



# Benefits & Services

for Veterans and their Beneficiaries  
in Pennsylvania

Fall 2012

Veterans/Military Education, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17126  
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*The Post-9/11 GI Bill which was enacted into law for individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 is for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. See details on inside page*

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## Who We Are

The Veterans/Military Education Division of the Pennsylvania Department of Education is the State Approving Agency for training of Veterans/ Eligible Persons and Reservists in the field of institutional training, correspondence training, flight training, apprenticeship training, and other on-the-job training under the provisions of Chapters 30, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36 of Title 38, United States Code, Chapter 1606 of Title 10, United States Code, and Chapter 1607 of Title 10, United States Code.

Our Mission is to ensure that every veteran/eligible person and reservist receives a full and fair opportunity to reach his or her full potential. We strive to increase the awareness of every veteran/eligible person and reservist concerning the full range of both educational and training opportunities available in the Commonwealth. It is with this purpose in mind that we present the following information.

*Bill Stephens, Manager  
Military/Veterans Education*

## GI Bill Benefits

Web address: [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

If you have GI Bill Benefits (from Active Duty, Reserve/National Guard or as a Dependent), consider using your benefits by enrolling as a full-time or part-time student in an approved program of education at one of Pennsylvania's many educational institutions. You can also use your benefits for various on-the-job or apprenticeship training programs or to be reimbursed for Licensing/Certification tests. The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) handles benefit payments. The State Approving Agency can advise you on which educational programs and on-the-job training/apprenticeship programs are approved or can be approved for GI Bill Benefits.

Harrisburg (717) 787-2414  
Philadelphia (215) 560-2509  
Pittsburgh (412) 565-5364

# The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (Also referred to as Chapter 33)

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*The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a new education benefit for individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. The Post-9/11 GI Bill or Chapter 33 is for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009.*

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The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 became law on June 30, 2008. This act amends Part III of Title 38, United States Code, to include a new Chapter 33, which expands the educational benefits for military veterans who have served since September 11, 2001. The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010 was signed into law on January 4, 2011.

This new GI Bill (referred to as Chapter 33) has increased benefits for eligible veterans who attend Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL). An IHL is an approved institution that offers at least one degree (associate or higher). Chapter 33 originally did not include increased benefits for veterans attending Non-College Degree educational institutions, apprenticeship/on-the-job training establishments, flight schools and correspondence schools. On January 4, 2011, the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010 was signed into law making changes to the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act that did include benefits for these schools/training establishments. These changes can be found on the GI Bill Website at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). Basic veteran eligibility includes: served after September 10, 2001, for a minimum 90 days (30 days if service connected disability). There must be 36 months of active duty after 9/10/01 to receive “full” benefits. If active duty is less than 36 months, benefits are pro-rated. The law also permits transferring benefits for dependents.

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This is a “war time” GI Bill similar to the World War II GI Bill. The law is an effort to pay for veterans' college expenses to a similar extent that the original GI Bill did after World War II. The main provisions of the act include the cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed in state tuition and fees at a public institution or \$18,077.50 at a private institution (2012-2013 academic year), a monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to a military E-5 with dependents, and an allowance for books & supplies (currently \$1,000 per year). The maximum benefit payable is a percentage based on the aggregate period of active duty served after September 10, 2001, and the time the student is enrolled for classes at the school. For example, an individual who served at least 36 months and attends school full-time may receive 100 percent of the benefit payment.

The housing allowance and books and supplies stipend are not payable to individuals on active duty. (Effective October 1, 2011 active duty individuals will be eligible for the books and supplies stipend). The housing allowance is not payable to those pursuing training at half-time or less or to individuals enrolled in a program that is offered entirely through distance education. (Effective October 1, 2011 Housing allowance will be payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance payable is equal to ½ the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents. The housing allowance rate is based on the location of the school. BAH rates can be found at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm>

*Veterans eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve, or the Reserve Education Assistance Program on August 1, 2009, and qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill may make an **irrevocable election** to receive benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.*

**Transfer of Entitlement  
(Department of Defense Benefit)**

Career service members of the armed forces on August 1, 2009, may be offered the opportunity to transfer benefits to their spouse or dependent children by the Department of Defense (DoD). Service members desiring to transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill entitlement can go to the GI Bill Web site at [http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post\\_911\\_gibill/transfer\\_of\\_benefits.html](http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/transfer_of_benefits.html) and the Department of Defense web site at [http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0409\\_gibill/](http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/). They may find information on transferability of entitlement and will be able to make application to transfer benefits if they meet the eligibility requirements.

**The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has developed a list of Frequently Asked Questions to provide information about the major provisions contained in the law on their website. Individual veterans are advised to refer to [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) to determine how the new GI Bill will affect them based on their individual circumstances.**

**Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)**

2012 Rates

E-5 with Dependents

<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm>

Carlisle War Barracks	\$1,350.00
Philadelphia	\$1,758.00
Willow Grove	\$1,785.00
Pittsburgh	\$1,545.00
Reading	\$1,143.00
State College	\$1,200.00
Erie	\$ 981.00
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton	\$1,104.00
Allentown/Bethlehem	\$1,437.00
Johnstown	\$1,002.00

To find the BAH for your school, access the web site above, enter the zip code of your school and E-5 and click "Execute." BAH (E-5 with Dependents) indicated is for full-time attendance. BAH is prorated based on your percentage of eligibility and is not payable for to those pursuing training at half-time or less .

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**Post-9/11 GI Bill: Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship**

Public Law 111-32, the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) to include the children of service members who die in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. The benefit is retroactively effective to August 1, 2009; the same day the Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect. Eligible children attending school may receive up to the highest public, in-state, undergraduate tuition and fees, plus a monthly living allowance and books and supplies stipend under this program. See page 20 for more details or go to [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).



Web address: [www.milvet.state.pa.us](http://www.milvet.state.pa.us)

*Pennsylvania's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) has a dual mission: to provide quality service to the Commonwealth's veterans and their families, and to oversee and support the members of the Pennsylvania National Guard (PNG). We fulfill our dual mission by:*

- Providing resources and assistance to Pennsylvania's 1 million veterans and their families, and providing quality care for aging and disabled veterans.
- Preparing the Pennsylvania National Guard for combat, performing worldwide combat and combat support operations, providing global reach and the projection of U.S. military power in support of national objectives; and, at the command of the governor, providing trained personnel to support state and local authorities in times of natural disaster or civil strife.

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### *Major State VA Benefits and Services:*

- *Veterans Emergency Assistance Program*
- *Disabled Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemption Program*
- *Blind Veterans Pension*
- *Paralyzed Veterans Pension*
- *Six Veterans Homes*
- *Educational Gratuity*
- *Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus Program*

Go to:

[http://www.dmva.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/veterans\\_affairs/7179](http://www.dmva.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/veterans_affairs/7179) for complete information and applications

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## **Veterans Emergency Assistance**

Veterans Emergency Assistance provides financial aid in an emergency and on a temporary basis to veterans and their beneficiaries who reside in Pennsylvania for the necessities of life (food, dairy, shelter, fuel, and clothing).

### **Veteran's eligibility criteria:**

- ✓ An honorably discharged veteran.
- ✓ Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- ✓ Must be a Pennsylvania resident.
- ✓ 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.

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.



## Disabled Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemption Program

**Purpose:** To provide real estate tax exemption for any honorably discharged veteran who is 100 percent disabled, a resident of the Commonwealth, and has a financial need.

### Eligibility:

- ✓ Served in the military honorably.
- ✓ Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- ✓ Veteran must have 100 percent permanent and total service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or as the result of military service, the veteran is blind or paraplegic or has sustained the loss of two or more limbs.
- ✓ Veteran must occupy the real estate as his/her principal dwelling.
- ✓ Dwelling is owned solely by the veteran or as an estate in the entirety.
- ✓ Veteran must prove financial need according to the criteria established by the State Veterans Commission.
- ✓ Upon the death of a qualified veteran, tax exemption may pass on to the unmarried surviving spouse if financial need can be shown.



**How to Apply:** Contact the County Veterans Affairs Director in the county you reside to apply for this program.

**How is Financial Need Established?** Applicants with an annual income of \$81,340 or less are presumed to have a need for the exemption. An applicant who earns over \$81,340 annually will be considered to have a financial need for the exemption when the applicant's allowable expenses exceed the applicant's household income. The applicant's monthly household expenses will be calculated to include a cost of living allowance and dependent's allowance.

**What happens after Eligibility Criteria has been verified and Certification of Need for Tax Exemption has been approved?** The Board for the Assessment and Revision of Taxes will grant the tax exemption. Cases that have been granted tax exemption will be reviewed periodically (every 5 years) to determine continued need for exemption from certain real property taxes.



### 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 correcting lens is 3/60 or 10/200 or equivalent, or less normal vision in the better eye or,
  - Includes circumstances where the widest diameter of the visual field of the better eye has contracted to an angular distance of not greater than 20°.

### Paralyzed Veterans Pension

Provides for a pension of \$150 per month.

#### Eligibility:

- ✓ Served in the military honorably during an established period of war or armed conflict or during hostilities occurring in peacetime.
- ✓ Resident of PA upon entering the military.
- ✓ Suffered an injury or disease resulting in the loss or loss of use of two or more extremities (arms/hands or legs/feet).
- ✓ Rated 100 percent disabled by VA.



### State Veterans Homes System

Pennsylvania offers its veterans six extended care facilities throughout the State. The level of care provided includes personal care, skilled nursing care, domiciliary care, and dementia care. These facilities offer qualified veterans and their spouses' dedicated, superior care.

#### Eligibility:

- (a) Served in the United States Armed Forces or the Pennsylvania Military Forces,
- (b) was honorably discharged, and
- (c) is a current resident of Pennsylvania or listed Pennsylvania as his/her home of record upon entry into the United States Armed Forces or the Pennsylvania Military Forces.

Pennsylvania residents have priority in admission.



#### To Apply:

- ★ Call the PA Bureau for Veterans Affairs at 1-800-547-2838  
or
- ★ Contact your County Director of Veterans Affairs  
or
- ★ Visit [www.paveterans.state.pa.us](http://www.paveterans.state.pa.us) and click on "State Veterans' Home System"



## Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus Program

The Persian Gulf Conflict was fought from August 1990 until August 1991 following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. On April 24, 2006, Governor Edward G. Rendell signed House Bill 1820 into law as Act 29 of 2006.

The following veterans may be eligible for benefits under this program:

- ★ Veteran must have served on active duty in the Persian Gulf Theatre of Operations during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991 and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal.
- ★ Veteran must have been a legal resident of Pennsylvania at the time of military service.
- ★ Veteran must have served under honorable conditions.

Eligible Pennsylvania veterans of the Persian Gulf Conflict are entitled to receive \$75 per month for each month (or major fraction thereof) of active service in the Persian Gulf Conflict Theatre during the covered period. The maximum compensation is \$525. Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) will be paid on behalf of veterans who died in active service in the Persian Gulf Theatre or as a result of service-connected wounds, diseases, or injuries sustained during active service in the Persian Gulf Theatre as certified by the DoD or DVA. An additional one-time benefit of \$5,000 will be paid if the service member was declared prisoner of war.

Applications will be available online from the program website at <http://www.persiangufbonus.state.pa.us> and at each County Director of Veterans Affairs Office and Legislators' Offices and from Veteran Service Organizations.

***The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf conflict Veterans' Benefit Program is August 31, 2015***



## Educational Gratuity Program

The Educational Gratuity program provides financial assistance (up to \$500 per semester/term for four years) to children of honorably discharged veterans who have service-connected disabilities and served during a period of war or armed conflict or children of veterans who die or died in service during a period of war or armed conflict.

Eligibility:

- ✓ Death during a period of war or armed conflict or,
- ✓ Must have 100 percent permanent and service connected disability rating by 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.
- ✓ Applicant must have a financial need.

For further information, call 1-800-547-2838 or visit [www.paveterans.state.pa.us](http://www.paveterans.state.pa.us) or see your County Director of Veterans Affairs for an application & assistance.



### Marriage/Divorce Records

Certified copies of marriage and divorce records are issued without cost to veterans or members of the armed forces or, by or on behalf of any dependent of any such veteran or member of the armed forces. The Director of the Orphans' Court Division of each county is responsible for maintaining the records of all marriages in the county where the marriage license was issued. Divorce records will either be kept by the Orphans Court Division or Civil Division depending on which county the divorce was filed.

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### Birth and Death Records

Certified copies of birth and death records are issued to veterans and their dependents without cost.

*Contact Division of Vital Records (724) 656-3100 or on the web at [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us) and look for the Dept of Health link under PA State Agencies*

### State Retirement

Honorably discharged veterans employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a period of at least three years may be eligible to purchase credit for active military duty time. However, you must meet certain conditions:

- You must have an Armed Forces discharge that is not characterized as other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable discharge.
- You must not have received credit for the same military service in the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System.
- You must not have received, be receiving, or be entitled to receive, now or in the future, benefits for such service under a retirement system administered and wholly or partially paid for by any other governmental agency or by any private employer or a retirement program approved by the employer. However, a member who is or will be receiving a federal pension under Title 10, Chapter 1223, Sections 12731-12737 of the United States Code, may purchase active military credit if the member is otherwise eligible to do so.

You should contact a State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) Counselor to determine your eligibility. If you call the SERS toll-free number (1-800-633-5461) from a location in Pennsylvania, you will be automatically connected to the Retirement Counseling Center serving the county from which you are calling.

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### Veterans License Plates/Placards/Registration

The PA Department of Transportation has 19 different U. S. Military license plates available. Applicants must submit a certified copy of their DD214 showing eligibility for issuance. To obtain a Form MV-150 Application for U. S. Military Veteran Registration Plate, can be obtained at the following website: [http://www.dot3.state.pa.us/pdotforms/mv\\_forms/mv-150.pdf](http://www.dot3.state.pa.us/pdotforms/mv_forms/mv-150.pdf)

Application for Disabled Veteran, Severely Disabled Veteran Registration Plate or Severely Disabled Veterans Motorcycle Plate Decal, MV-145V (8-08), can be obtained at the following website: [http://www.dot3.state.pa.us/pdotforms/mv\\_forms/mv-145v.pdf](http://www.dot3.state.pa.us/pdotforms/mv_forms/mv-145v.pdf)





## Free Hunting/Fur Trapper License Certain Disabled Veterans

A resident disabled veteran of any war whose disability consists of the loss or loss of use of one or more limbs or who is certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as being 100 percent disabled as a result of service in a war or armed conflict may be entitled to a free hunting license upon application to a county treasurer. Applicants need physician's certificate, discharge papers and proof of wartime service.

## Antlerless Deer License

Qualifying disabled veterans who are residents of Pennsylvania can receive an antlerless deer license upon application to the county (county treasurer) of their choice, regardless of the county allocation. The fee for this guaranteed disabled veteran antlerless deer license is the same as the regular or military antlerless license.



## Free Fishing License for Certain Disabled Veterans

A resident of Pennsylvania who has a disability incurred in war or armed conflict consisting of a loss or loss of use of one or more limbs, total blindness, or who is certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as being 100 percent disabled as a result of service in a war or armed conflict may be entitled to a free resident fishing license upon application to a county treasurer or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Harrisburg office or the six regional law enforcement offices. Applicants should have VA certification, discharge papers, and proof of wartime service. Physician's certificates of disability are not acceptable.

Qualifications can be found at the following website:

[http://fishandboat.com/fact\\_disabled\\_lic.htm](http://fishandboat.com/fact_disabled_lic.htm)



## Resident Military Personnel Hunting Licenses

These reduced-fee general hunting licenses are available to qualified residents on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. To qualify, applicants must be currently assigned to a facility outside of this Commonwealth but on temporary leave here. This license is available through only County Treasurers and Game Commission offices (not on-line). Applicants must provide documentation of military status, leave, and residency.

## PA National Guard Hunting Licenses

These reduced-fee general hunting licenses are available to qualified residents that, within the previous 24 months, were deployed overseas for a period of 180 consecutive days or more or were released early from such service because of an injury or disease incurred in the line of duty. Only one reduced-fee license may be issued for each qualifying deployment. Applicants must provide a valid military ID card, individual or unit orders showing the return date from overseas, and proof of residency/home of record. This license is available through only County Treasurers and Game Commission offices (not on-line).

## Reserves (Armed Forces) Hunting Licenses

These reduced-fee general hunting licenses are available to qualified residents that, within the previous 24 months, were deployed overseas for a period of 180 consecutive days or more or were released early from such service because of an injury or disease incurred in the line of duty. Only one reduced-fee license may be issued for each qualifying deployment. Applicants must provide a valid military ID card, individual or unit orders showing the return date from overseas and proof of residency/home of record. This license is available through only County Treasurers and Game Commission offices (not on-line).



### Military Family Relief Assistance Program (MFRAP)

The Pennsylvania Military Family Relief Assistance Program (PA MFRAP) provides financial assistance, in the form of grants, to eligible Pennsylvania service members and their eligible family members. Eligible members must have a direct and immediate financial need as a result of military service. The amount of a grant is based on documented financial need up to a maximum of \$3,500. Examples of such financial need include:

- A sudden or unexpected loss of income directly related to military service.
- Emergency need for child care for which the applicant lacks financial resources.
- Natural or man-made disasters resulting in a need for food, shelter, or other necessities.
- The death or critical illness of a parent, spouse, sibling, or child resulting in immediate need for travel, lodging, or subsistence for which the applicant lacks financial resources. (Service members serving in OCONUS locations must seek assistance through military channels for emergency travel prior to submitting for assistance from PA MFRAP. A statement from the service member's command (LTC or higher) that such assistance is not available, and why, will be required with each application.)

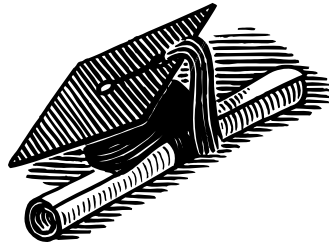
**Eligibility:** The Program applies to Pennsylvania residents who are serving:

- On 30 or more consecutive days of active duty with the Pennsylvania Army or Air National Guard or Reserve Components of the Armed Forces (Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve).
- On 30 or more consecutive days of active duty with the active armed forces (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard).
- On 30 or more consecutive days of state active duty for emergencies or duty under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact in the Pennsylvania Army or Air National Guard.
- Are members in good standing with the Pennsylvania Army or Air National Guard or Reserve Component of the Armed Forces for a period of one year after completion of a qualifying tour of active duty of 30 or more consecutive days when the financial need is directly related to the member's active duty period.
- Are former members of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Reserve Components and the Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard for a period of two years after medical discharge for medical disability incurred in line of duty while serving on a qualify tour of active duty of 30 or more consecutive days when the financial need is directly related to the member's active duty or medical disability.
- Are eligible relatives of qualified eligible service members in limited circumstances.

**Applications:** Application forms are available online at [www.dmva.state.pa.us](http://www.dmva.state.pa.us) (select DMVA Offices and programs) and from DMVA, MFRAP, Building 0-47, FTIG, Annville, PA 17003-5002, or from PNG Family Assistance Centers. Applications, with supporting documents, must be mailed to MILPO-FPO, MFRAP, Building 0-47, FTIG, Annville, PA 17003-5002. To expedite the application process, applications and supporting documents may be faxed to the MFRAP office at (717) 861-2389.

Each application will be reviewed for eligibility and need prior to submission to the PA MFRAP Fund Committee for approval or disapproval. No application is automatically approved.

## Operation Recognition



Effective June 2001, Act 73 established "Operation Recognition" which authorizes school districts to grant a high school diploma to any honorably discharged veteran who served in the United States military in World War II between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946, and/or the Korean War between June 27, 1950, and January 30, 1955. On August 7, 2007, the law was amended to also include any honorably discharged veteran who served in the United States military in the Vietnam War between November 15, 1961, and March 28, 1973.

In order to recognize and honor veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in World War II, Korea, or Vietnam, the school board shall grant a diploma to a veteran who meets the following requirements:

- Was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States of America.
- Served in the United States military between September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 during WWII; between June 27, 1950 to January 30, 1955 during the Korean War; or between November 15, 1961 and March 28, 1973 during the Vietnam War.
- Attended high school between 1937 and 1946 during WWII; between 1947 and 1955 during the Korean War; between 1958-1973 during the Vietnam War.
- Would have been a member of a graduation class during 1941 through 1950 (WWII), 1951-1957 (Korean War), or 1962-1975 (Vietnam War) but did not graduate due to entry into military service.
- School districts may establish specific residency requirements.

Upon proper application, the school board may award a diploma posthumously to a veteran who meets the stated requirements.

The Superintendent shall submit to the school board for its approval the name of veterans eligible for a high school diploma.

To apply for this benefit, go to:

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/veterans\\_benefits/11386/disabled\\_benefits/567420](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/veterans_benefits/11386/disabled_benefits/567420) and click on the link to fill out the [Application for Diploma](#) and send it to the appropriate school district. This form can also be filled out electronically.

## COUNTY BENEFITS

### Burial Allowance

County burial allowances are provided to veterans and spouses of deceased veterans as indicated in the County Code. The allowance is provided whether or not the person died in the county or was buried in the county. Application for the burial allowance must be made within one year after the date of his or her death.

### Headstones and Installation Allowances

County headstone allowances are provided for qualified veterans as indicated in the County Code. The one-time expense shall be borne by the county in which the veteran had legal residence at the time of death, whether or not the veteran died in the county or was buried in the county. There is no time limit for this benefit.

### Flags and Emblem Markers (Flag Holders)

A county grave marker is provided to deceased veterans as indicated in the County Code. The initial grave marker is provided free of charge by the county in which the deceased service person had legal residence at the time of death, whether or not the veteran died in the county or was buried in the county. Future replacements or deteriorated or missing markers may be replaced by the county in which the veteran is buried.

### Recording of Discharges

It is recommended that all discharged service persons record their discharges with their County. This service is provided free of charge to all veterans. The discharge will be permanently recorded and certified copies can be obtained at any time. Check with your County Director for further information.

**County Directors of Veterans Affairs** provide county veterans and their dependents direct assistance to identify, determine eligibility and assist in the preparation of applications for county, state and Federal veteran's benefits and programs. The County Director is responsible for the payment of Burial Allowances and ensuring Grave markers and headstones are properly requested and placed for each deceased County Veteran. They also provide direct application for State programs like Real Estate Tax Exemption, Veterans Emergency Assistance, Blind and Paralyzed Pensions and Education Gratuity for veterans who are currently rated a 100% Permanent and Total by the federal Veterans Administration.



## County Directors of Veterans Affairs

Adams	John Farrell 117 Baltimore Street, Suite 7 Gettysburg, PA 17325	<a href="mailto:ifarrell@adamscounty.us">ifarrell@adamscounty.us</a> Phone: (717) 337-9835 Fax: (717) 337-5781
Allegheny	Ron Conley Division of Veterans Services 4141 Fifth Avenue, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3347	<a href="mailto:rconley@county.allegheny.pa.us">rconley@county.allegheny.pa.us</a> Phone: (412) 621-4357 Fax: (412) 621-3622
Armstrong	Rick Croyle 450 E. Market Street, Suite 107 Kittanning, PA 16201-1461	<a href="mailto:vetaffairs@co.armstrong.pa.us">vetaffairs@co.armstrong.pa.us</a> Phone: (724) 548-3441 Fax: (724) 548-3326
Beaver	Kathy Nairn 810 Third Street – Room A100 Beaver, PA 15009-2129	<a href="mailto:knairn@beavercountypa.gov">knairn@beavercountypa.gov</a> Phone: (724) 770-4452 Fax: (724) 728-3875
Bedford	Barbara Cheke 206 S. Julian Street Bedford, PA 15522-1767	<a href="mailto:bcheke@bedfordcountypa.org">bcheke@bedfordcountypa.org</a> Phone: (814) 623-4848 Fax: (814) 623-7431
Berks	Dale Derr 1243 County Road Leesport, PA 19533	<a href="mailto:dgderr@countyofberks.com">dgderr@countyofberks.com</a> Phone: (610) 378-5601 ext 8150 Fax: (610) 378-5627
Blair	Tim Teltow 423 Allegheny Street, Suite 112 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-2022	<a href="mailto:teltow@blairco.org">teltow@blairco.org</a> Phone: (814) 693-3160 Fax: (814) 693-3159
Bradford	Gene Osmun Court House Annex 301 Main Street Towanda, PA 18848-1846	<a href="mailto:bcvets@mail.bedfordco.org">bcvets@mail.bedfordco.org</a> Phone: (570) 265-1704 Fax: (570) 265-1758
Bucks	Daniel Fraley 1260 Almshouse Rd. Doylestown, PA 18901	<a href="mailto:dhfraley@co.bucks.pa.us">dhfraley@co.bucks.pa.us</a> Phone: (215) 345-3307 Fax: (215) 345-3278
Butler	John P. Cyprian 124 W. Diamond St. -Suite 136 P. O. Box 1208 Butler, PA 16003-1208	<a href="mailto:jcyprian@co.butler.pa.us">jcyprian@co.butler.pa.us</a> Phone: (724) 284-5353 Fax: (724) 284-1006
Cambria	Nancy Tavalisky 200 South Center Street Ebensburg, PA 15931-1947	<a href="mailto:ntavalisky@co.cambria.pa.us">ntavalisky@co.cambria.pa.us</a> Phone: (814) 472-1590 Fax: (814) 472-1423

County Directors of Veterans Affairs (cont.)

Cameron	Floyd Keefer 2405 Sizerville Road Emporium, PA 15834	<a href="mailto:keef15834@zitomedia.net">keef15834@zitomedia.net</a> Phone: (814) 486-1372 Fax: (814) 274-9764
Carbon	Henry Desrosiers 2 Hazard Square Jim Thorpe, PA 18229-0129	<a href="mailto:carbonvets@carboncounty.net">carbonvets@carboncounty.net</a> Phone: (570) 325-3986 Fax: (570) 325-5097
Centre	Holly Serface Willowbank Office Building 420 Holmes Street – Ste. 333 Bellefonte, PA 16823-1488	<a href="mailto:hcserface@co.centre.pa.us">hcserface@co.centre.pa.us</a> Phone: (814) 355-6812 Fax: (814) 548-1144
Chester	Paul Andriole Government Services Center P. O. Box 2747 601 Westtown Rd, Suite 385 West Chester, PA 19382-4545	<a href="mailto:veterans@chesco.org">veterans@chesco.org</a> Phone: (610) 344-6375 Fax: (610) 344-4552
Clarion	Judy Zerbe 330 Main Street, Room 109 Clarion, PA 16214-1024	<a href="mailto:ccva2@co.clarion.pa.us">ccva2@co.clarion.pa.us</a> Phone: (814) 226-4000 ext 2601 Fax: (814) 226-4906
Clearfield	Betina Nicklas 212 E. Locust St., Ste 104 Clearfield, PA 16830	<a href="mailto:bnicklas@clearfieldco.org">bnicklas@clearfieldco.org</a> Phone: (814) 765-4611 Fax: (814) 765-8988
Clinton	David Bower Clinton County Court House 230 East Water Street Lock Haven, PA 17764	<a href="mailto:dbower@clintoncounty.pa.com">dbower@clintoncounty.pa.com</a> Phone: (570) 893-4339 Fax: (570) 893-4283
Columbia	Jim Merk 11 West Main Street Bloomsburg, PA 17815	<a href="mailto:vetransaffairs@columbiapa.org">vetransaffairs@columbiapa.org</a> Phone: (570) 387-6501 Fax: (570) 387-6502
Crawford	Fred Cunningham 903 Diamond Park, Suite B5 Meadville, PA 16335-2613	<a href="mailto:fcunningham@co.crawford.pa.us">fcunningham@co.crawford.pa.us</a> Phone: (814) 333-7314 Fax: (814) 337-5623
Cumberland	Neal J. Delisanti 1 Court House Square 18 N. Hanover St - Ste 103 Carlisle, PA 17013-3079	<a href="mailto:ndelisanti@ccpa.net">ndelisanti@ccpa.net</a> Phone: (717) 240-6178 Fax: (717) 240-6570
Dauphin	Tony DiFrancesco 2 South 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Harrisburg, PA 17101	<a href="mailto:tdifrancesco@dauphinc.org">tdifrancesco@dauphinc.org</a> Phone: (717) 780-6356 Fax: (717) 780-6330

## County Directors of Veterans Affairs (cont.)

Delaware	William Lovejoy Court House 201 W. Front Street Media, PA 19063-2708	<a href="mailto:delcova@co.delaware.pa.us">delcova@co.delaware.pa.us</a> Phone: (610) 891-4646 Fax: (610) 891-8055
Elk	Leslie Neal Court House Annex 300 Center Street P. O. Box 448 Ridgway, PA 15853-1007	<a href="mailto:lneal@countyofelkpa.com">lneal@countyofelkpa.com</a> Phone: (814) 776-5370 Fax: (814) 776-5379
Erie	Mary Knight-Strong Court House 140 West Sixth Street, Rm 101 Erie, PA 16501-1029	<a href="mailto:mknight-strong@eriecountygov.org">mknight-strong@eriecountygov.org</a> Phone: (814) 451-6270 Fax: (814) 451-7477
Fayette	Vacant 22 E. Main Street, Suite 14 Uniontown, PA 15401-3516	Phone: (724) 430-1241 Fax: (724) 430-1427
Forest	Basil Huffman 526 Elm Street, No. 3 Tionesta, PA 16353	<a href="mailto:bhuffman@co.forest.pa.us">bhuffman@co.forest.pa.us</a> Phone: (814) 755-3404 Fax: (814) 755-8863
Franklin	Robert F. Harris, Jr. 191 Franklin Farm Lane Chambersburg, PA 17202	<a href="mailto:bobharris@co.franklin.pa.us">bobharris@co.franklin.pa.us</a> Phone: (717) 263-4326 Fax: (717) 263-1905
Fulton	Edward W. Stenger 116 W. Market St. McConnellsburg, PA 17233	<a href="mailto:veterans@co.fulton.pa.us">veterans@co.fulton.pa.us</a> Phone: (717) 485-6873 Fax: (717) 485-9411
Greene	Darlene Watson 22 W. High Street – Suite 100 Waynesburg, PA 15370-1536	<a href="mailto:dwatson@co.greene.pa.us">dwatson@co.greene.pa.us</a> Phone: (724) 852-5275 Fax: (724) 852-5307
Huntingdon	Stephen R. Lane Court House 205 Penn Street, Suite 2 Huntingdon, PA 16652-1457	<i>No e-mail available</i> Phone: (814) 643-1360 Fax: (814) 643-8152
Indiana	Brenda Stormer Court House 825 Philadelphia Street Indiana, PA 15701-3934	<a href="mailto:bstormer@countyofindiana.org">bstormer@countyofindiana.org</a> Phone: (724) 465-3815 Fax: (724) 465-3991
Jefferson	Richard Stover 155 Main Street, Suite 210 Brookville, PA 15825-1269	<a href="mailto:mmiller@jeffersoncountypa.com">mmiller@jeffersoncountypa.com</a> Phone: (814) 849-3618 Fax: (814) 849-4084

County Directors of Veterans Affairs (cont.)

Juniata	Daniel Dreese Court House Annex P. O. Box 68 Mifflintown, PA 17059-0068	<a href="mailto:ddreese@co.juniata.pa.us">ddreese@co.juniata.pa.us</a> Phone: (717) 436-7728 Fax: (717) 436-7769
Lackawanna	Anissa Fetchen 507 Linden St - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fl Scranton, PA 18503-1602	<a href="mailto:fetchena@lackawannacounty.org">fetchena@lackawannacounty.org</a> Phone: (570) 963-6778 ext 1892 Fax: (570) 963-6418
Lancaster	Daniel Tooth 150 N. Queen Street, Ste 103 Lancaster, PA 17603-3562	<a href="mailto:dtooth@co.lancaster.pa.us">dtooth@co.lancaster.pa.us</a> Phone: (717) 299-7920 Fax: (717) 209-3077
Lawrence	Shirley Noga 430 Court Street New Castle, PA 16101-3593	<a href="mailto:snoga@co.lawrence.pa.us">snoga@co.lawrence.pa.us</a> Phone: (724) 656-2180 Fax: (724) 656-2447
Lebanon	Robert Kale 102 Municipal Building 400 S. Eighth St., Room 106 Lebanon, PA 17042-6794	<a href="mailto:rkale@lebcnty.org">rkale@lebcnty.org</a> Phone: (717) 228-4422 Fax: (717) 270-6479
Lehigh	Thomas Dye 17 South Seventh Street Allentown, PA 18101-2400	<a href="mailto:thomasdye@lehighcounty.org">thomasdye@lehighcounty.org</a> Phone: (610) 782-3295 Fax: (610) 820-2026
Luzerne	Jim Spagnola 77 Water Street Wilkes Barre, PA 18711	<a href="mailto:james.spagnola@luzernecounty.org">james.spagnola@luzernecounty.org</a> Phone: (570) 706-3960 Fax: (570) 706-3969
Lycoming	George Heiges Court House Annex 48 W. Third Street Williamsport, PA 17701-6514	<a href="mailto:gheiges@lyco.org">gheiges@lyco.org</a> Phone: (570) 327-2365 Fax: (570) 320-2152
McKean	Matt Windsor 500 West Main Street Smethport, PA 16749-1149	<a href="mailto:mswindsor@mckeancountypa.org">mswindsor@mckeancountypa.org</a> Phone: (814) 887-3241 Fax: (814) 887-3101
Mercer	Larry Scheetz 14 Mercer County Court House Mercer, PA 16137-0112	<a href="mailto:lscheetz@mcc.co.mercer.pa.us">lscheetz@mcc.co.mercer.pa.us</a> Phone: (724) 662-7511 Fax: (724) 662-7516
Mifflin	Christine DeArment 20 N. Wayne Street Lewistown, PA 17044-1770	<a href="mailto:cdearment@co.mifflin.pa.us">cdearment@co.mifflin.pa.us</a> Phone: (717) 248-6421 Fax: (717) 248-2527



## County Directors of Veterans Affairs (cont.)

Monroe	Joel Keller 1 Quaker Plaza, Room 101 Stroudsburg, PA 18360-1246	<a href="mailto:jkeller@co.monroe.pa.us">jkeller@co.monroe.pa.us</a> Phone: (570) 517-3187 Fax: (570) 517-3188
Montgomery	John Nowak 1430 DeKalb Street P. O. Box 311 Norristown, PA 19404-0311	<a href="mailto:jnowak@montcopa.org">jnowak@montcopa.org</a> Phone: (610) 278-3285 Fax: (610) 278-5935
Montour	Doug Resseguie 114 Woodbine Lane – Suite 105 Danville, PA 17821-8120	<a href="mailto:vetaff@montourco.org">vetaff@montourco.org</a> Phone: (570) 271-3061 Fax: (570) 271-3033
Northampton	Freddie Ramirez 45 N. Second Street Easton, PA 18042-7799	<a href="mailto:ivoklkert@northamptoncounty.org">ivoklkert@northamptoncounty.org</a> Phone: (610) 559-3199 Fax: (610) 559-3286
Northumberland	Belinda Albright 399 South Fifth Street – Rm 110 Sunbury, PA 17801-3239	<a href="mailto:Belinda.albright@norrycopa.net">Belinda.albright@norrycopa.net</a> Phone: (570) 988-4213 Fax: (570) 988-4972
Perry	Lynn D. Van Leaven Perry County Court House P. O. Box 37 Bloomfield, PA 17068	<a href="mailto:ivanleaven@perryco.org">ivanleaven@perryco.org</a> Phone: (717) 582-5133 Fax: (717) 582-5134
Philadelphia	Vacant City Hall – Room 494 Philadelphia, PA 19101	Phone: (215) 686-3256 Fax: (215) 563-3162
Pike	Pierce J. Bunce 514 Broad Street Milford, PA 18337-1596	<a href="mailto:vetaffairs@pikepa.org">vetaffairs@pikepa.org</a> Phone: (570) 296-3563 FAX: (570) 296-3410
Potter	Will Worthington Gunzburger Building, 1st Floor One North Main St. Coudersport, PA 16915	<a href="mailto:wworthington@pottercountypa.net">wworthington@pottercountypa.net</a> Phone: (814) 274-8290 ext. 210 Fax: (814) 274-8307
Schuylkill	Brenda Zechman Dept. of Veteran Services 401 N. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Pottsville, PA 17901-1756	<a href="mailto:bzechman@co.schuylkill.pa.us">bzechman@co.schuylkill.pa.us</a> Phone: (570) 628-1400 Fax: (570) 628-1429
Snyder	Roger L. Snook 9 W. Market Street P. O. Box 217 Middleburg, PA 17842	<a href="mailto:rsnook@snydercounty.org">rsnook@snydercounty.org</a> Phone: (570) 837-4277 Fax: (570) 837-4282

County Directors of Veterans Affairs (cont.)

Somerset	Daniel Kinsella 300 N. Center Ave, Suite 380 Somerset, PA 15501-1497	<a href="mailto:kinsellad@co.somerset.pa.us">kinsellad@co.somerset.pa.us</a> Phone: (814) 445-1551 Fax: (814) 445-1446
Sullivan	Mark Roinick 245 Muncy Street P. O. Box 157 LaPorte, PA 18626-0157	<a href="mailto:mroinick@sullivancounty-pa.us">mroinick@sullivancounty-pa.us</a> Phone: (570) 946-5201 Fax: (570) 946-4421
Susquehanna	Thomas Yadlosky 81 Public Avenue P. O. Box 218 Montrose, PA 18801-1219	<a href="mailto:tyadlosky@susqco.com">tyadlosky@susqco.com</a> Phone: (570) 278-4600 ext. 260 Fax: (570) 278-9268
Tioga	Tim Cleveland Court House Annex 118 Main Street Wellsboro, PA 16901-1444	<a href="mailto:tcleveland@tiogacountypa.us">tcleveland@tiogacountypa.us</a> Phone: (570) 723-8141 Fax: (570) 724-6819
Union	Jan D. Kerstetter 155 North 15 <sup>th</sup> Street Lewisburg, PA 17837-1996	<a href="mailto:jkerstetter@unionco.org">jkerstetter@unionco.org</a> Phone: (570) 524-8676 Fax: (570) 524-8635
Venango	Charlie Tarr 1 Dale Avenue Franklin, PA 16323	Phone: (814) 432-9780 Fax: (814) 437-2338
Warren	Edgar Burris 204 Fourth Avenue Warren, PA 16365-2399	<a href="mailto:eburris@warren-county.net">eburris@warren-county.net</a> Phone: (814) 728-3478 Fax: (814) 728-3480
Washington	Barry Grimm 100 W. Beau Street – Ste 703 Washington, PA 15301-4432	<a href="mailto:grimmbar@co.washington.pa.us">grimmbar@co.washington.pa.us</a> Phone: (724) 228-6865 Fax: (724) 228-6872
Wayne	Joe McDonnell 925 Court Street Honesdale, PA 18436	<a href="mailto:jmcdonnell@co.wayne.pa.us">jmcdonnell@co.wayne.pa.us</a> Phone: (570) 253-5970 ext. 3114 Fax: (570) 523-9115
Westmoreland	Matthew Zamosky 2 N. Main Street – Suite 502 Greensburg, PA 15601-2405	<a href="mailto:mzamosky@co.westmoreland.pa.us">mzamosky@co.westmoreland.pa.us</a> Phone: (724) 830-3530 Fax: (724) 830-3010
Wyoming	Jack Hubert 1 Courthouse Square Tunkhannock, PA 18657	<a href="mailto:jhubert@wycopa.org">jhubert@wycopa.org</a> Phone: (570) 836-4558 Fax: (570) 836-7244
York	Phillip A. Palandro 141 West Market Street York, PA 17401-1332	<a href="mailto:PAPalandro@york-county.org">PAPalandro@york-county.org</a> Phone: (717) 771-9218 Fax: (717) 771-4617

## ASSISTANCE

### State Transition Assistance Advisors

Transition Assistance Advisors are a statewide point of contact created to help National Guard veterans, service members and their families navigate through the myriad of benefits, entitlements and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the military health care system, the Department of Defense, the state, and your community. TAAs are your Directory Assistance that will take the time to educate and assist you so that you will understand and successfully obtain the benefits that you have earned. Contact information is listed below.

Mrs. Katie Johnson, TAA  
 Bldg 7-1 Deployment Cycle Support  
 Ft. Indiantown Gap  
 Annville, PA 17003  
 (717) 861-8706  
 (717) 861-9399 Fax  
[katie.johnson@us.army.mil](mailto:katie.johnson@us.army.mil)



### National Guard Family Program Website

[www.jointservicessupport.org](http://www.jointservicessupport.org)

This website is the National Guards “one-stop-shop” for everything Guard. It is for Guard Members and their families, educators and administrators, and community members. Some of the highlights of what you will find at this website are support programs, online courses, a discussion board and a local resource finder.

### Pennsylvania Bureau for Veterans Affairs Field Offices

Pennsylvania operates its own Veteran Service Organization with three field offices. State Veteran Service Officers provide representation of claims submitted by CDVA service officers as well as individual veteran representation. The state service officer program works in harmony with the USDVA Regional Offices, Veteran Service Organizations and all veteran advocates assisting veterans to obtain all county, state and federal benefits. To contact one of the DMVA Field Offices, see below:

#### Ft Indiantown Gap Field Office

Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for  
 Veterans Affairs –  
 Ft Indiantown Gap Field Office  
 DMVA-VA, Bldg S-O-47, FTIG  
 Annville, PA 17003-5002  
 (717) 861-8901  
 (717) 861-8589 Fax  
 Toll Free: 1-800-547-2838

#### Philadelphia Field Office

Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for  
 Veterans Affairs –  
 Philadelphia Field Office  
 Veterans Administration Center,  
 Wissahickon Ave. & Manheim Sts.  
 P. O. Box 42938,  
 Philadelphia, PA 19101  
 (215) 381-3040  
 (215) 381-3492 Fax  
 Toll Free: 1-866-754-8637

#### Pittsburgh Field Office







Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for  
 Veterans Affairs –  
 Pittsburgh Field Office  
 Veterans Administration Building  
 Suite 1612, 1000 Liberty Avenue  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4003  
 (412) 395-6225  
 (412) 395-6224 Fax  
 Toll Free: 1-866-754-8636

## EDUCATION



### Post-9/11 GI Bill: Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) to include the children of service members who die in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. The benefit is retroactively effective to August 1, 2009; the same day the Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect. Eligible children attending school may receive up to the highest public, in-state, undergraduate tuition and fees, plus a monthly living allowance and books and supplies stipend under this program. Apply using VA Form 22-5490.

#### Eligible children:

-  May be married or over 23 and still be eligible
-  Are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level
-  Have 15 years to use the benefit beginning on his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
-  May use the benefit until his/her 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday
-  Cannot use benefit before age 18, even if he/she has completed high school
-  Are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program

#### *Children who have used or wish to use entitlement under Dependents' Educational Assistance (Chapter 35):*

-  If a child is eligible for the Fry Scholarship, he or she may be eligible for VA's Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA). Although the benefits cannot be used at the same time, a child may be eligible for up to 48 months of benefits between the two programs.
-  If a child already used DEA anytime from August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010, he/she may retroactively use the Fry Scholarship instead. Apply on VA Form 22-5490, Dependents' Application for VA Education Benefits, and note in the "Remarks" section that the child wishes to receive benefits under the Fry Scholarship instead of DEA.

*A new version of the VA Form 22-5490, Dependents' Application for VA Education Benefits is available on VA's website, [www.GIBill.va.gov](http://www.GIBill.va.gov), from "VONAPP," the online application. Paper versions may also be printed from VONAPP. A parent or guardian must sign the application if the child is under age 18.*




## Other Scholarships

### Tillman Military Scholar Program

In 2002, Pat Tillman left his NFL career and turned down a multi-million dollar contract with the Arizona Cardinals to enlist and serve his country as an Army Ranger in the aftermath of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. A role model of courage and patriotism, he served several combat tours, but was killed in a firefight in Afghanistan on April 22, 2004.

The mission of the Pat Tillman Foundation is to invest in Veterans and their spouses through educational scholarships and building a diverse community of leaders committed to service to others. The Military Scholar Program offers financial assistance to Service members, Veterans, and their spouses to cover academic and/or living expenses while in school. You must pursue an undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate degree as a full-time student at a public or private, 4-year U. S. – based accredited institution to qualify. For more information on application and eligibility requirements please go to [The Pat Tillman Foundation](#).










 The following list reflects scholarships available to Pennsylvania Army National Guardsmen; please call the Guidance Counselor at (717) 861-2434 for more information.

(<http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/2655.htm>)

**Albright Scholarship \$10,000**  
**Duquesne University Scholarship**  
**GRFD Scholarship**  
**DED Guard Scholarship**  
**Peirce Scholarship**  
**VFMA / Schwarzkopf Scholarship**  
**National Guard Association Scholarship**  
**Thiel Scholarship**




## GI Bill Educational Benefits for Individuals Eligible Under:

-  Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty
-  Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserves
-  Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)
-  Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program
-  Reserve Education & Assistance Program (REAP)
-  Post-9/11 GI Bill
-  Vocational Rehabilitation


Programs provide for educational benefits while pursuing educational and training programs at State Approving Agency approved sites. The Pennsylvania State Approving Agency can be contacted by calling (717) 787-2414 or e-mail at [RA-VetEd@pa.gov](mailto:RA-VetEd@pa.gov). A work study program and tutorial assistance program is also available to students receiving education benefits who meet certain attendance criteria. Reimbursement for approved License and Certification tests is also available for eligible individuals. For detailed information on Educational Benefits, or to apply for benefits, call 1-888-442-4551 or visit the GI Bill web site at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).



### Federal Pell Grant

 If you qualify for this federal (non-repayable) grant, you can receive aid depending upon your financial need. Students filing for Federal Pell Grant aid must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Renewal FAFSA. Applications can be obtained by calling 1-800-433-3243 or to submit an application online, go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

### State Grant Program

 The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) provide State Grants for qualified veterans who need financial assistance to complete approved programs of postsecondary education. All veterans are considered without regard to the financial status of their parents. For more information, visit [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org)



### Education Assistance Program (EAP)

This program provides tuition assistance for students who enter into a service commitment with the Pennsylvania National Guard, typically for a period of six years. To be eligible for the program, you must be a bona fide resident of Pennsylvania and be enrolled in a degree or certificate granting program of study at an approved Pennsylvania institution. The full-time maximum award is up to 100 percent of tuition charged at a state-owned university. A part-time award is either the tuition charged or two-thirds of the full-time tuition charged a Pennsylvania resident. Additional information can be found at [www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/2651.htm](http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/2651.htm).



## USAR Tuition Assistance (TA) Program

📖 Pennsylvania National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance (TA) is available to certain members of the Selected Reserves and National Guard for courses leading to the first undergraduate, graduate degrees, and one certificate/diploma program. TA is available to split-option service members who have completed basic training. Non-scholarship SMP Cadets are eligible for TA. TA is available for classroom or online courses at accredited institutions. Payment is made directly to the school. USAR soldiers apply online at <https://rcms.ocar.army.pentagon.mil/Education> National Guard members apply at <http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/2652.htm>. For other services, consult with your unit for application procedures.

## College-Based Aid

📖 The financial aid office at the school you will attend has information on other grant, loan, and work-study financial aid programs.

## Postsecondary Educational Gratuity Program

📖 The Postsecondary Educational Gratuity program, administered by PHEAA, recognizes and honors those who lost their lives protecting the citizens of this Commonwealth. The program provides their children a waiver of tuition, fees, room and board as charged by selected public postsecondary schools less the amount of awarded scholarships and grants

### Eligibility:

- ✓ Be a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- ✓ Be 25 years of age or younger at the time of application for the program
- ✓ Be a child by birth or adoption of a deceased sheriff, deputy sheriff, National Guard member or certain other individual who was on federal or state active military duty who died since September 11, 2001 as a direct result of performing his or her official duties, or
- ✓ Be a child by birth or adoption of a deceased police officer, firefighter, rescue or ambulance squad member, correction employee or an active National Guard member who died since January 1, 1976 as a direct result of performing his or her official duties

*For complete eligibility and application information, visit [PHEAA.org](http://PHEAA.org) or write PHEAA at:*

*POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY PROGRAM  
State Grant and Special Programs  
1200 North Seventh Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102-1444  
Or call toll-free 800.692.7392*

### Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)

Congress passed, and the President has signed into law, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP is managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) and allows qualifying Veterans to receive up to 12 months of education assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty rate.

The VRAP offers 12 months of training assistance to Veterans who:

- Are at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Are unemployed on the date of application
- Received an other than dishonorable discharge
- Are not eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)
- Are not in receipt of VA compensation due to employability
- Are not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

The program is limited to 45,000 participants from July 1, 2012, through September 30, 2012, and 54,000 participants from October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014. Veterans can apply on a first-come, first-serve basis for VRAP beginning on May 15, 2012, for programs that begin on or after July 1, 2012. Assistance under this benefit program ends on March 31, 2014.

Participants must attend full-time in order to receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program. DOL will offer employment assistance to every Veteran who participates upon completion of the program.

Participants must be enrolled in a program of education approved for veteran's benefits offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associates Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation

Further information can be found on the web at  
<http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>





## EMPLOYMENT

### On-The-Job Training or Apprenticeship Training

On-the-Job Training (OTJ) is training you receive while actually performing a job and earning wages. OJT programs normally range from six months to two years in length. Apprenticeship training is on-the-job training coupled with theoretical related instructions. Apprenticeship programs are normally from two to five years in length.

You may be eligible to receive a monthly GI Bill benefit check from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs while you are earning wages. To determine if you are eligible for GI Bill benefits, visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) and complete Form VA 22-1990 "Application for VA Education Benefits." If eligible, you or your employer should contact the State Approving Agency so that the necessary steps can be taken to approve the training program if it is not already approved. Please keep in mind that not all occupations can be approved. You can contact the State Approving Agency at [RA-VetEd@pa.gov](mailto:RA-VetEd@pa.gov).

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

The Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program's primary function is to help veterans who have service-connected disabilities (SCD) become suitably employed, maintain employment, or achieve independence in daily living. To receive an evaluation for vocational rehabilitation services, a veteran must have received, or eventually received, an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge, and have a VA SCD rating of 10% or more. For more information, please visit [www.VetSuccess.gov](http://www.VetSuccess.gov).

### Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers is a program designed to assist eligible military personnel to transition to a new career or second career as public school teachers in public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are most needed. Participants are provided with counseling and assistance regarding certification requirements, routes to state certification, and registration assistance.


The federal Troops to Teachers program is a partnership between the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the existing 37 teacher intern programs of the 96 colleges and universities that prepare Pennsylvania's teachers for the classroom. Wherever you may wish to teach in the Commonwealth, there is a certification program near the area that already has a partnership with one or more local school districts. Our intern programs allow you to enter the classroom immediately and the Troops to Teacher funding includes \$5,000 to assist with the cost of certification for those eligible for financial assistance.

PA/NY Region Troops To Teachers Phone: 1-855-241-2173

Check [www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com) for details of eligibility



## Helmets to Hardhats

 The Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans Employment, which administers Helmets to Hardhats, is your free one-stop shop for the best construction industry jobs nationwide. America's best employers and trade organizations come to the Center looking for America's best workers.

The Center accepts active military, those in the National Guard and Reserves, and veterans who have a sincere desire to join the building and construction trades. Helmets to Hardhats provides you with a personalized and logical way to access the best that America's building and construction industries have to offer.

The first step in finding a great career in building and construction is to register with us for free at [www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org). Once you have done that, complete your profile and learn about the different trades and what it means to be a part of them. When you find a trade that interests you, begin your search for opportunities online.

## Civil Service Preference



Applicants who pass civil service examinations **may** receive additional points to their final score in recognition of their military service. Please check the state, county or local government web sites for specific information.

*Eligibility for State Civil Service Preference is as follows:*

a. Applicants in any of the following categories are entitled to veterans' preference if they have completed their military service commitment and have received an honorable discharge from such service prior to taking a civil service examination.

(1) Certain military commitments completed prior to July 27, 1953.

(2) Applicants who have served in an active duty capacity in the armed forces of the United States since July 27, 1953. Such service must include completion of basic training.

(3) Applicants who served in the National Guard or Reserves. Such service must include completion of basic training and completion of either the entire first term of service or at least one period of active duty for a purpose other than training since August 2, 1990.

b. Also eligible are:

(1) Widows or widowers of veterans.

(2) Spouses of disabled veterans.

*Contact the Pennsylvania State Civil Service Commission at (717) 787-6039 or on the web at: [www.scsc.state.pa.us](http://www.scsc.state.pa.us).*



## The Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania



*The Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania* is a unique partnership of building trade unions and contractor associations which work together to provide the best value in construction services. Incorporated in 1999, this non-profit organization today represents more than 40,

To pursue a career in the building trades, interested individuals may either apply through an apprenticeship program or meet special qualifications if they are currently a practicing journeyman. Generally, persons must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Have a high school diploma or GED;
- Possess a valid Pennsylvania driver's license;
- Have suitable transportation; and
- Be drug free

Training is free and apprentices earn wages throughout the program. Like journeymen, apprentices also receive health care and other benefits. For more information about specific apprenticeship programs and how to apply, please contact the individual training centers directly, log on to the "Careers & Training" section of [www.buildersguild.org](http://www.buildersguild.org), write to the Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania, Inc., 650 Ridge Road, Suite 101, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 or call (412) 921-9000.



United States Armed Services Veterans - Pennsylvania CareerLink Offices comply with the Jobs for Veterans Act by providing priority services to veterans. Local Veterans Employment Representatives and/or Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists are available at Pennsylvania CareerLinks to assist veterans with job search and other employment needs. Job seekers identified as veterans are matched to job orders before any other job seeker matches are performed. Veterans should contact their local Pennsylvania CareerLink office to assure their veterans status is properly annotated on their CareerLink record and to receive priority service. If you have questions about the Jobs for Veterans Act, contact your nearest CareerLink. You can find your nearest CareerLink office by visiting [www.cwds.state.pa.us](http://www.cwds.state.pa.us).

## Chartered Veterans Service Organizations

Many veteran service organizations in Pennsylvania provide Veteran Service Officer Representatives who prepare, present, and prosecute claims for benefits upon behalf of veterans and family members with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. You do not normally have to be a member of the specific organization to receive service from them.



### State Headquarters

American Ex-Prisoners of War: Website: <a href="http://www.axpow.org/">http://www.axpow.org/</a>	(717) 737-1345
Pennsylvania American Legion: Website: <a href="http://www.pa-legend.com/">http://www.pa-legend.com/</a>	(717) 730-9100
AMVETS (American Veterans): Website: <a href="http://www.amvets.org/">http://www.amvets.org/</a>	(717) 865-9982
Blinded Veterans Association: Website: <a href="http://www.bva.org/">http://www.bva.org/</a>	(717) 761-4602
Disabled American Veterans: Website: <a href="http://www.dav.org/">http://www.dav.org/</a>	(717) 761-4060
Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America: Website: <a href="http://www.kpva.org/">http://www.kpva.org/</a>	(412) 781-2474
Marine Corps League: Website: <a href="http://www.mcleague.org/">http://www.mcleague.org/</a>	(800) 779-7301
Pennsylvania State Council Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. Website: <a href="http://www.vva-pa.org/">http://www.vva-pa.org/</a>	(610) 356-8524
The Military Order of the Purple Heart: Website: <a href="http://www.purpleheart.org">http://www.purpleheart.org</a>	(724) 437-1220
Veterans of Foreign Wars: Website: <a href="http://www.vfwpahq.org/">http://www.vfwpahq.org/</a>	(717) 234-7927



## HEALTH CARE



### Health Care Benefits offered by the Veterans Administration

VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system with more than 1,400 sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics, nursing homes, domiciliaries, readjustment counseling centers, and various other facilities. VA provides a Medical Benefits Package, a standard enhanced health benefits plan available to all enrolled veterans. For additional information on VA health care, visit: <http://www1.va.gov/health/>.

All veterans are potentially eligible. Eligibility for most veterans' health care benefits is based solely on active military service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard (or Merchant Marines during WW II), and discharged under other than dishonorable conditions. Reservists and National Guard members who were called to active duty by a Federal Executive Order may qualify for VA health care benefits.

**Combat Veteran Eligibility**: Returning active duty, National Guard, and Reserve service members of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) have special eligibility for hospital care, medical services and nursing home care. The Department of Veterans Affairs has promoted new eligibility rules that provide Active, National Guard, and Reserve personnel who served in designated combat zones (since November 11, 1998) **with five years of free care from the date of separation from active duty**. Veterans who did not receive a pre-separation dental exam are eligible to receive a dental exam from the VA within 180 days of their separation from active duty. The VA wants to provide appropriate and timely medical and mental health care to any eligible veteran. If you feel you may be experiencing any symptoms related to combat stress or sexual trauma, please contact the VA. For information regarding OEF/OIF eligibility, visit <http://www.seamlesstransition.va.gov/>.

For most veterans, entry into the VA health care system begins by applying for enrollment. The Application for Health Benefits, VA Form 10-10EZ, may be obtained from any VA health care facility, regional benefits office, online, or by calling 1-877-222-8387. Once enrolled, veterans can receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country.

During enrollment, each veteran is assigned to a priority group. VA uses priority groups to balance demand for VA health care enrollment with resources. Changes in available resources may reduce the number of priority groups VA can enroll. If this occurs, VA will publicize the changes and notify affected enrollees. A description of the priority groups can be found online at <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/Library/pubs/EPG/>.



VA HOME LOAN GUARANTY SERVICES

What is a VA Guaranteed Loan?

VA guaranteed loans are made by private lenders, such as banks, savings & loans, or mortgage companies to eligible veterans for the purchase of a home **which must be for their own personal occupancy**. To get a loan, a veteran must apply to a lender. If the loan is approved, the VA will guarantee a portion of it to the lender. This guaranty protects the lender against loss up to the amount guaranteed and allows a veteran to obtain favorable financing terms. There is no maximum VA loan but lenders will generally limit VA loans to \$417,000. This is because lenders sell VA loans in the secondary market, which currently places a \$417,000 limit on the loans. For loans up to this amount, it is usually possible for a qualified veteran to obtain no-down-payment financing. A veteran's basic entitlement is \$36,000 (or up to \$104,250 for certain loans over \$144,000). Lenders will generally loan up to 4 times a veteran's available entitlement without a down payment, provided the veteran is income and credit qualified and the property appraises for the asking price.

**Note:** for properties in Hawaii, Guam, Alaska, and the U. S. Virgin Islands loan limits can be up to \$625,000.



**VA Loan Offer the Following Important Features:**

- ☞ Equal opportunity for all qualified veterans to obtain a VA loan.
- ☞ No down payment (unless required by the lender or the purchase price is more than the reasonable value of the property).
- ☞ Buyer informed of reasonable value.
- ☞ Negotiable interest rate.
- ☞ Ability to finance the VA funding fee (plus reduced funding fees with a down payment of at least 5 percent and exemption for veterans receiving VA compensation).
- ☞ Closing costs are comparable with other financing types (and may be lower).
- ☞ No mortgage insurance premiums.
- ☞ An assumable mortgage.
- ☞ Right to prepay without penalty. VA assistance to veteran borrowers in default due to temporary financial difficulty.



## VA Home Loans (cont.)

### How Does a Veteran Obtain a VA Guaranteed Loan?

- ✎ **Contract to purchase:** Veteran selects home and discusses purchase with seller or selling agent and signs purchase contract conditioned on approval of a VA guaranteed loan.
- ✎ **Loan application:** Veteran selects lender, presents Certificate of Eligibility, and completes loan application. Lender will develop all credit information and request VA to assign a licensed appraiser to determine the reasonable value for the property. Veteran will pay for credit report and appraisal unless the seller agrees to pay. Either VA or the lender will issue a value for property for loan purposes based on the appraisal.
- ✎ **Loan decision:** if the established value is acceptable to all parties and the lender develops that a veteran is credit and income qualified, the loan may be approved. Most lenders are authorized to make this decision.
- ✎ **Loan closing:** Veteran (and spouse) attend the loan closing and sign the note, mortgage, and other related papers. The lender or closing attorney will explain the loan terms and requirements as well as where and how to make the monthly payments.



### VA Does Not Do the Following:

- ❖ Guarantee that a home is free of defects. VA guarantees only the loan. It is the veteran's responsibility to assure that he/she is satisfied with the property being purchased. The VA appraisal is not intended to be an "inspection" of the property. A veteran should seek expert advice (a qualified residential inspection service), as necessary, BEFORE legally committing to a purchase agreement.
- ❖ If you have a home built, VA cannot compel the builder to correct construction defects although VA does have the authority to suspend a builder from further participation in the home loan program.
- ❖ VA cannot guarantee that a veteran is making a good investment.
- ❖ VA cannot provide a veteran with legal services.



TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VA HOME LOANS, YOU CAN GO ONLINE TO [WWW.HOMELOANS.VA.GOV](http://WWW.HOMELOANS.VA.GOV), CALL THE VA AT 1-800-827-1000, OR CONTACT A LOCAL LENDER OR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL



**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

**Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations**

**Washington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
www.va.gov**

# **State Summary**

November 2010

## **Pennsylvania And the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **General Information**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a wide variety of programs and services for the nation's 23 million veterans. In 2009, about 5.75 million people were treated in VA health care facilities, 3.9 million veterans and survivors received VA disability compensation or pensions, more than 564,000 used GI Bill education benefits and nearly 326,000 home loans were guaranteed by GI Bill home loan benefits. VA issued nearly \$162,053 million in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit payments to 34,393 individuals and their educational institutions in 2009. Nearly 78,127 veterans took advantage of VA's vocational rehabilitation and employment service, and nationally, veterans held more than 1.2 million life insurance policies valued at \$14.6 billion in 2009. More than 106,000 veterans and family members were buried in VA's national cemeteries and more than 360,000 headstones and markers were provided for veterans' graves worldwide.

### **General Information – Pennsylvania**

- *Number of veterans: 995,135*
- *VA expenditures in Pennsylvania: \$3.7 billion*
  - *Compensation and pensions: \$1.5 billion*
  - *Readjustment benefits: \$93 million*
  - *Medical and construction programs: \$1.9 billion*
- *Insurance and indemnities: \$60 million*
- *Number of veterans receiving disability compensation or pension payments: 109,172*
- *Number of Pennsylvania veterans using GI Bill education benefits: 13,011*
- *Number of home loans in Pennsylvania backed by VA guarantees: 6,283*
- *Value of Pennsylvania home loans guaranteed by VA: \$1.2 billion*
- *Number of VA life insurance policies held by Pennsylvania residents: 67,675*
- *Value of VA life insurance policies held by Pennsylvania residents: \$746 million*
- *Number of Pennsylvania participants in VA vocational rehabilitation: 1,895*
- *Number of veterans buried in Pennsylvania's VA national cemeteries: 2,956*
- *Number of headstones and markers provided for graves of Pennsylvania veterans and survivors: 13,052*



## Health Care

One of the most visible of all VA benefits is health care. VA has 153 hospitals, 773 community-based outpatient clinics, 260 Vet Centers, 135 nursing homes, 47 residential rehabilitation treatment programs and 121 comprehensive home care programs. To improve patients' ability to access care, VA has changed from a hospital-based system to a primarily outpatient-focused system over the past decade. Veterans will make more than 60 million outpatient visits to VA health care facilities this year.

### *Health Care - Pennsylvania*

o *Inpatient admissions, statewide, fiscal year 2009: 27,243*

o *Altoona: 959*

o *Butler: 522*

o *Coatesville: 2,950*

o *Erie: 1,441*

o *Lebanon: 3,153*

o *Philadelphia: 5,490*

o *Pittsburgh (including Highland Drive and University Drive): 9,504*

o *Wilkes-Barre: 3,224*

o *Outpatient visits, statewide, fiscal year 2009: 2,550,000*

o *Outpatient clinic locations*

*Allentown*

*Bangor*

*Berwick*

*Bradford*

*Camp Hill*

*Cranberry Township*

*DuBois*

*Ford City*

*Foxburg*

*Franklin*

*Greensburg*

*Hermitage*

*Horsham (2)*

*Johnstown*

*Kittanning*

*Lancaster*

*Meadville*

*Monaca*

*New Castle (2)*

*Philadelphia*

*Pottsville*

*Reading (2)*

*Sayre*

*Spring City*

*Springfield*

*State College*

*Tobyhanna*

*Uniontown*

*Warren*

*Washington*

*Wilkes-Barre*

*Williamsport*

*York*

## Post-Conflict Care

VA has launched special efforts to provide a "seamless transition" for those returning from service in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF). Each VA medical facility and benefits regional office has a point of contact to coordinate activities locally to help meet the needs of these returning combat service members and veterans. In addition, VA increased the staffing of benefits counselors at key military hospitals where severely wounded service members from Iraq and Afghanistan are frequently sent. Once home, recent Iraq and Afghan veterans have ready access to VA health care, which is free of charge for five years following separation for any health problem possibly related to wartime service. Some 537,000 veterans from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have sought VA health care since returning stateside, about 47 percent of the total number of men and women leaving military service.

○ Veterans Readjustment Counseling Centers (Vet Centers) Locations:

- |              |                    |                |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------|
| ○ Bristol    | ○ Lancaster        | ○ Pittsburgh   |
| ○ DuBois     | ○ McKeesport       | ○ Scranton     |
| ○ Erie       | ○ Norristown       | ○ Williamsport |
| ○ Harrisburg | ○ Philadelphia (2) |                |

## Disabilities and Pensions

Not all military service-related issues end when people are discharged from active duty. About 2.9 million veterans receive monthly VA disability compensation for medical conditions related to their service in uniform. VA pensions go to about 316,000 wartime veterans with limited means. Family members of about 528,000 veterans qualify for monthly VA payments as the survivors of disabled veterans or pension recipients.

### *Disabilities and Pensions - Pennsylvania*

- *Number of veterans receiving monthly disability compensation: 94,917*
- *Number of VA pensions to veterans in Pennsylvania: 14,255*
- *Number of disability compensation claims processed: 27,511*

## Memorial Affairs

Most men and women who served in the military are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, as are their spouses and dependent children. VA manages the country's network of national cemeteries with approximately 3 million gravesites at 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldier's lots and monument sites. In 2009, more than 106,000 veterans and dependents were buried in VA's national cemeteries. Additionally, VA provided more than 350,000 headstones and markers and 655,000 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved ones of deceased veterans. VA-assisted state veterans cemeteries provided nearly 26,000 interments.

### *Memorial Affairs – Pennsylvania*

- *National cemetery burials in Pennsylvania, 2009: 2,956*
- *Allegheny Cemetery Soldiers' Lot - 0*
- *Ashland Cemetery Soldiers' Lot - 0*
- *Indiantown Gap National Cemetery: 2,009*
- *Mount Moriah Cemetery Soldiers' Lot: - 0*
- *Mount Moriah Cemetery naval Plot: - 0*
- *National Cemetery of the Alleghenies: 941*
- *Philadelphia National Cemetery: 6*
- *Prospect Hill Cemetery Soldiers' Lot: - 0*
- *Washington Crossing National Cemetery: - 0 not open in 2009*
- *Headstones and markers provided in 2009 (statewide): 13,052*
- *Presidential Memorial Certificates issued in 2009 (statewide): 27,276*

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# PA Veteran Benefits

Please check out the following websites for additional information:

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## **Montgomery GI Bill**

[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

[www.gibill.com](http://www.gibill.com)

## **Veterans Affairs & Benefits**

[www.va.gov/](http://www.va.gov/) (Veterans Affairs)

[www.vba.va.gov/ro/philly/index.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/ro/philly/index.htm) (VA Regional Office-Philadelphia)

<http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=315&dnum=All> (VA Regional Office-Pittsburgh)

[www.vba.va.gov/](http://www.vba.va.gov/) (Veterans Benefits Administration)

<http://www.va.gov/health/default.asp> (Health Benefits & Services)

[www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/index.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/index.htm) (Compensation & Pension Benefits)

<http://www.bva.va.gov/> (Board of Veterans Appeals)

[www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/](http://www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/) (Veterans On-line Application Website)

[www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide) (Agent Orange)

[www.govbenefits.gov](http://www.govbenefits.gov) (Screening tool to help you find government benefits you are eligible for)

<http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/index.htm> (Pennsylvania Department of Military & Veterans Affairs)

[www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov) (Home Loans)

[www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov) (Life Insurance)

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/> (Request Military Records)

<https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do> (Web Automated Verification of Enrollment – W.A.V.E.)

## **Education**

[www.education.state.pa.us](http://www.education.state.pa.us) (Pennsylvania Department of Education)

[www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com) (Troops to Teachers)

<http://www.nasaa-vetseducation.com/> (National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA))

[www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org) (Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency)

[www.military.com/Careers/Education/ScholarshipSearch](http://www.military.com/Careers/Education/ScholarshipSearch) (Scholarships)

<http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/index.htm> (Pennsylvania Department of Military & Veterans Affairs)

[www.papsa.org](http://www.papsa.org) (Pennsylvania Association of Private School Administrators)

## **Free Scholarship Searches**

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) (The largest and most complete source of scholarships available.)

[www.moaa.org/scholarshipfinder](http://www.moaa.org/scholarshipfinder) (Military Officers Association of America Scholarship Finder)

<http://aid.military.com/scholarship> (Scholarship Finder—search over 1,000 scholarships)

## **Employment & Training**

[www.dol.gov/vets/welcome.html](http://www.dol.gov/vets/welcome.html) (Veterans Employment & Training Services VETS)

[www.scsc.state.pa.us](http://www.scsc.state.pa.us) (Pennsylvania State Civil Service Commission)

[www.PAGUARD.com](http://www.PAGUARD.com) (Pennsylvania National Guard)

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/index.htm> (Vocational Rehab & Employment Services)

[www.neat1968.org](http://www.neat1968.org) (NorthEastern Joint Apprenticeship & Training)

[www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org) (Helmets to Hardhats)

[www.franchise.org/Veteran-Franchise.aspx](http://www.franchise.org/Veteran-Franchise.aspx) (Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative)

[www.cwds.state.pa.us](http://www.cwds.state.pa.us) (PA CareerLink)

## **Transcripts for Military Service**

<http://aarts.army.mil> (Army Training since 1981)

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf> (Air Force Training)

<https://smart.navy.mil> (Navy Training)

*Thank you for taking the time  
to look through this booklet. We sincerely  
hope the information contained  
herein has informed you about the  
valuable resources available to you  
as a veteran of the United States Armed Forces.*

*We at the State Approving Agency want to  
extend our sincere appreciation to you  
for your service to your country.*

*Bill Stephens, Manager  
Veterans/Military Education*

You can contact the State Approving Agency at one of our locations listed below for additional information concerning veteran's education benefits and programs approved in Pennsylvania for veteran's training.

Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Div. of Veterans/Military Education  
333 Market Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333  
(717) 787-2414

E-mail: [RA-VetEd@pa.gov](mailto:RA-VetEd@pa.gov)

Philadelphia Field Office  
801 Market Street – Suite 6013  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 560-2509

Pittsburgh Field Office  
301 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 204  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
(412) 565-5364

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