

# FLORIDA VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE

★ ★ ★ 2019 ★ ★ ★



PROUDLY SERVING FOR 30 YEARS

# FDVA



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you for reading the 2019 edition of the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide.

Helping to connect the Sunshine State's more than 1.5 million veterans and their families with earned services, benefits and support are the more than 1,100 men and women of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. They play a major role in the direct infusion of more than \$18.4 billion annually for veterans into Florida's economy through federal compensation, education and pension benefits, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' medical services and military retired pay.



Florida offers unique benefits such as in-state tuition rates for veterans and their families using the Post-9/11 GI Bill®, several layers of property tax exemptions, expanded veterans' preference, and extensive benefits, licensure and fee waivers for many activities and occupations. We also offer high quality care at our network of seven state veterans' homes, with two additional homes in development in Port St. Lucie and Orlando.

Your state veterans' agency is also partnering with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on veteran suicide prevention, expanding veteran access opportunities for adult day health care and connecting aging veterans with earned benefits to increase their quality of life.

A consolidated list of earned benefits and services available to veterans, including online access to the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide, is available at our agency's website at **FloridaVets.org**. You can also connect with us on social media via Facebook at **www.facebook.com/floridaveterans** and LinkedIn at **www.linkedin.com/company/fdva**. We also have a free mobile application offered in the Android and Apple markets. Give us a try.

As an Army Reserve Captain and former state legislator, I am honored to have the opportunity to serve those who served us. Together, we will work to ensure Florida continues to lead the charge as the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.

Danny Burgess  
Executive Director  
Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs



## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

As your Governor and a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, I am committed to ensuring Florida is the most veteran-friendly state in our nation. With a variety of benefits, programs and a dedicated team at the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, our state will always work to serve those who have served their country. They deserve no less.



The brave men and women of our armed forces have voluntarily made tremendous sacrifices to protect the freedoms we enjoy here at home. As Floridians and Americans, we are blessed knowing that we are safe and secure because of their sacrifices.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to all military families. We are honored that so many of you call Florida home. They also deserve nothing less than our full support. We will not let you down.

On behalf of all Floridians, please accept our sincerest gratitude and deepest appreciation for your service and example of true patriotism.

Ron DeSantis  
Governor  
State of Florida

### THE FLORIDA VETERANS' HALL OF FAME

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council accepts nominations annually for induction into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. Those nominating a veteran will need to complete a nomination packet that can be downloaded from [www.FloridaVeteransHallofFame.org](http://www.FloridaVeteransHallofFame.org). The Hall recognizes military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the state of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits.

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## FLORIDA VETERANS FOUNDATION

The Florida Veterans Foundation is the Direct Support Organization to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. The nonprofit Foundation, now in its 11th year, operates for the benefit of the Department, Florida's more than 1.5 million veterans, and veteran service organizations. The Foundation operates for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c) (3), and works closely with the 67 County Veteran Service Offices, which are "frontline" for Florida veterans. The Foundation seeks out the greatest unmet needs of Florida veterans and works proactively and collaboratively with State Veteran Service Organizations to solve issues that impede their progress, such as employment, housing, transportation and benefits assistance. The Department and Foundation are currently pursuing two distinct initiatives that will greatly benefit Florida's veteran population: veteran suicide prevention and an elderly veterans' outreach effort to connect veterans with earned VA monetary benefits.



### Florida Veterans Crisis Line

One prominent initiative to help veterans in crisis is the creation of a simple one-button push of the "Get Help Now" Mobile App that connects a veteran with a peer-to-peer contact with the Crisis Centers throughout Florida. If you are in crisis, call the 24-Hour Florida Veterans Support Line 1-844-MYFLVET (693-5838) or 2-1-1.

Opioid Addiction is a disease and can be treated. Please contact CleanSlate Outpatient Addiction Medicine at [www.cleanslatecenters.com](http://www.cleanslatecenters.com) or call 833-505-4673 (HOPE).

### Connecting Veterans with Benefits

Many Florida veterans and their families are also unaware of earned VA benefits available such as VA Pension with Aid and Attendance, which helps support their financial and medical needs and enhance their quality of life. Our efforts to find aging veterans is anticipated to provide additional earned benefits totaling \$3 billion. Both the National Association of Veterans and Families (800-352-2919) and American Patriot Services Corporation (888-726-1772) have realized 1,500 claims for approximately \$200 million in benefits in the past year. Currently both entities are realizing \$10 million a month in benefits to aging veterans in Florida.

We are also teaming with Project Vet Relief to provide emergency financial assistance to Florida veterans. Please visit [www.helpflvets.org](http://www.helpflvets.org) to make a donation in support of our program.

Thanks for helping us fulfill our mission to leave no Florida veteran behind.

Mike Mason, USA (Ret.)  
Chairman, Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc.



## OUR VISION

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

## OUR MISSION

To advocate with purpose and passion for Florida veterans and link them to superior services, benefits and support. The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs was founded on July 1, 1989, following the passing of a Constitutional Amendment in 1988 by Florida voters establishing a state agency responsible for advocating for Florida's veterans, their families and survivors. FDVA is a Cabinet Agency, reporting to the governor and Cabinet officers, with an appointed executive director as agency head. FDVA has primary offices in Largo, with staff offices in Bay Pines and Tallahassee.

### Free Benefits & Disability Claims Counseling

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

### County Veteran Service Offices

Information on current federal, state and local veterans' programs, entitlements and referral services is also available in Florida through a network of County Veteran Service Offices. Counselors are trained and accredited annually by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. All services are provided free of charge. A list of offices can be found online at **FloridaVets.org/benefits-services**.

### State Women Veterans' Coordinator

The Sunshine State is home to approximately 155,000 women veterans. Many women veterans don't know they are eligible for the full range of federal and state benefits. To help connect women veterans with earned benefits and services, FDVA hosts an annual state women veterans' conference. A Woman Veteran license plate is also available for purchase. For more information on women veterans' issues, call (727) 319-7440 or visit **FloridaVets.org/our-veterans/women-veterans**.



## FLORIDA STATE VETERANS' HOMES

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

### Employment

Our State Veterans' Homes enjoy Five Star and Gold Seal ratings for the care they provide. You can come to work each day knowing you will be using state-of-the-art technology and equipment to provide your residents with the best care possible. The Homes have a new training and employment opportunity that will allow you to receive your Certified Nursing Assistant certification with continual employment after training is completed. For employment opportunities, call the FDVA Human Resources Office at (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5579 or visit the People First website at [jobs.myflorida.com](http://jobs.myflorida.com).

### Resident Admission

Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes include an honorable discharge, Florida residency, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician. For more information, call (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5562.

### Veterans' Homes

The **Robert H. Jenkins Jr. Veterans' Domiciliary Home** in Lake City (Columbia County) opened to residents in 1990. The 150-bed Assisted Living Facility near the intersection of Interstates 10 and 75 provides a special combination of housing, personalized supportive services and incidental medical care to eligible veterans. Veterans must be able to feed and dress themselves and in need of assisted living care. Call (386) 758-0600 for more information. Address: 751 SE Sycamore Terrace, Lake City, FL 32025.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The **Ardie R. Copas State Veterans’ Nursing Home** in Port St. Lucie (St. Lucie County) is scheduled to open to residents in early 2020. When completed, the 120-bed facility will offer skilled nursing care and accommodate residents with dementia/Alzheimer’s disease. For more information, call (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5562.



**Ground breaking at the Ardie R. Copas home site on March 20, 2018. An additional 112-bed state veterans’ nursing home in Orange County is under renovation before opening in late 2019.**

## **Military License Plates**

License plates honoring the individual Armed Services are available to the general public. Your purchase of the “Florida Salutes Veterans” or one of the state’s U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force or U.S. Coast Guard license plates directly helps veterans. The \$15 surcharge goes into a trust fund for the operation and maintenance of Florida’s veterans’ homes. A portion of the surcharge from the U.S. Marine Corps and “Support Our Troops” license plates also supports the State Veterans’ Homes Program.



## VETERANS' BENEFITS: HEALTH CARE

### Medical Care

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

### Free Health Care for Recent Combat Vets

Combat veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after Jan. 28, 2003, are eligible to enroll in the VA health care system for five years from the date of discharge or release. The enrollment period begins on the discharge or separation date of the service member from active duty service, or in the case of multiple call-ups, the most recent discharge date. Veterans, including activated Reservists and National Guard members, are eligible if they served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998, and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

### One-time Dental Treatment

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

### VA Offers Dental Insurance Program

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

### VA Mission Act

The VA Mission Act of 2018 consolidates U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs community care programs, revises other VA health care programs and facilities provisions, and makes appropriations for veterans care. The bill establishes the Veterans Community Care Program to furnish hospital care, medical services and extended care services through certain non-VA providers to veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system or otherwise entitled to VA care. The Mission Act builds off previous law, the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability (Choice) Act, which Congress passed in 2014. For more information, visit [www.congress.gov/115/bills/s2372/BILLS-115s2372enr.pdf](http://www.congress.gov/115/bills/s2372/BILLS-115s2372enr.pdf)

### Agent Orange

Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits, including disability compensation for diseases associated with exposure. Your dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits. For more information, call the Agent Orange Help Line at 1-800-749-8387 or send an e-mail to [GW/AOHelpline@vba.va.gov](mailto:GW/AOHelpline@vba.va.gov)





## Camp Lejeune

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

## VETERANS' BENEFITS: EDUCATION

Florida waives out-of-state tuition fees for all honorably discharged veterans who reside in the state and who are enrolled in Florida public, post-secondary institutions, through the "Congressman C.W. Bill Young Tuition Waiver Program." The out-of-state tuition and fee waiver is extended to spouses and dependent children who reside in Florida and who are using GI Bill® benefits for enrollment in Florida public, postsecondary institutions (see FS 1009.26(13)).


Out-of-state tuition fees are waived for active duty members residing or stationed outside of the State of Florida.

Florida waives undergraduate-level tuition at state universities and community colleges for Florida recipients of the Purple Heart and other combat-related decorations superior in precedence to the Purple Heart. The waiver program also includes the state's career and technical training facilities. Eligibility for this earned benefit has recently expanded. Call (850) 245-0407 for more information. (FS 1009.26(8))

Florida also provides scholarship opportunities for dependent children and spouses of veterans who died from a service-connected disability or who are 100 percent service-connected permanent and total disabled veterans through the Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans program. (FS 295.01) Visit [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org) or call toll free (888) 827-2004 for more information. Dependent children of service members Missing in Action or Prisoners of War may also be eligible for tuition benefits. For information pertaining to Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Programs offered by USDVA, please call (888) 442-4551 or visit [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill)

Each Florida College System institution and state university offering priority course registration for segments of the student population shall provide priority course registration to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who are receiving GI Bill® educational benefits (FS 1004.075). The benefit also applies to spouses and dependent children receiving GI Bill® benefits. Florida State Colleges and Universities also allow current members of the U.S. Armed Forces and honorably discharged veterans to earn academic college credit for college-level training and education acquired in the military. Consult your local campus for details.

Honorably discharged veterans who were inducted into the U.S. Armed Forces prior to completing their high school education can be



awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma. Visit [fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/veterans-diplomas.shtml](http://fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/veterans-diplomas.shtml) or call (850) 245-0446 for more information.

### **Post-9/11 GI Bill®**

Provides financial assistance for 15 years after leaving service to individuals who served on active duty a minimum of 90 days after Sept. 10, 2001. Veterans (and their dependents under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship program) who transitioned out of the military after Jan. 1, 2013, will not be limited to the 15-year deadline to use their GI Bill® benefits. Public Law 111-32, the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill® to include the children of service members who died in the line of duty after Sept. 10, 2001 and Section 701 of The Choice Act expands it to include surviving spouses. For more information, to include Transfer of Entitlement of this benefit to dependents as well as the Yellow Ribbon Program, call toll free (888) 442-4551 or visit the VA website at [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill).

### **Montgomery GI Bill®**

Provides financial assistance for 10 years after leaving service to honorably discharged veterans who enlisted after June 30, 1985, and elected to participate within the first 12 months of service. For more information, call toll free (888) 442-4551 or visit [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill). GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.


## **VETERANS' BENEFITS: PENSION**

### **Aid & Attendance / Dependency & Indemnity Compensation**

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

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military service members who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease. A death certificate indicating the cause of death was service-connected is evidence needed by survivors when applying for the DIC benefit. However, the service-connected condition does not have to be the immediate cause of death; it need only be a "significant contributor" to the veteran's death. Veterans and their spouses should provide copies of the veteran's VA Disability Rating Letter to their non-VA physicians. Physicians should add the letter to the veteran's medical record.

For eligibility requirements, contact an FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiner or County Veteran Service Officer. You may also visit [benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets.asp](http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets.asp) or call toll free (800) 827-1000.



Note: Both Social Security and VA pay disability benefits. However, their programs, processes and criteria for receiving benefits are very different. Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans) or call toll free (800) 772-1213 for more information.

## VETERANS' BENEFITS: HOME LOANS & PROPERTY TAXES

### G.I. Home Loan Guarantee and Adaptive Housing Grants

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

### Basic Property Tax Exemptions


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

### Additional Property Tax Exemptions

Any real estate owned and used as a homestead by a veteran, who was honorably discharged and has been certified as having a service-connected, permanent and total disability, is exempt from taxation if the veteran is a permanent resident of Florida and has legal title to the property on Jan. 1 of the tax year for which exemption is being claimed. (FS 196.081(1))

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

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



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

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

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

## VETERANS' BENEFIT: INSURANCE


Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is a program that allows you to continue life insurance coverage after you separate from service. Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) may be converted to VGLI within one year and 120 days of discharge. For more information, call toll free (800) 419-1473 or visit [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov).

### Other Insurance

A veteran with a new service-connected disability, but otherwise in good health, may apply to the VA for up to \$10,000 in life insurance coverage at standard rates. Veterans who receive a new rating of zero percent or greater are eligible for the coverage. The application must be made within two years from the date of being notified of a new service-connected status. The veteran must have received an other than dishonorable discharge and released from active duty after April 25, 1951. Call toll free (800) 669-8477 or visit [www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/s-dvi.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/s-dvi.asp).

## VETERANS' BENEFITS: BURIAL & FAMILY SUPPORT

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides honorably discharged veterans, spouses and dependents with burial in a national cemetery at no cost. Cremated remains are also accepted. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried if they predecease the veteran. The VA provides eligibility determinations for interment in a national cemetery prior to the time of need. Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a national cemetery. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office toll free at (800) 535-1117. The VA provides the gravesite, grave liner, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate and perpetual care of the gravesite at no cost to the family. The VA also provides a headstone, marker or medallion for placement on a private headstone at a private cemetery at no cost



to the family. The VA does not make funeral arrangements. For more information, visit [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov) or call toll free (800) 697-6947.

## **Gold Star Families**

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

## **VETERANS' BENEFITS: MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING & FEE EXEMPTIONS**

### **Veteran Designation on Driver License**

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

### **100% Disabled Veteran State ID Card**

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

### **Driver License & State ID Fee Exemptions**

Any honorably discharged veteran who has a valid FDVA 100% disabled veteran ID card or who has been determined to have a 100% total and permanent service-connected disability and is qualified to obtain a driver license is generally exempt from all fees. However, a fee may be applied to drivers seeking to reinstate a license. (FS 322.21(7))

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



## Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle License Plate

An honorably discharged veteran who has been a resident of Florida continuously for the past five years or who has established a domicile in Florida, as provided by FS 222.17, may apply for one free disabled veteran “DV” license plate for an owned or leased vehicle. The veteran must provide proof of a service-connected 100-percent disability rating or that the vehicle was acquired through VA financial assistance. Note: Free license plates with a wheelchair emblem are available for those veterans permanently confined to a wheelchair and who otherwise qualify for a DV plate. Service charges may apply (FS 320.084). For eligibility requirements and more information, call (850) 617-2000 or visit [www3.flhsmv.gov/dmv/Proc/rs/RS-17.pdf](http://www3.flhsmv.gov/dmv/Proc/rs/RS-17.pdf).

## Parking for Disabled Veterans

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

## Handicapped Toll Permit

Licensed drivers who operate a vehicle specially equipped for the handicapped, and are certified by a licensed physician or the VA as having permanent upper limb impairments/disabilities substantially affecting their ability to deposit coins in toll baskets, shall pass free through all toll gates. A window sticker from the Florida Department of Transportation must be obtained and displayed. (FS 338.155(3))

## Commission as a Notary Public

The state’s \$10 commission fee shall not be required for a commission as a Notary Public to a veteran with wartime service who has been rated 50 percent or more for a service-connected disability. Other fees will apply. [notaries.dos.state.fl.us/pdf/applpkg.pdf](http://notaries.dos.state.fl.us/pdf/applpkg.pdf) (FS 117.01(2))

## Military License Plates

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles issues special use license plates for eligible military members and veterans. These special use license plates, honoring wartime service, awards and decorations, and status are issued after the applicant provides documents establishing proof of status, such as a DD-214, and upon payment of the license tax imposed by s. 329.08, F.S. License fees and taxes vary. Visit [www.flhsmv.gov/specialtytags/miltags.html](http://www.flhsmv.gov/specialtytags/miltags.html) for more information.



## Disabled Veterans' Exemption from Fees

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

## VETERANS' BENEFITS: RECREATIONAL DISCOUNTS & FEE WAIVERS

### Florida State Park Discount Passes

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection provides a 25-percent discount on annual passes to Florida's State Parks for all active duty and honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard. The pass is available for purchase at any Florida State Park staffed ranger station.

Veterans with service-related disabilities, surviving spouses and parents of members of the U.S. military who have fallen in combat, and law enforcement officers and firefighters who have died in the line of duty, will receive a free lifetime family annual entrance pass. The free annual pass can only be obtained at a staffed ranger station. For specific details, call (850) 245-2157 or visit [www.FloridaStateParks.org](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org).

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


### Hunting and Fishing

The Military Gold Sportsman's License is available for a reduced fee of \$20 to any resident who is an active or retired member of the U. S. Armed Forces, U. S. Armed Forces Reserve or National Guard upon submission of a current military ID card. For more information, visit [myfwc.com/license/recreational/military-gold](http://myfwc.com/license/recreational/military-gold). The license is available through an online verification process at [www.GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](http://www.GoOutdoorsFlorida.com). The license may also be obtained at Florida tax collectors' offices with proof of residency and a current military identification card.

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

### Operation Outdoor Freedom

Sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Operation Outdoor Freedom provides wounded veterans with the outdoor activities that they enjoy at no cost. Designated state and agricultural lands throughout Florida grant qualified veterans with unique opportunities for recreation and rehabilitation. The Florida



Forest Service, within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, provides hundreds of veterans with the Operation Outdoor Freedom experience. For more information, call (863) 578-1894 or visit [www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Recreation/Operation-Outdoor-Freedom](http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Recreation/Operation-Outdoor-Freedom).

## VETERANS' BENEFITS: EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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

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

### Employ Florida Vets

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

### Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers is a program designed to help transitioning service members and veterans begin new careers as K-12 school teachers. Some program participants are eligible for financial assistance. Tallahassee Community College and the Florida Department of Education have announced a new partnership to bring the Troops to Teachers program back to Florida. For additional information, visit [proudtoserveagain.com](http://proudtoserveagain.com), or call (833) 358-7667.

### Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) protects the employment rights and ensures the reemployment of veterans, reservists and National Guard members after a period of active service and prohibits employment discrimination because of past, current, or future military obligations. It covers all employers, regardless of size, in the public and private sectors. Call toll free (866) 487-2365 or visit [www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets) for more information.





## Business License Fee Waivers for Veterans & their Spouses

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

## Health License Fee Waivers for Veterans & their Spouses

The Florida Department of Health has programs in place to aid veterans in finding employment in health-related fields after they return home. The department offers expedited health care practitioner licensure through the Veterans Application for Licensure Online Response (VALOR) system. The department also offers expanded licensure fee waivers for military veterans and their spouses applying for health care licensure in Florida. The department continues to assist county health departments in recruiting military veterans and their spouses to work in health-related fields. If you were honorably discharged within the past 60 months, the Florida Department of Health may be able to help you find employment. For job opportunities, visit [peoplefirst.myflorida.com](http://peoplefirst.myflorida.com). For more information, call (850) 488-0595 or visit [www.flhealthsource.gov/valor#Veterans](http://www.flhealthsource.gov/valor#Veterans).

## Agriculture and Consumer Services Fee Waivers for Veterans & their Spouses

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services now waives first-time licensing application fees for specific veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, their spouses, or a business entity in which the veteran or spouse has a majority ownership stake. Other fees may apply. The Division of Consumer Services regulates specific business activities, including commercial weight loss practices, telephone solicitations, pawnshops, health studios, sellers of travel and telemarketing. The Division of Licensing is responsible for investigating and issuing licenses to conduct private security, private investigative and recovery services. For more information, call toll free (800) 435-7352 or visit [www.freshfromflorida.com](http://www.freshfromflorida.com).

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is now expediting all Florida concealed weapon or firearm license applications submitted by active military members and veterans. For more information, call toll free (800) 435-7352 or visit [www.freshfromflorida.com](http://www.freshfromflorida.com).



## Veterans' Preference in Florida

The state, and all political subdivisions of the state, shall give preference in employment, promotions after being deployed and retention. (FS 295.07, 295.11) Individuals who qualify for this preference are as follows:

A disabled veteran who has served on active duty in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, has received an honorable discharge, and has established the present existence of a service-connected disability that is compensable under public laws administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or who is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension by reason of public laws administered by the VA and U.S. Department of Defense.

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

A wartime veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14), who has served at least one day during a wartime period. Active duty for training may not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph.

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

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

A veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14), F.S. Active duty for training may not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph.

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

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

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

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



## Florida Veteran Certified Business Enterprises

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

## Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

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

## VETERANS' BENEFITS: LEGAL

### Legal Advice & Counsel

As a state agency, FDVA cannot provide legal services to individual veterans. However, our agency searches out legal service resources for Florida veterans and provides contact information and assistance in available counsel. Many legal services for Florida veterans can be found online.

Legal Clinics in VA Facilities: [www.va.gov/ogc/docs/LegalServices.pdf](http://www.va.gov/ogc/docs/LegalServices.pdf)

American Bar Association resources for veterans:

[www.americanbar.org/groups/committees/veterans\\_benefits](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/committees/veterans_benefits)

The Florida Bar, in conjunction with the American Bar Association, administers a free virtual legal advice clinic for Floridians. Visit:

[florida.freelegalanswers.org](http://florida.freelegalanswers.org)

### Certification of Discharge or Separation

You may request a copy of your military service record by visiting the National Archives online at [www.archives.gov/veterans](http://www.archives.gov/veterans).

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

A veteran may also request an exemption from inspection or copying of identification and location information in public records under Section 119.071(5)(k), Florida Statutes.

## Veterans Courts

Veterans returning from combat may suffer from posttraumatic stress or may have difficulty reintegrating into society. Due to alienation and lack of support, some veterans fall into drug and alcohol abuse or develop mental health issues. Thirty Veterans Courts in Florida have been established as of July 2018 to address these issues.

Section 394.47891, Florida Statutes, established the T. Patt Maney Veterans' Treatment Act, which authorizes a veterans' court with the purpose of addressing the substance abuse and mental health needs of veterans within the criminal justice system. Successful completion of Veterans Court has helped decrease the recidivism rates of its participants through the proper diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues and as a result of the supportive roles mentors play in the process. Recent legislation has expanded the pool of eligible veterans. For more information, visit [www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Court-Improvement/Problem-Solving-Courts/Veterans-Courts](http://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Court-Improvement/Problem-Solving-Courts/Veterans-Courts)

There is a helpful Veterans Resources Guide for the Florida State Court System at [www.flcourts.org/content/download/217060/1968306/VETERANS\\_RESOURCE\\_GUIDE.pdf](http://www.flcourts.org/content/download/217060/1968306/VETERANS_RESOURCE_GUIDE.pdf).

## Consumer Protection Guide

Florida's veterans deserve our support and admiration. They also deserve any and all benefits rightfully earned when they signed up to fight for our country. Without men and women willing to risk their lives for our freedom there would be no United States of America—and the world would be a much darker place.

I am forever grateful for the 1.5 million Florida veterans who answered the call of duty. The 2019 Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide is a comprehensive resource that veterans can use to identify the benefits they have earned. We will never be able to repay our service members for the sacrifices they made defending our freedom and protecting American interests around the world—but we can work to ensure Florida veterans know that we care, and important services are available.

The Florida Attorney General's Office publishes a Military Consumer Protection Resource Guide. To view the guide online, visit [www.myfloridalegal.com/MilCPGuide](http://www.myfloridalegal.com/MilCPGuide) or call (866) 9NO-SCAM for a printed copy.

Protecting active service members and veterans in Florida from consumer scams is a focus of my office. It is important that we do all we can for those who have done so much for us. I want to thank all of our veterans for their service and I hope this guide provides assistance to Florida's military heroes.

## Financial Literacy & Insurance Assistance

The Department of Financial Services offers two financial education programs specifically for veterans and active duty military:

Financial Frontlines is an online initiative that provides information to help military families fight against financial frauds and debt with the use of an in-depth Resource Guide, a series of tip sheets and an educational video



Ashley Moody

library. Financial Frontlines covers topics such as identity theft, credit scoring, budgeting, predatory lending and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Visit Financial Frontlines at [www.MyFloridaCFO.com/YMM/FinancialFrontlines](http://www.MyFloridaCFO.com/YMM/FinancialFrontlines).

Serve Save Succeed is a financial literacy resource and online forum for current and former military service members and their families on finance-related topics. The site covers topics such as saving, budgeting, frauds, scams, identity theft and scholarships. Visit Serve Save Succeed at [www.MyFloridaCFO.com/ServeSaveSucceed](http://www.MyFloridaCFO.com/ServeSaveSucceed).

The Department will assist you with your insurance questions and concerns or open a formal complaint. Their dedicated and experienced Helpline Specialists are trained and informed about changes that occur to the 26 different categories of insurance such as health, life, auto, bonds, warranties, annuities and more. They are ready to contact the insurance company on your behalf to assist you with your insurance complaint.

File an Insurance Complaint by Telephone: Contact a specialist by telephone weekdays during normal business hours at toll free 1-877-693-5236.

File an Insurance Complaint by Email: Submit a complaint by emailing [Consumer.Services@myfloridacfo.com](mailto:Consumer.Services@myfloridacfo.com).

## VETERANS FLORIDA

Veterans Florida is a non-profit corporation created by the State of Florida to help veterans find a new career, start a business, or connect to other helpful resources in the Sunshine State. Visit [www.veteransflorida.org](http://www.veteransflorida.org) to learn more.



### Career Opportunities

Veteran-friendly businesses in high-growth fields such as aerospace, manufacturing, logistics, research and development, and technology seek to hire veterans and provide them with the training they need to build a long and fruitful career. Veterans Florida has Career Specialists to help veterans, transitioning servicemembers, and members of the National Guard and Reserves translate their military skills for employers, assist with resume and interview preparation, and get placed into skills-based jobs. Visit [www.veteransflorida.org/careers](http://www.veteransflorida.org/careers) to submit your resume.

### Entrepreneurship

The skills you learned in the military like discipline, attention to detail and leadership directly correlate to being a successful entrepreneur. Veterans Florida offers a world-class and proven entrepreneurship program just for veterans. They've joined forces with top Florida universities, colleges and startup incubators to deliver the Veterans Florida Entrepreneurship Program, a training initiative for veterans seeking to start their own business. As part of the program, veterans will gain access to small business development resources. Visit [www.veteransflorida.org](http://www.veteransflorida.org) to sign up.



## FDVA OFFICES & CLAIMS EXAMINER SITES

*Offices include those located in federal facilities. Claims services are provided free of charge.*

### **FDVA Executive Office**

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

### **FDVA Benefits & Assistance**

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

### **FDVA Capitol Office**

The Capitol, Suite 2105  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001  
(850) 487-1533

### **C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center**

10000 Bay Pines Blvd.  
Bldg. 22, #117  
Bay Pines, FL 33744-5005  
(727) 398-6661 x15489

### **Malcom Randall VA Medical Center**

1601 SW Archer Rd. #D-163  
Gainesville, FL 32608  
(352) 548-6029

### **Lake City VA Medical Center**

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

### **Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center**

1201 NW 16th St. #A-102  
Miami, FL 33125  
(305) 325-3325

### **James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital**

13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.  
Bldg. 41, 2nd floor, RM 242  
Tampa, FL 33612  
(813) 972-2000 x6589

### **West Palm Beach VA Medical Center**

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

### **Lake Baldwin Outpatient Clinic**

5201 Raymond St., Rm 1801 A & B  
Orlando, FL 32803  
(407) 646-5500 x 29513

### **Lee County VA Healthcare Center**

2489 Diplomat Parkway East  
Cape Coral, FL 33909  
(239) 652-1800, x20081

### **William Chappell Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic**

551 National Health Care Dr.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
(386) 323-7500, x37722

### **Eglin VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic**

100 Veterans Way, Rm. 108  
Eglin AFB, FL 32542  
(850) 609-2740

### **Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic**

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

### **Jacksonville University VA Outpatient Clinic**

3901 University Blvd. South  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
(904) 732-9801

### **CareerSource Northeast Florida**

1845 Town Center Blvd Suite 150  
Fleming Island, FL 32003  
(904) 213-3888, x2087

### **Orlando Lakemont Campus**

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

### **Orlando (Lake Nona) VA Medical Center**

13800 Veterans Way  
Room 1N205  
Orlando, FL 32827  
(407) 631-0021

### **New Port Richey VA Outpatient Clinic**

9912 Little Rd. #D-116  
Port Richey, FL 34654  
(727) 869-4227

### **Pensacola Joint Ambulatory Care Clinic**

790 Veterans Way  
Pensacola, FL 32507  
(850) 912-2051

### **William 'Bill' Kling VA Outpatient Clinic**

9800 W. Commercial Blvd.  
Sunrise, FL 33351  
(954) 625-8727

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

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

**Viera VA Outpatient Clinic**  
2900 Veterans Way, room 224  
Viera, FL 32940  
(321) 637-3693

*Note: There are also FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiners at each State Veterans' Home. Call for appointment. The FDVA Capitol Office does not provide claims service.*

## VA OUTPATIENT CLINICS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Key West Community Based Outpatient Clinic**  
1300 Douglas Circle, L-15  
Key West, FL 33040  
(305) 293-4863

**Kissimmee Community Based Outpatient Clinic**  
2285 N. Central Ave.  
Kissimmee, FL 34741  
(407) 518-5004

**Lake Baldwin Outpatient Clinic**  
5201 Raymond Street  
Orlando, FL 32803  
(407) 646-5500 x 29513



**Lakeland Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

4237 South Pipkin Rd.  
Lakeland, FL 33811  
(863) 701-2470

**Lecanto Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

2804 W. Marc Knighton Court,  
Suite A  
Lecanto, FL 34461  
(352) 746-8000

**Lee County VA Healthcare Center**

2489 Diplomat Parkway East  
Cape Coral, FL 33909  
(239) 652-1800

**Marianna Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

4970 Highway 90  
Marianna, FL 32446  
(850) 718-5620

**Miami Healthcare for  
Homeless Veterans**

1492 West Flagler St., Suite 101  
Miami, FL 33135  
(305) 541-5864

**Miami Outpatient  
Substance Abuse Clinic**

Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center  
1st Floor  
Room 1E107A  
(305) 575-7500

**Naples Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

800 Goodlette-Frank Rd. #120  
Naples, FL 34102  
(239) 659-9188

**New Port Richey  
VA Outpatient Clinic**

9912 Little Road  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
(727) 869-4100

**Ocala Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

1515 Silver Springs Blvd.  
Ocala, FL 34470  
(352) 369-3320

**Okeechobee Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

1201 N. Parrot Ave.  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
(863) 824-3232

**Palatka Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

400 N. State Road 19  
Suite 48 (Palatka Mall)  
Palatka, FL 32177  
(386) 329-8800

**Palm Harbor Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

35209 US Hwy 19 N  
Palm Harbor, FL 34684  
(727) 734-5276

**Panama City Beach VA Clinic**

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

**Pembroke Pines Community  
Based Outpatient Clinic**

7369 W. Sheridan St., Suite 102  
Hollywood, FL 33024  
(954) 894-1668

**Pensacola Joint Ambulatory  
Care Center**

790 Veterans Way  
Pensacola, FL 32507  
(850) 912-2000

**Perry Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

1224 N. Peacock Avenue  
Perry, FL 32347  
(850) 223-8387

**Port Charlotte Community  
Based Outpatient Clinic**

4161 Tamiami Trail, Suite 401/602  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
(941) 235-2710

**St Lucie Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

126 SW Chamber Court  
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986  
(772) 344-9288

**St Lucie PTSD Clinic**

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

**Sarasota Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

5682 Bee Ridge Rd. #100  
Sarasota, FL 34233  
(941) 371-3349

**24-HOUR FLORIDA VETERANS SUPPORT LINE  
1-844-MYFLVET (693-5838) OR 2-1-1**



**Sebring Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

5901 US Highway 27 S  
Sebring, FL 33870  
(863) 471-6227

**St. Augustine Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

195 Southpark Blvd.  
St. Augustine, FL 32086  
(904) 829-0814

**St. Petersburg Community  
Based Outpatient Clinic**

840 Dr. MLK Jr. Street N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33705  
(727) 502-1700

**Stuart Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

3501 SE Willoughby Blvd.  
Stuart, FL 34997  
(772) 288-0304

**William 'Bill' Kling  
VA Outpatient Clinic**

9800 W. Commercial Blvd.  
Sunrise, FL 33351  
(954) 475-5500

**Tallahassee VA Outpatient Clinic**

2181 Orange Ave. East  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 878-0191

**Tavares Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

1380 Burleigh Blvd.  
Tavares, FL 34748  
(352) 253-2900

**Viera VA Outpatient Clinic**

2900 Veterans Way  
Viera, FL 32940  
(321) 637-3788

**The Villages Outpatient Clinic**

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

**Vero Beach Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

372 17th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
(772) 299-4623

**Crossroads Annex  
(Mental Health Services)**

925 South Semoran Blvd. Suite 114  
Winter Park, FL 32792  
(866) 998-4365

**Zephyrhills Community Based  
Outpatient Clinic**

6937 Medical View Lane  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542  
(813) 780-2550

## VET CENTERS

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

**Clearwater Vet Center**

29259 US Hwy 19 North  
Clearwater, FL 33761  
(727) 549-3600

**Clermont Vet Center**

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

**Daytona Beach Vet Center**

1620 Mason Ave., Suite C  
Daytona Beach, FL 32117  
(386) 366-6600

**Fort Lauderdale Vet Center**

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

**Fort Myers Vet Center**

4110 Center Pointe Drive, Unit 204  
Fort Myers, FL 33916  
(239) 652-1861

**Gainesville Vet Center**

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

**Palm Beach Vet Center**


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

**Jacksonville Vet Center**

3728 Philips Highway, Suite 31  
Jacksonville, FL 32207  
(904) 399-8351

**Jupiter Vet Center**

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Bay County Vet Center**  
3109 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 101  
Panama City, FL 32405  
(850) 522-6102

**Pensacola Vet Center**  
4504 Twin Oaks Drive  
Pensacola, FL 32506  
(850) 456-5886

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

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

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

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

**Tallahassee Vet Center**  
2002 Old St. Augustine Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 942-8810

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

## VA MEDICAL CENTERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# BENEFITS AND HEALTH CARE CONTACTS

Reference	Phone	Website
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	(800) 827-1000 or TDD (800) 829-4833	<a href="http://www.va.gov">www.va.gov</a> • <a href="http://www.vba.va.gov">www.vba.va.gov</a>
Veterans Health Care Eligibility/Enrollment	(877) 222-8387	<a href="http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits">www.va.gov/healthbenefits</a>
St. Petersburg VA Regional Office, Bay Pines	(800) 827-1000	<a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg">www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg</a>
Florida National Guard	(904) 823-0319	<a href="https://state.nationalguard.com/florida">https://state.nationalguard.com/florida</a>
Military Funeral Honors	(800) 342-9647	<a href="https://mfh.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh">https://mfh.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh</a>
Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola	(850) 453-4846	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/barrancas.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/barrancas.asp</a>
Bay Pines National Cemetery	(727) 319-6479	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/baypines.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/baypines.asp</a>
Cape Canaveral National Cemetery	(321) 383-2638	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp</a>
Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell	(352) 793-7740	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/florida.asp">www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/florida.asp</a>
Jacksonville National Cemetery	(904) 766-5222	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/jacksonville.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/jacksonville.asp</a>
Sarasota National Cemetery	(877) 861-9840	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp</a>
South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth	(561) 649-6489	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp</a>
St. Augustine National Cemetery	(904) 766-5222	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/staugustine.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/staugustine.asp</a>
Tallahassee National Cemetery	(850) 402-8941	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/tallahassee.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/tallahassee.asp</a>
Returning Veterans	(800) 827-1000	<a href="http://www.oefoif.va.gov">www.oefoif.va.gov</a>
TRICARE	(800) 444-5445	<a href="http://www.tricare.mil">www.tricare.mil</a>
Gulf War Veterans	(800) 749-8387	<a href="http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar">www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar</a>
Women Veterans	(855) 829-6636	<a href="http://www.va.gov/womenvet">www.va.gov/womenvet</a>
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	(800) 336-4590	<a href="http://www.esgr.mil">www.esgr.mil</a>
National VA Homeless Hotline	(877) 424-3838	<a href="http://www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp">www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp</a>
VA eBenefits Portal	(800) 827-1000	<a href="http://www.ebenefits.va.gov">www.ebenefits.va.gov</a>
VA Home Loan Guaranty	(877) 827-3702	<a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans">www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans</a>
National Veteran Crisis Hotline	(800) 273-8255 Dial 1	<a href="http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov">www.mentalhealth.va.gov</a>
White House VA Hotline	(855) 948-2311	<a href="https://www.va.gov/ve/whvaHotline.asp">https://www.va.gov/ve/whvaHotline.asp</a>
Florida Relay Service - <i>For those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or speech impaired</i>	Dial 7-1-1	<a href="http://www.ftri.org/floridarelay">www.ftri.org/floridarelay</a>



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AARP salutes those who have served and still serve. We support our veterans and their families with information on career support, caregiving resources, community connections and more.

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