

FLORIDA VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE

*** 2018 ***



FDVA

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

www.FloridaVets.org



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you for reading the 2018 edition of the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide.

Watching over and advocating for our state's more than 1.5 million veterans are the more than 1,100 men and women of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

FDVA plays a major role in the direct infusion of more than \$17.9 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.



But as impressive as that sounds, there are many thousands of our veterans and their families who, for whatever reason, are not taking advantage of benefits earned through their military service. 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.

Help us reach out to our veterans. Let them know of the many federal, state and local benefits available to them as a result of their noble service. Be as determined to assist a veteran as he or she was to defend your freedoms.

A consolidated list of earned benefits and services available to Florida's veterans, including online access to the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide, is available at our agency's website at **www.FloridaVets.org**. You can connect with us on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/floridaveterans** and on LinkedIn at **www.linkedin.com/company/fdva**.

Our free mobile application, offered in the Android and Apple markets, integrates with our comprehensive website and offers veterans reminders and updates about services.

We honor the service of our veterans. Let us never forget them and their families, through whose selfless service and sacrifice we today enjoy freedom and liberty.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn W. Sutphin Jr." in a cursive script.

Glenn W. Sutphin Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)
Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs



MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT

Every day I am fighting to make Florida the best place in the nation to get a great job, receive a world-class education and raise a family. Thanks to our hard work to cut taxes and burdensome regulations, since December 2010, Florida has created more than 1.44 million private-sector jobs. As Floridians and Americans, we are blessed with these opportunities and freedoms because of the sacrifices our brave veterans have made.



Florida is the most military and veteran-friendly state in the nation, and honoring our military members and veterans is an incredible priority across our state. As Governor and a Navy veteran myself, I am committed to making sure Florida continues to support those who serve our nation, and ensure we maintain our focus on military members and their families.

We must take every opportunity to express our gratitude and thank our veterans and service members for their courage and sacrifice. These individuals dedicated their lives to protecting the families of our great nation, and on behalf of all Floridians, we express our country's gratitude.

Again, we appreciate you and your service, and thank you for making Florida your home.

Honorable Rick Scott
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. 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.

The Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide is provided courtesy of the Florida Veterans Foundation. The Foundation offers this publication as a public service. The use of trade, firm, or corporation names, products or services within this publication, including any advertisements of products or services, does not constitute an endorsement or approval by the Foundation or Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. To contact the Foundation, please call (850) 488-4181.



FLORIDA VETERANS FOUNDATION

In 2008, the Florida Legislature established the Florida Veterans Foundation (FVF) as a Direct Support Organization to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Foundation operates for the direct and indirect benefit of the veterans of Florida, the FDVA, and veteran service organizations. The FVF is a nonprofit organization operating for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3).



While most of Florida's more than 1.5 million veterans successfully transitioned to a post-military career, many encounter challenges that impede their progress. Veterans reported priority services needed during this transition are employment, housing, transportation and benefits assistance.

The Florida Veterans Foundation works closely with the 67 County Veteran Service Offices throughout Florida, who are "frontline" for Florida veterans. The FVF seeks out the greatest unmet needs of Florida veterans and then works proactively and collaboratively with all State Veterans Service Organizations to solve the issues of:

- Transportation
- Mental Health
- Education/Employment
- VA Benefits Guides
- Health
- Homelessness

Some of the Foundation's 2017 initiatives include:

- Teamed with American Legion posts statewide to provide transportation resources to veterans in rural areas.
- Collaborated with the Five Star Veterans Center to match a mental health/wellness grant to reintegrate homeless Veterans back into productive life.
- Through the Disabled American Veterans in Florida, the FVF provided supplemental funds for the purchase of five new vehicles to transport veterans to and from medical appointments to clinics and hospitals.
- Worked innovatively through 3,100 Florida Assisted Living Facility Administrators to seek out veterans to provide information and assistance regarding their VA pensions, Aid and Attendance and other earned benefits.

Please visit www.floridaveteransfoundation.org to make a donation in support of our program.

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



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.

OUR VISION

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

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 www.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 www.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 www.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. All facilities are licensed by the 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 your residents are receiving the best care possible. You can come to work knowing you will work with state-of-the-art technology and equipment to help you do your job well. You'll be part of a team that improves quality of life for our veteran residents. 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/joblist.html.

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 break ground in 2018. 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.

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 or MetLife at www.metlife.com/vadip.

Affordable Care Act and Veterans

Veterans enrolled in VA health care programs have health coverage that meets the health care law's standard. Veterans do not need to take additional steps to have health coverage and are in compliance with the health care law's coverage standards. For more information about veteran health benefits, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits or call 1-877-222-8387.

Veterans Choice Act

The Veterans Choice Program is a benefit that allows eligible veterans to receive health care from a community provider rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility. Call the VCP Call Center at 866-606-8198 or visit the Veterans Choice Program website at www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/ to verify eligibility.

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

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)).

In 2016, House Bill 799 was signed into law, granting an out-of-state tuition fee waiver to 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. In 2014, legislation was signed expanding the waiver program to include the state's career and technical training facilities. In 2016, legislation was passed expanding the eligibility for this earned benefit. 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.

Florida State Colleges and Universities offering priority course registration for students 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 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. As a result of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Act of 2017, 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, 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 www.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

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. 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 such 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 January 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 January 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

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) may be converted to Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), a five-year term policy, renewable for life. VGLI may be converted to an individual policy within 240 days of leaving the service with any participating insurance company. 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.insurance.va.gov.

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 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's veterans can add a veteran designation to their driver license or identification card. To add a Veteran Designation to a license or ID



card, veterans can visit 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) pay a one-time \$1 fee, in addition to the replacement or renewal fee. If it is too soon to renew your license, you can pay a one-time \$2 fee plus other applicable service fees; 3) visit www.GatherGoGet.com 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 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 identification card to a person who presents evidence that he or she is homeless without payment of the fees required. 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 HUD-VASH program.

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.

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. (FS 117.01(2))

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.

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles also 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 for more information.

Occupational License Taxes

A disabled wartime veteran who is unable to perform manual labor and is a permanent Florida resident shall be exempt from this tax up to \$50. The unremarried spouse of a deceased disabled veteran is also entitled to this exemption. (FS 205.171)

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.

In 2016, Senate Bill 1202 was signed into law, requiring county and municipal departments of parks and recreation to 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. The bill also requires regional transportation authorities to provide disabled veterans with discounts on fares for the use of fixed-route transportation systems operated by the authority.

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. The license is only available at tax collector's offices.

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. (FS 379.353).

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission makes it easier for Florida veterans to enter the commercial fishing industry. Applicants should visit www.MyFWC.com/License and click on *Commercial Saltwater Products* or call (850) 487-3122.

Operation Outdoor Freedom

Sponsored by Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam, 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, has provided 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.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Employment services for veterans, military members and their families are offered through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the CareerSource Florida network, which includes Florida's 24 local workforce development boards and 100 career centers. These services include interview preparation, resume writing assistance, job and training referrals, career planning, vocational guidance, job search and placement assistance, and internet access. Local Veterans Employment Representatives develop hiring opportunities within the local community by raising employer awareness of the availability and benefits of hiring veterans. Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists provide services to all eligible veterans, with a focus on client services to those identified as most in need of assistance. For more information, visit careersourceflorida.com/your-local-team or call (866) 352-2345 (option 2).

Employ Florida Vets

Employ Florida Vets is the state's dedicated online portal for military veterans to access employment services. 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 Department of Defense career transitions service that provides assistance to current and former military members who desire a second career in public school teaching. Some program participants are eligible for financial assistance of up to \$10,000. For additional information, contact the Florida Troops to Teachers office at (888) 358-7667.

Reemployment Rights

A veteran has a right to be reemployed in his/her civilian job or a comparable job with associated benefits had the veteran not been absent due to military service. Call toll free (866) 487-2365 or visit www.dol.gov/vets for more information. Public employees may contact FDVA at (727) 319-7440.

Business License Fee Waivers for Veterans & their Spouses

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation has the ability to waive the initial licensing fee, the initial application fee, and the initial 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 for 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 are a member of the U.S. Armed Services, are planning to leave the military within the next 60 months or 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. For more information, call (850) 488-0595 or visit www.floridahealth.gov/licensing-andregulation/armed-forces/index.html.


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.

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.

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 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 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. 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.

Vocational Rehabilitation

As part of a rehabilitation program for service-connected, disabled veterans rated at 10 percent or more and having a serious employment related handicap, the VA may pay tuition, books, expenses and a monthly living allowance. A new expanded housing benefit option is also available. For more information, call toll free (800) 827-1000.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: LEGAL

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 April 2017 to address these issues.

Florida Statute 394.47891 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-and-services/court-improvement/problem-solving-courts/veterans-court.stml.

Legal Advice & Counsel

As a state government 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

American Bar Association resources for Florida veterans:
www.americanbar.org/groups/committees/veterans_benefits/pro_bono_resources_for_veterans/florida.html.

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

You may request a copy of your military service record by visiting the National Archives online at www.archives.gov/veterans.



Certification of Discharge or Separation

At the veteran's request, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall record, without cost, certificates of discharge or separation from the Armed Forces. (FS 28.222) 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.

Consumer Protection Guide

The Florida Attorney General's Office has released a Military Consumer Protection Resource Guide. To view a copy, visit www.myfloridalegal.com/MilCPGuide or call (866) 9NO-SCAM for a printed copy.

A new consumer protection program was launched in 2017 that directly assists with consumer protection-related issues. The Military and Veterans Assistance Program is Attorney General Pam Bondi's most recent effort to spread awareness of and stop deceptive business practices affecting military service members, veterans and their families. To learn more, visit www.MyFloridaLegal.com/MVAP.

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 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 topics such as saving, budgeting, frauds, scams, identity theft and scholarships. Visit Serve Save Succeed at www.MyFloridaCFO.com/ServeSaveSucceed.

The Department of Financial Services offers an OnDemand Video Library with interactive, educational videos on a variety of financial and insurance topics. The videos cover a vast array of topics such as renters' and life insurance, hurricane preparedness, funerals and pre-need arrangements, reverse mortgages and more. Access the video library by visiting www.MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/Consumers.

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 Online: Submit a complaint online by visiting the Online Insurance Assistance homepage.

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*.

VETERANS FLORIDA

Veterans Florida is a non-profit corporation created by the State of Florida in 2014 to help veterans fully transition to civilian life in the Sunshine State. They offer dedicated services to help veterans find a new career, start a business, or connect to other helpful resources.

Career Opportunities

Businesses in high-growth fields such as aerospace, manufacturing, logistics, research and development, and technology are seeking to hire veterans and provide them with the training they need to build a long and fruitful career. Start searching for your next career on the Veterans Florida Career Portal, which will help you translate your skills honed in the military, build your civilian resume, plan your transition from Active Duty, and apply for career opportunities in Florida that are targeted to your experience.

Entrepreneurship Training

The skills you learned in the military like discipline, attention to detail and leadership directly correlate to being a successful entrepreneur. Veterans Florida sponsors a world-class entrepreneurship program just for veterans. They've joined forces with top Florida universities and colleges 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 at no extra cost. For more information on Veterans Florida, visit www.veteransflorida.org.





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 1704
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 125
Orlando, FL 32814
(407) 646-4109

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

The Villages Outpatient Clinic
 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

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**
2685 Horseshoe Dr. S. #101
Naples, FL 34104
(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

**Orange City Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**
2583 S. Volusia Ave., Suite 300
Orange City, FL 32763
(386) 456-2080

**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**
128 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

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
and Mental Health 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 | www.va.gov • www.vba.va.gov |
| Veterans Health Care Eligibility/Enrollment | (877) 222-8387 | www.va.gov/healthbenefits |
| St. Petersburg VA Regional Office, Bay Pines | (800) 827-1000 | www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg |
| Florida National Guard | (904) 823-0319 | https://state.nationalguard.com/florida |
| Military Funeral Honors | (800) 538-9552 | https://mfh.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh |
| Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola | (850) 453-4846 | www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/barrancas.asp |
| Bay Pines National Cemetery | (727) 319-6479 | www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/baypines.asp |
| Cape Canaveral National Cemetery | (321) 383-2638 | www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp |
| Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell | (352) 793-7740 | www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/florida.asp |
| Jacksonville National Cemetery | (904) 766-5222 | www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/jacksonville.asp |
| Sarasota National Cemetery | (877) 861-9840 | www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp |
| South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth | (561) 649-6489 | www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp |
| St. Augustine National Cemetery | (904) 766-5222 | www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/staugustine.asp |
| Tallahassee National Cemetery | (850) 402-8941 | www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/tallahassee.asp |
| Returning Veterans | (800) 827-1000 | www.oefoif.va.gov |
| TRICARE | (800) 444-5445 | www.tricare.mil |
| Gulf War Veterans | (800) 749-8387 | www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar |
| Women Veterans | (855) 829-6636 | www.va.gov/womenvet |
| Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve | (800) 336-4590 | www.esgr.mil |
| National VA Homeless Hotline | (877) 424-3838 | www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp |
| VA eBenefits Portal | (800) 827-1000 | www.ebenefits.va.gov |
| VA Home Loan Guaranty | (877) 827-3702 | www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans |
| National Veteran Crisis Hotline | (800) 273-8255 Dial 1 | www.mentalhealth.va.gov |
| White House VA Hotline | (855) 948-2311 | www.va.gov/opa/ |
| Florida Relay Service - <i>For those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or speech impaired</i> | Dial 7-1-1 | www.ftri.org/floridarelay |

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www.FloridaVets.org

