New Jersey Veterans Benefits Guide

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Welcome to the New Jersey Veterans Benefits Guide. This guide continues a tradition of providing relevant information to New Jersey's Veterans community.

Keeping you informed is part of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMAVA) continuing outreach efforts. Through extensive research and preparation, NJDMAVA has assembled valuable material into this edition of the Veterans Benefits Guide. Many New Jersey Veterans are unaware of the numerous federal and state program benefits, entitlements and services they have earned in defense of this great nation.

Our website at https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/ acts as a portal to assist New Jersey's Veterans in obtaining information they need to access benefits and services more efficiently and effectively.

We encourage you to contact the Department's Veterans Service Officers for additional information and assistance when applying for a program, benefit or entitlement.

"Serving those who served" are more than just our watchwords at NJDMAVA; it is a promise that we will support those whose service and sacrifice have ensured this nation's survival.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387)
https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/

If you are reading this publication online, you can click on any of the images or URLs to go to the link.

Follow us on:

MEDICAL

United States Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Administration (VA)
(800) 827-1000

VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS HEALTH ELIGIBILITY CENTER

For eligibility and additional information: ***(877) 222-8387***. You may also visit the website at: www.va.gov/healtheligibility

VA MEDICAL CENTERS (VAMC) / CLINICS

New Jersey

VAMC East Orange Campus, 385 Tremont Avenue ***(973) 676-1000***
VAMC Lyons Campus, 151 Knollcroft Road ***(908) 647-0180***
Brick, James J. Howard Clinic, 970 Route 70 ***(732) 206-8900***
Camden Clinic, 300 Broadway, Suite 103 ***(877) 232-5240***
Cape May Clinic, 1 Munro Avenue ***(800) 461-8262 Ext. 2850***
Elizabeth Clinic, 654 East Jersey Street, Suite 2A ***(908) 994-0120***
Hackensack Clinic, 385 Prospect Avenue ***(201) 487-1390 / (201) 342-4536***
Hamilton Clinic, 3635 Quakerbridge Road ***(609) 570-6600***
Jersey City Clinic, 115 Christopher Columbus Drive ***(201) 435-3055***
Marlton Clinic, 3000 Lincoln Drive East ***(844) 441-5499***
Morristown Clinic, 540 West Hanover Avenue ***(973) 539-9791/9794***
Northfield Clinic, 1909 New Road ***(800) 461-8262 Ext. 2800***
Paterson Clinic, 11 Getty Ave, Bldg. 275 ***(973) 247-1666***
Piscataway Clinic, 14 Wills Way, Building 5 ***(732) 981-8193***
Sewell Clinic, 211 County House Road ***(877) 823-5230***
Tinton Falls Clinic, 55 N. Gilbert Street, Building 4 ***(732) 842-4751***
Vineland Clinic, 79 W. Landis Avenue ***(800) 461-8262 Ext. 6500***

Philadelphia

VAMC University & Woodland Avenue ***(215)823-5800 / (800) 949-1001***
VAMC Coatesville,1400 Black Horse Hill Road, ***(610) 384-7711***

Delaware

VAMC 1601 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington ***(302) 994-2511 / (800) 461-8262***

www.va.gov/directory/ is the website for the New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Wilmington VA Medical Center facilities, with contact numbers and explanations of benefits.

EYEGLASSES, HEARING AIDS AND DENTAL CARE / HEALTH

Eyeglasses and hearing aids normally require a service rating of 10 percent or more. Routine dental treatment for teeth or jaws is provided to Veterans who are 100 percent service-connected, have a service-connected dental disability, or are former prisoners of war.

For active duty and retired members of the Uniformed Services, their families and survivors; contact the TRICARE Region East office at ***(888) 777-8343*** or visit https://tricare.mil/

HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN

Many VA hospitals have VA Women Veterans Health Centers whose services include gynecology, sexual trauma counseling, mammography screening, and transition assistance programs for women separating from the Armed Forces. Call ***(800) 827-1000*** to find out if your local VA hospital has a Women Veterans Health Center or visit the website at: www.womenshealth.va.gov. For information on VA Mammography, visit: www.va.gov/health/mammography.

WOMEN VETERANS CALL CENTER

The Women Veterans Call Center staff is trained to provide women Veterans, their families, and caregivers information about VA services and resources. The Call Center can be reached at ***(855) 829-6636*** and is available Monday through Friday 8 AM - 10 PM ET, and on Saturdays from 8 AM - 6:30 PM ET.

VA NEW JERSEY WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

For information on services and programs, call ***(973) 676-1000,*** (***ext) 2716***, or visit: www.newjersey.va.gov/services/women/index.asp.

VA IDENTIFICATION CARD

The VA provides eligible Veterans with a Veterans Identification Card (VIC) for use at VA medical facilities. Only Veterans who are eligible for VA medical benefits will receive the card.

The card's purpose is for identification and check-in at VA appointments.

It is important to keep the VIC safe and secure. Some bar code readers, including cell phone applications, can scan the bar code on the front of the card, revealing the Veteran's social security number, making the Veteran subject to identity theft. If the card is lost or stolen, contact the VA medical facility where they took their picture to request a new card be re-issued. The Veteran should receive a new card in 7-10 days. If the card is not received in that time, call VA at (877) 222-VETS (8387).

VETERANS IDENTIFICATION CARD

The VA also offers a card certifying proof of service. It can be obtained only by applying online at www.vets.gov.

LOCAL VET CENTERS

Vet Centers offer broad readjustment services for combat theater and other Veterans. They focus on counseling for military traumas, employment and family problems. They also provide referral services for VA benefits, medical assistance, and liaison with community agencies. Individual and group counseling are available for Veterans and their significant others.

The centers also provide substance abuse information, referrals and job counseling and can be reached at ***(800) 905-4675***.

New Jersey

Bloomfield Vet Center
2 Broad Street, Suite 703
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
(973) 748-0980

Lakewood Vet Center
1255 Route 70, Unit 22N
Parkway Seventy Plaza
Lakewood, NJ 08701
(908) 607-6364 / (732) 905-0327

Secaucus Vet Center
110A Meadowlands Parkway, Suite 102
Secaucus, NJ 07094
(201) 223-7787

South Jersey Vet Center
2900 Fire Road
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
(609) 487-8387

Trenton Vet Center
934 Parkway Avenue, Suite 201
Ewing, NJ 08618
(609) 882-5744

Pennsylvania

Bucks County Vet Center
2 Canals End Road, Suite 201B
Bristol, PA 19007
(215) 823-4590

Philadelphia Vet Center NE
101 E. Olney Avenue, Suite C-7
Philadelphia, PA 19120
(215) 924-4670

Philadelphia Vet Center
801 Arch Street, Suite 502
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 627-0238

New York

Middletown Vet Center
726 E. Main Street, Suite 203
Middletown, NY 10940
(845) 342-9917

Staten Island Vet Center
60 Bay Street
Staten Island, NY 10301
(718) 816-4499

To find your local Vet Center, call (800) 827-1000 or visit online at:
www.vetcenter.va.gov

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

The State of New Jersey offers a program that addresses the readjustment concerns of Veterans and offers treatment to combat Veterans of all war periods.

Treatment is extended to the family members affected by the Veteran's condition. State Veteran Service Officers can assist with scheduling counseling and filing of any applicable VA claims. Contracted clinicians, experienced in PTSD counseling, can determine the best course of treatment for the Veteran and the Veteran's family.

For more information contact a local Veteran Service Officer or call ***(888) 8NJ-VETS (888-865-8387)***.

NJ VET TO VET HELPLINE

NJ Vet to Vet is operated by Rutgers University and funded by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It is a peer-counseling program for assessing a Veteran's mental health needs. The toll-free help line is available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, for Veterans and their families. Services include: Veteran peer support, family support, clinical assessment, case management, referrals to a network of mental health providers, web-based peer support, and live chat. Call ***(866) 838-7654*** or visit **http://ubhc.rutgers.edu/vet2vet/**.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

(800) 273-8255 (TALK)

Recognizing suicide warning signs:

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.
- Hopelessness, anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

Pick up the phone if you are experiencing an emotional crisis and need to talk to a trained VA professional.

(800) 273-8255 (TALK)

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Vet Centers and VA Medical Facilities have substance abuse treatment programs. See page 2 for a list of locations. You may also contact Alcoholics Anonymous at: ***(800) 245-1377***.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Supportive Services for Veterans' Families (SSVF)

Soldier On

(866) 406-8449, www.wesoldieron.org/

Community Hope
(973) 463-9600, www.communityhope-nj.org/

Volunteers of America
(856) 854-4660, www.voadv.org/

Coaching Into Care
(888) 823-7458

Operation Red Shield – The Salvation Army
(888) 302-6100, www.nj211.org/

Homeless Veterans
(877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838)

Veterans Caregivers Support Line
(855) 260-3274, www.caregiver.va.gov/

Community Justice Center (Trenton)
(609) 218-5120, www.nj-communityjusticecenter.org/

Catholic Charities
(855) 767-8387, www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/

Jewish Family Services
(609) 822-1108

Wounded Warrior Project
(877) 832-6997, www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Salvation Army
(908) 851-9300, https://newjersey.salvationarmy.org/

USO (United Service Organizations)
(888) 484-3876, www.uso.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
(888) 8NJ-VETS (888-865-8387)
https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/

US Department of Veterans Affairs
(800) 827-1000, www.va.gov

VA Affordable Care Act
(877) 222-VETS (8387), www.va.gov/health/aca/

GI Bill
(888) 442-4551, www.benefits.va.gov/gibill

VA Life Insurance
(800) 669-8477, www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/

CHAMPVA
Medical care for Veterans' dependents and survivors call ***(800) 733-8387***

Helpline (Agent Orange & Gulf War)
(800) 749-8387

Direct Deposit
(877) 838-2778

Headstone (status of claims only)
(800) 697-6947

New Jersey State Family Programs Office
www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/#

Volunteer Lawyers for Justice
(973) 645-1955, www.vljnj.org/

Legal Services: Military Assistance Project
(267) 449-6067 www.militaryassistanceproject.org

VETERANS DIVERSION PROGRAM

Active and former Service Members charged with certain criminal offenses may be eligible for diversion to mental health and rehabilitative treatment rather than face traditional criminal prosecution. Veteran mentors assist Veterans to navigate the justice system and get the help they need. The program offers access to counseling services for drugs or alcohol dependency, job placement assistance, medical services, and VA benefits. The preferred method to apply is online through the NJDMAVA website at: www.nj.gov/military/veterans/diversion-program/.

HOUSING

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veteran Resource Center (HUDVET) provides housing for homeless, disabled and low-to-moderate income Veterans, and general home ownership assistance. For more information, call ***(202) 708-1112***; Email: hudvet@hud.gov, or visit: www.hud.gov/hudvet.

HOME LOANS

Veterans can apply for a VA home loan with any mortgage lender that participates in the VA home loan program. For more information, call ***(800) 884-5560***, or visit: www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans.

HOMELESS

The National Coalition of Homeless Veterans provides help for homeless Veterans nationwide. Call to find a local shelter at ***(800) VET-HELP***.

For information about the VA New Jersey Health Care System Program for Homeless Veterans, call ***(908) 647-0180 ext. 1-4217, (973) 645-3769***.

HOME KEEPER PROGRAM

New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA)

(800) 2Cenlar (800-223-6527), www.njhousing.gov

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

NJDMAVA Veterans Haven-North and Veterans Haven-South

NJDMAVA's two transitional housing facilities, Veterans Haven-North in Glen Gardner, Hunterdon County, and Veterans Haven-South in Winslow Township, Camden County, provide effective, long-term rehabilitation services and employment training for their residents. Veterans Haven North can be reached at (908) 537-1963 and Veterans Haven South can be contacted at **(609) 561-0269**.

Hope House for Women with Children

(201) 420-1070

Homeless Multipurpose Center, Philadelphia

(215) 923-2600

STAND DOWN

Assists New Jersey's homeless Veterans' "combat" life on the streets by providing necessities ranging from food and clothing to medical, legal and mental health services. The committees are always looking for volunteers. If you need assistance or would like to volunteer, call ***(888) 8NJ-VETS (865-8387)***.

NEW JERSEY TAX BENEFITS

Income Tax Exemption for Veterans

You are eligible for a $3,000 exemption on your income tax return if you are a military Veteran who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States on or any time before the last day of the tax year. Your spouse (or civil union partner) is also eligible for an exemption if he/she is a Veteran who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances and you are filing a joint return. This exemption is in addition to any other exemptions you are entitled to claim and is available on both the resident and nonresident returns. You cannot claim this exemption for a domestic partner or for your dependents. This exemption can only be claimed by qualifying Veterans; it does not pass through to a surviving spouse. www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/military/vetexemption.shtml.

Property Tax Exemption / Deduction for Veterans

The New Jersey Property Tax Exemption requires a Veteran to serve during a specific war time period. New Jersey amended wartime service criteria for the 100 percent Disabled Veterans' Property Tax Exemption effective January 16, 2018. Wartime service in a specified geographic location for a minimum number of days is no longer required. If the Veteran was on active duty during any of the statutory service periods listed on the form, he or she meets the wartime service criterion for exemption. Other requirements, such as honorable discharge, property ownership, disability, etc., are unchanged. This amendment does not apply to the Annual Veterans Property Tax Deduction.

Disabled Veteran Exemption requires a 100 percent VA Certificate of Disability. The exemption should be permanent and total, partial or temporary is nonqualifying. The property must be owned and occupied by the claimant, and must be their legal residence in this state.

An annual Veterans Property Tax Deduction up to $250 requires citizenship,

state residency, active wartime service in the U.S. Armed Forces, honorable discharge, property ownership, and the timely completion of an application. If living, the Veteran must own the property in whole or in part to qualify for the deduction. The surviving spouse qualifies if all criteria are met. Eligibility for the deduction is established as of October 1 of the pre-tax year. The application can be filed at the local tax assessors office with appropriate documentation.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs provides advocacy for Veterans, benefits counseling and a variety of other services. For more information, call ***(888) 8NJ-VETS (865-8387)***, or visit www.nj.gov/military.

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

These organizations assist Veterans through the VA system and advocate for Veterans' rights. They are not affiliated with the government.

AMVETS
(877) 7-AMVETS / (609) 526-4356, email: amvets@amvets.org, www.amvets.org

American Legion
(973) 297-3377 / (609) 695-5418, www.legion.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars
(973) 297-3226 / (609) 393-1929, www.vfw.org

Vietnam Veterans of America
(800) 822-1316 / (973) 663-3008, www.vva.org

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
(212) 982-9699, http://iava.org

Disabled American Veterans
(973) 297-3378 / (609) 396-2885, www.dav.org

Catholic War Veterans
(609) 392-2303, www.cwv.org

Jewish War Veterans
(202) 265-6280, www.jwv.org

Marine Corps League
https://dnjmcl.org/

Korean War Veterans Association
(609) 655-3111, www.kwva.us

Military Order of the Purple Heart
(973) 297-3389, www.purpleheart.org

New Jersey Association of Veteran Service Officers (NJAVSO)
(973) 206-2806, http://njavso.org

EMPLOYMENT

The Department of Labor Veterans Program provides counseling, testing, placement and other assistance through local offices.

New Jersey Department of Labor-One-Stop Career Centers

Visit: http://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/plan/support/njcc-sites/one_stop_career_centers.shtml.

New Jersey Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists provide services to Veterans at One-Stop-Career Centers throughout the state.

For the One Stop Career Center near you, call ***(877) USA-JOBS*** or visit: http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/.

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP)

The DVOP provides job and training opportunities, with emphasis on Veterans with service-connected disabilities. DVOP specialists provide outreach and offer assistance by promoting community and employer support for employment and training opportunities, including apprenticeship and on-the-job training.

LVERs are state employees located at the state's local employment service offices who provide assistance to Veterans by supervising the provision of all services, including counseling, testing and identifying training and employment opportunities.

US Department of Labor Veterans-Employment and Training Services

www.dol.gov/vets

RE-EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NJ ESGR)
Returning to pre-military job, call: ***(609) 562-5550***

VETERANS AND DISABLED VETERANS PREFERENCE

To be eligible for Veterans Preference under New Jersey Law, Veterans must have served on active duty during one of the following periods.

1. World War II: 90 days active duty on or after September 16, 1940 and must have begun on or before December 31, 1946.
2. Korean Conflict: 90 days active duty on or after June 23, 1950 and must have begun on or before January 31, 1955.
3. Vietnam Conflict: 90 days active duty on or after December 31, 1960 and must have begun on or before May 7, 1975.

Proper documentation is required: WD Form 53-55, DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter (if applicable).

To be eligible for Veterans Preference under New Jersey law for the following peacekeeping missions, one must have served in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Haiti, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or on board any ship actively engaged in patrolling the territorial waters of that nation for a period of at least 14 days beginning on or before the date of termination of that mission or operation.

1. Lebanon Crisis: 14 days on or after July 1, 1958, commencing on or before November 1, 1958.
2. Lebanon: 14 days on or after September 26, 1982 and must have begun on or before December 1, 1987.
3. Grenada: 14 days on or after October 23, 1983 and must have begun on or before November 21, 1983.
4. Panama: 14 days on or after December 20, 1989 and must have begun on or before January 31, 1990.
5. Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm: 14 days on or after August 2, 1990 to February 28, 1991.
6. Somalia: 14 days on or after December 5, 1992 and must have begun on or before March 31, 1994.
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation Joint Endeavor/Operation Joint Guard): 14 days on or after November 20, 1995 and on or before June 20, 1998.
8. Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy): 14 days on or after September 19, 1994 and on or before March 31, 1995.
9. Operation's Southern and Northern Watch: 14 days on or after August 27, 1992.
10. Operation Enduring Freedom: 14 days on or after September 11, 2001.
11. Operation Iraqi Freedom: 14 days on or after March 19, 2003.
12. Operation New Dawn: 14 days on or after September 1, 2010.

To be eligible for disabled Veterans Preference, one must be a "Veteran" as described above and must have incurred a disability for which the Veteran is receiving 10 percent or greater disability compensation from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Spouses of disabled Veterans, surviving spouses of disabled Veterans, or Veterans and parents of Veterans who died in service are eligible for Preference, if the Veteran would have been eligible for Veterans Preference. Proper documentation is required (DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter (if applicable)).

NOTE: Individuals whose only active service was for training (basic training, advanced training, officer candidate school, weekend drills, or annual training) in connection with a Reserve or National Guard obligation are not eligible for Veterans Preference.

NOTE: Merchant Marine Personnel who served in World War II, and who present a DD-214 which establishes 90 days of active service during the period noted above, are entitled to Veterans Preference.

PL 2007, Chapter 115, S2430/A3147/A3874, signed on July 18, 2007, changes when proof of Veteran status is required for civil service examinations for certain Veterans. Veterans will be able to establish Veteran Preference eight days prior to list issuance.

New Jersey values the contributions that our Veterans have made and continue to make for our country's freedom and for other nations around the world. As such, New Jersey's merit system provides absolute Veterans preference in employee selection. This means that qualified Veterans are placed at the top of an open competitive employment list ahead of non-Veterans, regardless of their scores. Disabled Veterans and Veterans are placed on promotional lists according to their scores, but are given preference over non-Veterans when a disabled Veteran or Veteran is at the top of a certification of the list to an appointing authority.

To obtain Veterans preference on CSC examinations, you must complete the

Civil Service Veterans preference claim form. For more information, call ***(888) 865-8387***.

NEW JERSEY CIVIL SERVICE FOR PENSION PURPOSES

A person is entitled to Veterans Preference for pension purposes under the same conditions listed under Veterans Preference; the only exclusion is that Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy) is not included for pension purposes. For more information, call ***(609) 530-6857 or (609) 530-6954***.

HELMETS TO HARDHATS

This program places men and women from the Armed Forces into building and construction careers. For more information, call ***(866) 741-6210***, or visit www.helmetstohardhats.org.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

This program assists military personnel transitioning to a new career as a public school teacher. A network of state offices provides participants assistance with certification requirements, routes to state certification, and employment leads. For more information, call ***(800) 680-0884***, or visit www.proudtoserveagain.com.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Small Business Administration (SBA)

The SBA provides services to Veterans thinking of starting a small business.
New Jersey: ***(973) 645-2434***
New York: ***(212) 264-4354***
Pennsylvania: ***(610) 382-3062***
Delaware: ***(302) 573-6294, ext. 227***
National: ***(800) 827-5722***
www.sba.gov

Veterans Online Business Registry (VETBIZ)

Enables Veterans to post information online about their business, to inform government and corporate buyers about their capacity to perform and inform agencies, contracting officers, and businesses about their products and services. This also links to Veterans Business Outreach Centers. For more information, call ***(866) 584-2344***, or visit www.vip.vetbiz.va.gov.

EDUCATION

New Jersey State Approving Agency (SAA)

The SAA operates under contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, maintaining the State's authority to supervise programs at traditional colleges. The agency also approves and supervises programs at non-traditional "for profit" schools, including non-degree programs, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training, flight, and correspondence schools. The SAA has its foundation in federal law, under Title 38, United States Code. To find out if your program of study is approved call ***(609) 530-6849***.

For program-specific information, contact the Veterans' Assistance Office at the educational institution.

POW – MIA Tuition Benefit Program

Free undergraduate college tuition is available to any child born or adopted before, during, or after the period of time his or her parent was officially declared a prisoner of war (POW) or person missing in action (MIA) after January 1, 1960. The POW – MIA must have been a New Jersey resident at the time he or she entered the service, or whose official residence is in New Jersey. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at ***(609) 530-6949***.

War Orphan Tuition Assistance

Children of those service personnel who die while in the military or due to service-connected disabilities, or who are officially listed as MIA by the U.S. Department of Defense may claim $500 per year for four years of college or equivalent training. To qualify, the Veteran must have been a state resident and the child must be a resident. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at ***(609) 530-6949***.

Veterans Tuition Credit Program

Provides additional education benefits to Veterans eligible for "federally funded" education programs who served on active duty from December 31,1960 to May 7, 1975 and were legal residents of New Jersey at the time of induction into the Armed Forces or for a period not less than one year prior to applying. The amount of the award is $400 annually or $200 per semester for full-time and for part-time $100 per semester. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at ***(609) 530-6949***.

Financial Aid

Veterans are advised to file Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms as well as apply for the GI Bill. Lists of scholarships, grants and financial aid available to Veterans and their dependents can be found at www.finaid.org/military. Be sure to contact the financial aid office at your institution.

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges

This consortium of colleges and universities provides educational opportunities for service members and their families. For more information, visit the website at: www.gosoced.org, or call: ***1-800-892-7205.***

OTHER BENEFITS

Operation Recognition

This program will award a state-endorsed high school diploma to any New Jersey Veteran who left a New Jersey high school to enter military service during World War II. This program has been extended to cover Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam era as well.

Who qualifies:

- Current New Jersey Veterans who left a New Jersey High School to join the military between the dates of September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946, June 23, 1950 and January 31, 1955, or December 31, 1960 through May 7, 1975.
- Honorably discharged.
- All branches of service including Merchant Marine and Coast Guard are eligible.
- Diplomas may also be issued posthumously. Surviving family members of eligible Veterans are urged to apply.

Required information:

A copy of your DD-214 or discharge papers
The name and address of the high school you attended
The year you would have graduated
Your name, address, and daytime phone number

Send your request to:

Operation Recognition–DVS-VBB
New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
101 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

NEW JERSEY CATASTROPHIC ENTITLEMENT

Eligible Veterans/surviving spouses receive a monthly entitlement of $62.50.

Criteria: A Veteran must be a New Jersey resident in receipt of a permanent service-connected disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that resulted from wartime service resulting in one of the following catastrophic disabilities resulting in a 100 percent rating: loss of sight; amputation of both hands, both feet or one hand and one foot; hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm on either side of the body; paraplegia and permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body; osteochondritis and permanent loss of use of both legs; multiple sclerosis and the loss of use of both feet or both legs; quadriplegia.

For more information call the Veterans Benefits Bureau at (***609) 530-6954***.

MEDALS

New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal (NJDSM)

Criteria: Any resident or former resident of New Jersey who was a resident of this State at the time of entry into active military service, or who has been a resident of this State for at least 20 years in the aggregate, honorably discharged and served in the organized militia, or in federal military service on active duty in a combat theater of operation during a time of war.

Recipients whose service was recognized either by the award of a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal or equivalent will receive the NJDSM with a Silver Oak Leaf Cluster. Posthumous awards are authorized.

New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal (NJMSM)

Criteria: Must be an honorably discharged Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States; and, was a resident upon entry into service, or if the veteran has been a resident of this State for a least five years in the aggregate. Posthumous awards are authorized.

New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal (NJVSM)

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the NJDSM. In addition, it requires

military service in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after December 31, 1960 and on or before May 7, 1975. Posthumous awards are authorized.

New Jersey Korean Service Medal (NJKSM)

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the NJDSM. In addition, it requires military service in Korea, Japan, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after June 23, 1950 and on or before January 31, 1955. Posthumous awards are authorized.

New Jersey POW/MIA Service Medal (NJPOW/MIA)

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the NJDSM and was officially listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the Department of Defense. Posthumous awards are authorized.

Individuals applying for an award must forward a completed NJDMAVA Application for Award/Program form, or a similar request in writing along with a copy of the Service Member's DD 214 form (Separation from Active Duty) verifying an Honorable Discharge.

Eligible recipients may be presented the medals during an NJDMAVA medal ceremony. For more information contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at ***(609) 530-6954***.

VETERANS HEALTHCARE

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs manages three state-of-the-art long-term nursing facilities.

Memorial Home at Paramus
1 Veterans Drive, PO Box 608
Paramus, NJ 07653-0608
(201) 634-8525

Memorial Home at Menlo Park
132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013
Edison, NJ 08818-3013
(732) 452-4102

Memorial Home at Vineland
524 North West Blvd
Vineland, NJ 08360-2895
(856) 405-4200

DEATH, BURIAL AND RELATED BENEFITS

New Jersey Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Free interment and perpetual care is available to Veteran residents of New Jersey, their spouses, and dependent children. Pre-registration is encouraged.

For eligibility for Federal VA burial and death benefits, call your local Veteran Service Office or contact the VA at ***(800) 827-1000***.

New Jersey Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery
350 Province Line Road
Wrightstown, NJ 08562
(609) 738-2400

DEATH CERTIFICATES

A Veteran's legal representative, executor, estate administrator, or family member are authorized to obtain a free copy of the Veteran's death certificate. No more than one copy of a Veteran's death certificate may be provided without fee; all other copies of the death certificate shall be subject to the $25 fee.

NEW JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

This program assists Veterans in need of transportation. Free transportation is offered to VA medical centers and clinics, other hospitals, private physicians, VA Regional Office and local Veteran Service Offices. Contact your local Veterans Service Officer to make arrangements. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at ***(609) 530-6949***.

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will annually issue the following items free to each qualified Disabled Veteran: a fire arm, bow and arrow, fishing or all-around hunting license, a pheasant and quail stamp and a trout stamp. New Jersey residents must be honorably discharged and declared by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected disability. For more information, call ***(908) 637-4125***.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Certain Disabled Veterans may be entitled to exemptions from registration and plate fees. Contact the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Services at ***(609) 292-6500***.

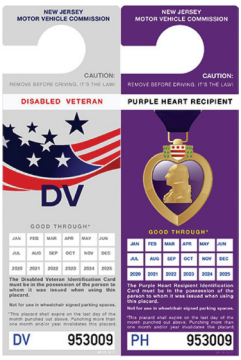
VETERANS DESIGNATION

The Motor Vehicle Commission began issuing permanent imprinted Veteran designation on driver licenses and non-driver ID cards. You may request your permanent imprinted Veteran designation driver license or non-driver ID card by following the instructions at: www.state.nj.us/mvc/drivertopics/vetdesignation.htm

DISABLED VETERAN AND PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT PLACARDS

New Jersey Disabled Veterans and Purple Heart recipients are eligible for motor vehicle placards that exempt them from payment of municipal parking meter fees, for up to 24 hours. These placards are available at any Motor Vehicle Commission agency or by mail, and are subject to renewal/recertification every three years.

The holder of a Disabled Veteran or Purple Heart recipient placard can also be issued a Person with a Disability (PWAD) placard, if eligible. For more information, visit: https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/drivertopics/vetdesignation.htm.



NEW JERSERY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES (VSO)

Through our network of regional Veteran Service Offices, Veteran Service Officers provide the State's more than 340,000 Veterans and their dependents with information and guidance in filing claims, assist with issues pertaining to employment, education, burial, counseling, housing, social and medical services, and other areas of concern to Veterans and their families.

Please make every effort to use these valuable services.

State Supervisors
(609) 530-6830 / 7050 / 6863

Newark Liaison Office
20 Washington Place, Room 439
Newark, NJ 07102–3174
(973) 297-3230 / Fax: (973) 648-2356

Atlantic/Cape May Veterans Service Office
Atlantic City Armory, 1008 Absecon Boulevard
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
(609) 441-3060 / 3061 / Fax: (609) 441-3899

Bergen/Passaic Veterans Service Office
125 State Street, Suite #109,
Hackensack, NJ 07601–5435
(201) 996-8050 / 8051 / Fax: (201) 996-8009

Burlington Veterans Service Office
555 High Street, Suite #6A
Mt Holly, NJ 08060
(609) 518-2273 / 2274 / Fax: (609) 518-2275

Camden/Gloucester Veterans Service Office
Woodbury Armory
658 N Evergreen Avenue
Woodbury, NJ 08096
(856) 853-4184 / 4185 / 4186 / Fax: (856) 384-3781

Essex/Union Veterans Service Office
20 Washington Place, Room #431
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 297-3336/ Fax: (973) 642-0830

Hudson Veterans Service Office
Jersey City Armory, 678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306
(201) 536-3401 / Fax: (201) 536-3404

Mercer Veterans Service Office
151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room #136
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
(609) 671-6697 / 6696 / Fax: (609) 671-6698

Middlesex/Somerset Veterans Service Office
1060 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
(732) 937-6347 / 6348 / Fax: (732) 937-6417

Monmouth Veterans Service Office
630 Bangs Avenue, Suite #320
Asbury Park, NJ 07712
(732) 775-7009 / 7005 / Fax: (732) 775-3612

Ocean Veterans Service Office
James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic
970 Route 70
Brick, NJ 08724
(732) 840-3033 / 3034 / Fax: (732) 840-0399

Salem/Cumberland Veterans Service Office
524 Northwest Boulevard,
Vineland, NJ 08360
(856) 405-4388 / 4390 / 4389 / Fax: (856) 696-6499

Sussex/Morris Veterans Service Office
479 W Clinton Street
Dover, NJ 07801
(973) 366-0245 / 8347 / Fax: (973) 366-0360

Warren/Hunterdon Veterans Service Office
200 Sanatorium Road
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
(908) 537-0831 / 0832 / Fax: (908) 537-0833

I *OWE* YOU!

VETERANS, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE BENEFITS!

https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387)

4th Ed., January 2019