

North Carolina State Veteran's Benefits



2019

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

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

Housing Benefits

North Carolina State Veterans Nursing Homes

The State of North Carolina is proud to offer four, full-service, State Veterans Homes. They are located adjacent to the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, on the W.G. Hefner Medical Center campus in Salisbury, Kinston, and in Black Mountain. To be eligible for admission, a veteran must have served in the Armed Forces for other than training purposes, have received an honorable discharge, resided in North Carolina at least 24 months prior to the date of application, been referred by a licensed physician and be in need of skilled nursing care, and must be disabled by reason of age, disease, or other reasons determined through a physical exam.



Fayetteville 150-bed home for Veterans

Services offered:

Semi-private rooms/private rooms (additional cost) 24-hour nursing, IV therapy, oxygen therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, wound care and pain management, full-time dietician, nourishment care, activity programming, hospice, counseling services, family group meetings, laundry, pharmacy, volunteer medication management, psychiatry, MSW social worker, barber/beauty shop services.

Virtual Tour: <http://www.seeit360.com/fayetteville360>

Location: 214 Cochran Ave., Fayetteville, NC 28301 Phone: (910) 482-4131 Visiting hours: 8am to 8pm. Certifications: Medicaid, Medicare, and Joint Commission



SALISBURY 99-bed home for Veterans

Services offered:

Semi-private rooms/private rooms (additional cost) 24-hour nursing, IV therapy, oxygen therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, wound care and pain management, full-time dietician, nourishment care, activity programming, hospice, counseling services, family group meetings, laundry, volunteer services, management, psychiatry, MSW social worker, barber/beauty shop services.

Virtual Tour: <http://www.seeit360.com/salisbury360>

Location: 1601 Brenner Ave., Building #10, Salisbury, NC 28144 Phone: (704) 638-4200 Visiting hours: 8am to 8pm Certifications: Medicaid, Medicare, and Joint Commission



BLACK MOUNTAIN 100-bed home for Veterans

Services offered:

Private rooms, 24-hour nursing, IV therapy, oxygen therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, wound care and pain management, full-time dietician, nourishment care, activity programming, hospice, private chapel, counseling services, family support group meetings, laundry, volunteer services, medication management, psychiatry, MSW social worker, aquatic therapy, barber/beauty shop services.

Virtual Tour: <http://www.seeit360.com/blackmountain>

Location: 62 Lake Eden Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711 Phone: (828) 257-6800 Visiting hours: 8am to 8pm. Certifications: Medicaid, Medicare, **and** Joint Commission



KINSTON – 100-bed home for Veterans

Services offered:

Private rooms, 24-hour nursing, IV therapy, oxygen therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, wound care and pain management, full-time dietician, nourishment care, activity programming, hospice, private chapel, counseling services, family support group meetings, laundry, volunteer services, medication management, psychiatry, MSW social worker, aquatic therapy, barber/beauty shop services.

Virtual Tour: <http://www.seeit360.com/kinston360>

Location: 2150 Hull Road, Kinston, NC 28504 Phone: (252) 939-8000. Visiting hours: 8am to 8pm
Certifications: Medicaid, Medicare, and Joint Commission

Kernersville State Veterans Home coming in 2021

Raleigh State Veterans Homecoming 2021

Financial Assistance Benefits

Income Tax Relief

Retired Pay: If you had at least five years of creditable military service as of August 12, 1989, all your military retirement is tax free.

Cancellation of Certain Assessments and Abatement of Income Tax: Any assessment of income tax due prior to the time a person was inducted into the Armed Forces will be canceled and abated if the serviceperson was killed while a member of the Armed Forces or is receiving service-connected disability compensation. No interest is payable on refunds made under this section of the law.

Allowances, Servicepersons: Subsistence and quarters allowances, uniform and equipment allowances and mustering-out payments are not taxable to the serviceperson as income. Mileage and per diem allowances for official travel and transportation are excludable from the service income except to the extent that they exceed the travel and transportation expenses.

Deductions, Servicepersons: Income tax deduction may be claimed for insignia, swords, aiguillettes, epaulets, campaign bars, cap devices, chin straps and the cost of altering uniforms necessitated by change in rank.

Disability Pay, U. S. Government: All disability payments to veterans by reason of service in the Armed Forces are not reportable as income for income taxation purposes.

Education and Training Allowances: U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs payments made to veterans enrolled in schools and training establishments under the GI Bill are exempt from income taxation.

Grants for Motor Vehicles: Grants by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs for motor vehicles for veterans who lost their sight or the use of their limbs are exempt from income taxation.

Grants for Specially Adapted Housing: Grants by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs to seriously disabled veterans for homes designed for wheelchair living are exempt from income taxation.

Gratuity Pay, Six-Months: The six-months gratuity pay to a beneficiary of a deceased serviceperson is exempt from income taxation.

Hostile Fire Duty Pay: Exemption is same as Federal Internal Revenue Service.

Insurance Dividends, Government Insurance: Dividends and all other proceeds except interest on dividends from G. I. insurance policies are exempt from income taxation.

Property Tax Relief

Home. Honorably discharged North Carolina veterans who are 100% permanently and totally disabled by the VA are eligible for up to a \$45,000 deduction in the assessed value of their home for property tax purposes. The surviving spouse is also eligible if they are drawing DIC from the VA.

Certain Vehicles. A motor vehicle owned by a disabled veteran that is altered with special equipment to accommodate a service-connected disability. As used in this section, disabled veteran means a person as defined in 38 U.S.C. -- 101(2) who is entitled to special automotive equipment for a service-connected disability.

Specially Adapted Housing. Disabled veterans who receive U. S. Government assistance under Title 38, United States Code Annotated for the acquisition of specially adapted housing are eligible for an exclusion from ad valorem taxation on the first \$38,000 in assessed value of housing together with the necessary land therefore which is owned and used as a residence by the disabled veteran.

Employment Benefits

Employment Preference

Preference in State Government employment is granted to wartime veterans, their surviving spouses or the spouses of disabled veterans, without regard to age, provided they are otherwise qualified. Military leave with reemployment rights is also granted State employees. The Employment Service Division of the Employment Security Commission assists in endeavoring to secure suitable employment for disabled veterans. Any person desiring information and assistance with matters related to employment and job placement should contact the nearest local employment office of the Employment Security Commission. Veterans Employment Representatives are available to render specialized service for veterans.

Licensing Law Helps Veterans and Spouse

The North Carolina Governor has signed a new law which permits military-trained applicants who have been awarded a military occupational specialty and military-spouse applicants who are licensed in another jurisdiction to receive occupational licenses in North Carolina. Regardless of occupational specialty, all military or out-of-state qualifications must meet or exceed North Carolina's licensure standards. A licensing board will determine eligibility to qualify for licensing and certification based on training, experience and competency requirements. There are more than a 100 different occupational licensing agencies in North Carolina, and each licensing board will be required to implement the new statute within one year from the date the act becomes law.

Education Benefits

Scholarships

A four-year scholarship program at approved schools in North Carolina has been established for the qualifying natural or adopted (before age 15) children of certain class categories of deceased, disabled, combat or POW/MIA veterans

Recreation Benefits

Vet Hunting and Fishing Licenses

All 50% or more disabled veterans may obtain a lifetime hunting-fishing license upon the payment of a fee ranging from \$10 to \$110 depending on the type of license purchased.

Active Duty Hunting & Fishing

NC residents on active duty outside the state and home on leave for 30 days or less do not need to purchase a license. Active duty members and their families stationed in North Carolina can buy hunting & fishing licenses at the resident rate. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in North Carolina, their spouses and their dependents under age 18 residing with them are deemed residents of North Carolina for the purpose of purchasing licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

Other State Veteran Benefits

Other Discounts Available

The following attractions provide a discount on admission fees for Active Duty Military and Veterans:

- Battleship North Carolina www.battleshipnc.com
- NC Museum of Art www.ncartmuseum.org
- NC Museum of History www.ncmuseumofhistory.org
- NC State Fair www.ncstatefair.org
- Tryon Palace www.tryonpalace.org
- NC Zoological Park www.nczoo.org

Auto License Plates

Fees for military special license plates are \$10 per year. The number which can be purchased are limited depending on the plate type.

The following license plates are available to eligible persons:

- 82nd Airborne



- Afghanistan Veteran



- Air Force Reserve



- Air Medal



- American Legion



- Army Reserve



- Bronze Star



- Bronze Star Combat (Valor)



- Coast Guard Reserve



- Congressional Medal of Honor



- Desert Storm



- Disabled Veteran



- Distinguished Flying Cross



- Distinguished Service Cross



- Ex-Prisoner of War



- Iraq Veteran



- Korean Conflict



- Legion of Valor



- Marine Corps League



- Marine Corps Reserve



- Naval Reserve



- Partially Disabled Veteran



- Pearl Harbor Survivor



- Purple Heart (Auto)



- Purple Heart (Motorcycle)



- Retired Air Force



- Retired Army



- Retired Coast Guard



- Retired Marine Corps



- Retired National Guard



- Retired Navy



- Support Our Troops



- Semper Fidelis



- Silver Star



- Silver Star Disabled Veteran



- U.S. Air Force Veteran



- U.S. Army Veteran



- U.S. Coast Guard Veteran



- U.S. Navy Veteran



- U.S. Navy Submarine Veteran



- Veterans of Foreign Wars



- Vietnam Veteran



- War on Terror Veteran



- World War II Veterans



Drivers License

In general, State law allows a military drivers license expiration procedure within the Division of Motor Vehicles to renew upon request to North Carolina residents on active duty, to their spouses and dependent children.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) now offers a veteran designation that can be voluntarily placed on a North Carolina Drivers License. In order to receive the designation, veterans must be a United States veteran, provide proof of veteran status (DD-214, or DD-215), and meet all other North Carolina requirements for driving privilege or identification card including payment of the original, renewal or replacement fee, only if new - not on renewal.



Retirement Credit, Military Service, State and Participating Local Government Employees

Under certain conditions and subject to the confines of State law, credit for both State and local government retirement plans can be granted for military service performed by an eligible employee. Further inquiry should be made to Employee's Retirement and Health Benefits Division, N. C. Department of the Treasurer, Raleigh, N. C.

Veterans Cemetery Program

The following North Carolina State Veterans Cemetery Program requirements and operations information is written in general terms and should not be regarded nor taken as law or official regulation. The official law and rules guiding the State Veterans Cemetery Program is established under Article 8A, Chapter 65, General Statutes of North Carolina. A free burial plot is provided at a North Carolina State Veterans Cemetery for eligible North Carolina veterans and their legal spouse (and dependents under certain conditions). Veterans must be discharged under honorable conditions and meet certain residency requirements.

State

Eligibility

1. A Qualified Veteran --
 - o Any former member of the U.S. Armed Forces whose service on active duty, other than for training, was terminated under honorable conditions.
 - o A veteran who is entitled to retired pay for non-regular service (i.e., service in the Reserve Components or Army or Air National Guard) or a veteran who would have been entitled to retired pay for non-regular service, but for the fact that the person was under 60 years of age.
2. North Carolina Resident
 - o Only those veterans who are legal residents of North Carolina (1) at the time of death, (2) for a period of at least 10 years, or (3) at the time the veteran entered the Armed Forces of the United States are eligible for interment.
3. Dependant(s)
 - o The spouse, widow or widower of a qualified veteran or a minor child who is unmarried and dependent on the qualified veteran at the time of death. For purposes of definition, a "minor child" includes a child under 21 years of age or under 23 years of age if pursuing a course of instruction at an educational institution approved by the United States Department of

Veterans Affairs. In addition, an unmarried adult child of a qualified veteran who became permanently incapable of self-support because of a physical or mental disability before attaining the age of 18 years is also eligible.

Proof of Eligibility

Documentary evidence is required to provide proof and substantiate military service, residence, marriage and children as well as dependency disability. It is the responsibility of the veteran, his survivors or legal representative to furnish any evidence necessary to establish the eligibility of the veteran or the family member before interment in a North Carolina State Veterans Cemetery can be approved and accomplished.

Proof of Military Service

The primary document used to verify honorable military service is the DD Form 214. The DD Form 214 is more commonly called a discharge or "Report of Separation from Active Duty." Other forms of proof may be acceptable pending verification. Veterans who are unable to locate their DD Form 214 should contact the local veteran's office or the nearest state veterans service office for assistance in obtaining a replacement copy.

North Carolina Residency

Verification of residence at time of entry into military service is documented on the DD Form 214. Residence at time of death and 10-year residency can be verified by North Carolina tax records, voter registration, personal income tax or property tax, employment or educational records, official records from U.S. government, state or municipal agencies.

Dependents

The primary source for verification of a spouse is a marriage certificate. Dependent children may be verified by a birth certificate or other legal documents, such as adoption papers.

Proof of Disability of an Adult Dependent

A letter is required from the dependent's physician certifying the dependent became permanently incapable of self-support because of a physical or mental disability before attaining the age of 18 years. Medical records and other documents will be considered only as supporting or corroborating documents.

General Information

- There is no charge for the gravesite or necessary interment services for a qualified veteran. There is however, a burial fee for an eligible spouse or family member.
- Only government furnished headstones will be authorized for use in State Veterans cemeteries. There is no charge for installing the headstones. Government headstones are ordered from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs after consulting with the surviving family members.
- Graveside services are not permitted. Committal services will be held in the chapel or at a committal shelter on the cemetery grounds. All services are 30 minutes long. Family members and other attendees are required to exit the cemetery when the service ends. Family members may return to the gravesite after the burial of the casket or urn is complete and the area is cleared of all equipment and materials.

- Four state veterans cemeteries are in operation. They are located in Black Mountain (Buncombe County), Jacksonville (Onslow County) and Spring Lake (Cumberland County) and Goldsboro (Wayne County). For details, consult a cemetery superintendent.
 - ✓ **Black Mountain** (*Western Carolina*), 962 Old US 70 Hwy, Black Mountain, NC 28711 Tel: 828-669-0684 Fax: 828-669-0685 Email: J.D.Whisnat@milvets.nc.gov
 - ✓ **Jacksonville** (*Coastal Carolina*), 110 Montford Point Rd, Jacksonville, NC 28541 Tel: 910-347-4550 Fax: 910-347-3570 Email: Judy.Sanderson@milvets.nc.gov
 - ✓ **Spring Lake** (*Sandhills*), 400 Murchison Road, Spring Lake, NC 28390 Tel: 910-436-5630 Fax: 910-463-5727 Email: Leslie.Eubanks@milvets.nc.gov
 - ✓ **Goldsboro** (*Eastern Carolina*), 164 Long Plant Farm Rd, Goldsboro, NC 27544 Tel: 919-648-0510 Email: William.Johnson@milvets.nc.gov

National

Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces who have met a minimum active duty service requirement and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. A Veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor dependent children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran. Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty or who die while on training duty, or were eligible for retired pay, may also be eligible for burial. For more information go to NCA's eligibility web page https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/eligible.asp.

For cemeteries that are closed to new interments the only interments that are being accepted are subsequent interments for veterans or eligible family members in an existing gravesite. Periodically however, burial space may become available due to a canceled reservation or when a disinterment has been completed. When either of these two scenarios occurs, the gravesite is made available to another eligible veteran on a first-come, first-served basis. Since there is no way to know in advance when a gravesite may become available, please contact the cemetery at the time of need to inquire whether space is available. Following are the 4 National Cemeteries in North Carolina, Note they are closed federal holidays except Memorial Day and Veterans Day:

- **New Bern National Cemetery**, 1711 National Avenue, New Bern, NC 28560 Phone: 252-637-2912 FAX: 252-637-7145 Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed to new interments



Rhode Island Monument at New Bern National Cemetery.

- **Raleigh National Cemetery**, 501 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC 27610 Phone: 252-637-2912 FAX: 704-636-2661. This cemetery is administered by New Bern National Cemetery. Closed to new internments



Rostrum at Raleigh National Cemetery

- **Salisbury National Cemetery**. 501 Statesville Boulevard, Salisbury, NC 28144 Phone: 704-636-2661 FAX: 704-636-1115 Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Open to new internments



Historic main gate at Salisbury National Cemetery.

- **Wilmington National Cemetery**. 2011 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28403 Phone: 910-815-4877 FAX: 252-637-7145. This cemetery is administered by the New Bern National Cemetery. Closed to new internments



Superintendent's lodge at Wilmington National Cemetery.

Absentee Registration and Voting

Persons who are in the armed forces, their spouses, veterans in government hospitals, etc., who are otherwise qualified to vote may register and vote by mail in primaries and general elections, subject to the procedural details set forth in the law.

Disabled Voters, Primary or General Elections

Assistance in Voting. A voter who, on account of physical disability, blindness or illiteracy is entitled to assistance as prescribed in the law, in getting to and from the voting booth and in marking their ballots.

Voting Outside the Voting Enclosure. Voters who are able to travel to the voting place, but because of age, physical disability or physical barriers encountered at the voting place are unable to enter same without physical assistance, may vote from their vehicles or in the immediate proximity of the voting place, subject to certain procedures prescribed by law.

Records

Discharges. The Register of Deeds of any North Carolina county is required to record, free of charge, all official discharges from the armed forces offered for registration. Free certified copies of discharges so recorded may be obtained by members or former members of the armed forces and by representatives of the N. C. Division of Veterans Affairs upon application.

Other Records, Including Discharges. Representatives of North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs who need copies of State and local public records in assisting clients may obtain same without charge. Exception: certain privileged and confidential records whose disclosure is otherwise provided for by law.

Certified Copy of Public Record. A certified copy of any public record required by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the Division of Veterans Affairs for use in determining the eligibility of any person to participate in benefits made available by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs shall be provided without charge by the official responsible for the custody of the public record. The document shall be issued to the applicant for such benefits or any person acting on his or her behalf or the representative of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the Division of Veterans Affairs.

Veteran Service Offices

Go to <https://files.nc.gov/ncdmva/documents/files/dmva-guide-2019a.pdf#page=7> to locate the closest VSO. They are listed by county on this site.

Resource Guide

This resource guide is produced and published by the North Carolina Division of veterans affairs to assist and educate veterans in learning about state and federal veteran benefits. The 2010 NC4VETS Resource Guide is available for download at <https://files.nc.gov/ncdmva/documents/files/dmva-guide-2019a.pdf> in PDF format. You can download the entire guide (298 pages), or, just those sections that interest you.

For contact information and benefits assistance Visit the North Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/vets/default.aspx> and the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

Website <https://www.milvets.nc.gov>.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/north-carolina-state-veterans-benefits.html> | August 2019 ++]