
<p>New Jersey VV SAMP VIETNAM VETS</p>	<p>VV1000-VV9999</p>	<p>Vietnam Vets</p>
<p>New Jersey RA SAMP USAF RETIRED</p>	<p>RA1000-RA9999</p>	<p>USAF Retired</p>

A yellow New Jersey special plate with "New Jersey" at the top, "GI SAMP" in large letters, and "U.S. ARMY RETIRED" at the bottom. A small "RETIRED" badge with a star is on the left.	GI1000-GI9999	U.S. Army Retired
A yellow New Jersey special plate with "New Jersey" at the top, "WD SAMP" in large letters, and "Disabled American Veterans" at the bottom. A circular logo for "DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS" is on the left.	WD1000-WD9999	Disabled American Veterans
A yellow New Jersey special plate with "New Jersey" at the top, "WP SAMP" in large letters, and "West Point" at the bottom. A logo for West Point is on the left.	WP1000-WP9999	West Point
A yellow New Jersey special plate with "New Jersey" at the top, "LK SAMP" in large letters, and "Navy Lakehurst" at the bottom. A logo for "LAKEHURST NAVY" is on the left.	LK1000-LK9999	Lakehurst Navy
A yellow New Jersey special plate with "New Jersey" at the top, "NL SAMP" in large letters, and "Navy League" at the bottom. A logo for "NAVY LEAGUE" is on the left.	NL1000-NL9999	Navy League

To purchase organizational plates

- Plate fees vary by plate type.
- Contact the license plate coordinator for your qualified non-profit, alumni or service organization.
- To find your coordinator's contact information, call MVC toll-free at (888) 486-3339, extension 5061.
- Once approved by the coordinator, plates are available from:
NJ Motor Vehicle Commission
Special Plate Unit, 2W
225 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08666
- Personalized plates are also available for certain qualified organizations subject to approval by your coordinator. Refer to http://www.state.nj.us/mvc/Vehicle/personalized_plates.htm for details

To apply for a new plate type

- Community and alumni organizations must have at least 500 members in good standing.
- Military service-related organizations must have at least 175 members in good standing.
- MVC plate fees are:

- 1) \$15 for Service organizations
 - 2) \$25 for Community organizations
 - 3) \$50 for Alumni organization.
- For information on obtaining a new organizational plate type, contact MVC by calling (888) 486-3339 ext. 5061 or write to:
NJ Motor Vehicle Commission
Special Plate Unit, 2W
225 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08666

CDL License

Veterans who have or had a military commercial drivers license are exempt from the behind-the-wheel portion of the CDL license exam.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/new-jersey-state-veterans-benefits.html> | December 2019 ++]