Benefits & Services for Veterans and Their Beneficiaries in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania cares for its veterans, their spouses and children

www.dmva.state.pa.us

MA-VA 101
MAR 2011
Our Mission:
To increase awareness of all benefits for Pennsylvania veterans and their dependents, to provide the best advice and assistance in obtaining benefits and to provide the highest quality care to the residents of our state Veterans’ Homes.
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For more information on any one of the benefits located in this pamphlet contact your county director.

Statements in this pamphlet are intended for general information and do not have the effect of law or regulation.
**DISABLED VETERANS’ REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION**

Any honorably discharged veteran who is a resident of the Commonwealth shall be exempt from the payment of all real estate taxes levied upon any building, including a maximum of five acres of land upon which it stands, provided that all eligibility criteria is met.

**Eligibility:**

- Veteran must be a resident of the Commonwealth.
- Honorable Discharge.
- Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Veteran must have a total or 100% permanent service connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Dwelling is owned solely by the veteran or as an estate in the entirety.
- Veteran must occupy the real estate as his/her principal dwelling.
- Veteran must prove financial need.
- Upon the death of a qualified veteran, tax exemption may pass on to the unmarried surviving spouse if financial need can be shown.
Provides temporary financial aid in an emergency to veterans and their beneficiaries who reside in Pennsylvania for the necessities of life (food, shelter, fuel, clothing and medical expenses).

Eligibility:

- Honorable Discharge.
- Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Must be a Pennsylvania resident.
- Must suffer an unexpected loss of income within 180 days of application through no fault of the individual.
- May not be on Public Assistance.
- Must have a financial need.

Upon the recent death of a veteran, their spouse or orphaned children are eligible provided the veteran would have qualified prior to his/her death.

Payments:

If eligible, a veteran or their beneficiary is entitled to a total of three checks during a 12-month period. Rates are paid according to the number of persons in a household and the county in which they reside.

www.dmva.state.pa.us
BLIND VETERANS’ PENSION

Provides for a pension of $150 per month.

Eligibility:

- Served in the military honorably.
- Resident of PA upon entering the military.
- Suffered a service-related injury or incurred a disease which resulted in loss of vision:
  Visual acuity with the best correcting lens is 3/60 or 10/200 or equivalent, or less normal vision in the better eye.

  Includes circumstances where the widest diameter of the visual field of the better eye has contracted to an angular distance of not greater than 20º.

PARALYZED VETERANS’ PENSION

Provides for a pension of $150 per month.

Eligibility:

- Served in the military honorably.
- Resident of PA upon entering the military.
- Suffered a service connected injury or disease resulting in the loss or loss of use of two or more extremities.
Educational gratuities (up to $500.00 per semester/term) are for children of honorably discharged veterans who have wartime service-connected disabilities or children of veterans who die or died in service during a period of war or armed conflict.

**Eligibility:**

- Died in service during a period of war or armed conflict.
- Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Rated as totally and permanently disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Children must be between the ages of 16 and 23, living within the Commonwealth five years prior to application and must attend a school within the Commonwealth.
- Honorable Discharge.
The program allows for compensation to be paid to eligible service members (current and former) as well as certain surviving relatives of deceased veterans who served in Desert Shield/Storm.

Eligibility:

- Served with the United States Armed Forces, a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or the Pennsylvania National Guard.
- Served on active duty in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991 and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans’ Benefit Program is August 31, 2015.
Pennsylvania offers its eligible veterans or surviving spouses extended care facilities throughout the state. The level of care provided includes personal care, skilled nursing care, and dementia care.

Eligibility:

- Honorable Discharge.
- Served in the U.S. or PA Armed Forces.
- Resident at time of entry or current resident of Pennsylvania.

Hollidaysburg Veterans’ Home (Hollidaysburg)
Phone: (814) 696-5201
www.hvh.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Home (Erie)
Phone: (814) 871-4531
www.pssh.state.pa.us

Southeastern Veterans’ Center (Spring City)
Phone: (610) 948-2400
www.sevc.state.pa.us

Gino J. Merli Veterans’ Center (Scranton)
Phone: (570) 961-4300
www.gmvc.state.pa.us

Southwestern Veterans’ Center (Pittsburgh)
Phone: (412) 665-6706
www.swvc.state.pa.us

Delaware Valley Veterans Home (Philadelphia)
Phone: (215) 965-5900
www.dvvh.state.pa.us

www.dmva.state.pa.us
OTHER STATE BENEFITS

State Educational Grants and Financial Aid for Veterans
Toll Free: (800) 692-7392

Veterans Preference in State Civil Service
Civil Service Commission
Phone: 717-787-6039

Birth and Death Records
Division of Vital Records
Phone 724-656-3100

Veterans License Plates/Placards
Department of Transportation
Toll Free: (800) 932-4600

Veterans Employment
Contact a Veterans Employment Representative at a PA CareerLink office for free job counseling, training referrals, and placement services for veterans.

Free Hunting/Fishing/Fur Trapper License for Certain Disabled Veterans
Application can be made at your county treasurer.

Antlerless Deer License
Application can be made at a county treasurer of their choice, regardless of the county allocation.
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<tr>
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<th>Work Phone</th>
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<td>717-337-9835</td>
<td>Lackawanna</td>
<td>570-963-6778 x 1892</td>
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<td>Lehigh</td>
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<td>Berks</td>
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<td>Blair</td>
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<td>Centre</td>
<td>814-355-6812</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>610-559-3199</td>
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<td>Chester</td>
<td>610-344-6375</td>
<td>Northumberland</td>
<td>570-988-4213</td>
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<td>Clarion</td>
<td>814-226-4000 x2601</td>
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<td>Clearfield</td>
<td>814-765-4611</td>
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<td>Clinton</td>
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<td>814-333-7314</td>
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<td>Cumberland</td>
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<td>Delaware</td>
<td>610-891-4646</td>
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<td>Elk</td>
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<td>Susquehanna</td>
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<td>Erie</td>
<td>814-451-6270</td>
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<td>Fayette</td>
<td>724-430-1241</td>
<td>Union</td>
<td>570-524-8676</td>
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<td>Forest</td>
<td>814-755-3404</td>
<td>Venango</td>
<td>814-432-9780</td>
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<td>Franklin</td>
<td>717-263-4326</td>
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<td>814-643-1360</td>
<td>Westmoreland</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
<td>724-465-3815</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>570-996-2258</td>
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<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>814-849-3618</td>
<td>York</td>
<td>717-771-9218</td>
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<td>Juniata</td>
<td>717-436-7728</td>
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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY
ADJUTANT GENERAL FOR
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Main Office
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Building S-O-47, Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003-5002
Phone: (717) 861-8910
Fax: (717) 861-8589
Toll Free: (800) 547-2838

Philadelphia Field Office
Veterans Administration Center
PO Box 42938, Philadelphia, PA 19101-2938
Phone: (215) 381-3040
Fax: (215) 381-3492
Toll Free: (866) 754-8637

Pittsburgh Field Office
Moorehead Federal Building
1000 Liberty Avenue
Suite 1612
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4003
Phone: (412) 395-6225
Fax: (412) 395-6224
Toll Free: (866) 754-8636