

FLORIDA VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE 2024



Courtesy of the Florida Veterans Foundation

BOLDLY SERVING MORE THAN 30 YEARS

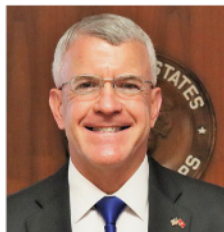


FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

www.FloridaVets.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you for reading the 2024 edition of the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide. The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs is a constitutionally chartered department responsible for serving the Nation's second largest Veteran population. Operating as the premier point of entry for Florida's more than 1.4 million Veterans, FDVA operates a network of nine State Veterans' Homes and provides statewide outreach to connect Veterans with their earned services, benefits and support.



As a Navy Veteran, Governor DeSantis spearheads our effort to ensure Florida is a national leader in honoring and supporting our Veterans. Since taking office, he and his administration have committed hundreds of millions of dollars to our department, helping to ensure a positive future for our nation's heroes. Florida offers unique benefits such as no-cost benefits and disability claims counseling, in-state tuition rates for those using the Post-9/11 GI Bill, a range of property tax exemptions, expanded Veterans' preference for employment, and extensive licensure and fee waivers for many activities and occupations. Working together toward a positive future for Florida Veterans and their families, Florida continues to be the most Veteran friendly and sought after state in the Nation.

If you want to connect with earned services, please contact one of our State Veterans' Service Officers by calling (727) 319-7440. You may also contact them by email at FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV. All outreach services are free to the Veteran.

Follow us online at FloridaVets.org and subscribe to our free monthly email subscription newsletter or download our Mobile App. You may also follow us on our many social media platforms such as X, Facebook and LinkedIn.

We are honored to serve you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James S. Hartsell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a white rectangular box with a thin black border.

James S. "Hammer" Hartsell
Executive Director

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

OUR VISION

FDVA is the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits and support.

OUR MISSION

To advocate with purpose and passion for Florida veterans and link them to superior services, benefits and support.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

It is my goal that Florida be and remain the most pro-military and veteran-friendly state in the nation. We are proud of our servicemembers and veterans and thank them for their selfless service to our country. We also recognize the sacrifice of the family members of our servicemembers who support their loved ones in their service.



We will continue to deliver on our promise to be the most military and veteran-friendly state in the nation by investing in support and resources for veterans and their families.

In 2023, I signed nine bills that support active-duty military, veterans, and their families by advancing veteran education and training opportunities, expanding veteran benefits, and strengthening long-term care for veterans.

Additionally, we've recently expanded the Hope Florida program to serve veterans by connecting them to services, earned benefits and community resources through Hope Navigators.

I encourage veterans in Florida to consult the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide for more information about these programs at **FloridaVets.org**.

I again acknowledge and thank the servicemembers and veterans who call Florida home. We are here to support you and will always honor your sacrifice to our country.

Ron DeSantis
Governor
State of Florida

FDVA
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Honoring those who served U.S.

HELPLINE

- Health Care
- Education
- Earned Benefits

FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV
727-319-7440

FLORIDA VETERANS FOUNDATION (FVF)

We have been working hard in 2023 to find and educate Veterans on their benefits. But it doesn't stop there. We rise to the challenge of solving their problems. Each day brings successes for our Veterans. FVF works in direct support of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. FVF provides special focus on solving what seems to be insurmountable odds. I am excited to report that we are now in our 15th year honing our skills in collaboration with our extraordinary partners.



Dennis O. Baker

The Foundation operates for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c) (3) and works closely with the 67 County Veteran Service Offices, which are “frontline” for Florida Veterans and local Veteran community organizations providing hands-on care for our Veterans. The Foundation is the safety net for Florida Veterans and works proactively, partnering with State Veteran Service Organizations and partners to assist veterans in need with housing, transportation, and all benefits.

Florida Veterans Crisis Line

For 24-hour counsel, call the National Veteran Crisis Hotline at 988 then press 1. Remember, you are NOT alone! Florida Veterans can call the Florida Veterans Support Line at 2-1-1.

Connecting Aging Veterans with Benefits

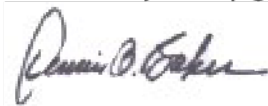
Many Florida Veterans and their families are also unaware of earned VA benefits available such as VA Pension with Aid and Attendance, which helps subsidize the cost of Long-Term Care. Our combined efforts, with the Foundation partners, ensure that earned benefits go to aging Veterans in Florida. Visit <https://www.helpflvets.org/aidandattendance> for more information.

Connecting Veterans with Aging Veterans

New programs are available to connect Veterans that want to help the aging Veterans through teaming with one of the nine Florida Veterans' Nursing Homes to help serve meals and engage in many other activities. Please go to either the FDVA or FVF Websites for further information.

You may also visit www.HelpFLVets.org to learn about the new Gadsden Flag, Don't Tread on Me, License Plate, which 90% goes directly to Florida Veterans. Become an ambassador, honor a veteran, donate in memory of or donate to support many of our services and programs. The first order of business was to provide dental care to the aging Veterans in State Veterans' Homes.

Thank YOU for helping us fulfill our mission of “No Florida Veteran Left Behind” We just keep getting better!!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis O. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Commander Dennis O. Baker, USN (ret)
Chairman, Florida Veterans Foundation

Florida Attorney General's Office

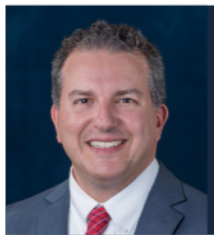
Attorney General Ashley Moody's office created the Military and Veterans Assistance Program to help protect military members, veterans and their families from scams designed to target the military community. Scams and deceptive business practices targeting service members and veterans can be reported to the Florida Attorney General's Office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting www.myfloridalegal.com/consumer-protection/mvap. You may also download the Military Consumer Protection Guide by visiting the site above.



Ashley Moody

Financial Literacy and Insurance Assistance

The Department of Financial Services understands the unique financial challenges that our military community faces each day. Financial Frontlines provides valuable financial information about identity theft, credit scoring, budgeting, predatory lending, military financial protections and more. A free downloadable guide is available to Florida veterans. The resource guide provides basic money management information and practices that can help you on your quest for financial security. Visit Financial Frontlines at <https://myfloridacfo.com/financialfrontlines/home>.



Jimmy Patronis

Agriculture and Consumer Services Assistance

From promoting veterans agriculture to providing consumer protection to veterans, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is ready to serve Florida veterans. FDACS actively promotes and supports initiatives that facilitate Florida veterans' entry into agriculture. The FDACS Consumer Services Division provides protection from fraud, waste, and abuse to all Florida residents, to include veterans and military members. For information on FDACS, visit their website at www.fdacs.gov.



Wilton Simpson

Hope Florida - A Pathway For Patriots

Hope Florida - A Pathway for Patriots honors and serves the more than 1.4 million veterans living in Florida. Hope Navigators work with veterans on an individualized path to prosperity, economic self-sufficiency, and hope by connecting them to services including access to housing, employment, earned benefits, and health care. Veterans and their families can connect with Hope Florida at 850-300-HOPE (4673) or by visiting www.HopeFlorida.com.

County Veteran Service Offices

Information on current veterans' programs, entitlements and referral services is also available in Florida through a network of County Veteran Service Offices. Services are provided free of charge. A list of offices is online at www.FloridaVets.org/benefits-services.

FLORIDA STATE VETERANS' HOMES

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs operates eight skilled nursing facilities and one assisted living facility. All facilities are licensed by Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration and inspected annually by AHCA and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The homes are supervised around the clock by registered and licensed nurses. Under the IRS tax code, monetary donations to specific state veterans' homes are tax deductible. Per Florida Statutes, all such donations are to be used for the benefit of the home and its residents. You may also support the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund by making a \$1 contribution when renewing your Driver License.


Employment

FDVA strives to provide competitive wages and benefits to all our valued team members. Come join an agency where we advocate with purpose and passion for our state's veterans, their families and survivors. To view a current listing of job vacancies, log onto People First at <https://bit.ly/FDVAJobsApply>.

Resident Admission

Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes include an honorable discharge, Florida residency, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician.





The **Robert H. Jenkins Jr. Veterans' Domiciliary Home** in Lake City (Columbia County) opened to residents in 1990. The 150-bed Assisted Living Facility provides a special combination of housing, personalized supportive services and primary medical care to eligible veterans. Call (386) 758-0600 for more information. Address: 751 SE Sycamore Terrace, Lake City, FL 32025.

The **Emory L. Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Daytona Beach (Volusia County) opened to residents in 1993. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care to its veteran residents. Call (386) 274-3460 for more information. Address: 1920 Mason Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

The **Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Land O' Lakes (Pasco County) opened to residents in 1999. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (813) 558-5000 for more information. Address: 6919 Parkway Boulevard, Land O' Lakes, FL 34639.

The **Alexander "Sandy" Nininger State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Pembroke Pines (Broward County) opened to residents in 2001. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (954) 985-4824 for more information. Address: 8401 West Cypress Drive, Pembroke Pines, FL 33025.

The **Clifford C. Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Panama City (Bay County) opened to residents in 2003. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (850) 747-5401 for more information. Address: 4419 Tram Road, Panama City, FL 32404.

The **Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Port Charlotte (Charlotte County) opened to residents in 2004. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (941) 613-0919 for more information. Address: 21281 Grayton Terrace, Port Charlotte, FL 33954.

The **Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home** in St. Augustine (St. Johns County) opened to residents in 2010. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (904) 940-2193 for more information. Address: 4650 State Road 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

The **Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Port St. Lucie (St. Lucie County) opened to residents in 2022. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. For more information, call (772) 241-6132. Address: 13000 SW Tradition Parkway, Port St. Lucie, FL 34987

The **Alwyn C. Cashe State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Orlando (Orange County) opened to residents in 2022. The 112-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 32 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. For more information, call (407) 741-4613. Address: 5255 Raymond Street, Orlando, FL 32814

Free Benefits & Disability Claims Counseling

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs has State Veterans' Service Officers co-located with the VA Regional Office in Bay Pines, each VA Medical Center and many VA Outpatient Clinics. Assistance with claims is free and covers all state and federal veterans' programs. FDVA, through its Bureau of State Approving Agency, also evaluates and approves secondary and post-secondary education programs so Floridians can take advantage of federal veterans' educational programs such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill®. For more information or for assistance, call (727) 319-7440 or visit **FloridaVets.org**. Most federal, state and local veterans' benefits require proof of military service through an official discharge document, often called a DD-214 or one of its predecessors. You may request a free copy of your military service record through the National Archives at **www.archives.gov/veterans**.

State Women Veterans' Coordinator

The Sunshine State is home to approximately 164,000 women veterans. Many women veterans don't know they are eligible for the full range of federal and state benefits. To help connect women veterans with earned benefits and services, FDVA hosts an annual state women veterans' conference. A Woman Veteran license plate is also available for purchase. For more information on women veterans' issues, call (727) 319-7418 or visit **www.FloridaVets.org/our-veterans/women-veterans**.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: HEALTH CARE

Medical Care

To the extent resources and facilities are available, the VA provides hospital care covering the full range of medical services to veterans. Eligible veterans may receive medical treatment at any VA Medical Center or Clinic in Florida.

The PACT Act

The PACT Act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras. It adds more than 20 presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures. It adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation. It also requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care.

As part of the PACT Act, the VA announced in 2024 that all veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military — at home or abroad — will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care. All veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States will also be eligible to enroll. For enrollment assistance, contact a state veterans' service officer at (727) 319-7440 or via email at **FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV**.



One-time Dental Treatment

Following separation or retirement from service, veterans have 180 days to receive one-time separation dental care from the VA, if the certificate of discharge does not certify that the veteran was provided a complete dental examination and treatment prior to discharge. (38 CFR 17.161)

VA Offers Dental Insurance Program

VA partnered with Delta Dental and MetLife to allow eligible veterans, plus family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), to purchase affordable dental insurance. There are no eligibility limitations based on a service-connected disability rating or enrollment priority assignment. For more information, visit Delta Dental at www.deltadentalvadip.org or MetLife at www.metlife.com/vadip.

Camp Lejeune

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has established a presumption of service connection for 15 diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Active duty, Reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River, N.C. for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) from Aug. 1, 1953, through Dec. 31, 1987, may be eligible for disability benefits. For more information, visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: EDUCATION


Florida waives out-of-state tuition and fees for all honorably discharged veterans who reside in the state and who are enrolled in Florida public, post-secondary institutions, through the "Congressman C.W. Bill Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Act." The out-of-state tuition and fee waiver is extended to spouses and dependent children receiving educational assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and who reside in Florida while enrolled in Florida public, postsecondary institutions (see FS 1009.26(13)).

Out-of-state tuition and fees are waived for active duty members residing or stationed outside of the State of Florida (FS 1009.26(14)).

Florida waives undergraduate-level, certificate or diploma tuition at state universities, colleges, career and technical centers for Florida residents who are recipients of the Purple Heart and other combat related decorations superior in precedence to the Purple Heart. Call (850) 245-0407 for more information. (FS 1009.26(8))

Florida postsecondary institutions will waive the transcript fee of active duty members or honorably discharged veterans, including his or her spouse and dependents (FS 1009.26(17)).

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) provides scholarship opportunities for dependent children and spouses of veterans who died from a service-connected disability or who are 100 percent service-connected permanent and total disabled veterans through the Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled



Veterans program (FS 295.01). Visit www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org for application information, residency and eligibility requirements, or call FLDOE toll free (888) 827-2004 for more information.

Dependent children of service members Missing in Action or Prisoners of War may also be eligible for scholarship benefits. This scholarship may be received in addition to VA's Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA - Ch 35).

Each Florida College System institution and state university offering priority course registration for segments of the student population shall provide priority course registration to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who are receiving GI Bill® educational benefits (FS 1004.075).

The benefit also applies to spouses and dependent children receiving transferred GI Bill® education benefits.

Florida State Colleges and Universities also allow current members of the U.S. Armed Forces and honorably discharged veterans to earn academic college credit for college-level training and education acquired in the military. Consult your local campus for details. Active Duty Service members using DoD's Military Tuition Assistance for enrollment in Florida College System institutions may have fees waived by the institution (FS 1009.25(15)).

Honorably discharged veterans who were inducted into the U.S. Armed Forces prior to completing their high school education can be awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma. Visit <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/veterans-diplomas.shtml> or call (850) 245-0446 for more information.

FEDERAL VETERANS' BENEFITS: EDUCATION UPDATES

(Please go to www.benefits.va.gov/gibill for complete VA educational assistance information)

Post - 9/11 GI Bill

Post-9/11 GI Bill® recipients (Ch 33), and those receiving the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who transitioned out of the military after January 1, 2013, no longer have a 15-year delimiting date for the use of their awarded education benefits (PL 115-48).


Post-9/11 GI Bill® beneficiaries must also now verify their enrollment at a school to VA, monthly (PL 116-315, Section 1010). To learn more, visit: <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/>

Retroactive Induction

Effective April 1, 2021, VA announced they would review beneficiary files for Retroactive Induction where VA will not count veteran entitlement used in the Veteran Readiness and Employment program (VR&E - Ch 31) against the 48-month rule for GI Bill® benefits (maximum entitlement). To maximize educational assistance, a veteran would want to use VR&E benefits first and then GI Bill® benefits.

Montgomery GI Bill®

Provides eligible, honorably discharged veterans who enlisted after June 30, 1985, educational assistance after leaving the service



if the servicemember elected to participate in the education program within the first 12 months of service. The delimiting date of this benefit is 10 years from the discharge date.

National Call to Service Program

Qualified MGIB veterans may choose a benefit as an alternative to the Montgomery GI Bill. Visit <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/national-call-to-service-program/> For more information about U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance, call toll free (888) 442-4551 or visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

VA's new, Temporary and/or Pilot Programs

STEM Program - The Edith Nourse Rogers Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Scholarship provides a maximum award of \$30,000 to Post-9/11 or Fry Scholarship students who have exhausted or will exhaust entitlement, within 180 days. Eligible veterans and Fry Scholarship students must be pursuing an undergraduate STEM degree at an Institution of Higher Learning or must be enrolled in a clinical training program for health care professionals. Eligible veteran and Fry Scholarship students who have already obtained an undergraduate degree in a STEM field and who are enrolled in a teaching certification program to teach in a STEM field, are also eligible to apply (PL 115-48). <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/stem-scholarship/>.


VET TEC Program - is VA's 5-year Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) Pilot Program. The program commenced August 1, 2018 to provide training benefits to eligible veterans who enroll in high technology education programs (Information Science, Computer Programming, Data Processing, Media Applications, or Computer Software) at approved Noncollege Degree schools. Only one day of GI Bill® entitlement is needed for eligibility and program does not use beneficiary's entitlement. Training and a monthly housing allowance (MHA) is provided to students. Students may also train as online only students; however, the MHA would be ½ of national average (PL 115-48). Active Duty members may apply for the VET TEC program if they are within 180 days of separating from the military. To learn more, visit <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/vettec-high-tech-program/>.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: PENSION

Aid & Attendance/Dependency & Indemnity Compensation

Pension is a needs-based benefit paid to wartime veterans who meet certain age or non-service connected disability requirements. Aid and Attendance is an increased monthly pension amount paid to a veteran or surviving spouse. You may be eligible if you require the aid of another person in order to perform activities of daily living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting or adjusting prosthetic devices.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military service members who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of veterans whose death



resulted from a service-related injury or disease. A death certificate indicating the cause of death was service-connected is evidence needed by survivors when applying for the DIC benefit. However, the service-connected condition does not have to be the immediate cause of death; it need only be a “significant contributor” to the veteran’s death. Veterans and their spouses should provide copies of the veteran’s VA Disability Rating Letter to their non-VA physicians. Physicians should add the letter to the veteran’s medical record.

For eligibility requirements, contact a State Veterans’ Service Officer or County Veteran Service Officer. You may also visit www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets.asp or call toll free (800) 827-1000.

Note: The programs, processes and criteria for receiving Social Security and VA disability benefits are different. Visit <https://www.ssa.gov/people/veterans/> or call toll free (800) 772-1213 for more information.

VETERANS’ BENEFITS: HOME LOANS & PROPERTY TAXES

The *Salute our Soldiers Military Loan Program* offers military members and veterans 30-year, fixed-rate first mortgage loans at a lower rate and with several down payment assistance options. The program is available to borrowers who are purchasing a primary residence, meet income and purchase price limits, can qualify for a first mortgage loan, and successfully complete a homebuyer education course. For details, visit www.floridahousing.org or call (850) 488-4197.

G.I. Home Loan Guarantee and Adaptive Housing Grants


The VA may guarantee part of your loan for the purchase of a home, manufactured home, or condominium. In addition, veterans with conventional home loans now have options for refinancing to a VA guaranteed home loan as a result of the Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. The VA also provides grants to veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities to help purchase or construct an adapted home, or modify an existing home to accommodate a disability. For information, call (877) 827-3702 or visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans.

Basic Property Tax Exemptions

Eligible resident veterans with a VA certified service-connected disability of 10 percent or greater shall be entitled to a \$5,000 deduction on the assessment of their home for tax exemption purposes. The veteran must establish this exemption with the county tax official in the county in which he or she resides by providing documentation of this disability. The unremarried surviving spouse of a disabled ex-service member is also entitled to this exemption. (FS 196.24)

Additional Property Tax Exemptions

Any real estate owned and used as a homestead by a veteran, who was honorably discharged and has been certified as having a service-connected, permanent and total disability, is exempt from taxation if the veteran is a permanent resident of Florida and has legal title to



the property on Jan. 1 of the tax year for which exemption is being claimed. (FS 196.081(1))

Any real estate owned and used as a homestead by the surviving spouse of an Armed Forces member who died from service-connected causes while on active duty is exempt from taxation if the member was a permanent resident of Florida on Jan. 1 of the year in which the member died. (FS 196.081(4)(a))

If, upon the death of the veteran, the spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead and permanently resides there, the exemption from taxation carries over to the benefit of the veteran's spouse until such time as he or she remarries, sells, or otherwise disposes of the property. If the spouse sells the property, an exemption not to exceed the amount granted from the most recent ad valorem tax roll may be transferred to the new residence as long as it is used as the primary residence and the spouse does not remarry. (FS 196.081(3))

Any partially disabled veteran who is age 65 or older, any portion of whose disability was combat-related, and who was honorably discharged, may be eligible for a discount from the amount of ad valorem tax on the homestead commensurate with the percentage of the veteran's permanent service-connected disability. Eligible veterans should apply for this benefit at the county property appraiser's office. (FS 196.082) This exemption carries over to surviving spouses effective Jan. 1, 2021.

Any real estate used and owned as a homestead by any quadriplegic is exempt from taxation. Veterans who are paraplegic, hemiplegic, or permanently and totally disabled who must use a wheelchair for mobility, or are legally blind, may be exempt from real estate taxation. Check with your local property appraiser to determine if gross annual household income qualifies. The veteran must be a resident of Florida. (FS 196.101)

Service members entitled to homestead exemption in this state, and who are unable to file in person by reason of such service, may file through next of kin or a duly authorized representative. (FS 196.071)

Disabled Veterans' Exemption from Fees

Total and permanently disabled Florida veterans are exempt from county and municipality building license or permit fees when making certain improvements to their residence in order to make the dwelling habitable or safe. Restrictions apply. (FS 295.16)

VETERANS' BENEFIT: INSURANCE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has increased the maximum amount of life insurance coverage available to Veterans and service members to \$500,000 for Veterans' Group Life Insurance and Servicemembers Group Life Insurance. The increase in helps ensure the families of Veterans and service members will have the financial support they deserve.

In addition, Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) provides low-cost coverage to Veterans with service-connected disabilities. Find out if you're eligible by calling 800-669-8477.



VETERANS' BENEFITS: BURIAL & FAMILY SUPPORT

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides honorably discharged veterans, spouses and dependents with burial in a national cemetery at no cost. Cremated remains are also accepted. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried if they predecease the veteran. The VA provides eligibility determinations for interment in a national cemetery prior to the time of need. Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a national cemetery. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office toll free at (800) 535-1117. The VA provides the gravesite, grave liner, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate and perpetual care of the gravesite at no cost to the family. The VA also provides a headstone, marker or medallion for placement on a private headstone at a private cemetery at no cost to the family. The VA does not make funeral arrangements. For more information, visit www.cem.va.gov or call toll free (800) 697-6947.

Gold Star Families

Florida honors its Gold Star Families. Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult things anyone can go through. Florida Survivor Outreach Services connects you with people who can help you move forward and find strength. SOS Support Coordinators are located strategically throughout Florida to provide long-term support and assistance. A Gold Star license plate is also available from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. For more information, visit www.floridavets.org/our-veterans/gold-star-families.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING & FEE EXEMPTIONS

Veteran Designation on Driver License

Florida veterans can add a veteran designation to their driver license or ID card by visiting any Florida driver license office, to include those operated by county tax collectors. Requirements: 1) present a discharge document which shows an Honorable or Under Honorable Conditions discharge from active duty; 2) visit www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/ what-to-bring to ensure you have all other documents. Veterans who need to obtain a copy of their DD-214 may request it online at www.archives.gov/veterans. While renewing or replacing a driver license or ID card, veterans may also voluntarily request information on veterans' benefits be forwarded to them.

100% Disabled Veteran State ID Card

A disabled veteran ID card may be issued by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to any veteran who is a permanent resident of the state and is determined by the VA or Department of Defense to have a 100% service-connected, permanent and total disability rating. (FS 295.17) The card may be used as proof of eligibility for any state benefit except exemption of homestead property taxes. For application information, call (727) 319-7440.



Driver License & State ID Fee Exemptions

Any veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who has been issued a valid identification card by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with Section 295.17, Florida Statutes, has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a 100% total and permanent service-connected disability rating for compensation, or has been determined to have a service-connected total and permanent disability rating of 100%, is in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States Armed Services, and who is qualified to obtain a driver's license under this chapter is exempt from certain driver license fees. The veteran must present a card or letter from the VA stating 100 percent total and permanent service-connected disability rating for compensation, or a service-connected total and permanent disability rating of 100 percent. (LR24.4a) However, some reinstatement fees are required.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or a county tax collector may issue or renew a state ID card to a person who presents evidence that he or she is homeless without payment of fees. A nominal fee may apply in offices operated by county tax collectors. Homeless veterans may prove their status with a letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that establishes eligibility in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program, known as HUD-VASH.

Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle License Plate

A disabled Veteran who meets the requirements may be issued in lieu of the DV license plate a military license plate for which he or she is eligible or a specialty license plate. A disabled veteran electing a military license plate or specialty license plate under this subsection must pay all applicable fees related such license plate, except for fees otherwise waived.

The veteran must provide proof of a service-connected 100-percent disability rating or that the vehicle was acquired through VA financial assistance. Note: Free license plates with a wheelchair emblem are available for those veterans permanently confined to a wheelchair and who otherwise qualify for a DV plate. Service charges may apply (FS 320.084). For eligibility requirements and more information, call (850) 617-2000 or visit www.flhsmv.gov/pdf/proc/rs/rs-17.pdf.

Parking for Disabled Veterans

Parking spaces for persons with disabilities are for the exclusive use of individuals who have permanent or temporary impairments. (F.S. 553.5041(3)). Disabled veterans who have been issued a "DV" plate may park in designated handicapped parking spaces. Disabled veterans with a mobility impairment may apply for the disabled parking plate with the wheelchair emblem to avoid possible fines and penalties. No state agency, county, municipality or agency thereof may charge the driver of a vehicle displaying a "DV" license plate any fee for parking on public streets, highways or in any metered parking space. There are exemptions to this benefit, which may be found in Florida Statute 316.1964. Legislation also prohibits the governing body of each publicly owned or publicly operated airport from charging parking fees to vehicles displaying certain disabled veteran license plates.



Military License Plates

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles issues special use license plates for eligible military members and veterans. These special use license plates, honoring wartime service, awards, campaigns and decorations, and status are issued after the applicant provides documents establishing proof of status, such as a DD-214, and upon payment of the license tax imposed by s. 320.08, F.S. License fees and taxes vary. Visit www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/personalized-specialty-license-plates for more information.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: RECREATIONAL DISCOUNTS & FEE WAIVERS

Florida State Park Discount Passes

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection provides a 25-percent discount on the purchase of Individual and Family annual passes to Florida's State Parks for all active duty and honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard. Honorably discharged veterans with service-related disabilities, surviving spouses of members of the U.S. military who have fallen in combat, and parents of members of the U.S. military who have fallen in combat are eligible to receive a free-for-life Military Entrance Pass.

Discounted annual passes and the Military pass can only be obtained at a Florida state park with a staffed ranger station, ticket counter or museum. For specific details regarding proof of eligibility, call (850) 245-2157 or visit www.FloridaStateParks.org.

County and municipal departments of parks and recreation provide a full or partial discount on park entrance fees to current military service members, honorably discharged veterans, service-connected disabled veterans and the surviving spouse or parents of a military service member who died in combat. Consult your local county or municipal park for details.

All veterans and Gold Star Families are eligible for free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests. In addition to receiving access to National Parks, the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have indefinitely waived entrance or standard amenity fees for veterans and Gold Star Families. Please visit the National Parks Service at www.nps.gov for more information about how to access this benefit.

Hunting and Fishing

The Military Gold Sportsman's License is available for a reduced fee of \$20 to any resident who is an active or retired member of the U. S. Armed Forces, Armed Forces Reserve or National Guard upon submission of a current military ID card. For more information, visit <https://myfwc.com/license/recreational/military-gold/>. The license is available through an online verification process at www.GoOutdoorsFlorida.com. The license

may also be obtained at Florida tax collectors' offices with proof of residency and a current military identification card.

State hunting and fishing licenses and permits shall be issued without fees for five years to any veteran who is a Florida resident, certified or determined to be 100% totally and permanently disabled by the VA or the U.S. Armed Forces, or who has been issued a valid disabled veteran ID card by FDVA. For more information, visit www.myfwc.com. (FS 379.353).

Operation Outdoor Freedom

Supported by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and led by the Florida Forest Service, Operation Outdoor Freedom provides recreational and rehabilitative opportunities to wounded veterans



on state forests, agricultural lands and private lands throughout Florida at no cost. Designated state and agricultural lands throughout Florida grant qualified veterans with unique opportunities for recreation and rehabilitation. The Florida Forest Service, within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, provides hundreds of veterans with the Operation Outdoor Freedom experience. For more information, call (863) 578-1894 or visit www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Our-Forests/State-Forests/State-Forest-Recreation/Operation-Outdoor-Freedom.

VETERANS FLORIDA

Veterans Florida is a non-profit corporation created by the State of Florida and the state's designated SkillBridge assistance organization. They provide powerful tools to help veterans find a new career, start a business, and connect with helpful resources in the Sunshine State. Visit www.veteransflorida.org to learn more.

Career Opportunities

Florida's veteran-friendly businesses in high-growth fields such as aerospace, manufacturing, logistics, research and development, and technology seek to hire and provide training for veterans, transitioning servicemembers, and members of the National Guard and Reserves. Veteran Employment and Training Specialists help you translate military skills for employers, get placed into skills-based careers, assist with resume and interview preparation, and connect with SkillBridge opportunities. Visit www.veteransflorida.org/careers to register.

Entrepreneurship

Leadership, discipline, and attention to detail — your military skills directly correlate to becoming a successful entrepreneur, and the Veterans Florida Entrepreneurship Program is a proven world-class training initiative designed specifically for veterans. They've joined forces with Florida's top universities, startup incubators, and coworking spaces to equip veterans with tools to start or grow a business and provide access to vitally important small business development resources. Visit www.veteransflorida.org/entrepreneurship to sign up.



VETERANS' BENEFITS: EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Employment services for veterans, military members and their families are offered through the CareerSource Florida network, which includes the Florida Department of Commerce, Florida's 24 local workforce development boards and more than 100 career centers. Available services include interview preparation, resume writing assistance, job and training-related referrals, career planning, vocational guidance, job search and placement assistance, and internet access.

Local Veterans' Employment Representatives conduct outreach to employers and business associations and engage in advocacy efforts with hiring executives to increase employment opportunities for veterans and encourage the hiring of disabled veterans. The Disabled Veterans Outreach Program provides individualized career services to veterans with significant barriers to employment, with the maximum emphasis directed toward serving veterans who are economically or educationally disadvantaged. For more information, visit **www.careersourceflorida.com/your-local-team** or call (866) 352-2345 (option 2).

Employ Florida Vets


The Florida Veterans Program Portal is an online resource from Employ Florida for veterans' employment and employer recruitment information. The portal provides information and resource links to assist veterans, their families, and employers in accomplishing their employment goals and is available 24/7. For more information, visit **veteran.employflorida.com/vosnet/Default.aspx** or call toll free (800) 438-4128.

Florida Military Veterans Career Transition Project

The Veterans Transition Project is a Florida career transition program designed to help transitioning service members, veterans and their spouses begin new careers as K-12 school teachers. Many former military personnel have made this transition and have found teaching as a very rewarding career. You can qualify for a Professional Certificate in about nine months while working as a teacher or in other employment. You can qualify for a Temporary Certificate much quicker, which will allow you to apply for full-time teaching positions. Some veterans can qualify for the certificate even if they do not hold a bachelor's degree. The Veterans Career Transition Project can provide a personalized career transition plan that outlines a step-by-step process for entering the teaching profession. Also, Florida provides a sign-on bonus for veterans with an honorable discharge and who commit to teach for two years. For more information about the program and teaching opportunities in Florida call **(833) 358-7667**, or go to **www.tcc.fl.edu/fmvctp**.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) protects the employment rights and ensures the reemployment of veterans, reservists and National Guard members after a period of active service and prohibits employment



discrimination because of past, current, or future military obligations. It covers all employers, regardless of size, in the public and private sectors. Call toll free (866) 487-2365 or visit www.dol.gov/agencies/vets for more information.

Business License Fee Waivers

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation may waive the initial licensing fee, application fee and unlicensed activity fee for military veterans and their spouses at the time of discharge who apply for a state professional license. The application must be submitted within 60 months after the veteran has been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces including the Florida National Guard. The waiver does not include examination or other incidental fees. The law applies to new licenses for more than 20 professions under DBPR's jurisdiction, including construction, real estate, certified public accountants and cosmetologists. Visit www.myfloridalicense.com/DBPR/military-services/veterans-services or call (850) 487-1395 for more information.


Health License Fee Waivers

The Florida Department of Health has programs in place to aid veterans in finding employment in health-related fields. The department offers expedited health care practitioner licensure through the Veterans Application for Licensure Online Response (VALOR) system. They also offer expanded licensure fee waivers for military veterans and their spouses applying for health care licensure in Florida. The department continues to assist county health departments in recruiting military veterans and their spouses to work in health-related fields. If you were honorably discharged within the past 60 months, call (850) 488-0595 or visit www.flhealthsource.gov/valor#Veterans.

Veterans' Preference in Florida

Veterans' Preference in the state of Florida and all political subdivisions of the state, shall give preference in employment, promotions after being deployed and retention. (FS 295.07, 295.11) Individuals who qualify for this preference are as follows: A veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14), F.S. Active duty for training may not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph. A veteran who has served on active duty in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and has received an honorable discharge; a wartime veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14), one who has served at least one day during a wartime period; or a disabled veteran with a service-connected disability that is compensable under public laws administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or a veteran who is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension by reason of public laws administered by the VA and U.S. Department of Defense.

The spouse of a person who has a total disability, permanent in nature, resulting from a service-connected disability and who, because of this disability, cannot qualify for employment, and the spouse of a person missing in action, captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.



The unmarried widow or widower of a veteran who died of a service-connected disability.

The mother, father, legal guardian, or unmarried widow or widower of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who died in the line of duty under combat-related conditions, as verified by the U.S. Department of Defense.

A current member of any reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Florida National Guard.

Veterans must have been honorably discharged as indicated on their DD214 to be eligible for preference. Eligible applicants who meet the requirements for the position are guaranteed preference at every step throughout the hiring process.

Public entity employers who advertise for qualifying positions must make the applicant aware that preference is available. The employer must also provide the applicant with information as to what can be done if the veteran believes he/she was denied preference in employment, promotion or retention.

An applicant who believes he or she was not afforded employment, promotion or retention preference may file a complaint with the FDVA. The complaint must be made within 60 days from the date a non-select notice was received. The FDVA can investigate and make a determination as to whether a violation has occurred. For more information, call (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5511, or email **VeteransPreference@fdva.fl.gov**. You can also mail a detailed complaint to: 11351 Ulmerton Rd, Suite 311-K, Largo, FL 33778-1630.

Florida Veteran Certified Business Enterprises

The Department of Management Services' Office of Supplier Diversity certifies eligible Florida-based veteran-, woman- and minority-owned small businesses. The Office of Supplier Diversity also provides technical assistance, certification support and pertinent information about state contract opportunities, special events and networking activities. Learn more by visiting **www.dms.myflorida.com/osd** or call (850) 487-0915. The U.S. Small Business Administration also offers programs and services for veterans seeking to establish or expand small businesses. For more information, call toll free (800) 827-5722.

Veteran Readiness and Employment Service

Veterans may receive Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) services to help with job training, employment accommodations, resume development and job seeking skills coaching. Other services may be provided to assist veterans in starting their own businesses or independent living services for those who are severely disabled and unable to work in traditional employment. For more information, visit **www.benefits.va.gov/VOCREHAB/index.asp** or call toll free (800) 827-1000.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: LEGAL

Legal Advice & Counsel

Legal Aid for Veterans – 1 (866) 486-6161 Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. When you call, you will speak to a screener who will determine your eligibility and set your appointment with an attorney.

Florida Veterans Legal Helpline can assist with Landlord-Tenant Matters, Consumer Credit Issues, Foreclosure, Divorce/Child Support, Driver Licenses/ID cards, Social Security, Public Benefits, Discharge Upgrades, VA Benefits and other Civil Legal Matters (No Criminal or Traffic Matters).

The Governor's Initiative on Lawyers Assisting Warriors (GI LAW) draws from the talent of Florida's leading law firms to provide active-duty Florida-based US military service members access to pro bono (free of charge) legal services in civil cases. For more information, visit **Governor's GI Law Ensures Legal Access** (<https://selectflorida.org/military-defense/governors-gi-law/>)

Legal Clinics in VA Facilities: www.va.gov/ogc/docs/LegalServices.pdf.

American Bar Association resources for veterans: ABA Home Front americanbar.org

The Florida Bar, in conjunction with the American Bar Association, administers a free virtual legal advice clinic for Floridians. Visit: <https://florida.freelegalanswers.org>.

Certification of Discharge or Separation

You may request a copy of your military service record by visiting the National Archives online at www.archives.gov/veterans.


You can also request DD214 Forms from the National Archives and even get replacements for lost medals and awards.

At a veteran's request, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall record, without cost, that portion of a certificate indicating the character of discharge, separation, or service in accordance with Section 28.222(3) (d), Florida Statutes. CAUTION: Once on file, documents become official court records and are open to the public.

Veterans Courts

Veterans returning from combat may suffer from post-traumatic stress, Traumatic Brain Injury ('TBI') and/or may have difficulty reintegrating into society. Due to alienation and lack of support, some veterans fall into drug and alcohol abuse and/or develop mental health issues; 32 Veterans Courts in Florida have been established as of 2024 to address these issues.

Section 394.47891, Florida Statutes, established the T. Patt Maney Veterans' Treatment Act, which authorizes a veterans' court with the purpose of addressing the substance abuse and mental health needs of veterans within the criminal justice system. Successful completion of Veterans Court has decreased the recidivism rates of its participants thanks to the proper diagnosis and treatment of mental



health issues, and by providing supportive mentors to assist the veteran on his or her journey through this process. Recent legislation has also expanded the pool of veterans eligible for these courts.

For more information, visit Veterans Courts - Florida Courts
<https://www.flcourts.gov/Resources-Services/Office-of-Problem-Solving-Courts/Veterans-Courts>

There is a helpful **Veterans Resources Guide** for the Florida State Court System at VETERANS RESOURCE GUIDE FOR THE FLORIDA STATE COURT SYSTEM (flcourts.gov)

For additional information of Veterans' legal resources
www.floridavets.org/resources

VA Health Connect

The VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center is a service of the VA Sunshine Healthcare Network (VISN 8) - providing 24/7, virtual care and support to Veterans enrolled for VA Health Care in Florida, South Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Veterans who receive care in the network can call **1-877-741-3400** around the clock to get their health questions or concerns addressed from the comfort and convenience of their home or wherever they may be. Services include general administrative support like appointment scheduling and cancelation, nurse triage, and virtual visits with a doctor or nurse practitioner via telephone, **VA Video Connect**, or **VA Health Chat**. Get the right care, right now with the VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center.



The Right Care, Right Now

1-877-741-3400



FLORIDA VETERANS' MEMORIALS

The State of Florida has three official memorials dedicated to veterans located in the capital city, Tallahassee. The sites are maintained by the Florida Department of Management Services.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Florida's World War II Memorial was dedicated on June 6, 2005, by Gov. Jeb Bush. More than 248,000 Florida veterans served in the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to more than 10,700 World War II veterans.

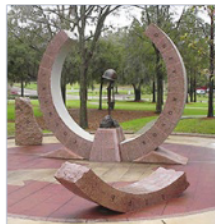
Location: In front of the R. A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Florida's Korean War Memorial was dedicated on Dec. 11, 1999, by Gov. Jeb Bush. More than 294,000 Florida veterans served in the Armed Forces during the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to more than 75,000 Korean War veterans.

Location: Cascades Park, Downtown Tallahassee.



VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

Florida's Vietnam War Memorial was dedicated on Nov. 12, 1985, by Gov. Bob Graham. The memorial, with its twenty-eight by fifteen foot U.S. flag, contains the names of all known Floridians killed in the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to more than 462,000 Vietnam veterans.

Location: Across Monroe Street from the Old Capitol Building, Downtown Tallahassee.



Florida

GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE

Veteran Suicide Prevention

www.saveflvets.org

1-844-MyFLVet (693-5838)

National Veteran Crisis Line
at 988 (Press 1)

FDVA OFFICES & SERVICE OFFICER SITES

To contact a State Veterans' Service Officer, call (727) 319-7440 and they'll return your call within 24 hours. All services are free to the veteran. You may also contact them via e-mail at FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV.

En Español - Para obtener información y ayuda sobre beneficios de veteranos, contactar Jose Licea, Jose.Licea@FDVA.FL.GOV, al (786) 501-9609.

FDVA Executive Office
11351 Ulmerton Rd. #332
Largo, FL 33778-1630
(727) 518-3202

FDVA Benefits & Assistance
9500 Bay Pines Blvd. #214
Bay Pines, FL 33744
(727) 319-7440

FDVA Capital Office
2601 S. Blairstone Rd.
Suite C-300
Tallahassee, FL 32399
850-782-4307

C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bldg. 22, #117
Bay Pines, FL 33744-5005
(727) 398-6661 x15489

Malcom Randall VA Medical Center
1601 SW Archer Rd. #D-163
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 548-6029

Lake City VA Medical Center
619 S. Marion Ave. #A-163
Lake City, FL 32025-5808
(386) 755-3016 x2070

James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Bldg. 41, 2nd floor, Rm. 242
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 972-2000 x6589

**West Palm Beach
VA Medical Center**
7305 North Military Trail
Bldg. 10, #113
West Palm Beach, FL 33410
(561) 422-8204

Lake Baldwin Outpatient Clinic
5201 Raymond St., Rm 1801 A & B
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 646-5500 x5062, x5063,
x5064

Lee County VA Healthcare Center
2489 Diplomat Parkway East
Cape Coral, FL 33909
(239) 652-1800 x21240

**William Chappell Jr.
VA Outpatient Clinic**
551 National Health Care Dr.

Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 323-7500, x37722-37682

**Eglin VA Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
100 Veterans Way, Rm. 108
Eglin AFB, FL 32542
(850) 609-2740

**Andrew K. Baker Department of
Veterans Affairs Clinic**
400 College Dr.
Middleburg, FL 32068
(904) 213-2700 Ext. 573006

Hurlburt Field
212 Lukasik Avenue
Building 90210, Rm. 143
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544
Phone: (850) 884-6280

Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic
1536 N. Jefferson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 475-5871

**Jacksonville University VA
Outpatient Clinic**
3901 University Blvd. South
Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 732-9801

NAS Jacksonville
Bldg. 39, Langley St (VyStar Credit
Union Bldg. 39)
NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212
Phone: (904) 420-5232

Ocala Community Based Clinic
4826 SW 49th Road, Room 115B
Ocala, FL 34474
Phone: (352) 369-3320 Ext. 316268

Orlando Lakemont Campus
2500 S. Lakemont Avenue
Room 127
Orlando, FL 32814
(407) 646-4105

**Orlando (Lake Nona)
VA Medical Center**
13800 Veterans Way
Room 1N205
Orlando, FL 32827
(407) 631-0021

**New Port Richey VA
Outpatient Clinic**
7900 Little Road

New Port Ritchey, FL 34654
(727) 869-4100

**Pensacola Joint
Ambulatory Care Clinic**
790 Veterans Way
Pensacola, FL 32507
(850) 912-2055

**William 'Bill' Kling VA
Outpatient Clinic**
9800 W. Commercial Blvd.
Sunrise, FL 33351
(954) 625-8727

Boots Thomas VA Outpatient Clinic
2181 Orange Ave. East
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 513-7641/7636

Tampa Annex VA Clinic
13515 Lake Terrace Lane
Room# 1B701
Tampa FL 33637
Phone: 813 998-8000 x8077

The Villages Outpatient Clinic
8900 SE 165th Mulberry Ln.
The Villages, FL 32162
(352) 674-5095

VA Primary Care Clinic
5469 SW 34th Street, Room 1L130
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 548-1900 Ext 185325

Viera VA Outpatient Clinic
2900 Veterans Way
Room D-227B & D-227D
Viera, FL 32940
(321) 637-3518

VA OUTPATIENT CLINICS

**Boca Raton Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
901 Meadows Rd.
Boca Raton, FL 33433
(561) 416-8995

**Bradenton Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
5520 State Road 64, Suite 101
Bradenton, FL 34208
(941) 721-0649

**Brooksville Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
14540 Cortez Blvd. #108
Brooksville, FL 34613
(352) 597-8287

**Clermont Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
805 Oakley Seaver Drive
Clermont, FL 34711
(352) 536-8200

**William Chappell Jr.
VA Outpatient Clinic**
551 National Health Care Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 323-7500

**Deerfield Beach Community
Based Outpatient Clinic**
2100 SW 10th St.
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
(954) 570-5572

**Delray Beach Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
4800 Linton Blvd.
Building E, #300
Delray Beach, FL 33445
(561) 495-1973

**Deltona Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
1200 Deltona Blvd., Suite 41 to 47
Deltona, FL 32725
(386) 575-5000

**Eglin Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
100 Veterans Way, Rm. 108
Eglin AFB, FL 32542
(866) 520-7359

**Fort Pierce Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
1901 South 25th St, Suite 103
Ft. Pierce, FL 34947
(772) 595-5150


**Hollywood Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
3702 Washington St. #201
Hollywood, FL 33021
(954) 986-1811

**Homestead Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
950 Krome Ave. #401
Homestead, FL 33030
(305) 248-0874

Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic
1536 N Jefferson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 475-5871

**Key Largo Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
105662 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-0164

**Key West Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
1300 Douglas Circle, L-15



Key West, FL 33040
(305) 293-4863

**Kissimmee Community Based
Outpatient and Outreach Clinic**
701 Union St
Kissimmee FL 34741
407-518-5004 (Outpatient)

Lake Baldwin Outpatient Clinic
5201 Raymond Street
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 646-5500 x5062, x5063,
x5064

**Lakeland Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
4237 South Pipkin Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33811
(863) 701-2470

**Lecanto Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
2804 W. Marc Knighton Court,
Suite A
Lecanto, FL 34461
(352) 746-8000

Lee County VA Healthcare Center
2489 Diplomat Parkway East
Cape Coral, FL 33909
(239) 652-1800

**Marianna Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
4970 Highway 90
Marianna, FL 32446
(850) 718-5620

**Miami Healthcare for
Homeless Veterans**
1492 West Flagler St., Suite 101
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 541-5864

**Miami Outpatient
Substance Abuse Clinic**
Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center
1201 N.W. 16th St.
Miami, FL 33125
1st Floor
Room 1E107A
(305) 575-7500

**Naples Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
800 Goodlette-Frank Rd. #120
Naples, FL 34102
(239) 659-9188

**New Port Richey
VA Outpatient Clinic**
7900 Little Rd
New Port Richey, FL 34654
(727) 869-4227/4228

**Ocala Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
4826 SW 49th Road
Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 369-3320 x 316268

**Okeechobee Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
1201 N. Parrot Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 824-3232

**Palatka Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
400 N. State Road 19
Suite 48 (Palatka Mall)
Palatka, FL 32177
(386) 329-8800

**North Pinellas County Community
Based Outpatient Clinic**
26286 US Hwy 19 N
Clearwater, FL 33761
(727) 734-5276

Panama City Beach VA Clinic
140 Richard Jackson Blvd., Rm. 140
Panama City Beach, FL 32407
(850) 636-7000 x 37336

**Pembroke Pines Community
Based Outpatient Clinic**
7369 W. Sheridan St., Suite 102
Hollywood, FL 33024
(954) 894-1668

**Pensacola Joint Ambulatory
Care Center**
790 Veterans Way
Pensacola, FL 32507
(850) 912-2000

**Perry Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
1224 N. Peacock Avenue
Perry, FL 32347
(850) 223-8387

**Port Charlotte Community
Based Outpatient Clinic**
4161 Tamiami Trail, Suite 401/602
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 235-2710

**St. Lucie Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
126 SW Chamber Court
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 344-9288

St. Lucie PTSD Clinic
126 SW Chamber Court
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 878-7876

**Sarasota Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
5682 Bee Ridge Rd. #100

Sarasota, FL 34233
(941) 371-3349

**Sebring Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
5901 US Highway 27 S
Sebring, FL 33870
(863) 471-6227

**St. Augustine Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
195 Southpark Blvd.
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 829-0814

**St. Petersburg Community
Based Outpatient Clinic**
840 Dr. MLK Jr. Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 502-1700

**Stuart Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
3501 SE Willoughby Blvd.
Stuart, FL 34997
(772) 288-0304

**William 'Bill' Kling
VA Outpatient Clinic**
9800 W. Commercial Blvd.
Sunrise, FL 33351
(954) 475-5500

**Sgt. Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas
VA Clinic**
2181 Orange Ave. East
Tallahassee, FL 32301

(850) 878-0191

**Tavares Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
1380 Burleigh Blvd.
Tavares, FL 34748
(352) 253-2900

Viera VA Outpatient Clinic
2900 Veterans Way
Room: D-227B & D-227D
Viera, FL 32940
(321) 637-3518

The Villages Outpatient Clinic
8900 SE 165th Mulberry Ln.
The Villages, FL 32162
(352) 674-5000

**Vero Beach Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
372 17th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 299-4623

**Crossroads Annex
(Mental Health Services)**
925 South Semoran Blvd. Suite 114
Winter Park, FL 32792
(866) 998-4365

**Zephyrhills Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
6937 Medical View Lane
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
(813) 780-2550

VET CENTERS

If you have served in a combat zone, Vet Centers are in your community to help you and your family with readjustment counseling and outreach services.

**North Pinellas County Community
Based Outpatient Clinic**
26286 US Hwy 19 N
Clearwater, FL 33761
(727) 734-5276

Clermont Vet Center
1655 E. Highway 50, Suite 102
Clermont, FL 34711
(352) 536-6701

Daytona Beach Vet Center
1620 Mason Ave., Suite C
Daytona Beach, FL 32117
(386) 323-7500 ext.37722 & 30122

Fort Lauderdale Vet Center
3666 W. Oakland Park Blvd.
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33311
(954) 714-2381

Fort Myers Vet Center
4110 Center Pointe Drive, Unit 204
Fort Myers, FL 33916


(239) 652-1861

Gainesville Vet Center
105 NW 75th Street, Suite 2
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 331-1408

Palm Beach Vet Center
4996 10th Ave North, Suite 6
Greenacres, FL 33463
(561) 422-1201

Jacksonville Vet Center
3728 Phillips Highway, Suite 31
Jacksonville, FL 32207
(904) 399-8351

Jupiter Vet Center
6650 W. Indiantown Rd., Suite 120
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 422-1220



Key Largo Vet Center Outstation
105662 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-0164

Lakeland Vet Center
1370 Ariana St.
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 284-0841

Melbourne Vet Center
2098 Sarno Road
Melbourne, FL 32935
(321) 254-3410

Miami Vet Center
8280 NW 27th Street, Suite 511
Miami, FL 33122
(305) 718-3712

Naples Vet Center
2705 Horseshoe Dr. South, #204
Naples, FL 34104
(239) 403-2377

Pasco County Vet Center
5139 Deer Park Drive
New Port Richey, FL 34653
(727) 372-1854

Ocala Vet Center
3300 SW 34th Avenue, Suite 140
Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 237-1947

Orlando Vet Center
5575 S. Semoran Blvd., Suite 30
Orlando, FL 32822
(407) 857-2800

Bay County Vet Center
3109 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 101

Panama City, FL 32405
(850) 522-6102

Pensacola Vet Center
4918 Mobile Highway
Pensacola, FL 32506
(850) 456-5886

Pompano Beach Vet Center
2300 West Sample Road, Suite 102
Pompano Beach, FL 33073
(954) 984-1669

Sarasota Vet Center
4801 Swift Road, Suite A
Sarasota, FL 34231
(941) 927-8285

Okaloosa County Vet Center
6 11th Avenue, Suite G-1
Shalimar, FL 32579
(850) 651-1000

St. Petersburg Vet Center
6798 Crosswinds Drive North,
Bldg. A
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
(727) 549-3633

Tallahassee Vet Center
2002 Old St. Augustine Road,
Bldg. A/100
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 942-8810

Tampa Vet Center
3637 W. Waters Avenue, Suite 600
Tampa, FL 33614
(813) 228-2621

VA MEDICAL CENTERS

C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bay Pines, FL 33744
(727) 398-6661
(888) 820-0230

Malcom Randall VA Medical Center
1601 SW Archer Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 548-6000
(800) 324-8387

Lake City VA Medical Center
619 South Marion Avenue
Lake City, FL 32025
(386) 755-3016
(800) 308-8387

Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center
1201 N.W. 16th St.
Miami, FL 33125
(305) 575-7000, (888) 276-1785

James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 972-2000
(888) 811-0107

**Orlando (Lake Nona)
VA Medical Center**
13800 Veterans Way
Room 1N200
Orlando, FL 32827
(407) 631-1000
(800) 922-7521

West Palm Beach VA Medical Center
7305 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33410
(561) 422-8262
(800) 972-8262



BENEFITS AND HEALTH CARE CONTACTS

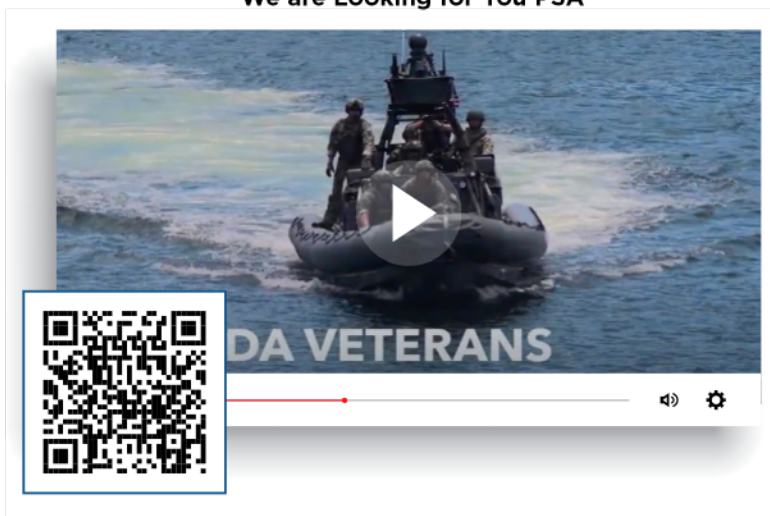
Reference	Phone	Website
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	(800) 827-1000 or TDD (800) 829-4833	www.va.gov • www.vba.va.gov
Veterans Health Care Eligibility/Enrollment	(877) 222-8387	www.va.gov/healthbenefits
St. Petersburg VA Regional Office, Bay Pines	(800) 827-1000	www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg
Florida National Guard	(904) 823-0319	https://state.nationalguard.com/florida
Military Funeral Honors	(800) 342-9647	www.cem.va.gov/military_funeral_honors.asp
Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola	(850) 453-4846	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/barrancas.asp
Bay Pines National Cemetery	(727) 319-6479	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/baypines.asp
Cape Canaveral National Cemetery	(321) 383-2638	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp
Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell	(352) 793-7740	www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/florida.asp
Jacksonville National Cemetery	(904) 766-5222	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/jacksonville.asp
Sarasota National Cemetery	(877) 861-9840	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp
South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth	(561) 649-6489	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp
St. Augustine National Cemetery	(904) 766-5222	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/staugustine.asp
Tallahassee National Cemetery	(850) 402-8941	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/tallahassee.asp
Returning Veterans	(800) 827-1000	www.oefoif.va.gov
TRICARE	(800) 444-5445	www.tricare.mil
Gulf War Veterans	(800) 749-8387	www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar
Women Veterans	(855) 829-6636	www.va.gov/womenvet
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	(800) 336-4590	https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/
National VA Homeless Hotline	(877) 424-3838	www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp
VA eBenefits Portal	(800) 827-1000	www.ebenefits.va.gov
VA Home Loan Guaranty	(877) 827-3702	www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans
National Veteran Crisis Hotline	988 dial 1	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
MyVA411 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year helpline serving all members of the veteran community	1-800-MyVA411	https://news.va.gov/82379/1-800-myva411/
Florida Relay Service - For those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or speech impaired	Dial 7-1-1	www.ftri.org/floridarelay

FDVA PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

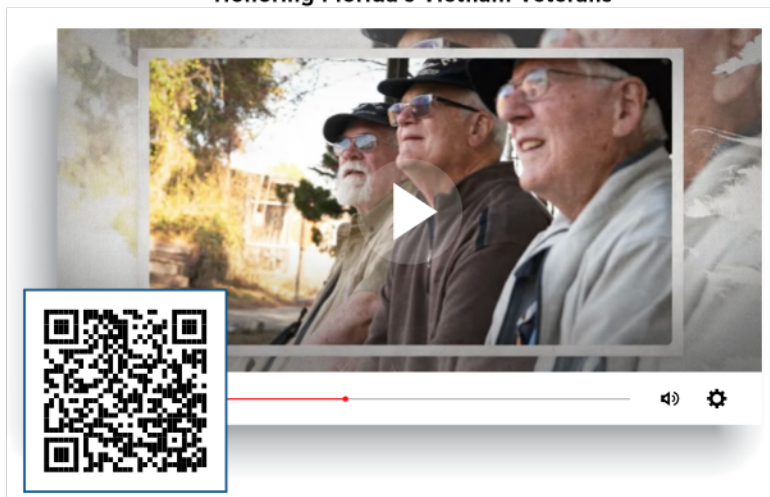
FDVA has produced PSAs in Spanish and English on various topics, including our Veterans' Homes Health Care Professionals Recruitment and Retention initiative and two PSAs to promote awareness about healthcare careers. Recently, FDVA produced a moving Women Veterans PSA recognizing the 164,000 Women Veterans in the State of Florida.

Scan the QR Codes below to watch the FDVA PSAs.

We are Looking for You PSA



Honoring Florida's Vietnam Veterans



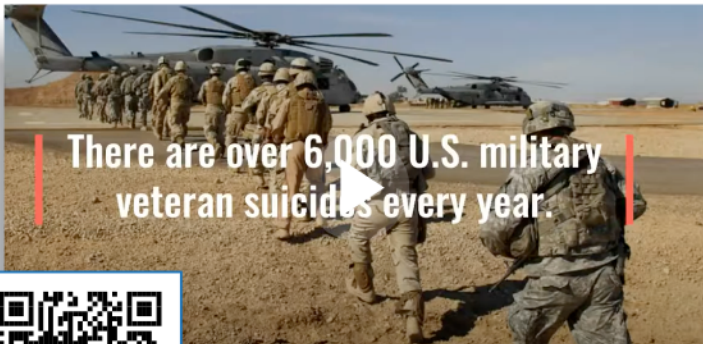
Florida Veterans' Benefits PSA



Women Veterans PSA



Watch Stander PSA



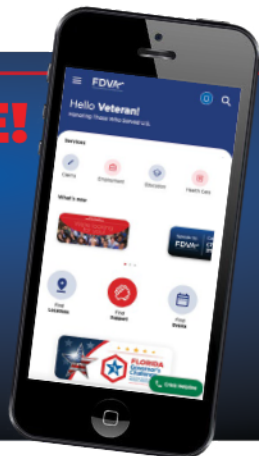


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Veterans and their families can connect with Hope Florida at **850-300-HOPE (4673)**.

Read more: www.HopeFlorida.com





VETERANS FLORIDA

Make your career soar! Florida's booming economy needs experienced veterans in fields including aerospace, logistics, manufacturing, agriculture, law enforcement, and more.

Put your skills to work for you! Veterans Florida provides powerful tools for veterans starting their own business or building careers in the nation's most veteran-ready state.

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The Florida Veterans Legal Helpline received over 15,000 calls from veterans and their families last year.

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Photography by Thompson Brand Images

DLA Piper and Mike Bedke, Esq. thank the following changemakers for making the Florida Veterans Legal Helpline possible:



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CONTACT US
904-394-3908
contact@vetmatter.org
WWW.NAVJ.ORG





Florida GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE

Veteran Suicide Prevention

www.saveflvets.org

1-844-MyFLVet (693-5838)

National Veteran Crisis Line
at 988 (Press 1)

Veterans in acute suicidal crisis may go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit. For details, visit <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>.



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— FOUNDATION —

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www.HelpFLVets.org

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