

# Vermont State Veteran's Benefits

The state of Vermont provides veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Veteran Housing Benefits
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Employment and Training Assistance
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

## Vermont Veteran Housing Programs

### **Vermont Veterans' Home**

Veterans, their spouses, and some dependents and parents may be eligible to live in the Vermont Veterans Home. The home offers a complete range of specialized health care services. Goals focus on dignity, independence, and the highest quality of life for each resident.

Visit the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs website <http://veterans.vermont.gov/> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## Vermont Financial Assistance Programs

### **Emergency Financial Assistance**

The Office of Veterans Affairs provides emergency financial assistance to veterans and their dependents by providing a one-time payment. Applications are processed over the phone or in person. Applicants will need to provide detailed information on their income and expenses to apply.

Visit the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs website <http://veterans.vermont.gov/> for contact information and benefits assistance.

### **Vermont War Bonus**

The War Bonus is a program that dates back to the War of 1812. It was started to reimburse soldiers for the use of their weapons, horse, etc. during their military duty. Since then, veterans who served during war-time have been eligible, with the last payments made to Vietnam Era veterans. The bonus pays \$10 per month of service, to a maximum of \$120. Our office still accepts applications from Vietnam Veterans, and an extremely limited amount of funds are still available.

Visit the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs website <http://veterans.vermont.gov/> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Vermont Veteran Employment Programs**

Each State Department of Labor Career Resource Center has professionals who are trained to assist veterans in finding work or job training. They are extremely knowledgeable about veterans' benefits and can refer veterans to the state and federal programs designed to meet their needs. Your local phonebook will have the number of the closest office. When you call, tell them you're a veteran. The link to the left will provide a directory of these professionals in the state.

Visit the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs website <http://veterans.vermont.gov/> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Vermont Veteran Education Assistance**

### **High School Diplomas for WWII and Korean War Era Veterans**

Veterans of the World War II and Korean War Eras who do not have a high school diploma may be eligible to receive one from a Vermont high school. Applications are verified by the Office of Veterans Affairs, and the diplomas are issued by a secondary school picked by the veteran.

Visit the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs website <http://veterans.vermont.gov/> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Other Vermont State Veteran Benefits**

### **Veteran Advocacy**

The application process for veterans benefits can be confusing and intimidating. If you would like someone to work for you to help make sure you receive the state and federal benefits you and your family deserve, contact our Veteran Service Officer, Mr. Richard Reed. He is a trained and certified professional veterans' advocate who will work on your behalf for no fee.

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### **Discharge Records**

The Office of Veterans Affairs maintains copies of active duty discharge records for most veterans who entered the service from Vermont. We help veterans locate their records, will store copies of their records, and will make certified copies of records...all free of charge. Because of the federal Privacy Act, we need to have your request for your discharge in writing. You can come to our office, mail a request, or fax a request. Although we have a Records Request Form, you don't have to use it. If you don't want to use the form, just send us a letter requesting a copy of the discharge (it doesn't have to be typed) with the veteran's name, Social Security Number, date of birth, and approximate dates of service. Make sure to sign the letter and include the address you would like the discharge mailed to. We only release the discharge to the veteran, or the veteran's next of kin if the veteran is deceased. If the requestor is the next of kin, please provide the veteran's date of death and the relationship to the veteran. Requests can be faxed or mailed...sorry, we can't take Email requests for records. If we don't have your discharge, you can request it from the state you entered the military from or from the National Personnel Records Center. If

you need a full copy of your records, to include your medical records, you would need to get them from the records center. Requests from them take a minimum of two months.

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### **Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery**

The Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery is located in Randolph Center. It provides veterans with a resting-place that honors their service at a cost lower than a commercial cemetery. In addition, certain family members may also be buried with the veteran. Applicants can choose from government markers or custom made commercial markers.

### **Vermont Veterans License Plates**

Veterans can receive a Vermont Veterans License Plate when they register their vehicle. Veterans can have a Vermont Veterans License Plate on each of their cars. The Department of Motor Vehicles will charge \$10 the first time a vehicle is registered with the plate. Of this fee, \$5 goes towards the Office of Veterans Affairs to fund their activities.

Visit the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs website <http://veterans.vermont.gov/> for contact information and benefits assistance.

### **Hunting and Fishing Licenses; Green Mountain Pass**

Veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs Service Connected Disability rating of 100% can receive a free lifetime hunting and fishing license. They can also receive a free Green Mountain Pass, which provides free access to state parks. For the hunting and fishing license, you will need to obtain a verification letter from the White River Junction Benefits Office (1-800-827-1000). Submit the verification letter with a standard license application and send it to the Fish and Wildlife Department in Waterbury.

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### **Vermont Medals**

Veterans who entered the military when they were a resident of Vermont, regardless of where they live now, and received an honorable discharge may be eligible for a state medal honoring their service. There are two medals: The Vermont Veteran's Medal (Bronze) and the Vermont Distinguished Service Medal (Silver). The Vermont Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to those who served in a combat theater. Veterans may choose to have the medals mailed to them or presented in a ceremony. In cases where the veteran is deceased, the medals may be requested by a family member. Medals are usually mailed within 4 weeks of our office receiving an application; those who request a ceremony may have to wait up to a year before there will be a presentations.

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Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/content/veteran-state-benefits/vermont-state-veterans-benefits.html> Feb 2012 ++]