

# State Benefits for Georgia Veterans

A summary for veterans, dependents and survivors



Georgia Department of Veterans Service  
Pete Wheeler, Commissioner

## GREETINGS

We are extremely proud of the Georgians who have honorably served our country over the centuries. It is now our honor to serve you.

The Georgia Department of Veterans Service is an agency of state government created for the purpose of advising, counseling, and assisting Georgia's veterans and their families in receiving their rightful benefits under the vast and complex framework of veterans' laws.

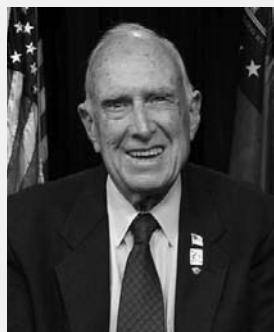
No veterans' benefits are granted automatically – you must apply for them! We exist to help you do exactly that.

Upon discharge from active military service, you may have been counseled and perhaps you received information pertaining to some of the benefits to which you may be entitled under the law. Our job is to explain in detail these benefits and, if entitled, assist you free of charge in obtaining them.

Service is in our name and service is our work. Providing quality and effective service to Georgia veterans and their dependents is and always will be our number one mission. In doing so, we pledge to stay current and adjust quickly and carefully to new laws, be diligent in their application, and continually improve our efficiency in service to veterans and their families.

Only by doing so, can we echo the words of one of our famous wartime presidents, Abraham Lincoln, who over a century ago, called upon the Nation "to care for him who have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan . . ."

Thank you for your personal sacrifice in military service to our country. We look forward to serving you.



Pete Wheeler  
Commissioner

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## Introduction

The Georgia Department of Veterans Service (GDVS) offers a wide range of superb services and programs for the veterans of Georgia. These services and programs include excellent veterans' benefits assistance, rewarding on-the-job and apprenticeship training program management, devoted skilled nursing home care, and compassionate cemetery committal services.

Georgia is proud of the benefits and services available to veterans in the state. GDVS representatives strive to ensure Georgia's veterans receive all of the federal and state benefits to which they are entitled. Please remember no benefit is automatic. Those who are eligible must apply for the benefits in order to receive them.

GDVS is here to serve the veterans of Georgia, their dependents and survivors. Anyone who has questions or needs more information regarding benefits or concerning other matters should call 404-656-2300 or visit [veterans.georgia.gov](http://veterans.georgia.gov).

*Note: Throughout this book, there are references to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. At the end of every veterans benefit entry is a citation to the specific O.C.G.A. section wherein the relevant law may be found: e.g., the law pertaining to Veterans' Driver's Licenses is found in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Title 40, Chapter 5, Article 2, abbreviated as: [O.C.G.A. § 40-5-36].*

*The full, searchable Official Code of Georgia Annotated is available online: [lexisnexis.com/hottopics/gacode](http://lexisnexis.com/hottopics/gacode).*

## State Homestead Tax Exemptions

### Disabled Veterans Homestead Tax Exemptions

Disabled veterans may be entitled to a homestead tax exemption if they were discharged from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions and otherwise qualify. There are a variety of homestead tax exemptions available for qualified disabled veterans who are Georgia residents and who own their homes and use them as their primary residence. These exemptions extend to surviving spouses or minor children as long as they remain in the homestead or a subsequent homestead in the same county.

As of April 3, 2012, the amount of the disabled veterans homestead tax exemption is \$63,780. The specific amount may vary



from year to year. The amount is computed based upon the greater of \$32,500 or the maximum amount allowable under section 2102 of Title 38 of the United States Code. The amount allowable under federal law is \$60,000 plus an index factor, which currently adjusts the total to \$63,780.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-48(b)]

For those who were not aware of the amount of the authorized exemption, it is possible to file a claim for a refund of taxes that have been overpaid. Any claim for a refund should be filed within three years after the date of payment.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-380 (2012)]

The disabled veterans homestead tax exemptions include the following:

A. 100% Service-Connected Disability – Wartime veterans who are receiving or entitled to receive benefits for a 100% permanent and total service-connected disability adjudicated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), may be entitled to a homestead exemption. Qualified veterans will need to obtain a verification letter from either the VA or Georgia Department of Veterans Service. Applicants may take proof of their qualifying service, residency, and VA disability rating with them to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. A VA certification letter is required.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-48(a) (1)]

B. Blindness and/or Loss of Use of Lower Extremities – Wartime or armed conflict veterans may be entitled to a homestead exemption if they are disabled due to the loss or loss of use of both lower extremities such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair; due to blindness in both eyes, having only light perception, together with the loss or loss of use of one lower extremity; or due to the loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with residuals of organic disease or injury which so affect the functions of balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without resort to a wheelchair. A VA rating is not required for qualification. Qualified veterans may obtain a verification letter from either the VA or Georgia Department of Veterans Service.



Applicants may take proof of their qualifying service, residency, and VA disability rating or letter from an authorized physician with them to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. A Veterans Field Service Officer will issue a verification letter if they are eligible.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-48(a) (2)]

C. Loss of Use of Lower Extremity & Upper Extremity – Wartime or armed conflict veterans may be entitled to a homestead exemption if they are disabled due to the loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity which so affects the functions of balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the aid or braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair. Qualified veterans will need to obtain a letter from an authorized physician that verifies the qualifying aspects of their disabilities. A VA rating is not required for qualification. Applicants should take proof of their qualifying service, residency, and VA disability rating or letter from an authorized physician to their county's tax commissioner's office. For more information regarding this exemption, applicants should call their county tax commissioner's office or go to the Georgia Department of Revenue website: [etax.dor.ga.gov/PTD/adm/taxguide/exempt/homestead.aspx](http://etax.dor.ga.gov/PTD/adm/taxguide/exempt/homestead.aspx).

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-48(a) (4)]

D. Georgia Constitutional Clause – Veterans may also be entitled to a homestead exemption if they are not entitled to benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs but qualify under Article VII, Section I, Paragraph IV of the Constitution of Georgia of 1976.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-48(a) (3)]

E. Housing under Section 2101, Title 38 – Veterans becoming eligible for assistance in acquiring housing under Section 2101 of Title 38 of the United States Code may be entitled to a homestead exemption. Qualified veterans will need to obtain a verification letter from either the VA or Georgia Department of Veterans Service. Applicants may take proof of their qualifying service, residency, and housing assistance verification to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. A VA certification letter is required.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-48(a) (5)]



### Georgia Residents Homestead Tax Exemptions

Georgia residents may be entitled to a homestead tax exemption whether they are veterans or not. There are a variety of homestead tax exemptions available for all qualifying Georgia residents who own their homes and used them as their primary residence.

These homestead tax exemptions include the following:

A. Standard Homestead Exemption – A \$2,000 deduction from the 40% assessed value of the homestead for all qualifying home owners.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-44]

B. 10 Acre Exemption for 65 and Older – An exemption from all state ad valorem taxes on the home and up to 10 acres of land surrounding the home for those 65 years old or older.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-48-3]

C. \$4,000 Exemption for 65 and Older – A \$4,000 exemption from all state and county ad valorem taxes on the home if the income of the owner and spouse does not exceed \$10,000 for the prior year.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-47]

D. Educational Purposes Exemption for 62 and Older – An exemption not to exceed \$10,000 from all state and county ad valorem taxes on the home if the income of the owner and spouse does not exceed \$10,000 for the prior year.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-52]

E. Floating Inflation Proof Exemption for 62 and Older – A floating inflation-proof state and county homestead exemption, except for taxes to pay interest on and to retire bonded indebtedness, based on natural increases in the homestead's value. If the home has increased by more than \$10,000, the owner may benefit from this exemption. The income of the owner and spouse or any other person living there cannot exceed \$30,000.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-5-47-1]

For more information regarding these exemptions, call the Georgia Department of Revenue at 404-724-7000 or visit: [etax.dor.ga.gov/PTD/adm/taxguide/exempt/homestead.aspx](http://etax.dor.ga.gov/PTD/adm/taxguide/exempt/homestead.aspx).



## Other State Tax Exemptions

### Abatement of State Income Taxes

Georgia law provides that service personnel who die as a result of wounds, disease, or injury incurred while serving in a combat zone as a member of the armed forces of the United States, are exempt from all Georgia income taxes for the taxable year of death, nor shall such taxes apply for any prior taxable year ending on or after the first day served in the combat zone.

[O.C.G.A. § 48-7-37]

### Ad Valorem Tax on Vehicles

Exempt are veterans who are verified by the VA to be 100 percent totally and permanently service-connected disabled and veterans who are receiving or who are entitled to receive statutory awards from VA for: (1) loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet; (2) loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands; (3) loss of sight in one or both eyes; or (4) permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a prescribed degree. Exemption is granted on the vehicle the veteran owns and upon which the free Disabled Veteran (DV) Motor Vehicle license plate is attached.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-2-69]

### Business Certificate of Exemption

Disabled veterans are exempt from payment of occupational taxes, administration fees, and regulatory fees imposed by local governments for peddling, conducting a business, or practicing a profession or semi profession upon meeting the following eligibility requirements: (1) be discharged under honorable conditions from the armed forces of the United States; (2) have 10 percent disability for certain wartime veterans or a 25 percent service-connected disability for peace time-only veterans; and (3) have an income that is not liable for state income taxes.

[O.C.G.A. § 43-12-1 – § 43-12-4]

### Sales Tax on Vehicles

A disabled veteran who receives a VA grant for the purchase and special adapting of a vehicle is exempt from paying the state sales tax on the vehicle (only on the original grant).

[O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3]



### **State Income Tax**

The period of time military personnel served on active duty as members of the armed forces of the United States in combat activities during a period designated by the President plus the next 180 days thereafter are disregarded in determining whether any filing requirement has been performed within the time limit prescribed for filing. For individuals who are hospitalized as a result of an injury or confined as a prisoner-of-war, the period of service in the combat zone, plus the period of confinement and the next 180 days thereafter shall be disregarded in determining whether any filing requirement has been performed within the time limit.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-7-36]

## **Drivers' Licenses**

### **Veterans' Driver's Licenses**

A veteran is entitled to a free veteran's driver's license if he/she meets the Georgia residency requirement, and if the veteran has a discharge under honorable conditions from the armed forces of the United States for service during a recognized period of war or conflict.

There are two ways to meet the Georgia residency requirement. First, if a veteran's military discharge certificate (DD Form 214) shows he/she entered military service from Georgia, and the veteran is a current resident of Georgia, then he/she meets the requirement. Second, if a veteran has been a legal Georgia resident for the past two consecutive years, then he/she meets the requirement.

Honorable military service qualifies if a veteran served on active duty during a period of recognized war or conflict. This includes service in the National Guard or the Reserves, if he/she was placed on active duty during a recognized war or conflict. It does not include periodic transfer from reserve status to active duty for training purposes. Recognized periods of war or conflict include:

- World War II: December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946
- Korea: June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955
- Lebanon Conflict: July 1, 1958 – November 1, 1958
- Vietnam: July 1, 1958 – May 7, 1975
- Berlin Conflict: August 14, 1961 – June 1, 1963.
- Dominican Republic Conflict: April 28, 1965 – Sept. 21, 1966
- Grenada Conflict: October 23, 1983 – November 21, 1983



- Panama Liberation: December 30, 1989 – February 15, 1990
- Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Persian Gulf: August 2, 1990 – ending date unknown at this time

Also, honorable military service qualifies if a veteran is a member or former member of the National Guard and has 20 or more years of creditable service. The veteran should obtain certification from the Adjutant General of the State of Georgia and include it with his/her documentation when he/she visits a Georgia Department of Veterans Service field office.

In order to obtain a free driver's license, a veteran should take proof of his/her qualifying service and residency to a Georgia Department of Veterans Service field office. A Field Service Officer will verify the veteran's eligibility and issue him/her a completed Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516).

Once a veteran receives a completed Certificate of Eligibility, he/she should take the certificate to a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) office, along with documentation of his/her identity, residential address, full social security number, and U.S. citizenship or proof of lawful presence in the United States. A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify the veteran's eligibility, and issue a free veteran's driver's license. DDS also requires a vision exam for renewal after 60 years of age. For more information, call 678-413-8400 inside the Metro Atlanta area; or 866-754-3687 inside Georgia, but outside the Metro Atlanta area or visit the DDS website: [dds.ga.gov](http://dds.ga.gov).

[O.C.G.A. § 40-5-36]

### Honorary Driver's Licenses – Spouses

The spouse of a qualified veteran, whose disabilities preclude him/her from operating a motor vehicle, is eligible for a free honorary driver's license. Residence and qualifying service terms are the same as stated for a free veteran's driver's license.

The surviving spouse of an eligible deceased veteran is also eligible for a free honorary driver's license as long as he/she does not remarry. Residence and qualifying service terms are the same as stated for a free veteran's driver's license.

In order to obtain a free honorary driver's license, one should take proof of his/her spouse's qualifying service and residency to a Georgia Department of Veterans Service field office. One should also provide verification that his/her spouse's disabilities preclude



him/her from operating a motor vehicle; or a copy of his/her spouse's death certificate, whichever is applicable. A Field Service Officer will verify the spouse's eligibility and issue a completed Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516).

The spouse should take the completed Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516) to a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) office, along with documentation of his/her identity, residential address, full social security number, and U.S. citizenship or proof of lawful presence in the United States. A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify his/her eligibility, and issue a free honorary driver's license. DDS also requires a vision exam for renewal after 60 years of age. For more information, call 678-413-8400 inside the Metro Atlanta area; or 866-754-3687 inside Georgia, but outside the Metro Atlanta area or visit the DDS website: [dds.ga.gov](http://dds.ga.gov).

[O.C.G.A. § 40-5-36]

#### National Guard Driver's Licenses

Any member of the Georgia National Guard or Reserve who is in good standing and has completed at least one year of satisfactory service is eligible for a free National Guard Driver's License.

In order to apply, an eligible member should obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (DS-318) from his/her local National Guard Commanding Officer and take it to a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) office, along with documentation of his/her identity, residential address, full social security number, and U.S. citizenship or proof of lawful presence in the United States. A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify his/her eligibility, and issue a free National Guard driver's license.

A member of the National Guard with 20 years of service may also obtain a free veteran's driver's license, if he/she meets the residency requirements at the time of application. Please refer to the eligibility requirements and application procedures described under Veteran's Driver's License section.

For more information, visit [dds.ga.gov](http://dds.ga.gov) or call 678-413-8400 inside the Metro Atlanta area; or 866-754-3687 inside Georgia, but outside the Metro Atlanta area.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-5-36]



## Personal Identification Cards

### Veterans' ID Cards

A veteran who meets the eligibility and residence requirements for a free veteran's driver's license and still cannot obtain one may be eligible for a free veteran's ID card. A veteran is not eligible for a Georgia ID card if he/she possesses a valid driver's license from another state. For clarification regarding eligibility qualifications, please refer to the eligibility and residence requirements listed under the Veteran's Driver's License section.

In order to obtain a free veteran's ID card, the applicant should take proof of his/her qualifying service and residency to a Georgia Department of Veterans Service field office. A Field Service Officer will verify his/her eligibility and issue a completed Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516).

The applicant should take the completed Certificate of Eligibility to a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) office, along with documentation of his/her identity, residential address, full social security number, and U.S. citizenship or proof of lawful presence in the United States. A DDS representative will verify his/her eligibility, and issue a free veteran's ID card. For more information, call 678-413-8400 inside the Metro Atlanta area; or 866-754-3687 inside Georgia, but outside the Metro Atlanta area or visit the DDS website: dds.ga.gov.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-5-103]

### Honorary ID Cards

The spouse of a disabled veteran who meets the eligibility and residency requirements for a free veteran's driver's license and still cannot obtain one may be eligible for a free honorary ID card.

The surviving spouse of a veteran who met the eligibility and residency requirements for a free veteran's driver's license may be eligible for a free honorary ID card as long as he/she does not remarry.

A spouse or surviving spouse is not eligible for a Georgia ID card if he/she possesses a valid driver's license from another state. For clarification regarding eligibility qualifications, please refer to the eligibility and residence requirements listed under the Veteran's Driver's License section.



In order to obtain a free honorary ID card, the spouse or surviving spouse should take proof of qualifying service and residency to a Georgia Department of Veterans Service field office. A Field Service Officer will verify his/her eligibility and issue a completed Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516).

The spouse or surviving spouse should take the completed Certificate of Eligibility to a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) office, along with documentation of his/her identity, residential address, full social security number, and U.S. citizenship or proof of lawful presence in the United States. A DDS representative will verify his/her eligibility, and issue a free honorary ID card. For more information, call 678-413-8400 inside the Metro Atlanta area; or 866-754-3687 inside Georgia, but outside the Metro Atlanta area or go to the DDS website: dds.ga.gov.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-5-103]

## **License Plates**

### **Chosin Reservoir Campaign of 1950 License Plates**

Veterans from the armed forces of the United States who participated in the Chosin Reservoir Campaign of 1950 in North Korea are eligible for a Chosin specialty license plate, if they are Georgia residents. There is a \$25 manufacturing fee. There is no charge for the annual registration fee for this specialty plate. An applicant is also entitled to one additional specialty plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased veteran is also eligible as long as he/she does not remarry.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-2-85.2 (2012)]

### **Commemorative Service License Plates**

Anyone who served during active military combat is eligible for a free commemorative service license plate if he/she is Georgia resident on active duty or a veteran with a discharge from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased active duty member or veteran is also eligible as long as he/she does not remarry.

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee for this specialty plate. An applicant is also entitled to one additional specialty plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing



fee. Applicants will also be required to pay a \$25 annual registration fee for the additional specialty plate.

Qualifying service during active military combat includes active duty service during:

- World War II
  - Korean War
  - Vietnam War
  - Operation Desert Storm
  - Global War on Terrorism  
(as defined by Presidential Executive Order 13289, Section 2)
  - Operation Iraqi Freedom
  - Operation Enduring Freedom
- [O.C.G.A. § 40-2-85.1 (2012)]

### **Disabled Veterans' License Plates**

A veteran is eligible for a free disabled veteran's license plate if he/she is a Georgia resident, has qualifying service in the armed forces of the United States, and meets the disability requirements. Qualifying service includes current active duty service in the armed forces of the United States or a discharge under honorable conditions. The surviving spouse of a qualified veteran is also eligible as long as he/she does not remarry.

In order to meet the disability requirements for free disabled veteran's license plates and revalidation decals, the veteran must be certified by either the VA or an authorized physician as disabled under at least one of the following categories:

- 100 percent totally and permanently disabled
- 100 percent totally disabled – nonpermanent  
(requires annual recertification)
- Loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet
- Loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands
- Loss of sight in one or both eyes
- Permanent impairment of both eyes of the following status: central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective glasses, or central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends on angular distance no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye.

In order to apply for free disabled veteran's license plates, the applicant should either obtain a disabled veteran's license plate entitlement letter from the VA, if he/she has a qualifying service-



connected or non-service-connected rating; or obtain a certified statement from an authorized physician that verifies his/her eligibility under one of the categories listed above.

Applicants who obtain an appropriate VA entitlement letter can apply directly with the Georgia Department of Revenue's Special Tag Unit. Call 404-968-3880 for more information.

Applicants who obtain a certified statement from an authorized physician should take it to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office along with his/her discharge or proof of active duty service and verification of residency.

An eligible person will receive two free license plates or revalidation decals each year for vehicles other than motorcycles. The plates should be fastened to the front and rear of the vehicle. If the applicant has a motorcycle, he/she will receive one plate to fasten on the rear of the motorcycle.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-2-69 and § 40-2-70]

#### Gold Star License Plates

The spouse, mother, father, sibling, child, or step-parent of a service member who has been killed in action while serving in the armed forces of the United States is entitled to a Gold Star specialty plate. Upon payment of all ad valorem taxes and other fees due at registration of a motor vehicle an eligible family member may apply for a Gold Star license plate. One free license plate shall be allowed for the spouse, mother, and father and they may purchase additional license plates for each motor vehicle they register in this state. Siblings, children, or step-parents may purchase Gold Star plates for motor vehicles registered in this state.

Renewal decals shall be issued at no cost to any person that received a free license plate upon the payment of ad valorem taxes and other registration fees, provided that the renewal is applied for on or within 30 days prior to the renewal date of the eligible person.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-2-85.3 (2012)]

#### Military Medal Award License Plates

Anyone whose service during active military combat resulted in the award of one of the qualifying medals may be eligible for a free military medal award specialty license plate if he/she is a Georgia resident on active duty, or a veteran with a discharge from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions.



The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased active duty member or veteran is also eligible as long as he/she does not remarry. There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee for this specialty plate. Applicants are also entitled to one additional specialty plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee. Applicants will also be required to pay a \$25 annual registration fee for the additional specialty plate.

Qualifying medals for the military award specialty license plate include:

- Medal of Honor
- Distinguished Service Cross
- Navy Cross
- Air Force Cross
- Defense Distinguished Service Medal
- Homeland Distinguished Service Medal
- Distinguished Service Medal
- Navy Distinguished Service Medal
- Air Force Distinguished Service Medal
- Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal
- Silver Star
- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Legion of Merit
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Bronze Star
- Purple Heart
- Air Medal

Qualifying service during active military combat includes active duty service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, the Global War on Terrorism as defined by Presidential Executive Order 13289, Section 2, the war in Afghanistan, or the war in Iraq, which includes either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-2-85.1 (2012)]

### National Guard License Plates

Member of the Georgia National Guard are entitled to one free National Guard specialty plate. The surviving spouse of a member of the National Guard who was killed while serving in a combat arena is also eligible as long as he/she does not remarry. There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee for this specialty plate. An applicant is also entitled to one additional



specialty plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee. An applicant will also be required to pay a \$25 annual registration fee for the additional specialty plate.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-2-66 (2012)]

**Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plates**

Veterans of the armed forces of the United States who survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor are eligible for a Pearl Harbor Survivor specialty license plate, if they are Georgia residents. The manufacturing fee for this specialty plate is \$25. There is a \$20 annual registration fee for this specialty plate. Applicants are also entitled to one additional specialty plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee. Applicants will also be required to pay a \$20 annual registration fee for the additional specialty plate. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased veteran is also eligible as long as he/she does not remarry.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-2-85]

**Prisoner of War License Plates**

Former prisoners of war with a discharge from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions are eligible for a free Prisoner of War specialty license plate, if they are Georgia residents. Prisoner of war is defined as a veteran who was captured and held prisoner by forces hostile to the United States while serving in the armed forces of the United States in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased veteran is also eligible as long as he/she does not remarry. There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee for this specialty plate. An applicant is one additional specialty plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee. Applicants will also be required to pay a \$25 annual registration fee for the additional specialty plate.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-2-73]

**Reserve Component License Plates**

An assigned or attached member of troop program units of any branch of the active reserve components of the United States inside or outside the State of Georgia is entitled to one free reserve component specialty plate, which will identify his/her specific reserve military branch of service. A retiree from any branch of the



active reserve components is also entitled. The surviving spouse of a member of the active reserve components of the United States who was killed while serving in a combat arena is also eligible as long as long as he/she does not remarry. There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee for this specialty plate. An applicant is also entitled to one additional specialty plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee. An applicant will also be required to pay a \$25 annual registration fee for the additional specialty plate.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-2-65 (2012)]

#### *Retired Military Veterans' License Plates*

Veterans who retired from active duty with the armed forces of the United States are entitled to one free retired military veteran specialty plate, if they are residents of Georgia. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased military retiree is also eligible as long as he/she does not remarry. There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee for this specialty plate. Applicants are also entitled to one additional specialty plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee. Applicants will also be required to pay a \$25 annual registration fee for the additional specialty plate.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-2-85.1 (2012)]

## **Other Special State Provisions**

#### *Employment Preference*

A 5-point credit is extended to war veterans employed by the State of Georgia. A 10-point credit is extended to veterans employed by the State of Georgia with a VA service connected disability of 10 percent or more.

[5 U.S.C. § 2108]

#### *Guardianship*

The Uniform Guardianship Act provides for appointment of a guardian for incompetent veterans and for veterans' children when VA benefits are involved. These appointments are made on the basis of certificates issued only by VA.

[O.C.G.A. § 29-7-1 – § 29-7-17]



### **Handicapped Parking**

If a disabled veteran's license plate from Georgia, or any other state, is properly displayed on the veteran's vehicle, the veteran is authorized to park in parking areas designated for the handicapped without obtaining special handicapped parking area permits.

[O.C.G.A. § 40-6-224 and § 40-6-226]

### **Hunting and Fishing Licenses**

Georgia residents within certain categories are eligible for free honorary hunting and fishing licenses. Georgia residency is a requirement for a free honorary hunting and fishing license.

A. Returning Veterans – Returning veterans are entitled to a free honorary hunting and fishing license for a period of one year following issuance. Returning veterans are defined as veterans who are discharged from active duty as members of the regular or reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, the United States Coast Guard, the Georgia National Guard, or the Georgia Air National Guard and who was on ordered federal duty for a period of 90 days or longer.

[O.C.G.A. § 27-2-4 (g) (1)-(2)]

B. Permanently & Totally Disabled Veterans – Veterans with a permanent and total disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a physical or mental impairment which prevents gainful employment are eligible. Veterans disabled because of a mental impairment will only be issued a free honorary fishing license. Licenses in effect as of July 1, 1998 do not require renewal. Licenses issued after July 1, 1998 require renewal every three years.

[O.C.G.A. § 27-2-4 (a)]

C. Permanently & Totally Disabled Residents – Georgia residents' who are certified by a recognized agency as permanently and totally disabled for a physical or mental impairment which prevents gainful employment are eligible. Recognized agencies for certification include the Social Security Administration, Medicaid, Medicare, the Railroad Retirement System, or a unit of federal, state, or local government recognized by the board by rule or regulation. Residents disabled because of a mental impairment will only be issued a free honorary fishing license. Licenses in effect as of July 1, 1998 do not require renewal. Licenses issued after July 1, 1998



require renewal every three years.

[O.C.G.A. § 27-2-4 (a)]

D. Totally Blind Residents – Georgia residents who are totally blind are eligible for a free lifetime honorary fishing license.

[O.C.G.A. § 27-2-4 (b)]

E. Residents Age 65 and Older – Georgia residents who are 65 years of age or older are eligible for a free lifetime senior hunting and fishing license.

[O.C.G.A. § 27-2-3.1(f)(E)]

#### Military Commissary Access

If you have been rated as 100% disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a service-connected disability, you are eligible to shop in military commissaries and exchanges once you obtain the proper ID card. In order to get an ID card, applicants will need to obtain a verification letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs and take it to the ID card section of a military installation.

[DoDI 1000.13-6.1.10 & DoDI 1330.17-Encl 4.1.e.]

#### Motor Fuel Service to Handicapped

When there is an option on the price of fuel at a full-service/self-service facility, a station employee, upon request will dispense fuel at the lower price from the self-service pump into vehicles bearing DV license tags if: (1) the handicapped/disabled veteran is driving the vehicle into which fuel is to be dispensed; and (2) the veteran is not accompanied by a person at least 16 years of age who is not blind or has impaired mobility.

[O.C.G.A. § 10-1-164.1]

#### State Park Entrance Fee Reduction

Veterans with a discharge from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions and a rating by the VA for a service-connected disability are eligible for a 25 percent reduction of the entrance fee to state parks, historical sites, and recreational areas, if they are Georgia residents.

In order to apply for a state park discount card, qualified veterans should take a copy of their military discharge certificate (DD Form 214), verification of a VA service-connected disability, and proof of residency to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. A Veterans



Field Service Officer will verify eligibility and forward the application to the GDVS Central Office. Applicants will receive their state park discount card in the mail.

[O.C.G.A. § 12-3-9.1]

### Vital Statistics

Veterans, dependents, or veterans' organizations, may obtain copies of marriage, divorce, birth, and death documents without charge through GDVS, provided the copies are to be used for establishing disability or death claims, and the request is in writing.

[O.C.G.A. § 38-1-1]

## **Veterans Education & Training**

The Veterans Education & Training Division of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service is designated as the State Approving Agency to administer VA On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Apprenticeship Training Programs for the state of Georgia. These programs are special VA educational benefits available as an alternative to college and university related G.I. Bill educational benefits.

Veterans who qualify might receive a total of up to \$4,449 for Reserve Component or \$15,480 for Active Duty veterans in tax free benefits if they complete 24 months of training in an On-the-Job or Apprenticeship Training program.

In order to qualify, a veteran must be eligible for G.I. Bill benefits. The veteran must have an honorable discharge from active duty service or be an actively drilling member of the reserve component currently on a six year contract.

Active duty veterans are eligible for 15 years after being separated. Reserve component members are eligible for 14 years following their initial active duty training.

Reserve component veterans called to active duty for 90 days or more since September 11, 2001, may be eligible under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP). These benefits may apply even if the veteran leaves the component.

Veterans enrolled in OJT or Apprenticeship programs must show they are making satisfactory progress in their training. To demonstrate progress, veterans are required to maintain a written record of their work and training hours for each month. Veterans in



training are required to be present on the job for the same number of hours that others in the company normally work. Veterans are allowed to work overtime or irregular hours. However, a veteran must work at least 30 hours a week or 120 hours during each month to be entitled to full benefit payment for that month.

#### On-the-Job Training (OJT) Programs

On-the-Job (OJT) programs may be approved in a wide variety of entry level jobs. Current approved OJT programs range from law enforcement and administration to mechanics and electrician.

Once approved, a veteran would participate in the OJT program while working under the supervision of his/her employer. The veteran would receive monthly education benefits from the U.S. Department of Affairs in addition to his/her regular salary.

In order to apply, a veteran must be employed full-time with an employer who can provide training in a bona fide trade or skill in which he/she is not already qualified.

#### Apprenticeship Programs

Apprenticeship training is similar to OJT, but includes theoretical instruction as well as practical training. While learning a trade as an ‘apprentice,’ the veteran would be taught by a skilled worker, a ‘journeyman.’ Once approved, he/she would receive VA education benefits while working full-time and earning wages.

Apprenticeship programs differ from OJT in that they are normally two or more years in length. They require a minimum of 144 hours of related classroom instruction per year. The employer, local technical college, union, or the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training usually provides classroom instruction.

The State Approving Agency approves non-registered programs. Both the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training and the State Approving Agency approve registered apprenticeship programs. Some examples of approved programs are carpenter, electrician, brick mason, and plumber.

For more information regarding OJT and Apprenticeship programs, contact:

Georgia Department of Veterans Service  
State Approving Agency  
Floyd Veterans Memorial Bldg.  
East Tower  
Suite E-954



2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE  
Atlanta, GA 30334-4800  
404-656-2306  
[veterans.georgia.gov](http://veterans.georgia.gov)

For more information concerning eligibility for education benefits, contact:

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs  
Atlanta VA Regional Office  
P.O. Box 100027  
Decatur, GA30031-7027  
888-442-4551  
[gibill.va.gov](http://gibill.va.gov)

## **State War Veterans Homes**

There are two skilled nursing care homes for eligible war veterans located in Georgia. One is in Augusta and the other is in Milledgeville. The primary mission of both homes is to provide high quality skilled nursing care to veterans while seeking to improve residents' quality of life and overall health.

Throughout the year, veteran service organizations, civic and fraternal organizations and religious groups demonstrate their concern for the well-being of veteran patients through numerous donations, visits, and sponsorship of frequent activities for nursing home residents.

In order to qualify for admission, veterans must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The veteran must be domiciled in Georgia and have actually resided in Georgia for at least five years immediately preceding the date of application.
- The veteran must have served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States during wartime or during the period beginning January 31, 1955 and ending on May 7, 1975, and have a discharge under other than dishonorable conditions.
- The veteran must be approved as eligible for skilled nursing care by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- The veteran must be free of contagious infectious disease and behavioral and psychiatric problems.
- The veteran must not need to be sustained by line operated



mechanical means.

In order to apply for admission, applicants should contact the Admissions Office of one of the homes or any GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. Beginning January 1, 2013, a nominal fee will be charged to veteran patients of these homes.

### *Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home – Augusta*

The Georgia War Veterans Home in Augusta is a 192 bed skilled nursing care facility located adjacent to the campus of Georgia Health Sciences University, formally known as the Medical College of Georgia. It is also located across from the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center. It is operated under an interagency agreement between Georgia Department of Veterans Service and Georgia Health Sciences University.

Dedicated in 1969, the home was the first of its kind in the nation to be built with financial grant assistance from the federal government. It is one of a select group of such institutions that is accredited by the Joint Commission.

Along with the provision of skilled nursing care, the home serves as a teaching facility to acquaint medical, dental, pharmacy and allied health students with the medical conditions and diseases of the aged. This provides students with practical experience and helps them gain expertise in treating the disabled and the elderly.

Additionally, the home contains a Georgia Department of Veterans Service Field Office to assist veterans in the area with their benefits claims.

Contact information is as follows:

Admissions Office

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home

1101 15<sup>th</sup> St.

Augusta, GA 30901

706-721-2531

[georgiawarveteranshome.org](http://georgiawarveteranshome.org)

### *Georgia War Veterans Home – Milledgeville*

The Georgia War Veterans Home is a 550 bed skilled nursing care facility located on approximately 17 acres in the central Georgia city of Milledgeville. When fully funded, the home provides skilled nursing care in the Richard B. Russell, Carl Vinson, and Joe T. Wood buildings and specialty care for Alzheimer's residents in the Pete Wheeler building.



The home is operated through an agreement with United Veteran Services of Georgia, an affiliate of UHS-Pruitt Corporation, Norcross, Georgia.

Additionally, a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office is located in the first floor of the Wheeler building to assist veterans in the area with their benefits claims.

Contact information is as follows:

Admissions Office  
Georgia War Veterans Home  
2249 Vinson Highway  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
478-445-4295 or 888-453-6836

## **State Veterans Memorial Cemeteries**

The Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemeteries, established for the interment of faithful and honorable military veterans, are shrines recognizing all Georgia veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The cemeteries are greatly revered, not only by the next of kin and family members of those interred therein, but also by patriotic, veteran, military and civic organizations and the general public as well. The cemeteries are administered, operated, and maintained under the highest standards – standards that will require a high degree of vigilance and devotion.

The Georgia Department of Veterans Service accepts this challenge with honor.

There are two Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemeteries located in Georgia. One is in Glennville and the other is in Milledgeville. Both are open for interment of qualified veterans and dependents. Eligibility criteria are the same as for national cemeteries.

In order to be eligible for interment in a Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery, one must meet one of the following requirements:

- A veteran under the rules established by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs with a discharge under other than dishonorable conditions qualifies.
- A member of the Reserves or National Guard who was eligible for retirement pay at the time of death, or who would have been entitled to retired pay, but for the fact that he/she was not at least 60 years of age, is eligible.
- A member of the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States who dies in



the line of duty while on active duty or active duty for training is eligible.

- An eligible veteran's spouse, unmarried dependent under the age of 21, or eligible life-long dependent, may be interred in the same plot as the veteran.

Veterans would be wise to place a copy of their discharge (DD 214) in a place where it will be easy for their family to find. Also include eligibility documentation for dependents and the following information:

- Name and address of veteran
- Daytime and nighttime number of next of kin
- Social Security number
- Date of birth
- Date entered service and date separated
- Branch of service
- Service number (if known)
- Type of discharge
- Highest rank achieved
- Whether veteran is in receipt of VA compensation or pension
- Name, date of birth, and Social Security number or spouse or eligible dependent
- Whether the spouse or eligible dependent wishes to be interred with the veteran

For planning purposes, the following rules apply for interment:

- The veteran's spouse or dependent will normally be interred with the veteran.
  - If the veteran selects interment for cremated remains, the spouse or dependent must also select interment for cremated remains.
  - The next available plot or niche must be selected. Pre-selection of a plot or niche is not allowed.
  - A standard upright, granite government provided marker will be issued to mark the grave for casket burials and in-ground cremations. A small granite cover will be used for cremated remains in the columbarium.

In order to off-set funeral expenses, there is no charge for the plot, vault, and grave marker, or for the use of the committal chapel for the interment service. The vault provided is concrete lined and double depth for the veteran and spouse or dependent. The state will provide perpetual care for the grave site and the cemetery.

Both of the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemeteries contain a welcome center, an enclosed committal chapel, in-ground interment



area, and columbarium all within a scenic main entrance with paved roadways and walkways in a beautiful landscaped setting. The welcome center contains a computerized gravesite locator or the convenience of our visitors.

Business hours for both cemeteries are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Interment hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Cemetery grounds are open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to dusk.

When the time comes, GDVS staff will make the burial process as compassionate and as comfortable as possible. The department pledges to honor the dignity and memory of each person. GDVS staff will ensure the committal service and any other requests are handled respectfully. They will assist family and friends in every way possible during their time of sorrow.

Special provisions are also in place to protect the dignity of the remains of a deceased veteran if relatives cannot be identified and final disposition by cremation is required. In such cases, funeral directors will work closely with veterans' service organizations for the disposition of the cremated remains of the veteran in a state or national veterans' cemetery.

[O.C.G.A. § 38-4-70]

#### Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Glennville

The Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Glennville was dedicated on November 28, 2007. It is situated on the 42.6 acre site of the former Dyess Farm just north of the town center of Glennville in Tattnall County. It is located along U.S. Highway 301, about 25 miles west of Fort Stewart.

Along with the provision of cemetery services, the Welcome Center also contains a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office to assist with veterans' benefits claims.

Contact information is as follows:

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Glennville  
8819 U.S. Highway 301  
Glennville, GA 30427  
912-654-5398

#### Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Milledgeville

The Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Milledgeville was Georgia's first veterans' cemetery. Dedicated in December 2001, it was established on 142 acres the department received from the



Georgia Forestry Commission. It is located along highway 112 about five miles south of downtown Milledgeville.

Along with the regular cemetery services, the cemetery also has a six acre lake and a three acre multitier walled ceremonial area for use by veterans' organizations on remembrance days such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Contact information is as follows:

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Milledgeville  
2617 Vinson Highway  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
478-445-3363

## **State Veterans Benefits Offices**

The Georgia Department of Veterans Service has a dedicated staff of trained experts who are eager to assist veterans with their federal and state veterans' benefits claims and entitlements. They will represent the veterans' interests throughout the claims process, from start to finish, and help them get everything to which they are entitled from the VA or the state. Veterans are invited and encouraged to visit the Claims & Appeals Division or one of the 48 Veterans Field Service Offices.

## **Claims & Appeals Division**

The Claims & Appeals Division is co-located with the VA at the Atlanta VA Regional Office in Decatur. The Veterans' Claims and Appeals Officers on the state staff interface directly with the federal VA employees who adjudicate veterans claims. They will also advise and represent veterans with any VA appeal they might wish to pursue.

For more information, contact:

Georgia Department of Veterans Service  
Claims and Appeals Division  
1700 Clairmont Road  
Decatur, GA 30033  
404-929-5345



## Veterans Field Service Offices

For convenient and personal assistance with veterans benefits, there are Veterans Field Service Offices throughout Georgia staffed by professional Veterans Field Service Officers who will advise veterans at no cost regarding their benefits and represent them with their claims. Most offices are open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30.

### Albany

1303 W. Broad Ave., Albany, GA 31707  
229-430-1797      [veterans.georgia.gov/albany](http://veterans.georgia.gov/albany)

### Americus

1601 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Ste 210, Americus, GA 31719  
229-931-2546      [veterans.georgia.gov/americus](http://veterans.georgia.gov/americus)

### Athens

9249 U.S. Highway 29, Suite D, Athens, GA 30601  
706-369-5630      [veterans.georgia.gov/athens](http://veterans.georgia.gov/athens)

### Atlanta

Floyd Veterans Memorial Bldg., West Tower, Suite 426A  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334  
404-656-5940      [veterans.georgia.gov/atlanta](http://veterans.georgia.gov/atlanta)

### Augusta

1101 15<sup>th</sup> St., Augusta, GA 30901-3196  
706-721-4301      [veterans.georgia.gov/augusta](http://veterans.georgia.gov/augusta)

AND

Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center  
950 15<sup>th</sup> St., Augusta, GA 30901-3196  
706-823-2218      [veterans.georgia.gov/augusta](http://veterans.georgia.gov/augusta)

### Bainbridge

307 East Broughton St., Bainbridge, GA 39817-4003  
229-248-2663      [veterans.georgia.gov/bainbridge](http://veterans.georgia.gov/bainbridge)



**Blairsville**

Blairsville VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
1294 Georgia Highway 515 East, Blairsville, GA 30512  
706-745-6341      [veterans.georgia.gov/blairsville](http://veterans.georgia.gov/blairsville)

**Brunswick**

11 Judicial Lane, Suite 203, Brunswick, GA 31520  
912-262-2345      [veterans.georgia.gov/brunswick](http://veterans.georgia.gov/brunswick)

**Canton**

100 North St., Suite G-20, Canton, GA 30114-2779  
770-720-3538      [veterans.georgia.gov/canton](http://veterans.georgia.gov/canton)

**Carrollton**

Trinka Davis Veterans Village Outpatient Clinic  
180 Martin Drive, Carrollton, GA 30117  
404-321-6111, ext. 2656      [veterans.georgia.gov/carrollton](http://veterans.georgia.gov/carrollton)

**Cartersville**

320 W. Cherokee Ave., Room 105, Cartersville, GA 30120  
770-387-3746      [veterans.georgia.gov/cartersville](http://veterans.georgia.gov/cartersville)

**Cedartown**

142 West Ave., Cedartown, GA 30125  
770-749-2209      [veterans.georgia.gov/cedartown](http://veterans.georgia.gov/cedartown)  
*This office is open only on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.*

**Clarkesville**

6257 Georgia Highway 115, Suite 3, Clarkesville, GA 30523  
706-754-4316      [veterans.georgia.gov/clarkesville](http://veterans.georgia.gov/clarkesville)

**Columbus**

1520 Third Ave. Suite 5, Columbus, GA 31901  
706-649-1266      [veterans.georgia.gov/columbus](http://veterans.georgia.gov/columbus)

**Conyers**

983 Taylor St., Conyers, GA 30012  
770-388-5075      [veterans.georgia.gov/conyers](http://veterans.georgia.gov/conyers)



Cordele

210 Seventh St. South, Room 204, Cordele, GA 31015  
229-276-2366      [veterans.georgia.gov/cordele](http://veterans.georgia.gov/cordele)

Dalton

305 Point North Place, Suite 7, Dalton, GA 30722-1104  
706-272-2355      [veterans.georgia.gov/dalton](http://veterans.georgia.gov/dalton)

Decatur

Atlanta VA Medical Center, Room 1C204  
1670 Clairmont Road, Decatur, GA 30033-4004  
404-728-7611      [veterans.georgia.gov/decatur](http://veterans.georgia.gov/decatur)

Dublin

Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, Room 124-6, Ward 6A  
1826 Veterans Blvd., Dublin, GA 31021-3699  
478-272-4266      [veterans.georgia.gov/dublin](http://veterans.georgia.gov/dublin)

Elberton

Elbert County Office Complex  
45 Forest Ave., Elberton, GA 30635  
706-213-2040      [veterans.georgia.gov/elberton](http://veterans.georgia.gov/elberton)

Gainesville

311 Green St. NW, Room 405  
Gainesville, GA 30501-6060  
770-531-6060      [veterans.georgia.gov/gainesville](http://veterans.georgia.gov/gainesville)

Glennville

8819 US Hwy 301, Glennville, GA 30427  
912-654-5159      [veterans.georgia.gov/glennville](http://veterans.georgia.gov/glennville)

Greensboro

113 N Main St., Suite 117, Greensboro, GA 30642  
706-453-7455      [veterans.georgia.gov/greensboro](http://veterans.georgia.gov/greensboro)  
*This office is open only on Tuesday and Friday.*

Griffin

819 Memorial Drive, Griffin, GA 30223  
770-412-4074      [veterans.georgia.gov/griffin](http://veterans.georgia.gov/griffin)



Hartwell

Courthouse Annex, Room 5  
185 West Franklin St., Hartwell, GA 30643-1594  
706-376-4461      [veterans.georgia.gov/hartwell](http://veterans.georgia.gov/hartwell)

LaFayette

Judiciary Annex  
108-E Villanow St., LaFayette, GA 30728-2519  
706-638-5544      [veterans.georgia.gov/lafayette](http://veterans.georgia.gov/lafayette)

LaGrange

2170 West Point Road, Suite 35, LaGrange, GA 30240  
Phone: 706-845-4095      [veterans.georgia.gov/lagrange](http://veterans.georgia.gov/lagrange)

Lawrenceville

Lawrenceville VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
455 Phillip Blvd., Ste 200, Room 106, Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
404-656-5933      [veterans.georgia.gov/lawrenceville](http://veterans.georgia.gov/lawrenceville)

Lyons

126 W. Grady Ave., Lyons, GA 30436  
912-526-8860      [veterans.georgia.gov/lyons](http://veterans.georgia.gov/lyons)

Macon

653 Second St., Room 203, Macon, GA 31201-2817  
478-751-3186      [veterans.georgia.gov/macon](http://veterans.georgia.gov/macon)

McRae

63 West Oak St., McRae, GA 31055  
229-868-6391      [veterans.georgia.gov/mcrae](http://veterans.georgia.gov/mcrae)

Milledgeville

2249 Vinson Highway, Milledgeville, GA 31059-0941  
478-445-4751      [veterans.georgia.gov/milledgeville](http://veterans.georgia.gov/milledgeville)

Moultrie

101 East Central Ave., Room 127, Moultrie, GA 31768  
229-891-7135      [veterans.georgia.gov/moultrie](http://veterans.georgia.gov/moultrie)



Newnan

22 East Broad St., Room 119, Newnan, GA 30264  
770-254-7260      [veterans.georgia.gov/newnan](http://veterans.georgia.gov/newnan)

Rome

201 Calhoun Ave., Rome, GA 30161  
706-295-6026      [veterans.georgia.gov/rome](http://veterans.georgia.gov/rome)

Savannah

Savannah VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
325 W. Montgomery Cross Roads, Savannah, GA 31406-3309  
912-920-0214 ext. 2191    [veterans.georgia.gov/savannah](http://veterans.georgia.gov/savannah)

Statesboro

3A West Altman St., Statesboro, GA 30458  
912-871-1104      [veterans.georgia.gov/statesboro](http://veterans.georgia.gov/statesboro)

Swainsboro

Emanuel County Office Building, Room 3  
101 North Main St., Swainsboro, GA 30401  
478-289-2617      [veterans.georgia.gov/swainsboro](http://veterans.georgia.gov/swainsboro)

Thomasville

101 South Broad St., Thomasville, GA 31792  
229-225-4050      [veterans.georgia.gov/thomasville](http://veterans.georgia.gov/thomasville)

Tifton

222 Chestnut Ave., Tifton, GA 31793-0534  
229-386-3856      [veterans.georgia.gov/tifton](http://veterans.georgia.gov/tifton)

Valdosta

Valdosta VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
2841 North Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31602-1938  
229-333-2178      [veterans.georgia.gov/valdosta](http://veterans.georgia.gov/valdosta)

Warner Robins

City Hall, Room 206  
700 Watson Blvd., Warner Robins, GA 31093-3414  
478-929-1126      [veterans.georgia.gov/warner-robin](http://veterans.georgia.gov/warner-robin)



**Washington**

104 East Liberty St., Washington, GA 30673-1422  
706-678-2821      veterans.georgia.gov/washington

**Waycross**

415 Lott St., Waycross, GA 31501  
912-285-6340      veterans.georgia.gov/waycross

**Waynesboro**

Burke County Office Park, Room 107  
715 West Sixth St., Waynesboro, GA 30830-0093  
706-554-3874      veterans.georgia.gov/waynesboro

**Itinerant Service**

In some areas where the Georgia Department of Veterans Service is unable to maintain a full-time Veterans Field Service Office, Veterans Field Service Officers from a full-time VFSO are able to provide itinerant service.

Please call ahead before visiting any of these offices, as itinerant service schedules are subject to change. Offices are listed by county, with the VFSO providing service noted in parentheses.

**Atkinson County (Waycross VFSO)**

County Clerks Office, 305 Main St, Pearson, GA  
912-422-3343      First Wednesday 9-3:30

**Bacon County (Waycross VFSO)**

Alma City Hall, 502 W. 12th St., Alma, GA  
912-632-8072      Second Wednesday 9-3

**Barrow County (Athens VFSO)**

Public Safety Bldg., Winder, GA  
770-307-2987      As Needed

**Berrien County (Valdosta VFSO)**

City Hall, Nashville, GA  
229-686-5527      Second Thursday 1-3:30



*Brooks County (Valdosta VFSO)*

County Health Dept., Quitman, GA

229-263-7585      Second Tuesday 9:30-noon

*Catoosa County (Dalton VFSO)*

County Court House, Ringgold, GA

706-272-2355      Second and Fourth Wednesday 9:30-11:30

*Camden County (Brunswick VFSO)*

St. Marys VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic

205 Lakeshore Point, St. Marys, GA 31558

912-510-3440      Every Thursday 9-3:30

*Chattahoochee County (Columbus VFSO)*

211 McNaughton St., Cusseta, GA

709-989-2007      As Needed

*Chattooga County (Dalton VFSO)*

Chattooga County Court House, Summerville, GA

706-857-6952      First, Second, and Third Wednesday 8-4:30

*Clinch County (Waycross VFSO)*

Probate Judge Office, 25 Court Square, Homerville, GA

912-487-5523      Third Wednesday 9-3:30

*Cook County (Valdosta VFSO)*

County Annex, Adel, GA

229-896-2266      Second Thursday 9:30-noon

*Dade County (Dalton VFSO)*

Administrative Bldg., Trenton, GA

423-667-8999      Fourth Wednesday 8-4:30

*Dawson County (Gainesville VFSO)*

City Hall, Dawsonville, GA

706-265-3256      As Needed

*Early County (Bainbridge VFSO)*

Division of Family and Children Services

229-724-2000      Second and Fourth Wednesday 9-1



Emmanuel County (Statesboro VFSO)

County Court House, 101 N. Main St., Springfield, GA  
478-289-2617      Second Thursday 1-3

Fannin County (Blairsville VFSO)

911/Social Security Bldg Top Floor, Blue Ridge, GA  
706-632-2181      First and Third Tuesday 9-3

Gilmer County (Canton VFSO)

Gilmer County Health Dept., Ellijay, GA  
770-983-8971      Second and Fourth Tuesday 1-3

Grady County (Thomasville VFSO)

Department of Labor, 225 5th St., Cairo, GA  
229-377-6526      Every Wednesday 8:30-noon

Gordon County (Rome VFSO)

Army National Guard Armory, Calhoun, GA  
706-295-6026      First and Third Thursday 8:30-4

Jackson County (Athens VFSO)

City Recreation Department, Commerce, GA  
706-335-3236      As Needed

Jefferson County (Washington VFSO)

401 Broad St., Wrens, GA  
706-547-3000      First Wednesday 9-3:30

Lee County (Albany VFSO)

Probate Court, Leesburg, GA  
229-759-6018      As Needed

Liberty County (Glennville VFSO)

Soldier Service Center, 55 Pony Soldier Ave., Fort Stewart, GA  
912-368-6950      Every Wednesday 4:00 to closing

Liberty County (Glennville VFSO)

National Guard Armoy, 611 E. Oglethorpe Hwy., Hinesville, GA  
912-370-2593      Every Thursday 9:00 to 3:00



Lowndes County (Valdosta VFSO)

Family Support Group, Moody AFB, Valdosta, GA  
229-257-4699      Second Friday 10:00 to 12:00

Madison County (Athens VFSO)

Sheriff's Office, Danielsville, GA  
706-795-3644      As Needed

McDuffie County (Washington VFSO)

337 Main St., Roomm 200, Thomson, GA  
706-595-2119      First and Third Thursday 8:30 to11:30

McIntosh County (Brunswick VFSO)

City Police Station, Darien, GA  
912-437-6644      As Needed

Mitchell County (Moultrie VFSO)

County Courthouse, 11 West Broad St., Camilla, GA  
229-336-9866      Third Tuesday 9:00 to 12:00

Oconee County (Athens VFSO)

Probate Court, Watkinsville, GA  
706-769-5167      As Needed

Oglethorpe County (Athens VFSO)

Probate Court, Lexington, GA  
706 743 5350      As Needed

Rabun County (Blairsville VFSO)

Probate Court, Clayton, GA  
706-782-3614      Second Tuesday 9:00 to 3:00

Randolph County (Bainbridge VFSO)

County Courthouse  
229-732-2216      First Wednesday 10:00 to 1:00

Stephens County (Clarkesville VFSO)

Courthouse Annex, 12 W. Tugalo St., Toccoa, GA 30577  
706-282-4525      Every Tuesday and Thursday



**Stewart County (Columbus VFSO)**

200 Broad St., Richmond, GA  
706-649-1266      As Needed

**Terrell County (Albany VFSO)**

Probate Court, Dawson, GA  
229-995-5515      As Needed

**Upson County (Griffin VFSO)**

Govt. Admin Annex, 250 E. Lee St., Thomaston, GA 30286-0504  
706-646-6035      First Wednesday, 9 am - Noon

**Warren County (Washington VFSO)**

48 Warren St., Warrenton, GA  
706-465-3539      First and Third Thursday 1:00 to 3:30

**Wayne County (Glennville VFSO)**

County Commission, 341 E. Walnut St., Jesup, GA  
912-427-5900      Tuesday 9:00 to 3:00

**Worth County (Albany VFSO)**

Probate Court, Sylvester, GA  
229-776-8209      As Needed

## Frequently Asked Questions

**How do I obtain a copy of my DD Form 214?**

The Georgia Department of Veterans Service receives copy #6 (state director's copy) from the veteran's branch of military service, if Georgia is designated to receive a copy shown at the bottom of DD Form 214 in block # 20. Contact GDVS at 404-656-5940.

Veterans, or next of kin if the veteran is deceased, are encouraged to use archives.gov to submit record inquiries via the Internet. This method helps to expedite the response for those who most often need to verify military service quickly to prove eligibility for benefits. Instructions for an eVetRecs user are on the website and are user-friendly. An eVetRecs user must print a signature form, sign and date it, and either fax or mail it to NRPC to activate the request so that their right-to-access can be verified.



*How do I get a certified copy of my DD Form 214?*

You will need to obtain a Standard Form (SF 180), fill it out, sign and mail to the address in block #14 to the Military Records section of the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

To obtain SF 180, contact any Georgia Department of Veterans Service VFSO (see listings on page 28), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (800-827-1000) or archives.gov.

*Who is eligible to receive a Georgia Driver's License?*

Any veteran who is separated from service under "Honorable Conditions" and has served on active duty (not active duty for training) and the state of Georgia was their residence at time of induction or enlistment; or if a veteran has been a resident of Georgia for at least 2 consecutive years proceeding the date of application and meets wartime/conflict eligibility requirements is eligible to receive the free drivers' license. (See page 8.)

An eligible veteran must DD Form 214 to any office of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service for a review and then certification. If you qualify you will be issued a certificate signed by you and the certifying official. This certificate along with DD Form 214, are then taken to any office of the Georgia Department of Public Safety. The DPS 516 cannot be certified by mail, email or fax. You must go into one of our offices located nearest you. (See listings on page 28.)

*How do I obtain Military Medals from service?*

You will need to obtain a standard Form 180 (SF 180), fill out, sign and mail to the Military Records section of the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

To obtain SF 180, contact any Georgia Department of Veterans Service VFSO (see listings on page 28), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (800-827-1000) or archives.gov.

*I have been advised to apply to VA for Compensation. What is Compensation and how do I apply?*

Compensation is a benefit program that evaluates a disability resulting from all types of diseases and injuries encountered because of military service. Generally, the degree of disability specified is also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses. We will be happy to assist you with the application process.



I have been told that I should apply for VA benefits because my husband's death was the result of a service connected disability. What benefits am I entitled to and how do I apply?

The entitlement is referred to as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. This benefit pays a monthly payment to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of a veteran due to the veteran's death being determined as being service connected. We will be happy to assist you with the application process.

How do I locate a veteran?

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Georgia Department of Veterans Service is limited, by law, to the extent that it can help locate a veteran. The VA will try to forward a letter to a veteran, it is up to the veteran to contact the sender of the letter. The proper procedure is to write a letter to the veteran and place it in an unsealed envelope, bearing the veteran's name, with sufficient postage to cover mailing costs. A cover letter to the VA should be included, giving complete identifying information about the veteran, such as his full name, date of birth, last known address, service serial number, VA claim number if known, social security number, last military address, rank and date of discharge.

The request should be mailed to:

VA Regional Office-Atlanta

Attention: Privacy Act Office (211D)

1700 Clairmont Road

Decatur, GA 30330.

If the address is located, the VA will put it on the envelope and forward the letter to the veteran. Should no information be available or the letter is returned to the VA, the writer's original letter, but not the envelope, will be sent back to the requestor by the VA.

What are VA Priority Groups, and how do they affect me?

The number of veterans who can be enrolled in the VA health care program is determined by the amount of money Congress gives VA each year. Since funds are limited, VA set up Priority Groups to make sure that certain groups of veterans are able to be enrolled before others.

Once you apply for enrollment, your eligibility will be verified. Based on your specific eligibility status, you will be assigned a Priority Group. The Priority Groups range from 1-8 with 1 being the highest



priority for enrollment. Some veterans may have to agree to pay copay to be placed in certain Priority Groups.

You may be eligible for more than one Enrollment Priority Group. In that case, VA will always place you in the highest Priority Group that you are eligible for. Under the Medical Benefits Package, the same services are generally available to all enrolled veterans. VA determines your eligibility for VA's comprehensive medical benefits package through its patient enrollment system, which is based on Priority Groups from 1 through 8.

## **Other Agencies**

The benefits and services available to veterans in the state of Georgia are administered through several agencies, which are listed in the relevant sections of this book. For convenience, a summary of these agencies and their contact information is provided below.

### *Georgia Department of Defense*

678-569-3911      gadod.net

### *Georgia Department of Driver Services*

404-657-9300      dds.ga.gov

### *Georgia Department of Labor*

404-232-7300      dol.state.ga.us

### *Georgia Department of Natural Resources*

404-656-3500      gadnrr.org

### *Georgia Department of Revenue*

877-423-6711      etax.dor.ga.gov



*Georgia Emergency Management Agency*

404-635-7000      gema.ga.gov

*Governor's Office of Consumer Protection*

404-651-8600      consumer.georgia.gov

*Georgia Secretary of State*

404-656-2881      sos.georgia.gov

*Georgia Student Finance Commission*

770-724-9000      gsfc.org

*Motor Vehicles Division, Georgia Department of Revenue*

855-406-5221      motor.etax.dor.ga.gov

*Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner*

800-656-2298      oci.ga.gov

*Georgia General Assembly*

legis.ga.gov      mvp.sos.state.ga.us

*Other Agencies of State Government*

1-800-GEORGIA    georgia.gov





# Georgia Department of Veterans Service

Floyd Veterans Memorial Building, Suite E-970  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4800

[veterans.georgia.gov](http://veterans.georgia.gov)  
[facebook.com/gavetsvc](http://facebook.com/gavetsvc)  
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