GOVERNOR SIGNS VETERAN-FRIENDLY BILLS

Gov. Ron DeSantis signed several veteran-friendly bills from the 2020 Florida Legislative Session into law. Here is a summary of those changes:

**HB 171 - Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel:** The act requires the Board of Governors and State Board of Education to adopt a uniform set of rules to award academic credit for college degrees and technical training certification based on service members’ and veterans’ prior military training and experience. The newly enacted legislation helps veterans and members on active duty to achieve their degrees quicker and without having to take unnecessary course requirements.

**HB 205 - Unlawful Use of Uniforms, Medals or Insignia** - Effective Oct. 1, 2020, the act adds a provision to an existing law on stolen valor that misusing a military uniform or decorations for the purposes of obtaining employment or seeking election to a paid public office is now a violation of law.

**HB 877 - Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans Who Had Permanent, Combat-Related Disabilities.** Proposes amending the State Constitution to authorize the surviving spouse of a deceased combat-related disabled veteran to carry over certain discounts on ad valorem taxes on homestead property until the surviving spouse remarries or sells or otherwise disposes of the property.

**HB 879 – Surviving Spouse Ad Valorem Tax Reduction.** The bill implements HB 877 by placing the legislation as a proposed Constitutional Amendment before Florida voters on the November 2020 ballot. If voted favorably, the amendment extends the homestead tax exemption of veterans 65 and older with combat-related disabilities who pass to the surviving spouse. At present, the exemption ends upon the death of the eligible veteran.

**HB 1249 – Transfer of Tax Exemption for Veterans:** The act adds a provision to an existing law requiring that veterans who were honorably discharged with a service-connected total and permanent disability or their surviving spouses who are entitled to receive ad valorem exemptions on property taxes for one property, may receive a pro-rated reimbursement of taxes paid on any property they buy between Jan. 1 and Nov. 1 of any year.

SERVICES AVAILABLE DURING COVID-19

To contact a teleworking FDVA Veterans’ Claims Examiner, call (727) 319-7440 and they’ll return your call within 24 hours. You may also contact them via e-mail at VSO@fdva.state.fl.us

**Crisis Counseling**

For 24-hour counsel, call the National Veteran Crisis Hotline at 1-800-273-8255. You are NOT alone! Veterans in Florida, you may also call the Florida Veterans Support Line at 1-844-MyFLVet (693-5838) or 2-1-1.
GOVERNOR’S MESSAGE

Florida is a state that proudly takes care of its veterans. As a fellow veteran, I know there is no greater sacrifice than protecting America’s freedoms. Although we can never repay you for your service, we will always fight for you and your family to have access to the wide array of benefits that you have earned and deserve.

To enhance our effectiveness as the most veteran-friendly state in the nation, we are identifying areas of need to ensure a more streamlined approach to marshal Florida’s public and private resources for our state’s 1.5 million veterans. Through the Forward March initiative, we will continue to make Florida the national standard for veteran affairs.

I will continue to request funding for the Veterans Workforce and Entrepreneur training programs which focus on providing employment opportunities for veterans. Since the inception of these programs more than 2,200 veterans have been served. We are also anticipating the completion of two new State Veterans’ Nursing Homes, which are scheduled to open in 2020.

First Lady Casey DeSantis and I remain committed to addressing the need for more mental health counseling as a vital component to transitioning back to civilian life. Treating the invisible wounds of war is just as important as treating the wounds we can see. We will continue to advocate for the mental health needs of our veterans.

Please share this guide with your fellow veterans and family members so that these services can reach as many qualified individuals as possible. Because you fought for us, Florida will never stop fighting for you. Thank you for your service.

Ron DeSantis
Governor
State of Florida
FLORIDA VETERANS FOUNDATION

The Florida Veterans Foundation is the Direct Support Organization to the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. I am excited to report that the nonprofit Foundation is now in its 12th year of working toward the betterment of Florida’s 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 and local veteran organizations providing the hands-on care our veterans need and deserve. 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
For 24-hour counsel, call the National Veteran Crisis Hotline at 1-800-273-8255. You are NOT alone! Veterans in Florida, you may also call the Florida Veterans Support Line at 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 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 combined efforts, with the Foundations partners, will ensure that earned benefits go to aging veterans in Florida and is anticipated to provide an additional $3 billion dollars to help with Long Term Care. Visit www.HelpFLVets.org for great resources and also click on Aging Wartime Veterans for more information.

We have also teamed up with Project Vet Relief to provide emergency financial assistance to Florida veterans. Please visit www.HelpFLVets.org to make a donation in support of our program.

Thanks for helping us fulfill our mission of No Florida Veteran Left Behind!

Bob Asztalos, USN (Ret)
Chairman, Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc.
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. 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 Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division works every day to protect Floridians from businesses and individuals that engage in unfair or deceptive business practices. Unfortunately, we often see these methods used to specifically target active duty and veteran communities. The Military and Veterans Assistance Program (“MVAP”) was created to help educate military members and veterans on the types of scams that target their communities, what they can do to protect themselves, and how they can help protect others by reporting scams and deceptive business practices. In addition, members of the MVAP team work directly with military service members and veterans who have been targeted to help resolve their consumer protection related issues or find other outside assistance if necessary. To learn more about the MVAP program or to file a complaint, visit www.MyFloridaLegal.com/MVAP. To view a copy of my Office’s Military Consumer Protection Resource Guide, visit www.MyFloridaLegal.com/MilCPGuide or call 1-866-9NO-SCAM for a printed copy.

Financial Literacy and Insurance Assistance

The Department of Financial Services offers two financial education programs specifically for veterans:

Financial Frontlines is an online initiative that provides information to help 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 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.

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 saving, budgeting, frauds, scams, identity theft and scholarships. Visit Serve Save Succeed at www.MyFloridaCFO.com/ServeSaveSucceed.
The Department will assist you with your insurance questions and concerns or open a formal complaint. Their experienced Helpline Specialists are trained and informed about changes that occur to 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. For more information, call toll free 1-877-693-5236 or send an email to Consumer.Services@myfloridacfo.com.

**Agriculture and Consumer Services Serves Veterans**

From promoting veterans agriculture to providing consumer protection to veterans, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is ready to serve Florida veterans.

The Division of Consumer Services is the state’s clearinghouse for consumer complaints, information and protection. It regulates businesses including charitable organizations, pawnshops and telemarketers, among others. Additionally, FDACS protects consumers and businesses from unfair and unsafe business practices across several market sectors to include gasoline, amusement rides, weighing and measuring devices, and several others. For information, visit [https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Consumer-Services](https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Consumer-Services)

Florida concealed weapon or firearm license applications submitted by active military members and veterans are now expedited. For information, visit [https://www.fdacs.gov](https://www.fdacs.gov).

FDACS waives first-time licensing application fees for veterans, their spouses, or a business entity in which the veteran or spouse has a majority ownership stake. Other fees may apply.

For information on all programs, call (800) 435-7352.

The *Salute our Soldiers Military Loan Program* offers military members and veterans 30-year, fixed-rate first mortgage loans at a lower rate and with several down payment assistance options. The program is available to borrowers who are purchasing a primary residence, meet income and purchase price limits, can qualify for a first mortgage loan, and successfully complete a homebuyer education course. For details, visit [www.floridahousing.org](http://www.floridahousing.org) or call (850) 488-4197.
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 that are now teleworking due to COVID-19. 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 144,000 women veterans. Many women veterans don’t know they are eligible for the full range of federal and state benefits. To help connect women veterans with earned benefits and services, FDVA hosts an annual state women veterans’ conference. A Woman Veteran license plate is also available for purchase. For more information on women veterans’ issues, call (727) 319-7418 or visit FloridaVets.org/our-veterans/women-veterans.
The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs operates six skilled nursing facilities and one assisted living facility. All facilities are licensed by Florida’s Agency for Health Care Administration and inspected annually by AHCA and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The homes are supervised 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](https://jobs.myflorida.com).

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**FLORIDA STATE VETERANS’ HOMES**

**FDVA OFFICES**

**FDVA STATE VETERANS’ HOMES**

- Robert H. Jenkins Jr. State Veterans’ Domiciliary Home
- Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans’ Nursing Home
- Emory L. Bennett State Veterans’ Nursing Home
- Lake Baldwin (Opens 2020) State Veterans’ Nursing Home
- Ardle R. Copas (Opens 2020) State Veterans’ Nursing Home
- Baldwin State Veterans’ Nursing Home
- Emory L. Bennett State Veterans’ Nursing Home
- FDVA Headquarters & Executive Offices
- FDVA Benefits & Assistance Division
- Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans’ Nursing Home
- Alexander “Sandy” Nininger State Veterans’ Nursing Home
- FDVA Tallahassee Office
- Clifford C. Sims State Veterans’ Nursing Home
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. Admissions are currently paused during COVID-19.

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 offers skilled nursing care to its veteran residents. Call (386) 274-3460 for more information. Address: 1920 Mason Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

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

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

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

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

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

The Ardie R. Copas State Veterans’ Nursing Home in Port St. Lucie (St. Lucie County) is scheduled to open to residents in 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.

The Lake Baldwin State Veterans' Nursing home in Orlando (Orange County) is scheduled to open to residents in 2020. When completed, the 112-bed facility will offer skilled nursing care and accommodate residents with dementia/Alzheimer’s disease. For more information, call (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5562.

**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

Agent Orange/Gulf War Illness
Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, or suffer illnesses and served in the Gulf War during military service may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits, including disability compensation for diseases/illnesses from these periods. Your dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits. For more information, call the Help Line at 1-800-749-8387 or send an e-mail to 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.

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 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.
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.

Active Duty Servicemembers using DoD’s Military Tuition Assistance for enrollment in Florida College System institutions, may have fees waived by the institution (FS 1009.25(15))

Honorably discharged veterans who were inducted into the U.S. Armed Forces prior to completing their high school education can be awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma. Visit fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/veterans-diplomas.stml 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. Section 112 of Public Law 115-48, effective 8/16/2017, eliminated the 15-year delimiting date for veterans (and their dependents under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship program) who transitioned out of the military after Jan. 1, 2013. These individuals will no longer be limited to the 15-year deadline to use their GI Bill® education benefits.

Post-9/11 GI Bill® Chapter 33 and VA Vocational Rehabilitation Chapter 31 Beneficiaries: Effective 8/1/2019, schools may not assess a financial or access penalty to Chapter 31 and Chapter 33 students, for up to 90 days, while the school awaits payment from VA. Students are required to submit a VA Certificate of Eligibility to school officials, for protections under this law (38 U.S.C. § 3679(e).

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.

**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. 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 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 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.

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

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.

**VETERANS’ BENEFITS: BURIAL & FAMILY SUPPORT**

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

**Gold Star Families**

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

**VETERANS’ BENEFITS: MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING & FEE EXEMPTIONS**

**Veteran Designation on Driver License**

Florida veterans can add a veteran designation to their driver license or ID card by visiting any Florida driver license office, to include those operated by county tax collectors. Requirements: 1) present a discharge document which shows an Honorable or Under Honorable Conditions discharge from active duty; 2) visit www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/what-to-bring to ensure you have all other documents. Veterans who need to obtain a copy of their DD-214 may request it online at www.archives.gov/veterans. While renewing or replacing a driver license or ID card, veterans may also voluntarily request information on veterans’ benefits be forwarded to them.
100% Disabled Veteran State ID Card
A disabled veteran ID card may be issued by the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs to any veteran who is a permanent resident of the state and is determined by the VA or Department of Defense to have a 100% service-connected, permanent and total disability rating. (FS 295.17) The card may be used as proof of eligibility for any state benefit except exemption of homestead property taxes. For application information, call (727) 319-7440.

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

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

Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle License Plate
A veteran discharged honorably or under honorable conditions 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.

Parking for Disabled Veterans
Parking spaces for persons with disabilities are for the exclusive use of individuals who have permanent or temporary impairments. (F.S. 553.5041(3)). Disabled veterans who have been issued a “DV” plate may park in designated handicapped parking spaces. Disabled veterans with a mobility impairment may apply for the disabled parking plate with the wheelchair emblem to avoid possible fines and penalties. No state agency, county,
municipality or agency thereof may charge the driver of a vehicle displaying a “DV” license plate any fee for parking on public streets, highways or in any metered parking space. There are exemptions to this benefit, which may be found in Florida Statute 316.1964. 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))

**Military License Plates**
The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles issues special use license plates for eligible military members and veterans. These special use license plates, honoring wartime service, awards, campaigns and decorations, and status are issued after the applicant provides documents establishing proof of status, such as a DD-214, and upon payment of the license tax imposed by s. 329.08, F.S. License fees and taxes vary. Several of these license plates are available to purchase as samples. Visit [https://www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/personalized-specialty-license-plates/](https://www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/personalized-specialty-license-plates/) 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 the purchase of Individual and Family annual passes to Florida’s State Parks for all active duty and honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard. Honorably discharged veterans with service-related disabilities, surviving spouses of members of the U.S. military who have fallen in combat, and parents of members of the U.S. military who have fallen in combat are eligible to receive a free-for-life Military Entrance Pass.

Discounted annual passes and the Military pass can only be obtained at a Florida state park with a staffed ranger station, ticket counter or museum. For specific details regarding proof of eligibility, call (850) 245-2157 or visit [www.FloridaStateParks.org](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 or call toll free (800) 438-4128.

Troops to Teachers
Troops to Teachers is a DoD career transition 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 up to $10,000. Interested personnel may apply for the program at www.proudtoserveagain.com. There is no obligation for applying. For information about teaching opportunities in Florida call (833) 358-7667 or email t2t@tcc.fl.edu.

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 for more information.

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

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

Veterans’ Preference in Florida

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 throughout the hiring process.

Public entity employers who advertise for qualifying positions must make the applicant aware that preference is available. The employer must also provide the applicant with information as to what can be done if the veteran believes he/she was denied preference 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 veterans preference@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 or call (850) 487-0915. The U.S. Small Business Administration also offers programs and services for veterans seeking to establish or expand small businesses. For more information, call toll free (800) 827-5722.

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

VETERANS’ BENEFITS: LEGAL
Legal Advice & Counsel
The Governor’s Initiative on Lawyers Assisting Warriors (GI LAW) draws from the talent of Florida’s leading law firms to provide pro bono services for military members. There are discussions to expand this service to veterans in the future. For more information, visit https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridodefense/lawyers-assisting-warriors/

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

American Bar Association resources for veterans: 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

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.

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.

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

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

Veterans Courts
Veterans returning from combat may suffer from post-traumatic 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-one Veterans Courts in Florida have been established as of March 2019 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

There is a helpful Veterans Resources Guide for the Florida State Court System at www.flcourts.org/content/download/217060/1968306/VETERANSRESOURCEGUIDE.pdf.

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 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 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/entrepreneurship to sign up.

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

**WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**
Florida’s World War II Memorial was dedicated on June 6, 2005, by Gov. Jeb Bush. More than 248,000 Florida veterans served in the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to nearly 35,000 World War II veterans.

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

Florida contributed $248,000 to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. – one dollar for each service member who entered the military from Florida during the war.

**KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL**
Florida’s Korean War Memorial was dedicated on Dec. 11, 1999, by Gov. Jeb Bush. More than 294,000 Florida veterans served in the Armed Forces during the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to more than 97,000 Korean War veterans.

**Location:** Cascades Park, Downtown Tallahassee.

**VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL**
Florida’s Vietnam War Memorial was dedicated on Nov. 12, 1985, by Gov. Bob Graham. The memorial, with its twenty-eight by fifteen foot U.S. flag, contains the names of all known Floridians killed in the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to more than 477,000 Vietnam veterans.

**Location:** Across Monroe Street from the Old Capitol Building, Downtown Tallahassee.
FDVA OFFICES & CLAIMS EXAMINER SITES

Most offices are closed and staff members are teleworking. Please call in advance.

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

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, x25062, 25063 & 25064

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
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James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Bldg. 41, 2nd floor, RM 242
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(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, x25062, 25063 & 25064

William Chappell Jr.
VA Outpatient Clinic
551 National Health Care Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 323-7500, x37722-37682

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

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

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

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

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

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

Orlando Lakemont Campus
2500 S. Lakemont Avenue
Room 200
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
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

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

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

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

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

Viera VA Outpatient Clinic
2900 Veterans Way, room 223/224
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.
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 Community Based 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
(813) 701-2470

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Port Richey VA Outpatient Clinic
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

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

Boots Thomas VA Outpatient Clinic  
2181 Orange Ave. East  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 878-0191

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jupiter Vet Center</td>
<td>6650 W. Indiantown Rd., Suite 120</td>
<td>(561) 422-1220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Largo Vet Center Outstation</td>
<td>105662 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037</td>
<td>(305) 451-0164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeland Vet Center</td>
<td>1370 Ariana St., Lakeland, FL 33803</td>
<td>(863) 284-0841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne Vet Center</td>
<td>2098 Sarno Road, Melbourne, FL 32935</td>
<td>(321) 254-3410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Vet Center</td>
<td>8280 NW 27th Street, Suite 511, Miami, FL 33122</td>
<td>(305) 718-3712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naples Vet Center</td>
<td>2705 Horseshoe Dr. South, #204, Naples, FL 34104</td>
<td>(239) 403-2377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasco County Vet Center</td>
<td>5139 Deer Park Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34653</td>
<td>(727) 372-1854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocala Vet Center</td>
<td>3300 SW 34th Avenue, Suite 140, Ocala, FL 34474</td>
<td>(352) 237-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orlando Vet Center</td>
<td>5575 S. Semorran Blvd., Suite 30, Orlando, FL 32822</td>
<td>(407) 857-2800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay County Vet Center</td>
<td>3109 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 101, Panama City, FL 32405</td>
<td>(850) 522-6102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensacola Vet Center</td>
<td>4504 Twin Oaks Drive, Pensacola, FL 32506</td>
<td>(850) 456-5886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pompano Beach Vet Center</td>
<td>2300 West Sample Road, Suite 102, Pompano Beach, FL 33073</td>
<td>(954) 984-1669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota Vet Center</td>
<td>4801 Swift Road, Suite A, Sarasota, FL 34231</td>
<td>(941) 927-8285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okaloosa County Vet Center</td>
<td>6 11th Avenue, Suite G-1, Shalimar, FL 32579</td>
<td>(850) 651-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Petersburg Vet Center</td>
<td>6798 Crosswinds Drive North, Bldg. A, St. Petersburg, FL 33710</td>
<td>(727) 549-3633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallahassee Vet Center</td>
<td>2002 Old St. Augustine Road, Tallahassee, FL 32301</td>
<td>(850) 942-8810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa Vet Center</td>
<td>3637 W. Waters Avenue, Suite 600, Tampa, FL 33614</td>
<td>(813) 228-2621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital</td>
<td>13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, FL 33612</td>
<td>(813) 972-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orlando (Lake Nona) VA Medical Center</td>
<td>13800 Veterans Way, Orlando, FL 32827</td>
<td>(407) 631-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Palm Beach VA Medical Center</td>
<td>7305 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33410</td>
<td>(561) 422-8262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VA MEDICAL CENTERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center</td>
<td>10000 Bay Pines Blvd., Bay Pines, FL 33744</td>
<td>(727) 398-6661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malcom Randall VA Medical Center</td>
<td>1601 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608</td>
<td>(352) 548-6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake City VA Medical Center</td>
<td>619 South Marion Avenue, Lake City, FL 32025</td>
<td>(386) 755-3016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center</td>
<td>1201 N.W. 16th St., Miami, FL 33125</td>
<td>(305) 575-7000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital</td>
<td>13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, FL 33612</td>
<td>(813) 972-2000</td>
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<td>7305 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33410</td>
<td>(561) 422-8262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Website</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)</td>
<td>(800) 827-1000 or TDD (800) 829-4833</td>
<td><a href="http://www.va.gov">www.va.gov</a> • <a href="http://www.vba.va.gov">www.vba.va.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Health Care Eligibility/Enrollment</td>
<td>(877) 222-8387</td>
<td><a href="http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits">www.va.gov/healthbenefits</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Petersburg VA Regional Office, Bay Pines</td>
<td>(800) 827-1000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg">www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida National Guard</td>
<td>(904) 823-0319</td>
<td><a href="https://state.nationalguard.com/florida">https://state.nationalguard.com/florida</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Funeral Honors</td>
<td>(800) 342-9647</td>
<td><a href="https://mfh.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh">https://mfh.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay Pines National Cemetery</td>
<td>(727) 319-6479</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/baypines.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/baypines.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Canaveral National Cemetery</td>
<td>(321) 383-2638</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell</td>
<td>(352) 793-7740</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/florida.asp">www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/florida.asp</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacksonville National Cemetery</td>
<td>(904) 766-5222</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/jacksonville.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/jacksonville.asp</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarasota National Cemetery</td>
<td>(877) 861-9840</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth</td>
<td>(561) 649-6489</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Augustine National Cemetery</td>
<td>(904) 766-5222</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/staugustine.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/staugustine.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallahassee National Cemetery</td>
<td>(850) 402-8941</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/tallahassee.asp">www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/tallahassee.asp</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Returning Veterans</td>
<td>(800) 827-1000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oefoif.va.gov">www.oefoif.va.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRICARE</td>
<td>(800) 444-5445</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tricare.mil">www.tricare.mil</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf War Veterans</td>
<td>(800) 749-8387</td>
<td><a href="http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar">www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Women Veterans</td>
<td>(855) 829-6636</td>
<td><a href="http://www.va.gov/womenvet">www.va.gov/womenvet</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve</td>
<td>(800) 336-4590</td>
<td><a href="http://www.esgr.mil">www.esgr.mil</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National VA Homeless Hotline</td>
<td>(877) 424-3838</td>
<td><a href="http://www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp">www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA eBenefits Portal</td>
<td>(800) 827-1000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ebenefits.va.gov">www.ebenefits.va.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Home Loan Guaranty</td>
<td>(877) 827-3702</td>
<td><a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans">www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Veteran Crisis Hotline</td>
<td>(800) 273-8255 Dial 1</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov">www.mentalhealth.va.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White House VA Hotline</td>
<td>(855) 948-2311</td>
<td><a href="https://www.va.gov/ve/whvaHotline.asp">https://www.va.gov/ve/whvaHotline.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Relay Service - For those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or speech impaired</td>
<td>Dial 7-1-1</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ftri.org/floridarelay">www.ftri.org/floridarelay</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"I returned from war years ago, but now I finally feel home."

Home Base Southwest Florida provides a central place for local Veterans of all eras, Service Members and their Families to take control of their physical well-being, while rebuilding and strengthening military bonds and community connection. Home Base SWFL also offers evidence-based clinical care for those impacted by the invisible wounds, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI), through their Veteran and Family Outpatient Clinic at Lee Health in Fort Myers, FL.

>> REGIONAL

- Outpatient Veteran and Family Clinic at Lee Health
- 90-Day Warrior Health & Fitness Program at Florida Gulf Coast University
- Nutrition Education
- Resilient Warrior / Family
- Adventure Series Family Events and more!

>> NATIONAL

- Two-Week Intensive Clinical Program for PTSD and TBI
- Four-Day Intensive Clinical Program for PTSD
- Four-Day and Two-Week Special Operator Intensive Clinical Program for TBI

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- @homebaseSWFL

CONNECT TO CARE

- homebase.org/connect2care
- (239) 339-8389
- homebaseSWFL@partners.org

*All Home Base SWFL clinical care and wellness programs are provided at no cost, regardless of discharge status.
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Cohen Military Family Clinics provide counseling for PTSD, anxiety, depression, and transitional challenges for post-9/11 veterans and military families.

Find your care:
- Visit a clinic in Tampa or Jacksonville
- or via CVN Telehealth, face-to-face video therapy, available statewide

Back to Better
Counseling for Post-9/11 Veterans & Families

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