



CONGRESSWOMAN  
**TERRI SEWELL**  
REPRESENTING ALABAMA'S 7TH DISTRICT



# ALABAMA VETERANS

## RESOURCE GUIDE

*Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District*



EDITION DATE: JUNE 2017



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**TERRI SEWELL**  
REPRESENTING ALABAMA'S 7TH DISTRICT



To Veterans, Service-members, and families of Alabama's 7<sup>th</sup> District,

It goes without saying that we are grateful and forever thankful for the privileges that we enjoy as a nation because of the sacrifices of the brave men and women who have answered the call to serve in our armed forces, and for the families and communities that support them back home.

Understanding the debt we owe to serve you as you transition back into your communities, my staff and I are committed to ensuring that we are here to support that process in any way possible. We therefore have compiled this **Veterans Resource Guide** to assist you in successfully navigating back into civilian life while obtaining the proper benefits and assistance you have earned through your service.

I hope you find this guide helpful. Resources from the federal, state, and local government, as well as other service-related programs are all made available to you in this resource. Should you need any additional information on programs or issues covered in this guide, or if you have problems accessing your benefits, please feel free to contact my office nearest you. Again, thank you for your service!

Sincerely,

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress





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**Casework Assistance**  
**Available to Alabama's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

Alabama's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District has four offices to assist you with any questions you may have about Veteran resources and to help guide you through federal inquiries. Each office has caseworkers ready to serve Veterans who reside within the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Visit my website: <https://sewell.house.gov/email-me> and **let us know how we can help.**

**A Congressional Office: How We Can Help**

One of a Congressional Office's core functions is to serve as an advocate for constituents who may be experiencing process issues with a federal agency. I have dedicated district staff that stands ready to assist you. Our office can help with a variety of issues, including, but not limited to, issues with:

- Federal Tax returns or the IRS;
- Social Security claims or benefits;
- The Office of Personnel Management or the Department of Labor;
- The Department of Veterans Affairs;
- The Department of Defense;
- The US Postal Service including delivery problems or bad service;
- Passports, visas, or immigration cases.

Our offices can help with issues dealing with federal agencies. We, however, are not able to assist in situations that involve state or local government, or any legal matters involving the court system. The role of our office is that of an advocate.

**Washington D.C. Office**

2201 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2665

**Montgomery Office**

101 South Lawrence Street  
Montgomery Co. Courthouse Anx. 3  
(334) 262-1919

**Birmingham Office**

2 20<sup>th</sup> Street N, Suite 1130  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
(205) 254-1960

**Selma Office**

908 Alabama Avenue  
Federal Building, Suite 112  
Selma, AL 36701  
(334) 877-4414

**Tuscaloosa Office**

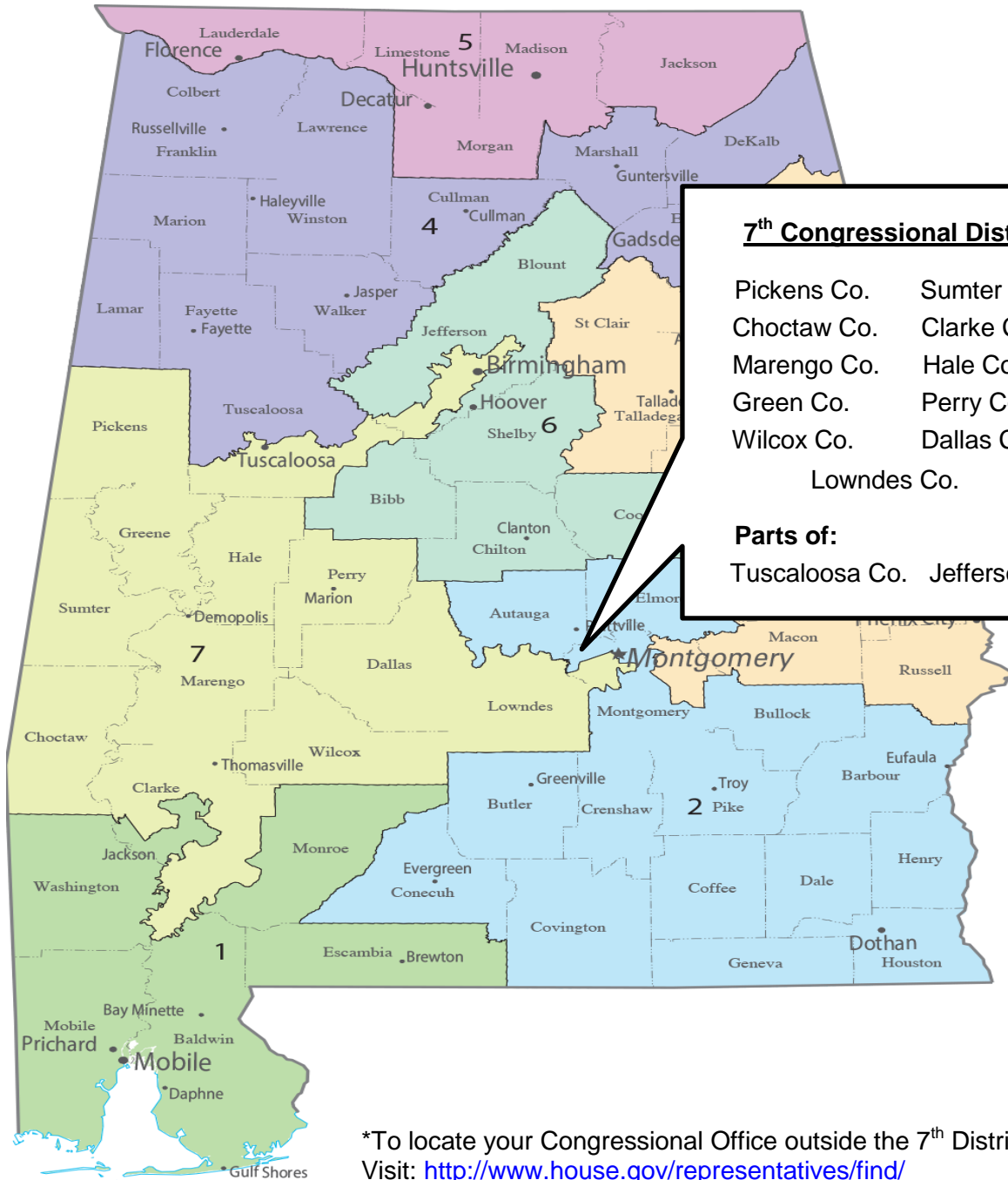
2501 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
(205) 752-5380



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**The 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

*Our office can provide you services if you reside within our 13 Counties*





**State of Alabama**  
**U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Resources**

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs National Website contains a by city and county directory of Veterans Health Facilities: <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?STATE=AL&dnum=ALL#div1>

**VA Medical Centers**

★ **Birmingham:**      **Birmingham VA Medical Center**

700 South 19th Street | Birmingham, AL 35233  
Phone: 205-933-8101

★ **Montgomery:**      **Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System West Campus**

215 Perry Hill Road | Montgomery, AL 36109  
Phone: 334-272-4670 | 800-214-8387

★ **Tuscaloosa:**      **Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center**

3701 Loop Rd. East | Tuscaloosa, AL 35404  
Phone: 205-554-2000 | 888-269-3045

**Tuskegee:**      **Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System East Campus**

2400 Hospital Road | Tuskegee, AL 36083  
Phone: 334-727-0550 | 800-214-8387

**Alabama Out-patient Clinics**

**Dothan:**      **Dothan Mental Health Clinic**

753 Ross Clark Cir., Suite 4 | Dothan, AL 36303  
Phone: 334-678-1933

★ **Selma:**      **Selma Outpatient Clinic**

206 Vaughan Memorial Drive | Selma, AL 3670  
Phone: 334-418-4975



## Alabama Community Based Out-patient Clinics

### **Anniston/Oxford Clinic**

96 Ali Way Creekside South | Oxford, AL 36203  
Phone: 256-832-4141

### ★ **Bessemer CBOC**

975 9th Avenue, SW-Suite 400  
UAB Medical Center West | Bessemer, AL 32055  
Phone: 205-428-3495

### ★ **Birmingham VA Clinic**

2415 7th Avenue South | Birmingham, AL 35233  
Phone: 205-933-8101

### **Childersburg CBOC**

151 9th Ave NW | Childersburg, AL 35044  
Phone: 256-378-9026

### **Dothan**

2020 Alexander Drive | Dothan, AL 36301  
Phone: 334-673-4166

### **Gadsden CBOC**

206 Rescia Ave | Gadsden, AL 35906  
Phone: 256-413-7154

### **Guntersville, AL CBOC**

101 Judy Smith Drive | Guntersville, AL 35976  
Phone: 256-582-4033

### **Huntsville Clinic**

500 Markaview Drive, NW | Huntsville, AL 35805  
Phone: 256-535-3100

### **Jasper Clinic**

1454 Jones Dairy Rd | Jasper, AL 35501  
Phone: 205-221-7384

### **Mobile Outpatient Clinic**

1504 Springhill Ave. | Mobile, AL 36604  
Phone: 251-219-3900 | 251-219-3900

### ★ **Montgomery VA Clinic**

8105 Veterans Way | Montgomery, AL 36117  
Phone: 800-214-8387

### **Shoals Area (Florence) Clinic**

422 DD Cox Blvd. | Sheffield, AL 35660  
Phone: 256-381-9055

### **VA Outpatient Clinic Monroeville (CBOC)**

159 Whetstone Street | Monroeville, AL 36400  
Phone: 251-743-5861 | 251-743-5862

### **Wiregrass CBOC**

301 Andrews Avenue | Fort Rucker, AL 36362  
Phone: 800-214-8387 X 7831



## Alabama Veteran Centers

★ **Birmingham:**

**Birmingham Vet Center**

400 Emery Drive | Birmingham, AL 35244  
Phone: 205-212-3122 | 877-927-8387

**Huntsville:**

**Madison County Vet Center**

415 Church Street, Bldg. H | Huntsville, AL 35801  
Phone: 256-539-5775 | 877-927-8387

**Mobile:**

**Mobile Vet Center**

3221 Springhill Ave Bldg. 2, Suite C | Mobile, AL 36607  
Phone: 251-478-5906 | 877-927-8387

★ **Montgomery:**

**Montgomery Vet Center**

4405 Atlanta Highway | Montgomery, AL 36109  
Phone: 334-273-7796 X 2263 | 877-927-8387

**The Vet Center:** Their goal is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life.



In an effort to better serve the veteran and family members, upon request Vet Centers will provide services after normal work hours and/or on weekends. For assistance after hours, weekends, and holidays call: 1-877-WAR-VETS (1-877-927-8387)

**National Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 (press 1)** The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States.





## Compensation

To learn more about the compensations offered by the VA visit  
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/index.asp>

### **ACCESSING INFORMATION VIA EBENEFITS PORTAL:**

What is “**eBenefits**”? eBenefits is a joint VA/DoD web portal that provides resources and self-service capabilities to Veterans, Service members, and their families to research, access and manage their VA and military benefits and personal information.

Some of the features within eBenefits allow Veterans and Service members to access official military personnel documents, view the status of their disability compensation claim, transfer entitlement of Post-9/11 GI Bill to eligible dependents (Service members only), and register for and update direct deposit information for certain benefits. For a full list of features, see the reverse side of this fact sheet. New features are being added regularly.



eBenefits is located at [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov). Before Veterans can access and use eBenefits they must be listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and obtain a DS Logon. Service members can access eBenefits with a DS Logon or Common Access Card (CAC). They can choose from two levels of registration, DS Logon Level 1 (Basic) and DS Logon Level 2 (Premium).

### **eBenefits Features:**

- Apply for Veterans benefits online
- Check on your compensation or pension claims status
- Upload documents to support your compensation or pension claim
- Check Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollment status
- Use the Vet Success employment search
- View DoD TRICARE health insurance
- Sign up for Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) (Time limits apply)
- Search for and select an accredited representative or organization
- Check on your appeal status
- Order prescription medications
- Message your physician securely
- Access your medical file via Blue Button
- Utilize the military skills translator and résumé builder
- Order medical equipment such as hearing aid batteries and prosthetic socks
- Generate a VA home loan certificate of eligibility
- Obtain official military personnel documents such as DD Form 214
- Register for and update direct deposit information for certain benefits
- Real-time status and status notifications



## HOW TO APPLY FOR AN eBENEFITS ACCOUNT

- To get a “Premium eBenefits Account,” call 1(800) 827-1000, option 1, then 7 to get an e-Benefits Representative. They will verify your:



**SSN or Claim#**  
**Branch of Service**  
**Date of Birth**  
**Bank Account Number**  
**Amount of Last Deposit**  
**Service Rating**  
**Filed Address**  
**Phone Number**

- The Representative will also ask for information from two forms of Government ID
- Premium accounts are for those currently receiving Compensation, Pension, or Education benefits. (Past benefits don't qualify). Upgrades to Premium are done via phone, and rather efficiently once connected.

## UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

A person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and who is unemployed may be entitled to unemployment compensation based on his/her honorable military or naval service. Contact the nearest State Unemployment Compensation Claims Office. Pension or disability payments provided by the United States to the individuals who have completed the period of military service may disqualify such individual from receiving unemployment compensation.

## DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Disability compensation is a monthly tax-free benefit paid to Veterans who are at least 10% disabled because of injuries or diseases that were incurred in or aggravated during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. A disability can apply to physical conditions, such as a chronic knee condition, as well as a mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

### **Eligibility includes:**

- Service in the Uniformed Services on active duty, or
- Active duty for training, or
- Inactive duty training, and
- You were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, and
- You are at least 10% disabled by an injury or disease that was incurred in or aggravated during active duty or active duty for training, or inactive duty training



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**How to apply:**

- Apply online using eBenefits <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>
- Work with an accredited representative or agent, or
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you.

**DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION**

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) 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.

**Eligibility for a surviving spouse includes:**

- Married to a Service member who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, or
- Validly married the Veteran before January 1, 1957, or
- Married the Veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the Veteran's death began or was aggravated, or
- Was married to the Veteran for at least one year, or
- Had a child with the Veteran, and
- Cohabited with the Veteran continuously until the Veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, and
- Is not currently remarried

**Eligibility for a surviving child includes:**

- Not included on the surviving spouse's DIC, and
- Unmarried, and
- Under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school.

**SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION (SMC)**

SMC is an additional tax-free benefit that can be paid to Veterans, their spouses, surviving spouses and parents. For Veterans, Special Monthly Compensation is a higher rate of compensation paid due to special circumstances such as the need of aid and attendance by another person or a specific disability, such as loss of use of one hand or leg. For spouses and surviving spouses, this benefit is commonly referred to as aid and attendance and is paid based on the need of aid and attendance by another person.

**Eligibility includes:**

- Disability compensation recipients may be eligible for this additional tax-free benefit due to the special circumstances of your disability, if you are housebound, or need help performing daily living functions.



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**DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR (POWS)**

If you are a former POW with disabilities related to your service and captivity, you may be eligible for compensation. If you are diagnosed with one or more of the conditions listed below, and at any time following active-duty military service your condition becomes at least 10% disabling, VA will presume it is related to your POW experience.

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-pow.asp>

**You are eligible if:**

- You have osteoporosis (for claims filed on or after October 10, 2008, and you have a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD).
- You have a neuropsychiatric condition, psychosis, dysthymic disorder (depressive neurosis), or any of the anxiety states (for example, PTSD).
- You still have damage from frostbite (detained in areas cold enough to cause frostbite).
- You have post-traumatic osteoarthritis.
- You have experienced a stroke or have complications from a stroke.
- You have hypertensive vascular disease, including hypertensive heart disease, and related complications.

**For former POWs who were captive for 30 days or more, the following additional conditions are presumed to be service connected:**

- Osteoporosis (for claims filed on or after September 28, 2009; no PTSD diagnosis is required)
- Any nutritional deficiency, including avitaminosis, beriberi (including beriberi heart disease), malnutrition (including optic atrophy connected to malnutrition), and pellagra
- Helminthiasis
- Peripheral neuropathy (except where directly related to infectious disease)
- Peptic ulcer disease
- Chronic dysentery
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Cirrhosis of the liver

**How to Apply:**

- Contact your local POW Outreach Coordinator at your nearest VA Regional Office
- Apply using **eBenefits**, or
- Work with an accredited representative or agent, or
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you.





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## Pensions

To learn more about pensions offered by the VA visit  
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/index.asp>

### **SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME FOR WARTIME VETERANS**

VA helps Veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income through the Veterans Pension benefit. Veterans Pension is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to low-income wartime Veterans.

#### **Eligibility includes:**

- Generally, a Veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a wartime period to qualify for a VA Pension. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period.

#### **In addition to meeting minimum service requirements, the Veteran must be:**

- Age 65 or older, or
- Totally and permanently disabled, or
- A patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, or
- Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, or
- Receiving Supplemental Security Income

### **SURVIVORS PENSION**

The Survivors Pension Benefit, which may also be referred to as Death Pension, is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried children of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

#### **Eligibility includes: The deceased Veteran must have met the following service requirements:**

- For service on or before September 7, 1980, the Veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, with at least one day during a war time period.
- If he or she entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally he or she must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty with at least one day during a war time period.
- Was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions.
- Survivors Pension is also based on your yearly family income, which must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify.



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**While an un-remarried spouse is eligible at any age, a child of a deceased wartime Veteran must be:**

- Under 18, or
- Under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, or
- Permanently incapable of self-support due to a disability before age 18

**Eligible Wartime Periods:**

**Under current law, VA recognizes the following wartime periods to determine eligibility for VA Pension benefits:**

- Mexican Border Period (May 9, 1916 – April 5, 1917 for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or adjacent waters)
- World War I (April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918)
- World War II (December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946)
- Korean conflict (June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955)
- Vietnam era (February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975 for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period; otherwise August 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975)
- Gulf War (August 2, 1990 – through a future date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation)

## **Additional Benefits**

### **VA HOME LOANS**

VA helps Service-members, Veterans, and eligible surviving spouses become homeowners. As part of our mission to serve you, we provide a home loan guaranty benefit and other housing-related programs to help you buy, build, repair, retain, or adapt a home for your own personal occupancy.

VA Home Loans are provided by private lenders, such as banks and mortgage companies. VA guarantees a portion of the loan, enabling the lender to provide you with more favorable terms.

**Visit:** [http://benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/purchaseco\\_certificate.asp](http://benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/purchaseco_certificate.asp)

### **REQUIRED:**

- **Certificate of Eligibility:** After establishing that you are eligible, you will need a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). The COE verifies to the lender that you are eligible for a VA-backed loan. This page describes the evidence you submit to verify your eligibility for a VA home loan and how to submit the evidence and obtain a COE.
- **Evidence Needed:** The evidence you need depends on the nature of your eligibility. Consult the table below to determine your category and the evidence you will need when applying.



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### **BURIAL BENEFITS**

Available benefits include a gravesite in any of the 135 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains. Call the **National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-866-900-6417**.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

[NCA.Scheduling@va.gov](mailto:NCA.Scheduling@va.gov)

The Veterans family should make funeral or cremation arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation office will be at the family's expense.

### **VETERAN CARE GIVER SUPPORT:**

#### **Services for Family Caregivers of Post 9/11 Veterans**

- Family Caregivers provide crucial support in caring for Veterans. VA recognizes that Family Caregivers in a home environment can enhance the health and well-being of Veterans under VA care.

Under the "**Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010**," post-9/11 Veterans who sustained or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty and their family caregivers may qualify for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance to Family Caregivers.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

- Veterans eligible for this program are those who sustained or aggravated a serious injury – including traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma or other mental disorder – in the line of duty, **on or after September 11, 2001**.
- Veterans eligible for this program must also be in need of personal care services because of an inability to perform one or more activities of daily living and/or need supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological impairment or injury.

\*If you think you fit the criteria for these services, please follow the link to answer some preliminary questions <http://www.caregiver.va.gov/apply>

**Additional application assistance is available at 1-877-222 VETS (8387).**



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### **AID & ATTENDANCE AND HOUSEBOUND**

Veterans and survivors who are eligible for a VA pension and require the aid and attendance of another person, or are housebound, may be eligible for additional monetary payment. These benefits are paid in addition to monthly pension, and they are not paid without eligibility to Pension.

#### **AID & ATTENDANCE (A&A)**

The Aid & Attendance (A&A) increased monthly pension amount may be added to your monthly pension amount.

#### **Eligibility includes:**

- You require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment
- You are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity
- Your eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less

### **HOUSEBOUND**

This increased monthly pension amount may be added to your monthly pension amount when you are substantially confined to your immediate premises because of permanent disability.

### **CONCURRENT RETIREMENT/DISABILITY PAYMENTS**

Concurrent Retirement/Disability Payments restore some or all military retired pay that was deducted due to VA service connected disability compensation. Enrollment is automatic.

#### **You are eligible if:**

- You are a member of the military who has served at least 20 years of credibility, and
- You are 50% or more disabled
- The disabilities do not have to be combat related





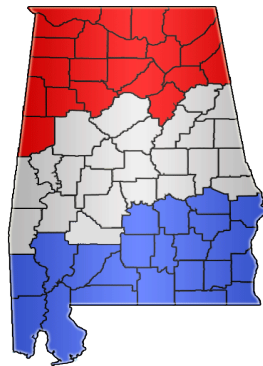
## Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs Resources

**Mission:** To promote awareness, assist eligible veterans, their families, and survivors to receive from the U. S. and State Governments any and all benefits to which they may be entitled under existing or future laws to be enacted.

The Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs (ADVA) has Veterans Service Offices located in 50 counties throughout the State of Alabama. The primary function of the ADVA Veterans Service Offices is to assist veterans, their dependents, and survivors in the application and processing of claims for benefits and entitlements available from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the benefits provided for veterans by law from the State of Alabama earned by honorable service in the armed forces of the United States.

Services include the processing of compensation and pension applications; appeal VA decisions; file for survivors death benefits; apply for aid and attendance and housebound benefits; certification of claim documents; request for military service records; upgrade military discharges; apply for special veteran license plates.

**Find your Veterans Service Office:** [http://va.alabama.gov/county\\_select.aspx](http://va.alabama.gov/county_select.aspx)



District 1 (Northern) Timothy Edgil District Manager
District 2 (Central) Rogers Wilson District Manager
District 3 (Southern) Lynda Jenkins District Manager

### **ADVA District Lead Points of Contacts:**

**District 1:** Timothy Edgil | Phone: (205) 274-2287 | 1004 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave East, Rm 13 | Oneonta, AL 35121 | **Email:** [timothy.edgil@va.alabama.gov](mailto:timothy.edgil@va.alabama.gov)

**District 2:** Rogers Wilson | Phone: (205) 669-3835 | 54 Kelly Ln. | Columbiana, AL 35051 | **Email:** [rogers.wilson@va.alabama.gov](mailto:rogers.wilson@va.alabama.gov)

**District 3:** Lynda Jenkins | Phone: (334) 832-1392 | 125 Washington Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Rm 223 | Montgomery, AL 36102 | **Email:** [lynda.jenkins@va.alabama.gov](mailto:lynda.jenkins@va.alabama.gov)



## Alabama G.I. Dependents Scholarship

This nationally renowned program was created by Act 633 and approved October 1947 by the Alabama Legislature. It is administered by the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs and is governed by the Code of Alabama 1975, Section 31-6-1. The veteran must meet the following qualifications to establish eligibility of his/her dependents. A dependent is defined as a child, stepchild, spouse or the un-remarried widow (er) of the veteran.

**Military Service:** The veteran must have honorably served at least 90 days of continuous active federal military service or honorably discharged by reason of service-connected disability after serving less than 90 days of continuous active federal military service.

**Disability Requirements:** The veteran must be rated 20% or more due to service-connected disabilities or have held the qualifying rating at the time of death, a former prisoner of war (POW), declared missing in action (MIA), died as the result of a service-connected disability, or died while on active military service in the line of duty.

**Residency Requirements:** The veteran must have been a permanent civilian resident of the State of Alabama for at least one year immediately prior to (a) the initial entry into active military service or (b) any subsequent period of military service in which a break (1 year or more) in service occurred and the Alabama civilian residency was established. Permanently service-connected veterans rated at 100% who did not enter service from Alabama, may qualify after establishing at least five years of permanent residency in Alabama immediately prior to the filing of an application or immediately prior to death, if deceased.

**Student Entitlement:** As of fall 2009, children and stepchildren of qualified veterans may receive five standard academic years (10 semesters) at any Alabama state-supported institution of higher learning or a prescribed course of study at any state-supported technical school without payment of any tuition, mandatory textbooks or instructional fees.

Additionally, eligible spouses and un-remarried widow(er)s of a qualified veteran rated as 100% permanently and totally disabled may also receive five standard academic years (10 semesters) at any Alabama state-supported institution of higher learning or a prescribed course of study at any state-supported technical school without payment of any tuition, mandatory textbooks or instructional fees.

**Exception:** As of Fall 2009, a spouse or un-remarried widow (er) of a veteran rated 20% to 90% disabled is entitled to three standard academic years (6 semesters) without payment of tuition, mandatory textbooks, and instructional fees or completion of the duration of one prescribed technical course not to exceed 18 months.

Participants in the program prior to Fall 2009 are eligible for four, standard, academic years (8 semesters) or two standard academic years (4 semesters), respectively.

**Note:** Applicants applying for benefits under the scholarship program beginning on or after fall 2014 (August 1, 2014) will be eligible for benefits at the in-state and undergraduate tuition rate.

**Note:** Applicants who were previously denied benefits based solely on the veteran's peacetime status may re-apply and receive benefits under the scholarship program to include graduate



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courses if applicable. Applications for previously denied applicants must be resubmitted and received at ADVA Headquarters prior to August 1, 2015 in order to receive benefits at this capacity.

**Age Deadline:** The child or stepchild must initiate training under our program prior to his/her 26th birthday. In certain situations, a child or stepchild may be eligible for our program up to the age of 30. If the applicant is a stepchild, the veteran and the stepchild's parent must be legally married prior to the child's 19th birthday.

**Note:** This deadline may be extended for previously denied applicants who were denied based solely on the veteran's peacetime status. In order to receive this extension, applications must be resubmitted and received at ADVA Headquarters prior to August 1, 2015.

**Application Assistance:** The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs maintains offices throughout the state which can furnish information and assist you in filing your application. To find your nearest Veterans Service Office, visit the Veterans Service Office Locator Page for contact options.

For more information visit [http://va.alabama.gov/gi\\_dep\\_scholarship.aspx](http://va.alabama.gov/gi_dep_scholarship.aspx)

### **TUITION WAIVER FOR PURPLE HEART MEDAL RECIPIENTS**

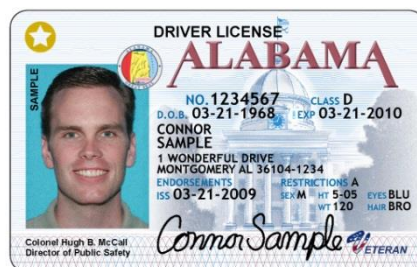
Public institutions of higher learning in the State of Alabama, including two-year and four-year postsecondary technical colleges, community colleges, and junior colleges, may waive tuition and fees for recipients of the Purple Heart Medal for undergraduate studies.

## **Veterans Driver's License**

**Veterans have the option of displaying proof of military service on their driver licenses.**

Veterans must visit one of the Alabama Department of Public Safety's Driver License examining offices and present a Record of Separation Honorable Discharge or DD-214 form from the U.S. Department of Defense that reflects their discharge was "honorable" or "general under honorable conditions."

There is no additional charge for the veteran designation for a first-time driver license applicant or for an individual seeking to renew his or her license. A veteran who chooses to add the designation before his or her renewal date, however, must pay the standard fee for a duplicate license.





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## Distinctive License Plates

To obtain a Veterans **Distinctive License Plate** from the list below, veterans must first obtain an affidavit from an Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Service Office. The affidavit will state the veteran's eligibility for the license plate. Veterans should hand carry to the VSO a copy of their DD Form 214, deployment orders, or signed letter from unit commander verifying service along with a valid Driver's License for verification. Veterans will present the affidavit to their County License Office for the distinctive license plate.

Veterans can call their local Veterans Service Office for more information about the Alabama Distinctive Military/Veterans License Plate Program. To find your nearest Veterans Service Office, visit the Veterans Service Office Locator Page for contact options.



Many more plates from which to pick: <http://www.va.state.al.us/tags.aspx>



## Hunting and Fishing Permits

### HUNTING:

The state offers an Annual Military Veteran's Appreciation Hunting License to veterans with a **minimum of 50% disability** or those veterans **who are 100% disabled** as certified by the Administration.

There is also an annual physically disabled hunting license for those residents who **are 100% permanently disabled**. An application must be completed along with the approved documentation. This can be obtained at your local Probate Office, License Commissioner or our Montgomery Office.

<b>100% Physically Disabled Resident Hunting License</b>	Allows a resident age 16 - 64 who has been certified 100% permanently disabled to hunt all game in Alabama. Must complete an application and present certification of permanent disability. License can be purchased at your local Probate Office or License Commissioner and in the Montgomery Office. Includes the Wildlife Heritage License. Expires August 31 annually.	\$6.00
<b>50% Disabled Military Veteran's Appreciation Hunting License</b>	Allows a resident age 16 - 64 to hunt all game in Alabama. Must be certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration to be 50% or more disabled. Present VA certification letter to your local probate office. Includes the wildlife heritage privileges. Expires August 31 annually.	\$13.65
<b>100% Disabled Military Veteran's Appreciation Hunting License</b>	Allows a resident age 16 - 64 to hunt all game in Alabama. Must be certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration to be 100% or more disabled. Present VA certification letter to your local probate office. Includes the wildlife heritage privileges. Expires August 31 annually.	\$3.10

Information available: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/resident-hunting-license-information-and-application-packets>



**FISHING:**

The state offers an annual physically disabled freshwater fishing license for those residents who are **100% permanently disabled**. An application must be completed along with the approved documentation. This can be obtained at your local Probate Office, License Commissioner or our Montgomery Office.

There is also an Annual Military Veteran's Appreciation Freshwater License available to veterans with a **minimum of 20%** disability as certified by the Veteran's Administration. Applications can be obtained online or visit your local Probate Judge or License Commissioner in the county in which they reside.

<b>100% Physically Disabled Resident Freshwater Fishing License</b>	Allows a resident age 16 - 64 who has been certified 100% permanently disabled to fish the freshwaters of Alabama. Must complete an application and present certification of permanent disability. License can be purchased at your local Probate Office or License Commissioner and in the Montgomery Office. Includes the Wildlife Heritage License. Expires August 31 annually.	\$3.00
<b>Disabled Freshwater Fishing Military Veteran's Appreciation</b>	Allows a resident age 16 - 64 to fish the freshwaters of Alabama. Must be certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration to be 20% or more disabled. Present VA certification letter to your local probate office. Includes the wildlife heritage privileges. Expires August 31 annually.	\$3.10

Information available: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/resident-freshwater-fishing-license-and-application-packets>



## Occupation License for Disabled Veterans

Any bona fide permanent resident of Alabama who is a veteran of WWII or at any time past, present or future, when the United States was, is or shall be engaged in hostilities with any foreign state and who has physical disabilities of 25% or more whether service-connected or not, may be exempt from business or occupational license taxes. A veteran who conducts his/her business as a means of livelihood through his/her personal efforts and has no more than one employee shall be entitled to licenses from the state/county/municipality to carry on such business upon the payment of license taxes that **shall not exceed \$25.00. However, a veteran whose property (both real and personal) is valued at \$5,000.00 or more or whose net income is \$2,500.00 or more is not entitled to these business and occupational license exemptions.** Ala. Code §§ 40-12-340-352)

## Commitment of Incompetent Veterans

Whenever it appears that an incompetent veteran of any war, military occupation or expedition is eligible for treatment in a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) and commitment to such facility is necessary for the proper care and treatment of such veteran, the courts of this state are hereby authorized to communicate with the administration with reference to available facilities and eligibility and, upon receipt of a certificate from the administration stating that there are facilities available in a VAMC, is entitled to hospitalization therein, the court may then direct such veteran's commitment to such hospital. Notice of such pending proceedings shall be furnished the person so committed, and his/her right to appear and defend shall not be denied. Ala. Code § 26-9-13)

## Military Family Relief Act

This law prohibits a mortgagee from initiating a foreclosure against the surviving spouse or estate of a mortgagor who dies while deployed overseas on active duty military service for 180 days after the death. Civil penalties against a violator are deposited into the Military Family Relief Fund, which the ADVA may use to assist military families (Ala. Code § 35-10-71).

## Military Retiree Income Tax Exemption

Effective January 1, 1989, and for all successive tax years, all compensation received as retirement benefits by any person retired from the military service of the United States of America and survivor benefits derived there from are hereby exempt from any state, county or municipal income tax or similar tax. (Ala. Code § 40-18-20)



## Veterans Burial Benefits

### **The Alabama National Veterans Cemetery**

**Montevallo:** The new 479-acre national cemetery in the Birmingham area will serve veterans' needs for at least the next 50 years. The construction of Phase I consist of approximately 45 acres, and includes facilities necessary to maintain, operate, and provide burials for approximately ten years. When this phase of construction is complete the interment areas will provide for 7,395 full-casket gravesites, 999 in-ground cremation sites and approximately 2,700 columbarium niches.

### **Schedule a Burial**

Upon the family's request, Public Law 106-65 requires that every eligible Veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the Veteran's parent service of the armed forces. The DOD program calls for funeral home directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the Veterans' family.

Fax all discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-866-900-6417 and follow-up with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117.

### **Veteran and Family Eligibility:**

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.

### **Burial Benefits for Women and Minority Veterans**

If you served in a branch of the military and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable you may be eligible for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery. Female veterans married to a veteran are entitled to their own separate grave, headstone or marker, burial flag and Presidential Memorial Certificate. However, they may choose to be buried in the same gravesite as their spouse

### **Gravesite in any of VA's national cemeteries with available space**

Opening and closing of the grave  
Perpetual care of the gravesite  
Headstones, markers, and medallions  
Burial flag  
Presidential Memorial Certificate





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**The Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery** at Spanish Fort sits on over 120 acres of land in Baldwin County, Alabama. The cemetery was dedicated in December 2012 and began interments in April 2013. The initial phase of the cemetery is 22.8 acres and has 2,776 burial sites (2,392 in-ground). The lifespan of the entire cemetery is 100 years.

Pre-registration is available and allows a veteran and their spouse to establish, in advance, their eligibility for burial at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort. For spouses or dependent children, a \$375.00 fee will be charged on the day of interment. For Veterans the cemetery provides the following at no cost:

- Burial plot or columbarium niche
- Concrete liner for casket burials
- Opening and closing of the grave
- Perpetual care of the gravesite
- Inscribed gravestone
- 30 minute committal service

All other funeral expenses are paid by the veteran's family or estate.

**Veteran Eligibility:**

Alabama state residency requirements for burial in the State Veterans Cemetery must meet one of the following:

- Legal resident of Alabama at the time of death; or
- Legal resident of Alabama when he or she entered the Armed Forces of the United States; or
- Legal resident of Alabama for a period of 10 or more years (any cumulative period of 10 or more years, regardless of residency at the time of death).

**Eligibility for Veteran's Family:**

The surviving spouse of an eligible veteran that has been interred who remarries retains his or her eligibility for burial. Unmarried children who are under 21 years of age, or who are under 23 years of age and are pursuing full-time education at an approved institution; or an unmarried adult child of an eligible veteran of any age if the child became physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support by reason of mental or physical disability before reaching 21 years of age or before reaching 23 years of age if pursuing full-time education at an approved institution are eligible.

**Contact:** Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort | 34904 Alabama Highway 225 | Spanish Fort, AL 36577 | Phone: (251) 625-1338



## Accommodations for Disabled Veterans

### **Habitat for Humanity (Alabama Association of Affiliates)**

HFH provides housing rehabilitation services for qualified disabled Veterans. Services are provided free of cost to returning veterans with service related disabilities from US military service.

**Contact:** Brandon Dixon | Phone: (334) 737-6401 x14 | Email: [brandon@alabamahabitat.org](mailto:brandon@alabamahabitat.org)  
**Main Office:** 3831 Pepperell Parkway, Opelika, AL 36801 | Phone: (334) 737-6400 | Website: <http://www.alabamahabitat.org/home.aspx>

### **Specially Adaptive Housing Grant**

SAH grants help Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities live independently in a barrier-free environment. SAH grants can be used by either constructing a specially adapted home on land to be acquired, building a home on land already owned if it is suitable for specially adapted housing, or by applying the grant against the unpaid principal mortgage balance of an adapted home already acquired without the assistance of a VA grant.

**For more information please visit** <http://benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/adaptedhousing.asp> or **call Phone:** (877) 827-3702, **or email** [sahinfo.vbaco@va.gov](mailto:sahinfo.vbaco@va.gov) **apply:** [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)

### **Wounded Warrior Project**

Provides unique and direct programs to meet the needs of injured service members, raises awareness for the needs of injured veterans, and creates opportunities for injured veterans to help and assist each other

**Local Office:** 3343 Peachtree Road, NE #M20, Atlanta, GA 30326 | Phone: (404) 974.9234 | <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/contact-us>

### **US Department of Labor**

Employee Benefits Security Administration

EBSA provides guidance and counseling to employee's and prospective job candidates with regards to fair labor laws, accommodations, benefits, and pensions. They have counselors available to answer questions as well as investigate matters which qualify for their services.

**Phone:** (404) 302-3900 | Website: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa>

### **Automobiles and Adaptive Equipment for Disabled Veterans and Service Members**

Program offered through the VA where disabled veterans can receive a one-time payment for the purchase of a vehicle with adaptive equipment.

**Contact:** Phone: (800) 827-1000 | TTY: (800) 829-4833 | Website: <http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/278>

### **Building for America's Bravest**

Raises and provides funds to build custom designed or adapted homes for service members impaired by catastrophic injuries.

**Main Office:** 2361 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, New York 10306 | Email: [help@ourbravest.org](mailto:help@ourbravest.org) | Website: [www.ourbravest.org](http://www.ourbravest.org)



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**Combat Wounded Coalition**

A national organization with a vision to help wounded warriors find a purpose-driven life and peace of mind after the impact of war through programs and networking

**Contact:** PO Box 64724, Virginia Beach, VA 23467 | Phone: (757) 773-8079 | Website: <https://combatwoundedcoalition.org>

**Disability.gov**

Online resource managed by the US Department of Labor to profile comprehensive information about disability-related programs, services, policies, and regulations.

**Website:** [www.disability.gov](http://www.disability.gov)

**American Corporate Partners (ACP)**

ACP is a non-profit that offers tools for long-term career development through mentoring, career counseling and networking opportunities. You can sign up as a Protégé to get connected with a Mentor nationally in your desired career field.

**Contact:** Email: [info@acp-usa.org](mailto:info@acp-usa.org) | Phone: (212) 752-0700 | 2 Grand Central Tower, 140 E. 45th St. Suite 19A, New York, NY 10017 | Website: <http://www.acp-usa.org/>

**Help Our Military Heroes**

National non-profit dedicated to raising the funds to purchase and provide minivans for veterans with disabilities.

**Contact:** Laurie Hollander, President | Email: [laurie.hollander@helpourmilitaryheroes.org](mailto:laurie.hollander@helpourmilitaryheroes.org)

**Main Office:** 15 Pheasant Lane, Easton, CT 06612 | Website:

<http://www.helpourmilitaryheroes.org/>

**Sew Much Comfort**

Since 2004, Sew Much Comfort has been providing custom-made adaptive clothing for all wounded service members from current conflicts free of charge

**Contact:** Michele Cuppy, President/Founder | Phone: (952) 431-6233 | Email: [michele@sewmuchcomfort.org](mailto:michele@sewmuchcomfort.org)

**Main Office:** 13805 Frontier Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337 | Phone: (952) 431-6233 | Fax: (952) 236-7300 | **Website:** <http://www.sewmuchcomfort.org/>

**No Barriers USA**

Support group that seeks to empower veterans and transitioning service members with disabilities to break through their barriers and find their inner purpose

**Main Office:** 224 Canyon Avenue, Suite 207, Fort Collins, CO 80521 | Phone: (970) 484-3633 |

**Email:** [info@nobarriersusa.org](mailto:info@nobarriersusa.org) | Website: <http://www.nobarrierswarriors.org/>

**Paralyzed Veterans of America**

For more than 60 years, Paralyzed Veterans of America has created a powerful network to change lives and build brighter futures for disabled veterans

**Main Office:** 801 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-3517 | Phone: (800)-424-8200 | TTY: (800) 795-4327 | Healthcare Hotline **Main:** 800-232-1782 | Benefits Hotline: 866-734-0857 | Email: [info@pva.org](mailto:info@pva.org) | Website: [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)



## Education and Training

### Federal Financial Education Benefits

#### **MONTGOMERY GI BILL ACTIVE DUTY (MGIB-AD)**

The MGIB-AD program—sometimes known as Chapter 30—provides education benefits to Veterans and Service-members who have at least two years of active duty. Eligible Service-members may receive up to 36 months of education benefits. The monthly benefit paid to you is based on the type of training you take, length of your service, your category, any college fund eligibility, and if you contributed to the \$600 buy-up program. You usually have 10 years to use your MGIB benefits, but the time limit can be fewer or more years depending on the situation. Some Service-members may contribute up to an additional \$600 to the GI Bill to receive increased monthly benefits. For an additional \$600 contribution, you may receive up to \$5,400 in additional GI Bill benefits. The additional contribution must be made while on active duty. View increased monthly rates and contact your personnel or payroll office.

#### **Eligibility:**

- You may be eligible if you have an honorable discharge; AND you have a high school diploma or GED or in some cases 12 hours of college credit; AND you meet the requirements of one of the categories listed at [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib\\_ad.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_ad.asp)

#### **MONTGOMERY GI BILL SELECTED RESERVE (MGIB-SR)**

For Reservists with a six-year obligation in the Selected Reserve who are actively drilling. MGIB-SR program provides education and training benefits to eligible members of the Selected Reserve, including the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, and the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. Eligibility for this program is determined by the Selected Reserve components and VA makes the payments. You may be entitled to receive up to 36 months of education benefits.

#### **To qualify, you must meet the following requirements:**

- Have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve signed after June 30, 1985. If you are an officer, you must have agreed to serve six years in addition to your original obligation.
- Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT).
- Meet the requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT.
- Remain in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit. You will also retain MGIB-SR eligibility if you were discharged from Selected Reserve service due to a disability that was not caused by misconduct. Your eligibility period may be extended if you are ordered to active duty.



**VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VEAP)**

VEAP is available if you elected to make contributions from your military pay to participate in this education benefit program. The government matches your contributions on a 2-for-1 basis. Benefit entitlement is for one to 36 months depending on the number of monthly contributions. You have 10 years from your release from active duty to use VEAP benefits. If the entitlement is not used after the 10-year period, your portion remaining in the fund will be automatically refunded.

**You must meet the following requirements to qualify:**

- Entered service for the first time between Jan. 1, 1977, and June 30, 1985
- Opened a contribution account before April 1, 1987
- Voluntarily contributed from \$25 to \$2,700;
- Completed your first period of service and were discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- If you are currently on active duty and wish to receive VEAP benefits, you must have at least three months of contributions available.

**POST-9/11 GI BILL**

For approved programs, the Post-9/11 GI Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits, generally payable for 15 years following your release from active duty. Institutions of higher learning participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program may make additional funds available for your education program without an additional charge to your GI Bill entitlement.

**The following payments may also be available:**

- Annual books and supplies stipend.
- One-time rural benefit payment.
- Basic allowance for housing (BAH)

**Resident:** E-5 w/Dependent Rate  
**Distance Learner:** ½ National Averages

Individuals serving an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of:	Percentage of Maximum Benefit Payable
At least 36 months	100%
At least 30 continuous days and discharged due to service-connected disability	100%
At least 30 months < 36 months	90%
At least 24 months < 30 months	80%
At least 18 months < 24 months	70%
At least 12 months < 18 months	60%
At least 6 months < 12 months	50%
At least 90 days < 6 months	40%

Break down of benefits available for Veterans who separated from service early.

**Eligibility:**

- If you have at least 90 days of aggregate active duty service after Sept. 10, 2001, and are still on active duty, or if you are an honorably discharged Veteran or were discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days, you may be eligible for this VA-administered program.



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### **YELLOW RIBBON EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

The Yellow Ribbon Education Enhancement Program covers all resident tuition & fees for a public school. To apply you must contact your School Certifying Official.

Institutions of Higher Learning (Degree Granting Institutions) may elect to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program to make additional funds available for your education program without an additional charge to your GI Bill entitlement.

#### **You may be eligible if you fit the following circumstances:**

- You served an aggregate period of 36 months in active duty after Sept. 10, 2001
- You were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability and you served 30 continuous days after Sept. 10, 2001.
- You are a dependent eligible for Transfer of Entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on the service eligibility criteria listed above.

More information about the program and the lists of participating Yellow Ribbon schools are posted on the GI Bill website at [http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post\\_911\\_gibill/yellow\\_ribbon\\_program.html](http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/yellow_ribbon_program.html)

For more information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill, call 1-888-GIBILL-1 | (888-442-4551) or: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911\\_gibill.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp)

### **WORK STUDY PROGRAM**

If you're a full-time or 3/4-time student in a college degree, vocational, or professional program, you can “earn while you learn” with a VA work-study allowance.

#### **The VA work-study allowance is available to persons training on a full-time or ¾ time basis under the following programs:**

- Post-9/11 GI Bill--(38 U.S.C. Chapter 33) (Veterans and transfer-of-entitlement)
- Montgomery GI Bill--Active Duty (38 U.S.C. Chapter 30)
- REAP Participants
- Montgomery GI Bill--Selected Reserve (10 U.S.C. Chapter 1606)
- Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (38 U.S.C. Chapter 32)
- Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (38 U.S.C. Chapter 35)
- Eligible dependents under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 35 may use work study only while training in a State.
- National Call to Service Participants
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program -- (38 U.S.C. Chapter 31)



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### **Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)**

The VA's Education and Career Counseling program is a great opportunity for Service-members, Veterans and dependents to get personalized counseling and support to help guide their career paths, ensure most effective use of their VA benefits, and achieve their goals.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Transitioning Service-members within 6 mo. prior to discharge from active duty
- Veterans within one year following discharge from active duty
- Any Service-member/Veteran currently eligible for a VA education benefit
- All current VA education beneficiaries

#### **Services Include Assisting the Service-member/Veteran with:**

- Career Choice - understand career options based on your interests
- Benefits Coaching - guidance on the effective use of your VA benefits and/or other resources to achieve your education and career goals
- Personalized Support - Academic or adjustment counseling and personalized support to help you remove any barriers to your success

**For more information visit:** [http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOCREHAB/edu\\_voc\\_counseling.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOCREHAB/edu_voc_counseling.asp)

### **Vet Success on Campus VSOC**

The VSOC program provides a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) to each VSOC school. These VRCs are called **Vet Success** on Campus (VSOC) Counselors. A VA Vet Center Outreach Coordinator is also provided, and co-located on many campuses, to provide peer-to-peer counseling, educational assessment and counseling, and referral services.

Through the VSOC program VSOC Counselors ensure that Veterans receive the support and assistance needed to pursue their educational and employment goals. Because VSOC Counselors are easily accessible on campus they help resolve any problems that could potentially interfere with a Veteran's educational program, to include assisting with disability accommodations.

#### **Participating Campus Contacts:**

**University of Alabama:** Lisa Fells, VSOC Counselor | [Lisa.Fells@va.gov](mailto:Lisa.Fells@va.gov)  
**Troy University:** Rickey Jones, VSOC Counselor | [Rickey.Jones@va.gov](mailto:Rickey.Jones@va.gov)

**For additional information,** please contact: [VREOUTREACH.vbaco@va.gov](mailto:VREOUTREACH.vbaco@va.gov)



## Job Skills & Training



### Priority Soldier Inc.

Priority Soldier Inc. is a 501(c) 3 organization whose mission is to strengthen at risk military families by educating, advocating and coordinating holistic efforts addressing the critical issues through education, healthcare and economic development; thereby expressing our appreciation for the sacrifices made on behalf of our country. Priority Soldier Incorporated programs and services exercises high standards of ethics, best practice management and accountability in providing such services as:

- Certification Training
- Entrepreneurship Training

**For more information visit:** <http://prioritysoldier.net> | Contact: Ken Phillips | Phone: (205) 540-1691 | Email: [PrioritySoldierInc@gmail.com](mailto:PrioritySoldierInc@gmail.com)

## Teaching

### Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers, is a Department of Defense program designed to assist eligible military personnel in their pursuit of teaching as a second career in public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are most needed to relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education and other critical subject areas. **Troops to Teachers** provides: counseling, referral and placement assistance to eligible military personnel.

### **DoDEA has the following basic eligibility requirements for TTT participants:**

- Must have separated or retired from the military on or after October 1, 1990;
- Must have an honorable discharge;
- Must submit a copy of Certification of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD 214 – Member 4 copy); and
- Must submit a copy of the TTT registration acceptance letter

Visit: <http://www.dodea.edu/Offices/HR/employment/categories/> for more information or contact:

**Bill Kirkland** | Regional Director | Email: [bkirkland@troopstoteachers.net](mailto:bkirkland@troopstoteachers.net)

**Sol Greear** | Alabama State Consultant | 1-800-745-0709 | [sgreear@troopstoteachers.net](mailto:sgreear@troopstoteachers.net)





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## Grants

**State Grant Agency (SGA):** SGA provides information on the state's education programs, colleges and universities, financial aid assistance programs, grants, scholarships, continuing education programs, and career opportunities. It provides information on grants, scholarships, and other financial aid for college students from the state, including federally-supported state programs such as Byrd scholarships and LEAP (Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership) grants.

### Alabama Commission on Higher Education

**Contacts:**

Deborah Nettles, Admin. Assistant | Email: [deborah.nettles@ache.alabama.gov](mailto:deborah.nettles@ache.alabama.gov)

Tim Vick, Dir. of Ops and Fiscal Services | Email: [tim.vick@ache.alabama.gov](mailto:tim.vick@ache.alabama.gov)

**Address:**

P.O. Box 302000, Montgomery AL, 36130 | Phone: (334) 242-1998

Toll Free: (800) 960-7773 | Website: <http://www.ache.alabama.gov>

### Loan and Grant Search Tool:

This tool will help you find loans and grants your small business may be eligible for.

Please Visit: <http://www.sba.gov/content/search-business-loans-grants-and-financing>

## State Online One-Stop-Shop Resource

**AlaVetNet:** The Alabama Executive Veterans Network (AlaVetNet) website connects Veterans with resources and services tailored to their unique needs. AlaVetNet created a searchable database of resources for Veterans based on the areas they live. Veterans can search for as many as ten different types of services in the areas they live, as well as statewide and nationally. Visit: <http://alavetnet.alabama.gov/>



### Resources

### 2. Choose your region

Choose your region:

Choose One

Check the service(s) that interest you:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Health  | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education          | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Services    | <input type="checkbox"/> VA Benefits and Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing and Living | <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous            |



### 1. Locate your region

### 3. Select your services

### 4. Results appear below



## Alabama Veteran Scholarships

### Airforce Association

The Air Force Association offers a wide variety of scholarships for Air Force veterans and dependents.

For more information visit <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/military/scholarships>

### Army Emergency Relief

The AER Program offers two scholarships:

#### Spouse Education Assistance Program

The Spouse Education Assistance Program is a need-based scholarship program established to assist Spouses of Army Soldiers in obtaining their first undergraduate degree. Applicants must apply each year and may receive assistance for up to four academic years of full time study or eight academic years of part time study if they meet the eligibility criteria explained in the document below. The award amounts vary each year based on the number of applicants, total approved scholarship budget, and the average Cost of Attendance to attend a college or university in the United States as provided by the College Board.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Student must be the Spouse of an active duty or retired Soldier or the widow(er) of a Soldier who died while on active duty or while retired.
- Student must be registered in DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System).
- Student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale.

For more information visit: <https://www.aerhq.org/Apply-for-Scholarship/Spouse-Education-Assistance-Program>

#### MG James Ursano Scholarship Program

The MG James Ursano Scholarship Program is a need-based scholarship program established to assist children of Army Soldiers in obtaining their first undergraduate degree. Applicants must reapply each year and may receive assistance for up to four academic years as long as they meet the eligibility criteria explained in the document below. The award amounts vary each year based on the number of applicants, total approved scholarship budget, and the average Cost of Attendance to attend a college or university in the United States as provided by the College Board.



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**Eligibility:**

- Student must be a dependent of a Soldier on federal active duty, a retired Soldier, or a deceased active or deceased retired Soldier.
- Student must be under the age of 23
- Student must remain unmarried for the entire academic year
- Student must not be a member of the Guard, Reserves, or other military branch
- Student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

For more information visit <https://www.aerhq.org/Apply-for-Scholarship/Dependent-Children>

**Army Woman's Foundation**

The Army Women's Foundation recognizes the importance of education and the role it plays in personal, professional and economic fulfillment. The Army Women's Foundation Legacy Scholarship Program provides grants to women soldiers, past and present, and their lineal descendants to help them attain their educational goals.

The Legacy Scholarship Program offers financial support in four areas: Certificate programs, Community College coursework, Undergraduate Degrees, and Graduate Degrees. Scholarships are awarded only for coursework from accredited institutions. Scholarships are based on merit, academic potential, community service, letters of recommendation, and need. Community College and Certificate Program Legacy Scholarships will be awarded up to \$1,000. College, University, and Graduate Program Legacy Scholarships will be awarded up to \$2,500.

**Eligibility includes:**

- Applicant must be a woman who has served or is serving honorably in the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve, Army National Guard, or the child of a woman who served honorably in the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve or Army National Guard.
- **Community College Legacy Scholarships:** Applicant must be a high school graduate with a 2.5 Grade Point Average (GPA) or GED and must be currently enrolled in an accredited community college.
- **Certificate Program Legacy Scholarships:** Applicant must be a high school graduate with a 2.5 Grade Point Average (GPA) or GED and must be currently enrolled in accredited Certificate granting institution.
- **College and University Legacy Scholarships:** Applicant must be currently enrolled at an accredited college or university and have completed 30 credit hours of course work and with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
- **Graduate Program Legacy Scholarships:** Applicant must have achieved an undergraduate degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must be enrolled in or accepted into a Graduate level program — Masters or Doctoral.



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### **Coast Guard Exchange System**

Recognizing the value of education and the benefits it brings to the Coast Guard Family, the Coast Guard Exchange (CGX) Scholarship Program was established to provide additional financial resources to dependent children of Coast Guard personnel embarking on undergraduate college/university studies. Annually a \$2,000 scholarship is awarded to the outstanding applicants on a one-time basis. The number of scholarships granted each year depends on available funding.

#### **Eligibility includes:**

The applicant must be in the last year of high school or home schooling and scheduled to graduate and attend college full-time during the subsequent year. Those who have already graduated are not eligible to apply.

- Students must plan to attend an accredited college or university for undergraduate studies.
- Scholarships will not be awarded for participation in nonacademic and/or certified program. Students accepting appointments to USAFA, USNA, USMA, USCGA, or USMMA are not eligible.

**For more information visit** <http://www.uscg.mil/mwr/hqrec/cgesscholarshipprogram.asp>

### **Coast Guard Foundation**

The Coast Guard Foundation offers multiple scholarships to Coast Guard personnel and their families.

**For more information visit** <http://www.coastguardfoundation.org/how/scholarships> or <http://www.uscg.mil/worklife/scholarship.asp>

### **Navy-Marine Corps Relief**

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief offers scholarships and education assistance to children of active duty, retired or deceased Sailors and Marines; and for spouses of active duty and retired Sailors and Marines.

**For more information visit** <http://www.nmcrcs.org/pages/education-loans-and-scholarships>



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## OPERATION RECOGNITION—High School Diploma

The State Superintendent of Education may award a standard high school diploma to any honorably discharged veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces at any time between the following dates:

- December 7, 1941 - January 1, 1946
- June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955
- November 15, 1961 – March 28, 1973

Veteran must have been a resident of Alabama prior to entry into the United States Armed Forces and entry into the United States Armed Forces interrupted their high school attendance and prevented them from graduation. Interested veterans or family members should contact the high school principal's office of the veteran's former high school, or the County Superintendent of Education to make application for the diploma.

**For more information:** <http://www.dva.va.gov/benefits/operation-recognition> | (800) 562-0132

## Employment Resource



[Programs > Veterans > Premium Form](#)

## Free 1-Year Premium Subscription

### EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL MEDIA

In today's world-wide-web the opportunity to connect with corporate recruiters, staffing agencies, and individual employers seeking military talent are hands down improved via LinkedIn.

#### **Free 1- Year Premium Subscription:**

If you are a U.S. service member or veteran interested in this upgrade, please complete the form. Make sure you have your military service represented on your profile before submitting this request so that we can verify your status as a service member or veteran. Additionally, please make sure to include the URL to your profile. Please note that you can have only one LinkedIn subscription at a time so your account will need to be set to "Basic" at the time of request. If you have existing premium subscription, you will need to cancel that subscription and wait until your account has returned to "Basic" before submitting your request. Once upgraded, you will see "Premium" in the upper left corner of your homepage. Please allow 7-10 days to upgrade your account.

#### **Interested in setting up an account:**

<https://linkedinforgood.linkedin.com/programs/veterans/premiumform>



## Employment Opportunities

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### Project R.E.A.D.Y.

From the outset Congresswoman Sewell focused on job creation and skills training. Her goal was to establish a longstanding workforce development initiative designed to facilitate employment across Alabama's 7th Congressional District. She accomplished this by promoting public and private partnerships, job readiness, skills training, and career development. The initiative is called "Project R.E.A.D.Y" which stands for Realizing Everyone's Ability to Develop Yourself.

Project R.E.A.D.Y workshops are held throughout the district every August and consist of a series of workforce training workshops that are conducted throughout the 7th congressional district in collaboration with career professionals, educational institutions, business leaders, and industry employers.

### **Project R.E.A.D.Y. Training Workshops include:**

- Career Development
- Education / Workforce Options
  - GED Prep
  - Adult Education
  - Career / Technical Education
- Resume Writing
- Dressing for Success
- Skills Training
- Entrepreneurship

**Event Listings and Pre-Event Registration will be available at:**

<https://sewell.house.gov/issues/jobs-and-the-economy>

**PROJECT  
R.E.A.D.Y**

**REALIZING  
EVERY ONE'S  
ABILITY TO  
DEVELOP  
YOURSELF**



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### **Still Serving Veterans**

The mission of Still Serving Veterans is to serve and honor Veterans and their families, transitioning service members, and members of the Guard and Reserves by assisting them in securing meaningful employment and the Veteran benefits they have earned. All services are provided at no charge. Service include guidance and counseling, employment intake, and resume assistance.

#### **District Contacts and Locations:**

##### **Birmingham Office**

Phone: (205) 637-7601  
135 Gemini Cir  
Birmingham, AL 35209

##### **Huntsville Office**

Phone: (256) 883-7035  
626 Clinton Ave. W., Suite 200  
Huntsville, AL 35801



For more information visit: <https://ssv.org/>

Follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stillserving.veterans/>

### **Federal Employment via USA JOBS**

A career with the U.S. Government provides employees with a comprehensive benefits package. As a federal employee, you and your family will have access to a range of benefits that are designed to make your federal career very rewarding.

Eligibility for benefits depends on the type of position you hold and whether your position is full-time, part-time, or intermittent. Contact the hiring agency for more information on the specific benefits offered.

#### **Apply for an Online Job Seeker account and benefit from:**

- Create a profile that makes you visible to federal employers
- Create your profile and make it searchable through the national database
- Review and save job announcements
- Submit your application and resume to agencies directly

View Opportunities and create an account: <https://www.usajobs.gov/>



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## **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR)**

### **Mission Statement**

ESGR, a Department of Defense office, is comprised of dedicated and trained volunteers and staff. We will develop and promote employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members.

### **Contact information:**

**Billie Ivey** | Program Specialist | Phone: (334) 271-7288 | Email: [billie.a.ivey.mil@mail.mil](mailto:billie.a.ivey.mil@mail.mil)  
1750 Congressman Dickinson Dr. | Montgomery AL 36109

For more information: <http://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Alabama>

## **Veteran Mentorship Resources**

### **American Corporate Partners (ACP)**

ACP is a national nonprofit organization focused on helping Veterans find their next careers through one-on-one mentoring, networking and online career advice. ACP engages the American people in a unique volunteer opportunity to provide career guidance to returning military as they transition back into civilian life.

We believe that the biggest issue facing our returning service members is not unemployment – its underemployment. ACP focuses on helping veterans find meaningful employment opportunities and develop long-term careers.

### **Advisor Net:**

**Discuss Career Development with a business professional in that field:**

- Career Exploration
- Education & Training
- Interviews/Mentoring
- Leadership & Management
- Military to Civilian Transition
- Networking
- Resumes & Cover Letters

For more information: <http://www.acp-usa.org/mentoring-program>

For general information and assistance, please contact: [info@acp-usa.org](mailto:info@acp-usa.org)

**American Corporate Partners** | Phone: (212) 752-0700 | 2 Grand Central Tower, 140 E. 45th St. Suite 19A | New York, NY 10017





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**Warriors to Work with WWP:**

Warriors to Work®, a veteran employment program, provides career guidance and support services to wounded warriors, their families, and caregivers interested in transitioning to the civilian workforce. We match your skills and experience to the needs of hiring managers. These services are also open if you are registered with Family Support.

**Our specialists can help:**

- Set attainable goals
- **Build an effective resume**
- Prepare for an interview
- Network with local employers

<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/programs/warriors-to-work/warrior>

**Military Officers Association of America:**

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community.

Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses.

**Benefits:**

MOAA provides its members and their spouses with a wealth of military focused information, services, and resources for career transition. Whether you are transitioning to a civilian career from the military or moving from one career field to another, we are here to help:

- Career Events
- Networking
- Career Seminars
- Webinars
- Mentorship
- Articles and Blogs
- Invitations to Programs and Events

**Contact:** (800) 234-6622 | (703) 549-2311 | Email: [msc@moaa.org](mailto:msc@moaa.org)

Learn more by visiting: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Benefits-and-Discounts/Transition-and-Careers/Transition-and-Career.aspx>



## Additional Veteran Employment Resources

### **Veteran Employment Tracks**

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VRC) and Employment Coordinators (EC) are ready to help Veterans and Service-members who have service-connected disabilities and an employment barrier/handicap find suitable careers. Your VRC will provide vocational counseling, refer you to appropriate opportunities and services specific to your needs, and help you reach your employment goals. If you are entitled to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits and services, you will work with a VRC to develop a personalized rehabilitation plan.

For more information visit [http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/employment\\_tracks.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/employment_tracks.asp)

### **Preference in State Classified Employment**

All persons who have been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces at any time shall have 5 points added to any earned ratings in examination for entrance to the state classified service. Honorably discharged veterans with the present existence of a service-connected disability and entitled to pension, compensation or disability allowance under existing laws shall have 10 points added to any earned ratings. Wives and widows of certain disabled or deceased veterans may have the 10-point preference extended to them and added to any earned ratings. Veterans also receive preference on the classified service employment registers over non-veterans with the same ratings.

### **Unemployment Compensation**

A person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and who is unemployed may be entitled to unemployment compensation based on his/her honorable military or naval service. Contact the nearest State Unemployment Compensation Claims Office. Pension or disability payments provided by the United States to the individuals who have completed the period of military service may disqualify such individual from receiving unemployment compensation.

For more information on Unemployment Compensation Claims visit

<https://labor.alabama.gov/uc/>

### **DISABILITY.GOV**

Owned by the US Department of Labor, Disability.gov is a resource for information of disability-related programs, services, policies, laws, and regulations.

Website: <https://www.disability.gov/>

### **Helmets to Hardhats**

National non-profit program that connects retired and transitioning active-duty military service members to skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry, while providing a means to successfully transition back into civilian life.

Contact: Phone: 866-741-6210 | Website: <http://www.helmetstohardhats.org/>



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### **Hire a Hero**

HAH is an online resource to specifically assist and aid veterans in searching for employment opportunities and provide assistance in resume building skills.

**Website:** <http://www.hireahero.org/>

### **Hire Heros USA**

Composed of former military and business professionals, Hire Heroes USA effectively trains veterans in the skills of self-marketing and supports their career searches until they find good jobs with great companies.

**Contact:** 1360 Union Hill Road, Bld 2 Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 | Phone: 844-634-1520 |

**Email:** [vets@hireheroesusa.org](mailto:vets@hireheroesusa.org) | **Website:** <https://www.hireheroesusa.org>

### **Hire Veterans**

Online resource to help connect veterans to good jobs through jobs searches and job fairs, as well providing assistance to employers seeking veteran employees

**Contact:** 511 E San Ysidro Blvd, Suite #8341, San Ysidro, CA 92173 | Phone: 619-819-9360 |

**Email:** [support@hireveterans.com](mailto:support@hireveterans.com) | **Website:** <http://www.hireveterans.com/>

### **Job Accommodation Network**

The Job Accommodation Network provides free, expert, and confidential guidance on work place accommodations and disability employment issues. Consultants with the Job Accommodation Network provides one-on-one guidance and is considered one of the most comprehensive accommodation resources available

**Contact:** Phone: 800-526-7234 | TTY: 877-781-9403 | Fax: 304-293-5407 | Email:

[jan@askjan.org](mailto:jan@askjan.org) | **Website:** <http://askjan.org/>

### **Small Business Administration- VETERANS**

The Small Business Administration provides resources to veterans who own or are looking to open a small business including assistance and financing.

**Website:** <https://www.sba.gov/content/veteran-service-disabled-veteran-owned>

### **US Veterans Initiative**

Private non-profit organization that provides housing, employment, and counseling services to veterans who have served from World War II until the current conflicts in the Middle East.

**Contact:** 800 W 6th Street, Suite 1505, Los Angeles, CA 90017 | Phone: 213-542-2600 |

**Website:** <http://www.usvetsinc.org/>

### **Vet Jobs**

A resource that provides services to make it easy for employers to reach transitioning military, national guard, reserve, and veterans who are productive members of the civilian workforce.

**Contact:** PO Box 71445, Marietta, GA 30007 | Phone: 877-838-5627 | Fax: 770-993-2875 |

**Website:** <http://vetjobs.com/>

### **Veteran Administration Jobs**

Online resource operated by the VA's Veterans Employment Center to assist veterans in searching for jobs, translating military skills into civilian strengths, and building resumes.

**Website:** <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs>



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**Additional Web Resources:**

- For information on the Veterans Employment Center visit <https://www.vets.gov/employment/job-seekers/family-members/>
- To find military friendly jobs please visit <http://www.military.com/veteran-jobs>
- For general information visit <http://www.va.gov/> or <http://www.va.alabama.gov/>

**Veteran Considerations**

**Veterans Preference**

Veterans who are disabled, who served on active duty in the Armed Forces during certain specified time periods or in military campaigns are entitled to preference over others in hiring for virtually all federal government jobs.

**Veterans Preference Points Overview**

Understanding Veterans Preference Points- here it is in the government's words: **“By law (Title 5 USC, Section 2108), veterans who are disabled or who serve on active duty in the Armed Forces during certain specified time periods or in military campaigns are entitled to preference over non-veterans both in Federal hiring practices and in retention during reductions in force (RIF)”**.

**Veterans Preference Points Eligibility:**

- Honorably Discharged
- Retirees in grade of O-4 or higher are ineligible unless they possess a service connected disability
- Guard or Reserve active duty for training ineligible
- Must be stated in federal job application and resume

**Types of Preference:**

Veterans Preference Points can be broken down into two classes: 5-Point Preference, and 10-Point Preference. These points are added to the passing examination score or rating of the qualified veteran. What follows is an excerpt of the ratings qualifications based on those listed on the Office of Personnel Management website.

**5- Point Preference- Eligible Veterans include Veterans who served:**

- During a war; or
- During the period April 28, 1952 through July 1, 1955; or
- For more than 180 consecutive days, other than for training, any part of which occurred after January 31, 1955, and before October 15, 1976; or



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- During the Gulf War from August 2, 1990, through January 2, 1992; or
- For more than 180 consecutive days, other than for training, any part of which occurred during the period beginning September 11, 2001, and ending on the last day of Operation Iraqi Freedom; or
- In a campaign or expedition for which a campaign medal has been authorized. Any Armed Forces Expeditionary medal or campaign badge, including El Salvador, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Southwest Asia, Somalia, and Haiti, qualifies for preference.

**10-Point Preference– Eligible veterans include veterans who served:**

- A veteran who served at any time and (1) has a present service-connected disability or (2) is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension from the military or the Veterans Affairs; or (3) a veteran who received a Purple Heart.
- An unmarried spouse of certain deceased veterans, a spouse of a veteran unable to work because of a service-connected disability, and
- A mother of a veteran who died in service or who is permanently and totally disabled.

For more information visit <https://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/vetspref/main.htm>

## Protected Veteran Rights

### Know Your Status

The U.S. Labor Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCCP) enforces affirmative action and equal opportunity employment for veterans. Under laws such as the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, employers doing business with the

Federal government need to take action to recruit and hire protected veterans, and cannot discriminate against this group as a matter of law. The OFCCP defines protected veterans as disabled veterans, recently separated veterans and Armed Forces Service Medal veterans. The Federal government also grants hiring preference to disabled veterans, and veterans when hiring for government jobs.

### **What veterans' rights are protected?**

- The right to work in a discrimination-free work environment; not being denied employment, harassed, demoted, terminated, paid less or treated less favorably because of your veteran status.
- If you are a disabled veteran, you can request – and your employer must provide – "reasonable accommodation" so that you can perform your job. A reasonable accommodation is defined as one that does not incur a significant expense on behalf of the employer.
- During the application process, disabled veterans must be provided with reasonable accommodation and be considered for jobs.



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**Are you a Protected Veteran?**

**Status Eligibility:**

- Veteran of the Vietnam era" – a veteran of the U.S. military, ground, naval, or air service, any part of whose service was during the period August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975, who served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days. "Vietnam era veteran" also includes any veteran of the U.S. military, ground, naval, or air service who served in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.
- A "special disabled veteran" is a person who is entitled to compensation under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for a disability rated at 30 percent or more; or, a person who was discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability.
- A "disabled veteran" means a veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. military ground, naval, or air service and is entitled to disability compensation, or was discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability.
- "Protected Veteran" means any other veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. military ground, naval, or air service during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized.

**US Department of Labor**

Employee Benefits Security Administration

EBSA provides guidance and counseling to employee's and prospective job candidates with regards to fair labor laws, accommodations, benefits, and pensions. They have counselors available to answer questions as well as investigate matters which qualify for their services.

**Phone:** (404) 302-3900 | **Website:** <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa>



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## Healthcare

Both the Alabama and U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs provide a wide range of healthcare programs and benefits. For help in choosing or applying for any program, contact the nearest Veteran Service Facility (noted on pages 4-6). For general information, visit: <http://www.va.state.al.us/default.aspx>, or [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

## Veteran Healthcare Services

### General VA Health Services Include:

- Primary care
- Specialty care
- For women: reproductive health care system
- In/outpatient care
- Medication
- Veteran health registries
- Readjustment counseling services
- Prosthetic and sensory aids
- Mental health care treatment
- Suicide prevention
- Reimbursement of travel costs
- Home improvement and structural alterations

### Central Alabama Veterans Healthcare System Services:

Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System (CAVHCS) offers a variety of health services to meet the needs of our nation's Veterans.

**Find a complete list of services at** <http://www.centralalabama.va.gov/services/index.asp>

**For more information visit** <http://www.centralalabama.va.gov/contact/index.asp>

### Private Insurance Options:

If you are not eligible for VA Healthcare, and you do not receive Health Insurance from your employer, there are other available options. Here are some resources that will help you with your search.

Affordable Healthcare - This third party site allows you to compare health insurance rates and options for you and your family based on where you live.

Visit: <https://affordablehealthcare123.com/get-health-insurance-quotes/>

### Qualified for Tricare- Retired and Medically Retired Veterans (over 30%)

**TRICARE-** You can visit to compare plans, enroll, manage your plan and set appointments at: <https://tricare.mil/>



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**TRICARE Separation Coverage-** In some cases you may be eligible for temporary healthcare before separating from service or retiring. This resource will give you an understanding of eligibility and available coverage programs: <https://tricare.mil/LifeEvents/Separating.aspx>

**Active Duty Service Members**

**There are two programs for temporary coverage. You may qualify for:**

- Transitional Assistance Management Program
- Continued Health Care Benefit Program

**National Guard/Reserve Members**

**If you separate right after active duty service, you may qualify for:**

- Transitional Assistance Management Program
- Continued Health Care Benefit Program

If you aren't Activated, Called, or ordered to Active Duty service for more than 30 days in a row when you separate, you may qualify for temporary coverage. Check with your Service representative for details.

If you're a member of the Selected Reserve and get TRICARE Reserve Select, you may purchase the Continued Health Care Benefit Program when you separate.

**Transitional Assistance Management Program**

The Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) provides 180 days of premium-free transitional health care benefits after regular TRICARE benefits end.

**Eligibility:**

- Involuntarily separating from active duty under honorable conditions including:
- Members who receive a voluntary separation incentive (VSI), or
- Members who receive voluntary separation pay (VSP) and aren't entitled to retired or retainer pay upon separation.
- A National Guard or Reserve member separating from a period of more than 30 consecutive days of active duty served in support of a contingency operation
- Separating from active duty following involuntary retention (stop-loss) in support of a contingency operation
- Separating from active duty following a voluntary agreement to stay on active duty for less than one year in support of a contingency operation
- Receiving a sole survivorship discharge
- Separating from regular active duty service and agree to become a member of the Selected Reserve of a Reserve Component. The Service member must become a Selected Reservist the day immediately following release from regular active duty service to qualify.





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**Benefits:**

For those who qualify, the 180-day TAMP period begins upon the sponsor's separation. During TAMP sponsors and family members are eligible to use one of the following health plan options in addition to military hospitals and clinics:

- TRICARE Prime (where locally available, enrollment required)
- TRICARE Standard and Extra
- US Family Health Plan (if you live in a designated location; enrollment required)
- TRICARE Prime Overseas (enrollment required)
- TRICARE Standard Overseas

Please Visit: <https://tricare.mil/Plans/SpecialPrograms/TAMP>

**Continued Health Care Benefit Program**

The Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP) is a premium-based plan.

**Benefits:**

- Gives you temporary health coverage for 18-36 months when you lose eligibility for TRICARE.
- Acts as a bridge between military health benefits and your new civilian health plan.
- Provides the same coverage as TRICARE Standard, including prescriptions.
  
- Gives you minimum essential coverage Basic health care coverage that meets the Affordable Care Act requirement. If you don't have coverage, you may have to pay a fee for each month you aren't covered required by the Affordable Care Act, but it is temporary. You should consider your options for when CHCBP ends.

If you were using one of the following plans, it must have been purchased and in place at least one day before you lost eligibility for you to qualify for CHCBP:

- TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS)
- TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR)
- TRICARE Young Adult
- TRICARE Provider locator - A resource sponsored by Humana that allows you to find providers in your area, or in the area you are moving to.

Please Visit: <https://tricare.mil/Plans/SpecialPrograms/CHCBP>



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## Mental Health Care

If you are experiencing a crisis, please call 911, call the veterans crisis line at 1(800)-273-8255, text 838255, visit <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>, or go to your local Emergency Room

### VA Services for Mental Health

For information about VA Mental Health visit

<http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/VAMentalHealthGroup.asp>

- To get help now visit <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/gethelp.asp>
- To locate programs visit <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/gethelp.asp>
- For treatment info visit <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/gethelp.asp>
- For screening tests visit <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/gethelp.asp>

To see a list of VA benefits and claims visit <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/gethelp.asp>

For self-help resources visit [http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/self\\_help.asp](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/self_help.asp)

### Immediate Crisis

**National Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 (press 1)**

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States.

**National Veteran Crisis Line Alternate:**  **2-1-1**  
Get Help. Give Help.

2-1-1 serves as the single access point for information, referrals, navigation, and ongoing care coordination for active duty military, veterans, and their immediate families

### Coaching into Care

Coaching into Care provides a “coaching” service for family and friends of Veterans who see that a Veteran in their life needs help. Coaching involves helping the caller figure out how to motivate the Veteran to seek services. The service is free and provided by licensed clinical social workers and psychologists. The goal of the service is to help the Veteran and family members find the appropriate services in their community.

For more information visit <http://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/index.asp> or call (888) 823-7458

### Make the Connection

Make the Connection is a website that offers hundreds of stories from veterans who overcame mental health issues. <http://makeetheconnection.net/>



## Military Sexual Trauma

Both women and men can experience sexual harassment or sexual assault during their military service. VA refers to these experiences as military sexual trauma, or MST. Like other types of trauma, MST can negatively impact a person's mental and physical health, even many years later.

### **Some problems associated with MST include:**

- Disturbing memories or nightmares
- Difficulty feeling safe
- Feelings of depression or numbness
- Problems with alcohol or other drugs
- Feeling isolated from other people
- Problems with anger or irritability
- Problems with sleep
- Physical health problems

### **Safe Helpline**

Managed by the Department of Defense, the Safe Helpline is a crisis support service for members of the Department of Defense who have been affected by sexual assault. Service is live, one-on-one, confidential, anonymous, secure, and available 24/7 worldwide.

**Toll Free:** 877-995-5247 | Website: <https://safehelpline.org/>

For general information: <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp>

For women: <http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/trauma.asp>

For the National Center for PTSD: <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/types/violence/military-sexual-trauma-general.asp>



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## Life Insurance Benefits

### **Service-members Group Life Insurance (SGLI)**

SGLI is a program that provides low-cost term life insurance coverage to eligible Service-members. If eligible, you are automatically issued the maximum SGLI coverage. If you qualify for SGLI, you are automatically enrolled and do not need to apply for coverage. Service-members can make changes to your SGLI coverage. For example, Service-members can decline SGLI coverage, select a lesser amount than maximum coverage, designate beneficiaries, and/or make other changes.

**You are automatically insured under full-time SGLI if you are one of the following:**

- Active duty member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard
- Commissioned member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS)
- Cadet or midshipman of the U.S. military academies
- Member, cadet, or midshipman of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) engaged in authorized training and practice cruises
- Member of the Ready Reserve or National Guard and are scheduled to perform at least 12 periods of inactive training per year.
- Service-member who volunteers for a mobilization category in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)

For more information visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/sqli.asp>

### **Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI)**

Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is a program that allows you to continue life insurance coverage after you separate from service.

VGLI provides lifetime coverage as long as you pay the premiums. You may enroll for a maximum amount of coverage that is equal to the amount of Service-members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage you had when you separated from service. Lesser amounts of coverage are also available in increments of \$10,000.

Once enrolled in VGLI, you will have the opportunity to increase your coverage by \$25,000 every five years up to the legislated maximum of \$400,000, until age 60.

**You are eligible to apply for VGLI, if you had SGLI, and are within 1 year and 120 days of the following events:**

- Release from active duty or active duty for training under a call or order to duty that does not specify a period of less than 31 days.



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- Separation, retirement or release from assignment from the Ready Reserves/National Guard
- Assignment to the Individual Ready Reserves (IRR) of a branch of service or to the Inactive National Guard (ING). This includes members of the United States Public Health Service Inactive Reserve Corps (IRC).
- Placement on the Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL)

For more information visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/vqli.asp>

**Family Service-members' Group (FSGLI)**

FSGLI is a program that provides term life insurance coverage to the spouses and dependent children of Service-members insured under SGLI. The Service-member pays the premium for spousal coverage. Dependent children are insured at no cost.

**Spouses and dependent children of the following are eligible for FSGLI:**

- Active duty Service-members covered by full-time SGLI and
- Members of the National Guard or Ready Reserve of a uniformed service covered by full-time SGLI.

**SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection Program (TSGLI)**

Service-members' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) provides automatic traumatic injury coverage to all Service-members covered under the SGLI program. It provides short-term financial assistance to severely injured Service-members and Veterans to assist them in their recovery from traumatic injuries. TSGLI is not only for combat injuries, but provides insurance coverage for injuries incurred on or off duty.

**To be eligible for payment of TSGLI, you must meet all of the following requirements:**

- You must be insured by SGLI when you experience a traumatic injury
- You must incur a scheduled loss and that loss must be a direct result of a traumatic injury
- You must have suffered the traumatic injury prior to midnight of the day that you separate from the uniformed services
- You must suffer a scheduled loss within 2 years (730 days) of the traumatic injury
- You must survive for a period of not less than seven full days from the date of the traumatic injury (The 7-day period begins on the date and time of the traumatic injury, as measured by Zulu [Greenwich Meridian] time and ends 168 full hours later)

For more information visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/tsqli.asp>



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**Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI)**

The Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) program was established in 1951 to meet the insurance needs of certain veterans with service connected disabilities. S-DVI is available in a variety of permanent plans as well as term insurance. Policies are issued for a maximum face amount of \$10,000.

**You can apply for S-DVI if you meet the following 4 criteria:**

- You were released from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions on or after April 25, 1951
- You were rated for a service-connected disability (even if only 0%)
- You are in good health except for any service-connected conditions
- You apply within 2 years from the date VA grants your new service-connected disability.

**Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance**

Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) is mortgage protection insurance that can help families of severely disabled Service-members or Veterans pay off the home mortgage in the event of their death.

**VMLI is only available to Service-members and Veterans with severe service-connected disabilities who:**

- Received Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant to help build, remodel, or purchase a home, and
- Have the title to the home, and
- Have a mortgage on the home
- Veterans must apply for VMLI before their 70th birthday.



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## Housing

### **Department of Housing and Urban Development / VA Supportive Housing**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) Program provides permanent housing and ongoing case management treatment services for homeless Veterans who require these supports to live independently. This program allows Veterans and their families to live in Veteran-selected apartment units. The vouchers are portable, allowing Veterans to live in communities where VA case management services can be provided. This program provides for our most vulnerable Veterans, and is especially helpful to Veterans with families, women Veterans, recently returning Veterans and Veterans with disabilities.

For more information, please visit <http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/HUD-VASH.asp>

### **Specially Adaptive Housing Grant**

SAH grants help Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities live independently in a barrier-free environment. SAH grants can be used by either constructing a specially adapted home on land to be acquired, building a home on land already owned if it is suitable for specially adapted housing, or by applying the grant against the unpaid principal mortgage balance of an adapted home already acquired without the assistance of a VA grant.

For more information please visit <http://benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/adaptedhousing.asp> or call Phone: (877) 827-3702, or email [sahinfo.vbaco@va.gov](mailto:sahinfo.vbaco@va.gov)

You can also apply online via [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)

### **Home Loan Guaranty**

VA offers a Home Loan Guaranty to help Veterans, reservists, and unmarried surviving spouses obtain homes and refinance loans. Applicants must have a good credit rating, sufficient income, certificate of eligibility, and agree to live in the property.

This can be used to buy a home as well as build, repair, or improve a home. Letter of eligibility can be found on eBenefits website: [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)

For information, please visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/>

### **Grant & Per Diem**

Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program is offered annually (as funding permits) by the VA to fund community-based agencies providing transitional housing or service centers for homeless Veterans. Under the Capital Grant Component VA may fund up to 65% of the project for the construction, acquisition, or renovation of facilities or to purchase van(s) to provide outreach and services to homeless Veterans.

For more information, please visit <http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD.asp>



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### **Supported Housing**

Like the HUD-VASH program identified above, staff in VA's Supported Housing Program provides ongoing case management services to homeless Veterans. Emphasis on permanent housing and providing clinical support needed to keep veterans in permanent housing.

For more information, please visit <https://www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp>

### **Alabama Veterans Homes**

Must be honorably discharged from military service with a minimum of 90 days of service, of which one day was during a wartime period. Must meet the qualifications set forth by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs criteria for skilled nursing care or domiciliary/assisted living and must have been a resident of the State of Alabama during the immediate past 12 months.

Veteran must have had a medical examination by a physician within 90 days of admission request. No medical or nursing care needs that the Home is not equipped or staffed to provide. No behavioral traits that may prove to be dangerous to the well-being of the resident, other residents, staff or visitors.

- **The Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City:**  
Address: 7054 Veterans Parkway Pell City, AL 35125 | (256) 329-3311
- **The Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville:**  
Address: 2701 Meridian Street Huntsville, AL 35811 | (256) 851-2807
- **The William F. Green State Veterans Home in Bay Minette:**  
Address: 300 Faulkner Drive Bay Minette, AL 36507 | (251) 937-8049
- **The Col. Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home in Pell City:**  
Address: 1784 Elkahatchee Road Alexander City, AL 35010 | (205) 338-6487

### **Shelter and Rehabilitation**

Run by the Salvation Army, this shelter serves the Alabama community and provides shelter for women, men, and children. For those in need, the Salvation Army runs a number of addiction rehabilitation programs. "We believe in taking the holistic approach, not just helping the client to overcome their addiction, but attacking the roots of that addiction".

**Contact:** (205) 252-8151 | Website: <http://salvationarmyalm.org/tag/homeless/>





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## Resources for Women Veterans

There are many benefits, programs, and services available to women veterans. For help in choosing and/or applying for any program, as well as assistance with any program, contact your nearest Veterans Service facility.

For general information, visit [www.va.gov/womenvet/](http://www.va.gov/womenvet/), [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov), or call 1-800-437-9824

### VA Center for Women Veterans

This center acts as the primary advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on all matters related to policies, legislation, programs, issues, and initiatives affecting women Veterans. The benefits and services include: health promotion and disease prevention, primary care, substance abuse treatment, mental health, domiciliary, homeless, rehabilitation and long term care, and gender specific health care. Also children of women Vietnam Veterans may be eligible for health care and compensation for certain birth defects, monthly compensation for the loss or loss if use of specific organs or extremities, and military sexual trauma counseling and treatment.

For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/womenvet/](http://www.va.gov/womenvet/)

## Women's Healthcare

### Women Veterans Health Care Program

This program was created in 1988 to streamline services for women veterans. Since then, the Women Veterans Health Program has worked to address the needs of women veterans.

For more information, please visit [www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/index.asp](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/index.asp)

## Women's Transitional Assistance

### Business and Professional Women's Foundation

The Business and Professional Women's Foundation (BPW) offers numerous programs and services to assist women veterans in their transition to civilian life.

For more information, please visit <http://bpwfoundation.org>

### Mentoring Plus

This program offers unlimited free personal coaching and professional guidance for women veterans to help them succeed in their civilian careers.

For more information, please visit [www.joiningforcesmentoringplus.org/](http://www.joiningforcesmentoringplus.org/)



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## Crisis Lines and Support

### **Crisis Response Network**

CRN provides non-profit assistance to individuals by inspiring hope and empowering transformation. Their services are directed to anyone who is experiencing a personal or family crisis and just needs someone to talk to.

**Contact:** Local Phone: 520-622-600 | Local TTY: 520-284-3500 | Toll-Free: 800-796-6762 | TTY Toll-Free: 888-248-5998 | Administrative Line: 520-284-3501 | Email: [communityvoicesa@crisisnetwork.org](mailto:communityvoicesa@crisisnetwork.org) | **Website:** <https://www.crisisnetwork.org>

### **Emerge!-Domestic Violence Hotline**

Emerge provides a 24 hour bilingual crisis hotline for anyone who is in danger or at risk of domestic abuse. Services include crisis intervention, safety planning, information, and referrals.

**Contact:** Toll Free: 888-428-0101

### **HIV/AIDS Hotline**

Managed by the Health Resources and Service Administration, this hotline provides information and assistance for individuals with questions or issues concerning HIV or AIDS

**Contact:** Toll Free: 800-232-4636

### **National Domestic Violence Hotline**

Provides confidential and free 24/7 assistance for those who are victims of domestic violence. Experienced and highly trained advocates offer compassionate support, crisis intervention, information, and referral services in over 170 languages.

**Contact:** Toll Free: 1-800-799-7233 | TTY: 1-800-787-3224

### **National Parent Helpline**

Operated by Parents Anonymous, this helpline provides emotional support from trained advocates to parents. It operates Monday through Friday, 10 am to 7 pm Pacific Standard Time.

**Contact:** Toll Free: 1-855-427-2736

### **National Runaway Safeline**

The National Runaway Safeline provides assistance and counseling to potential runaway youth and parents of runaway youth. They offer confidential solution-focused interventions and non-sectarian non-judgmental support.

**Contact:** Toll Free: 1-800-786-2929

### **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a toll-free 24 hour confidential suicide prevention hotline available for anyone in a suicidal crisis or suffering from emotional distress. It's a national network of local crisis centers provide crisis counseling and mental health referrals 24 hours.

**Contact:** Toll Free: 1-800-273-8255



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**Purple Star Veterans and Families**

Purple Star Veterans and Families exists to strengthen the transition safety net for veterans and their immediate or extended families, and for those struggling to reintegrate into their families, communities, and the workforce through providing immediate to access to transition assistance and peer support.

**Contact:** 5042 Wilshire Blvd, #32196, Los Angeles, CA 90036 | Phone: 760-576-5649 | Email: [executivedirector@psvf.org](mailto:executivedirector@psvf.org) | Website: <http://purplestarveterans.org/>

**Safe Helpline**

Managed by the Department of Defense, the Safe Helpline is a crisis support service for members of the Department of Defense who have been affected by sexual assault. Service is live, one-on-one, confidential, anonymous, secure, and available 24/7 worldwide.

**Contact:** Toll Free: 877-995-5247 | Website: <https://safehelpline.org/>

**Veterans Parenting Online**

A list of online links and parenting resources provided for veterans and their families by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. For more information, visit the website below.

**Contact:** <http://www.veterantraining.va.gov/parenting/>

**Veterans Crisis Line**

Established in 2007, this confidential 24/7 crisis support line provides specially trained and experienced assistance in dealing with veterans and their families who are going through a crisis. Since its inception, they have answered more than 1.86 million calls and made more than 50,000 lifesaving rescues.

**Contact:** Phone: 800-273-8255 | Website: <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net>



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## Veteran Service Organizations

### The American Legion

The American Legion is the nation's largest wartime veterans' service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship programs in their communities, advocating patriotism.

Go to their site to find membership opportunities near you: <https://www.legion.org/>

### The Veterans of Foreign Wars

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit Veterans' service organization founded to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts and to serve our veterans, the military and their communities.

**Assistance:** The VFW offers a wide range of assistance programs aimed at helping veterans of every generation. Whether that means providing free, professional help filing or appealing a VA claim, offering scholarships for post-secondary education or providing emergency financial relief when times get tough, the VFW is there for America's veterans. Go to their site to find membership opportunities near you: <https://www.vfw.org/>

### The Marine Corps League

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps.

**Marines Helping Marines (Local Level):** Every Detachment lives by this credo; Marines Helping Marines. Each Detachment and the Department of Alabama supports Marines and their families regardless if they are currently serving or have served honorably in the past, this includes FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains. Along with support from the Department of Alabama, Detachments takes care of Marines locally. Go to their site to find membership opportunities near you: <https://www.alabamamcl.org/>

### Team Red White and Blue

Team RWB's mission is to enrich the lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity- ranging from running groups to yoga, join Team RWB to get physically and mentally fit. Go to their site to find membership opportunities near you: <https://www.teamrwb.org/get-involved/join-the-team>

### Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

DAV is a nonprofit charity that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families, helping more than 1 million veterans in positive, life-changing ways each year.

**Assistance:** The organization provides more than 670,000 rides for veterans attending medical appointments and assists veterans with more than 292,000 benefit claims annually. Go to their site to find membership opportunities near you: <https://www.dav.org/>



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**AMVETS (American Veterans)**

As one of America's leading veterans' service organizations with over 250,000 members, AMVETS (or American Veterans) has a proud history of assisting veterans and sponsoring numerous programs that serve our country and its citizens. Go to their site to find membership opportunities near you: [www.amvets.com](http://www.amvets.com)

**Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)**

IAVA is the leading post-9/11 veteran empowerment organization (VEO) with the most diverse and rapidly growing membership in America. We don't just support veterans, we empower them!

**Assistance:** IAVA provides valuable resources and empowers veterans to connect with one another, fostering a strong and lasting community. Through education, advocacy and community building, we strive to create a country which honors and supports veterans of all generations. Go to their site to find membership opportunities near you: <https://iava.org/>

**The Military Order of the Purple Heart**

Chartered by Congress in 1958, The Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. Although our membership is restricted to the combat wounded, we support all veterans and their families with a myriad of nation-wide programs by Chapters and National Service Officers. Go to their site to find membership opportunities near you: <http://www.purpleheart.org/>

**Alabama Veteran Inc.**

Alabama Veteran is a community based organization that serves Veterans and their families in the Central Alabama Area. Community engagement and empowerment through recreational activities announced on: <http://www.alveteran.org/>  
Go to their social media site to connect with Veterans across the state and in your neighborhood: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/alveteran/>

**Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation**

VVA's goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans. Go to their site to find membership opportunities near you: [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)

**Gold Star Moms and Families**

Natural Mothers, who are citizens of the United States of America or of the Territorial and Insular Possessions of the United States of America, whose sons and daughters served and died in line of duty in the Armed Forces of the United States of America or its Allies, or died as a result of injuries sustained in such service, are eligible for membership in American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Adoptive Mothers and Stepmothers who reared the child from the age of five years whose natural mother is deceased, are also eligible under the above conditions.

Go to their site to find membership opportunities near you:  
<http://www.goldstarmoms.com/About/History.htm>



## Assistance Resources

### Veterans Outreach

We provide Direct Aid to veterans and their families up to \$200 per veteran per year in states that we are registered in. Direct aid needs addressed have included, but are not limited to shelter, rent, utilities, food, auto repair, clothing, and relocation. Veterans are able to access our programs through referrals from other agencies, our Internet website, our Face book page, our "Outreach" program, and by word of mouth.

ALABAMA OFFICE (AL) | 807 Midway St. Hartselle, AL 35640

**Contact:** (256) 778-3267 | 1-866-3VET-NET | Website: <http://veteransoutreach.com/locations/>

### Family endeavors

Family Endeavors is a San Antonio based organization who is making its services to eligible Veterans across the state of Alabama. Their mission is to provide comprehensive, effective, and innovative services that empower people to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. We believe in people. We believe in their capacity to grow, to heal, to change, to succeed, and to affect those around them for the better.

**Contact: National:** (210) 431-6466 **2509 Local:** (205) 396-3630 | Address: 7th Ave S, Birmingham, AL 35233 | Website: <https://www.familyendeavors.org/contact-us/>

### Priority Veteran

In partnership with United Way of Central Alabama, Priority Veteran provides veterans across Alabama with federal, state and local resources to gain the skills and knowledge to become financially stable. Included in their efforts is involvement in the 2-1-1 Crisis Line, Food and Financial Assistance, and a network across the Alabama community who can help meet the needs of Veterans in need.

**Contact:** (205) 737-8522 | Website: <https://www.priorityveteran.org>

### Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

The mission of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes is to assist veterans who have been severely injured while serving Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The coalition assists veterans through providing emergency financial aid that can be applied for on their website.

**Contact:** 552 Fort Evans Road, Suite 200, Leesburg, VA 20176 | Phone: 703-291-4605 |

**Website:** <https://csah.webauthor.com/go/apply.cfm>

### Operation First Response

Program that provides financial aids to veterans and their families who are suffering hardship with rent, utilities, vehicle payments, groceries, clothing, or travel expenses to major medical facilities. Financial aid varies on each case based on individual needs.

**Contact:** Phone: (888) 289-0280 | Fax: (888) 505-2795 |

**Website:** <https://www.operationfirstresponse.org/>



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### **USA Cares**

USA Cares provides financial advocacy and assistance to post-9/11 active duty US military service personnel, their families, and veterans. For more information on receiving financial assistance, contact them below or visit them at their website.

**Contact:** 562 N Dixie Blvd, Suite 3, Radcliff, KY 40160 | Phone: 800-773-0387 |

**Website:** <http://www.usacares.org>

### **YMCA | DOD Military Outreach Initiative**

The Armed Services YMCA has partnered with YMCAs, as well as national and independent fitness centers nationwide, to offer service members and families free access to fitness centers and respite child care services\*. The Military Outreach Initiative gives service members and military families extra support and access to vital resources that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

**For eligibility and enrollment:** <https://www.asymca.org/ymca-dod-military-outreach-initiative>

If you have not received confirmation of your request within 30 days, please contact: Dess Vince Cruz at [DoDymca@asymca.org](mailto:DoDymca@asymca.org) for Free military YMCA Membership Requests or Ashby Collins at [Dodpf@asymca.org](mailto:Dodpf@asymca.org) for reduced Military private fitness requests.

### **Saving Forgotten Warriors**

Mission is to advocate for the health, safety, & wellbeing of our US Armed Force Veterans. "To date we have helped 60+ vets and provided housing for 5. We have built or installed 3 ramps, helped a veteran get away from a very bad situation and was able to help him get a new prosthetic leg, did a complete house remodel, just recently completed a beautification and deck repair on a home, and we remodeled a bedroom for a veteran that has been in bed for 41 years".

**Request Assistance:** <http://savingforgottenwarriors.org/veterans/>

### **The Mission Continues**

The Mission Continues empowers veterans who are adjusting to life at home to find purpose through community impact. We deploy veterans on new missions in their communities, so that their actions will inspire future generations to serve. Our operations in cities nationwide deploy veteran volunteers alongside non-profit partners and community leaders to solve some of the most challenging issues facing our communities: improving community education resources, eliminating food deserts, mentoring at-risk youth and more. Go to their site to find membership opportunities near you: <https://www.missioncontinues.org/>

### **The Lakeshore Foundation**

Lakeshore proudly served members of our Armed Forces who sustained physical injuries during their time of service. The Lima Foxtrot programs for injured military began as a response to the significant number of men and women acquiring injuries from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Through Lima Foxtrot, active-duty personnel and veterans use lessons from sport and recreation to learn how to pursue an active, healthy lifestyle.

For more details, visit: <http://www.lakeshore.org/activity/sports-recreation/lima-foxtrot/>



## Correction of Military Records

There are two entities that serve Veterans for the retrieval or correction of their military records, National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) & Boards for Correction of Military Records/ Discharge Upgrades.

To obtain a copy of your medical records log onto: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans> and for the correction of military records/discharge upgrades select the branch of service and click on the appropriate link.

- **Army:** <http://arba.army.pentagon.mil/abcmr-overview.cfm>
- **Navy (Includes USMC):** <http://www.donhq.navy.mil/bcncr/bcncr.htm>
- **Airforce:**  
<http://www.afpc.af.mil/afveteraninformation/airforceboardforcorrectionofmilitaryrecords/index.asp>
- **Coast Guard:** <http://www.uscg.mil/legal/BCMR.asp>

### **Correction of Military Records**

The secretary of a military department, acting through a board for correction of military records, has authority to change any military record when necessary to correct an error or remove an injustice. A correction board may consider applications for correction of a military record, including a review of a discharge issued by courts martial.

The veteran, survivor or legal representative generally must file a request for correction within three years after discovery of an alleged error or injustice. The board may excuse failure to file within the prescribed time, however, if it finds it would be in the interest of justice to do so. It is an applicant's responsibility to show why the filing of the application was delayed and why it would be in the interest of justice for the board to consider it despite the delay.

### **To justify desired correction:**

- Include all available evidence, signed statements of witnesses
- Apply using **DD Form 149**, available at VA offices, VSO, or at:  
<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/formsprogram.htm>

### **Review of Discharges**

Each of the military services maintains a discharge review board with authority to change correct or modify discharges or dismissals that are not issued by a sentence of a general courts-martial. The board has no authority to address medical discharges. The veteran or, if the veteran is deceased or incompetent, the surviving spouse, next of kin or legal representative may apply for a review of discharge by writing to the military department concerned,

### **Request review:**

- Apply using **DoD Form 293**. This form may be obtained at a VA regional office, from veterans' organizations or from the Internet:  
<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/formsprogram.htm>.
- For discharges 15 years ago, Veteran must petition using **DoD Form 149**





CONGRESSWOMAN  
**TERRI SEWELL**  
REPRESENTING ALABAMA'S 7TH DISTRICT

## Additional Contacts

### **Alabama Student Assistance Commission:**

Contact: (334) 242-2273

Website: <http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Content/Departments/StudentAsst/StudentAsst.aspx>

### **Alabama National Guard Military Funeral Honors:**

Contact: (334) 271-7401

Website: <http://www.al.ngb.army.mil/Resources/sfss/funeralhonors/default.aspx>

### **American Red Cross:**

Contact: (205) 795-8700

Website: <http://www.redcross.org/local/Alabama>

### **Alabama Secretary of State:**

Contact: (334) 242-7200

Website: <http://www.sos.alabama.gov/default.aspx>

### **Alabama Department of Public Health:**

Contact: (334) 206-5300

<http://www.adph.org/>

### **AL Department of Human Services:**

Contact: (334) 242-1310

Website: <http://www.dhr.alabama.gov/>

### **Canines for Service**

Established in 1996, Canines for Service seeks to provide well trained service dogs for people with disabilities. All dogs provided by Canines for Service come from rescues and shelters

**Contact:** PO Box 12643, Wilmington, NC 28405 | Phone: 910-362-8181 | Email: [information@caninesforservice.org](mailto:information@caninesforservice.org) | Website: <http://www.caninesforservice.org/>

### **Freedom Service Dogs of America**

Non-profit organization that rescues dogs and trains them for individual client needs involving disabilities and their clients include veterans, active duty soldiers, children, and other adults.

**Contact:** 2000 W Union Avenue, Englewood, CO 80110-5567 | Phone: 303-922-6231 | Fax: 303-922-6234 | Email: [info@freedom servicedogs.org](mailto:info@freedom servicedogs.org) | Website: <https://freedom servicedogs.org>

### **Blinded Veterans Association**

A national organization established specifically to help veterans and their families overcome the challenge of blindness

**Main Office:** 125 N West Street, 3rd Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314 | Phone: (202) 371-8880 | Fax: (202) 371-8258 | Email: [bva@bva.org](mailto:bva@bva.org) | Website: [www.bva.org](http://www.bva.org)