

Introduction

Georgia is proud of the benefits available to veterans in the state.

This book is intended to provide an overview of these benefits with general explanations and descriptions of each.

For a full understanding of any benefit, as well as assistance applying, please visit any office of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service (GDVS).

The GDVS exists to serve the veterans of Georgia and their families. The department offers a wide range of superb services and programs, including excellent veterans benefits assistance; devoted claims and appeals support; skilled nursing home care; compassionate cemetery committal services; and rewarding veterans education, on-the-job training, and apprenticeship training program management.

GDVS representatives strive to ensure Georgia's veterans receive all of the federal and state benefits to which they are entitled. For more information regarding benefits or other veterans issues, call 404-656-2300 or visit veterans.georgia.gov.

The benefits described in this book are available to Georgia veterans pursuant to the authority of the state constitution, the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, and the authority vested in the GDVS and other state government agencies.

References to specific sections of the law governing certain benefits are included in an appendix at the back of this book.

Please remember – no benefit is automatic; eligible veterans must apply for their earned benefits in order to receive them.

Disclaimer: This book is intended for informational purposes only, and no assurance of benefits is implied. To verify eligibility, please contact the GDVS.

Defining “Veteran”

For most purposes in Georgia law, the term “veteran” is used to mean someone who has, in the past, served in one of the U.S. armed services and is now a civilian.

However, many veterans benefits are limited to those with an honorable discharge or at least require the character of discharge to be other than dishonorable. (These restrictions are noted in the individual benefit descriptions.)

Generally, the term “veteran” does not include anyone currently on active duty. However, some benefits may also be available to those on active duty or to current members of the Georgia National Guard or Reserves. (These exceptions are noted in the individual benefit descriptions.)

Regarding Tax Exemptions

This book describes tax exemptions as they are written in Georgia law. However, the administration of tax exemptions is as interpreted by the tax commissioners of Georgia’s 159 counties.

GDVS personnel will assist veterans in obtaining the necessary documentation for filing, but the actual filing is left to the veteran.

The GDVS makes no guarantees regarding the awarding of tax exemptions.

Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Exemption

This exemption is available to honorably discharged Georgia veterans who are considered disabled according to any of several criteria.

In order to qualify, the disabled veteran must own the home and use it as a primary residence. The exemption extends to surviving unremarried spouses and minor children as long as they remain in the homestead or a subsequent homestead in the same county.



Available to:

- Honorably discharged Georgia veterans considered disabled by any of these criteria:
 - ◆ VA-rated 100 percent totally disabled
 - ◆ VA-rated less than 100 percent disabled but paid at the 100 percent rate due to unemployability
 - ◆ Entitled to receive a statutory award from VA for:
 - 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 *
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans
- Surviving minor children of qualified deceased veterans

** – 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 an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye.*

Per the state constitution, the amount of this exemption is the greater of \$32,500 or the maximum amount allowable under 38 U.S.C. 2101. (The maximum amount is \$60,000 plus an index factor, which currently adjusts the total to \$63,780.)

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 must be filed within three years after the date of payment.

To apply, take proof of qualifying service, proof of residency, and a copy of VA disability rating letter (or letter from an authorized physician) to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. A GDVS service officer will confirm eligibility and issue a letter to be taken to the county tax commissioner's office.

For more information on tax exemptions, visit dor.georgia.gov, call 404-724-7000, contact your county tax commissioner's office, or consult a tax professional.



Other Homestead Tax Exemptions

There are a variety of homestead tax exemptions for Georgians who own their home and use it as their primary residence.

For more information on tax exemptions, visit dor.georgia.gov, call 404-724-7000, contact your county tax commissioner's office, or consult a tax professional.

Standard Homestead Exemption

A \$2,000 deduction for all qualifying home owners.

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 or older.

\$4,000 Exemption for 65 and Older

A \$4,000 exemption from all state and county ad valorem taxes on the home for those 65 and older, provided the income* of the owner and spouse does not exceed \$10,000 for the prior year.

Educational Purposes Exemption for 62 and Older

A \$10,000 exemption from ad valorem taxes for educational purposes for those 62 and older, provided the income* of the owner and spouse does not exceed \$10,000 for the prior year.

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.

* – Certain exclusions may apply



Other Tax Exemptions

Abatement of Income Taxes for Combat Deaths

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 U.S. armed forces are exempt from all Georgia income taxes for the taxable year of death. Additionally, such taxes shall not apply for any prior taxable year ending on or after the first day served in the combat zone.

Ad Valorem Tax on Vehicles

This exemption applies to either the annual property tax or the title tax, whichever is applicable.

This exemption is for veterans who are verified by 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 one vehicle the veteran owns and upon which the free Disabled Veteran (DV) license plate is attached.

Also exempt are veterans who qualify for the Purple Heart or Medal of Honor specialty license plates. (See pages 14-15.)

Business Certificate of Exemption

Georgia veterans are eligible for an exemption from any occupation tax, administrative fee, or regulatory fee imposed by local governments for peddling, conducting a business, or practicing a profession or semi-profession, if they meet all of these conditions:

- discharged under honorable conditions
- service-connected disability rating of 10 percent (wartime veterans) or 25 percent (peacetime veterans)
- income is not liable for state income taxes



Extension of Filing Deadline for Combat Deployment

The tax filing deadline for combat deployed military personnel (those who served on active duty as members of the U.S. armed forces in combat activities during a period designated by the President) is extended until 180 days after such deployment ends.

Sales Tax Exemption for Vehicle Purchase/Adaptation

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).

Driving Licenses

Veteran's Driver's License – Free Version

This special version of a Georgia driver's license includes a U.S. flag and the word VETERAN prominently displayed on the front.

An honorably discharged veteran is entitled to a free veteran's driver's license if two criteria are met: Georgia residency and service during a recognized period of war or conflict.



There are two ways to meet the Georgia residency requirement:

- The veteran entered service from Georgia (as shown on DD Form 214) and is a current resident of Georgia.
- The veteran has been a legal Georgia resident for the past two consecutive years.

To meet the wartime service requirement, a veteran must have served on active duty during any of the recognized service periods. This includes service in the National Guard or the Reserves, if such service included placement on active duty, but does not include periodic transfer from reserve status to active duty for training.

Recognized service periods:

- 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
- Persian Gulf: August 2, 1990 – present

A member or former member of the National Guard with 20 or more years of creditable service also qualifies. The veteran should obtain certification from the Adjutant General of the State of Georgia and include it with the other required documentation.

In order to obtain a veteran's driver's license (free or paid), the applying veteran must take the required documentation to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. A service officer will verify the veteran's eligibility and issue a Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516).

The veteran must then take the completed DS-516, together with all required identifying documents (birth certificate or passport; Social Security card; two documents showing residential address; and, if applicable, name change documentation) to a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) office. A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify the veteran's eligibility, and issue a veteran's driver's license. For more information, call 678-413-8400 (Metro Atlanta) or 866-754-3687 (outside Metro Atlanta), or visit dds.georgia.gov.

Veteran's Driver's License – Paid Version

An honorably discharged veteran who does not meet the criteria (residency or wartime service) to obtain a free veteran's driver's license may obtain the license by paying the standard licensing fee.



National Guard Driver's License

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 the National Guard Commanding Officer and take it, together with all required identifying documents (birth certificate or passport; Social Security card; two documents showing residential address; and, if applicable, name change documentation) to a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) office. A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify eligibility, and issue a free National Guard driver's license. For more information, call 678-413-8400 (Metro Atlanta) or 866-754-3687 (outside Metro Atlanta), or visit dds.georgia.gov.

A member of the National Guard with 20 years of service may obtain a free veteran's driver's license. Please refer to the Veteran's Driver's License section on page 8.

Honorary Driver's License – Spouse

The spouse of a qualified veteran, whose disabilities preclude 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 unremarried spouse of an eligible deceased veteran 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.

In order to obtain a free honorary driver's license, take proof of the spouse's qualifying service and residency to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. Also provide verification of spouse's disabilities that preclude operating a motor vehicle or a copy of spouse's death certificate, whichever is applicable. A service officer will verify eligibility and issue a completed Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516).



The spouse must then take the completed DS-516, together with all required identifying documents (birth certificate or passport; Social Security card; two documents showing residential address; and, if applicable, name change documentation) to a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) office. A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify eligibility, and issue a free honorary driver's license.

Personal Identification Cards

Veteran's ID Card

A 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 veteran's ID card. A veteran is not eligible for a Georgia ID card if in possession of a valid driver's license from another state. For clarification regarding eligibility qualifications, please refer to the Veteran's Driver's License section.

In order to obtain a free veteran's ID card, the applicant must take proof of qualifying service and residency to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. A service officer will verify eligibility and issue a completed Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516).

The applicant must then take the completed DS-516, together with all required identifying documents (birth certificate or passport; Social Security card; two documents showing residential address; and, if applicable, name change documentation) to a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) office. A DDS representative will verify eligibility and issue a free veteran's ID card. For more information, call 678-413-8400 (Metro Atlanta) or 866-754-3687 (outside Metro Atlanta), or visit dds.georgia.gov.

Honorary ID Card

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 unremarried spouse of an eligible deceased veteran may be eligible for a free honorary ID card.



A spouse or surviving spouse is not eligible if in possession of 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 must take proof of qualifying service and residency to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. A service officer will verify eligibility and issue a completed Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516).

The spouse must then take the completed DS-516, together with all required identifying documents (birth certificate or passport; Social Security card; two documents showing residential address; and, if applicable, name change documentation) to a Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) office. A DDS representative will verify eligibility and issue a free honorary ID card.

License Plates: General

To apply for any of these plates, it is necessary to complete Form MV-9W (available at dor.ga.gov/documents/forms) from the Motor Vehicle Division of the Georgia Department of Revenue and take it, along with a copy of your DD Form 214 (or other supporting documentation for certain plates) to your county tax office.

Veteran's License Plate

This plate has a U.S. flag background, the seal of the veteran's branch of service, and the word VETERAN.



Available to:

- Georgia veterans discharged under honorable conditions
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

Woman Veteran's License Plate

This plate has a U.S. flag background, the seal of the veteran's branch of service, and the words WOMAN VETERAN.



Available to:

- Female Georgia veterans discharged under honorable conditions
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

Retired Military License Plate

This plate has a U.S. flag background, the seal of the veteran's branch of service, and the word RETIRED.



Available to:

- Georgia veterans who retired from active duty
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

Commemorative Service License Plate

This plate has a U.S. flag background, the seal of the veteran's branch of service, the name of the conflict, and the campaign ribbon.



Available for:

- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Desert Storm
- Global War on Terrorism
- War in Iraq
- War in Afghanistan

Available to:

- Georgia veterans discharged under honorable conditions
- Georgia residents on active duty
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans and active duty service members

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

Military Medal Award License Plate

This plate has a U.S. flag background, the name of the veteran's branch of service, and the name and image of the medal.



Available for:

- Medal of Honor *
- Distinguished Service Cross (Army)
- Navy Cross
- Air Force Cross
- Defense Distinguished Service Medal
- Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal
- Distinguished Service Medal
- Silver Star

- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Legion of Merit
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Bronze Star
- Purple Heart *
- Air Medal

* – *Special tax provisions apply to these plates; see page 7*

Available to:

- Georgia veterans discharged under honorable conditions
- Georgia residents on active duty
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans and active duty service members

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

Reserve Component License Plate

This plate has a U.S. flag background, the name of the reserve component, and the word RESERVE.



Available to:

- Assigned or attached members of troop program units of any branch of the active reserve components of the United States inside or outside the State of Georgia
- Retired members of any such component
- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased members who were killed while serving in a combat arena

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for one of these specialty plates. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

License Plates: Disabled Veterans

Disabled Veteran's License Plate

This license plate has a U.S. flag background, the International Symbol of Access, and the words DISABLED VETERAN.



Available to:

- Honorably discharged Georgia veterans considered disabled by any of these criteria:

- ♦ VA-rated 100 percent totally disabled
- ♦ VA-rated less than 100 percent disabled but paid at the 100 percent rate due to unemployability
- ♦ Entitled to receive a statutory award from VA for:
 - 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 *

- Surviving, unremarried spouses of qualified deceased veterans
- Surviving minor children of qualified deceased veterans

* – *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 an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye.*

Verification:

- Qualified veterans who obtain a VA entitlement letter indicating the specific disability may apply directly with the Department of Revenue's Special Tag Unit. Call 404-968-3880 for more information.

- Alternatively, qualified veterans may obtain a certified statement from an authorized physician and take it to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office along with discharge paperwork or proof of active-duty service and verification of residency.

Fees:

- There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for this plate. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

- Veterans with a 100 percent service-connected disability rating are exempt from ad valorem taxes on one vehicle. (See page 7.)

License Plates: Special Categories

Chosin Reservoir Campaign of 1950 License Plate

Georgia veterans of the U.S. armed forces who participated in the Chosin Reservoir Campaign of 1950 in North Korea are eligible for this specialty license plate. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased veteran is also eligible as long as not remarried.

There is a \$25 manufacturing fee. There is a \$20 annual fee. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

Gold Star License Plate

Georgians who are family (spouse, mother, father, step-parent, child, sibling or sibling's spouse) of a service member killed in action while serving in the U.S. armed forces are eligible for this specialty license plate.

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for the first plate issued to the spouse, mother, and father who were Georgia residents at the time of death of the service member. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

For all other family members, including family members who were not Georgia residents at the time of the service member's death, a \$25 manufacturing fee and a \$20 annual fee apply to the first and any subsequent plates.

National Guard License Plate

Members of the Georgia National Guard are eligible for this specialty license 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 not remarried.



There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for this plate. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plate

Georgia veterans of the U.S. armed forces who survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor are eligible for this specialty license plate. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased veteran is also eligible as long as not remarried.

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for this plate. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

Former Prisoner of War License Plate

Georgia veterans who are former prisoners of war with a discharge from the U.S. armed forces under honorable conditions are eligible for this specialty license plate. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased veteran is also eligible as long as not remarried.

For purposes of this specialty license plate, “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 U.S. armed forces in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War.

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual fee for this plate. An applicant is entitled to a second plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee in addition to a \$20 annual fee.

License Plates: Motorcycle

Specialty veterans license plates are available for motorcycles. The same rules apply as for passenger vehicle versions. Due to space limitations, specialty veterans license plates for motorcycles include simpler designs than full-size plates.



Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Georgia residency is a requirement for each of the following.

Returning Veterans

Returning veterans are entitled to a free one-year honorary full privilege sportsman's license, including all state paid recreational hunting and fishing privileges.

Eligibility: veterans discharged from active duty as members of a regular or reserve component of any branch of service, as well as Georgia National Guard members ordered to federal duty for a period of 90 days or longer.

Permanently and Totally Disabled

Veterans with a permanent and total disability rating from VA (or another government agency) 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.

Totally Blind

Eligible for a free lifetime honorary fishing license.

Age 65 and Older

Eligible for a free lifetime senior hunting and fishing license.

Hunting and fishing licenses are administered by the Wildlife Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

For more information, visit georgiawildlife.com or call 800-366-2661.



Other Special State Provisions

Driving License Renewal Extension for Combat Deployed

Military personnel on active duty can request a Georgia driver's license/ID card renewal through the mail. Georgia also allows a six-month grace period for a service member whose Georgia driver's license expires while on active duty outside the state.

Employment Preference

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

Handicapped Parking

If a disabled veteran's license plate is properly displayed, the veteran is authorized to park in parking areas designated for the handicapped without obtaining special parking permits.

High School Diplomas for Certain War Veterans

A veteran who failed to receive a high school diploma due to an interruption of education by service in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam is eligible to obtain the diploma.

Apply at the board of education of the school district where the veteran attended high school.

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 a vehicle bearing Disabled Veteran license plates, if the disabled veteran is driving the vehicle and is not accompanied by a person at least 16 years of age who is not blind and does not have impaired mobility.

State Park Entrance Fee Reduction

Georgia veterans with a discharge from the U.S. armed forces under honorable conditions and a VA service-connected disability rating are eligible for a 25 percent reduction of the entrance fee to state parks, historical sites, and recreational areas.

To apply, bring DD Form 214, verification of service-connected disability, and proof of residency to a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office. A service officer will verify eligibility and forward the application to the GDVS Central Office. If approved, the state park discount card will be mailed.

Vital Records

Veterans and their families may obtain copies of marriage, divorce, birth, and death documents without charge, provided the copies are to be used for establishing disability or death claims.

For assistance, contact the Georgia Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Records: 404-679-4702 or dph.georgia.gov.

About the GDVS: Appeals Assistance

The GDVS Appeals Division assists veterans and their families who choose to dispute the disposition of their claims for veterans benefits. Additionally, the division provides support service for claims filed at GDVS Veterans Field Service Offices.

GDVS Appeals Officers can assist a veteran at a personal hearing before the local VA Hearing Officer or before the Travel Section of the Board of Veterans Appeals from Washington, D.C. and the Discharge Review Boards from the Department of Defense Military Service Departments (when convened in Atlanta).

The Appeals Division is located within the Atlanta VA Regional Office Building at 1700 Clairmont Road, Decatur, GA 30033.

Please call ahead before visiting, as this office is open on an appointment-only basis: 404-929-5345



About the GDVS: Education & Training

By law, the Georgia Department of Veterans Service is designated as the State Approving Agency (SAA), responsible for approving and supervising all institutions and establishments in Georgia that offer education and training under the provisions of the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (GI Bill).

Within the GDVS, the SAA function is performed by the Veterans Education & Training Division.

This division is responsible for ensuring that approved institutions and establishments meet and maintain acceptable standards so that eligible persons who attend may receive educational assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

These programs must have SAA approval before veterans and other eligible persons may receive educational benefits (GI Bill) from VA under the authority of Title 38, U.S. Code and Chapter 1606 Title 10.

Federal and state laws require stringent regulatory compliance of all institutions and establishments approved for veterans attendance. The responsibilities of approval, annual inspections, and ensuring corrective action when necessary, constitute a vital function of the Georgia SAA.

The SAA has the function of ensuring educational institutions and establishments meet and maintain acceptable standards so eligible persons who attend may receive educational assistance from VA. This includes all public and private schools and all establishments offering apprenticeship and other on-the-job training.

The satisfactory performance of these duties requires SAA personnel to have extensive knowledge in education administration and a full understanding of the laws and regulations that govern and control the Veterans Educational Assistance Program.



For further information concerning approved universities, colleges, technical and trade schools; flight schools; correspondence schools; apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs, contact any of the SAA staff.

Contact: 404-656-2306 or saaga@vs.state.ga.us.

On-the-Job Training Programs

On-the-Job (OJT) programs may be approved for a wide variety of entry-level jobs. Once approved, a veteran participates in the OJT program while working under the employer's supervision. The veteran receives monthly VA education benefits in addition to 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 the veteran 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 is taught by a skilled worker, a "journeyman." Once approved, the veteran receives 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 SAA approves non-registered programs. Both the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training and the SAA approve registered apprenticeship programs. Some examples of approved programs are carpenter, electrician, brick mason, and plumber.



About the GDVS: War Veterans Nursing Homes

The GDVS operates 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 these homes is to provide high quality skilled nursing care to veterans while seeking to improve their quality of life and overall health.

Eligibility criteria:

- The veteran must be a current Georgia resident and meet one of the following conditions:
 - ♦ Resided in Georgia two years immediately preceding the date of application
 - ♦ Resided in Georgia five or more of the past 15 years
- The veteran must have served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces during one of the following wartime periods:
 - ♦ World War II: December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946
 - ♦ Korea: June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955
 - ♦ Cold War: January 31, 1955 – July 1, 1964
 - ♦ Vietnam: July 1, 1964 – May 7, 1975
 - ♦ Persian Gulf: August 2, 1990 – present
- The veteran must 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.

To apply for admission, contact the Admissions Office of one of the homes or any GDVS Veterans Field Service Office.

A nominal daily fee is charged. Eligible veterans may apply for the federal Aid & Attendance benefit to help offset this fee. For veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 70 percent or higher or whose admission is due to a service-connected condition, the daily fee is paid in full by VA.



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 Augusta University, across from the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center. It is operated under an interagency agreement between the GDVS and Augusta University.

Dedicated in 1969, the home was the first of its kind built with federal financial grant assistance. It is one of a select group of such institutions 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 GDVS Veterans Field Service Office to assist veterans in the area.

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home
1101 15th Street, Augusta, GA 30901
706-721-2405 veterans.ga.gov/gwvnh-augusta

Georgia War Veterans Home – Milledgeville

The Georgia War Veterans Home is a 550-bed skilled nursing care facility comprised of four buildings located on approximately 17 acres. The home provides skilled nursing care and specialty care for Alzheimer's residents.

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

Additionally, the home contains a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office to assist veterans in the area.

Georgia War Veterans Home
2249 Vinson Highway, Milledgeville, GA 31061
478-445-4295 veterans.ga.gov/gwvh-milledgeville



About the GDVS: Veterans Memorial Cemeteries

The Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemeteries, established for the interment of faithful and honorable military veterans, are shrines recognizing all Georgia veterans.

There are two Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemeteries, located in Glennville and Milledgeville, open for interment of qualified veterans and dependents.

Each cemetery includes a welcome center, a chapel, in-ground interment areas, and columbariums connected by paved roadways and walkways in beautiful landscaped settings. Gravesite locators are available for the convenience of visitors.

Eligible for interment:

- Veterans with a discharge other than dishonorable
- Members of the Reserves or National Guard who were eligible for retirement pay at the time of death (or who would have been entitled to retirement pay at age 60)
- Members of the U.S. armed forces killed in the line of duty while on active duty or active duty for training
- Members of the U.S. armed forces who otherwise died on active duty
- Certain other veterans as defined in federal law
- Spouses, unmarried dependents under the age of 21, and eligible life-long dependents of any of the above

Proper paperwork is required to determine eligibility. The veteran's name; rank; serial, social security and VA claim numbers; date of birth and date of death must be provided to cemetery personnel. A copy of the veteran's DD Form 214 or other proof of service is required. A copy of the marriage certificate is required for the spouse to be buried with the veteran.

Standard upright, granite headstones are used to mark the burial sites of casketed and cremated remains. Small granite covers are used to mark the niches of cremated remains placed in columbariums.

Plots, vaults, niches, and markers are provided at no charge. Use of the committal chapel for interment services is also free. The family is responsible for all other expenses.

The vaults provided are concrete-lined and double-depth for the veteran and spouse or dependent. (If the veteran selects interment for cremated remains, the spouse or dependent must also select interment for cremated remains.)

The GDVS pledges to honor the dignity and memory of each person. Cemetery staff will make the interment as compassionate and comfortable as possible, ensuring 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.

Business hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Interment hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Visiting hours are from 8 a.m. to dusk daily, including weekends.

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Glennville

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Glennville
8819 U.S. Highway 301, Glennville, GA 30427
912-654-5398 veterans.ga.gov/gvmc-glennville

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Milledgeville

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Milledgeville
2617 Vinson Highway, Milledgeville, GA 31061
478-445-3363 veterans.ga.gov/gvmc-milledgeville

About the GDVS: Women Veterans Coordinator

To address issues unique to female veterans, the GDVS employs a Women Veterans Coordinator. Please contact 404-929-5345 or 404-656-2300 for assistance.



About the GDVS: Public Information

The GDVS Public Information Division supports the department's internal and external communications and outreach missions, with the ultimate goal of keeping Georgia's veterans and their families informed of important news and events.

The division maintains veterans.georgia.gov, which is home to the department's official news feed and calendar of events as well as the most up-to-date version of this book, directories, and information about the other divisions of the GDVS.

The division continuously updates Georgians about important veterans news via social media. Stay informed by joining the GDVS communities at facebook.com/gavetsvc and twitter.com/gavetsvc.

The division produces informational materials such as this book, brochures, cards, calendars, and other items.

Contact: 404-656-5933 or gavetsvc@vs.state.ga.us.

Veterans Field Service Offices

GDVS Veterans Field Service Offices are located throughout Georgia and staffed by professional service officers who will advise veterans and their families regarding earned federal and state veterans benefits.

Visit veterans.georgia.gov/field-offices for updates and holiday schedules.

In 2016, the GDVS plans to relocate its office in Bainbridge (to a new address in that city) and to open a second office in Decatur. Please contact these offices before visiting.

Albany

1303 W. Broad Ave., Albany, GA 31707

229-430-1797 veterans.georgia.gov/albany

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Americus

1601 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Ste 210, Americus, GA 31719
229-931-2546 veterans.georgia.gov/amicus
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Athens

9249 U.S. Highway 29, Suite D, Athens, GA 30601
706-369-5630 veterans.georgia.gov/athens
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Atlanta

Floyd Veterans Memorial Bldg., West Tower, Suite 460
205 Jesse Hill, Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-5940 veterans.georgia.gov/atlanta
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Augusta

1101 15th St., Augusta, GA 30901-3196
706-721-4301 veterans.georgia.gov/augusta
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Augusta

Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, Room 2-D-105C
950 15th St., Augusta, GA 30901-3196
706-823-2218 veterans.georgia.gov/augusta
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Bainbridge (Moving in 2016)

307 East Broughton St., Bainbridge, GA 39817-4003
229-248-2663 veterans.georgia.gov/bainbridge
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Blairsville

Blairsville VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1294 Georgia Highway 515 East, Blairsville, GA 30512
706-745-6341 veterans.georgia.gov/blairsville
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Brunswick

11 Judicial Lane, Suite 203, Brunswick, GA 31520
912-262-2345 veterans.georgia.gov/brunswick
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday



Canton

100 North St., Suite G-20, Canton, GA 30114-2779
770-720-3538 veterans.georgia.gov/canton
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Carrollton

Trinka Davis Veterans Village Outpatient Clinic, Room E-083
180 Martin Drive, Carrollton, GA 30117
404-321-6111, ext. 2554 veterans.georgia.gov/carrollton
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

Cartersville

320 W. Cherokee Ave., Room 105, Cartersville, GA 30120
770-387-3746 veterans.georgia.gov/cartersville
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Cedartown

142 West Ave., Cedartown, GA 30125
770-749-2209 veterans.georgia.gov/cedartown
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday and Friday; 8 a.m.-noon, Wednesday

Clarkesville

6257 Georgia Highway 115, Suite 3, Clarkesville, GA 30523
706-754-4316 veterans.georgia.gov/clarkesville
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday, Thursday, and Friday

Columbus

1520 Third Ave. Suite 5, Columbus, GA 31901
706-649-1266 veterans.georgia.gov/columbus
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Conyers

983 Taylor St., Conyers, GA 30012
770-388-5075 veterans.georgia.gov/conyers
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Cordele

Crisp County Government Center, Room 204
210 Seventh St. South, Cordele, GA 31015
229-276-2366 veterans.georgia.gov/cordele
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday



Dalton

305 Point North Place, Suite 7, Dalton, GA 30722-1104
706-272-2355 veterans.georgia.gov/dalton
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Decatur

Atlanta VA Medical Center, Room 1C204
1670 Clairmont Road, Decatur, GA 30033-4004
404-728-7611 veterans.georgia.gov/decatur
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Decatur (Second Location -- Opening in 2016)

Atlanta VA Clinic
250 N. Arcadia Road, Decatur, GA 30030
veterans.georgia.gov/decatur
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Douglas

Department of Labor, 70 Lockwood, Douglas, GA 31533-2143
912-389-4898 veterans.georgia.gov/douglas
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

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
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Fort McPherson

Fort McPherson/East Point VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1701 Hardee Ave., S.W., Bldg. 129, Rm. 2C221, Atlanta, GA 30310
404-321-6111, ext. 4997 veterans.georgia.gov/fort-mcpherson
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Gainesville

311 Green St. NW, Room 312, Gainesville, GA 30501-6060
770-531-6060 veterans.georgia.gov/gainesville
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday



Glennville

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery
8819 US Hwy 301, Glennville, GA 30427
912-654-5159 veterans.georgia.gov/glennville
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Griffin

819 Memorial Drive, Griffin, GA 30223
770-412-4074 veterans.georgia.gov/griffin
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Hartwell

194 Cade Street, Suite B, Hartwell, GA 30643
706-376-4461 veterans.georgia.gov/hartwell
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Friday

Hinesville

Hinesville VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
500 E. Oglethorpe Highway, Room C-126, Hinesville, GA 31313
912-408-2900, ext. 2948 veterans.georgia.gov/hinesville
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

LaFayette

Judiciary Annex, 108-E Villanow St., LaFayette, GA 30728-2519
706-638-5544 veterans.georgia.gov/lafayette
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

LaGrange

2170 West Point Road, Suite 35, LaGrange, GA 30240
706-845-4095 veterans.georgia.gov/lagrange
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Lawrenceville

Lawrenceville VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
455 Phillip Blvd., Ste 200, Room 106, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
404-321-6111, ext.1964 veterans.georgia.gov/lawrenceville
9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

Lyons

126 W. Grady Ave., Lyons, GA 30436
912-526-8860 veterans.georgia.gov/lyons
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday



Macon

653 Second St., Room 203, Macon, GA 31201-2817
478-751-3186 veterans.georgia.gov/macon
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Marietta

1150 Powder Springs Street, Suite 350, Marietta, GA, 30064
770-528-3254 veterans.georgia.gov/marietta
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Milledgeville

2249 Vinson Highway, Milledgeville, GA 31059-0941
478-445-4751 veterans.georgia.gov/milledgeville
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Moultrie

101 East Central Ave., Room 127, Moultrie, GA 31768
229-891-7135 veterans.georgia.gov/moultrie
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Newnan

22 East Broad St., Room 119, Newnan, GA 30264
770-254-7260 veterans.georgia.gov/newnan
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Oakwood

Oakwood VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
4175 Tanners Creek Drive, Suite 111, Flowery Branch, GA 30542
404-321-6111, ext. 8225 veterans.georgia.gov/oakwood
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

Rome

201 Calhoun Ave., Rome, GA 30161
706-295-6026 veterans.georgia.gov/rome
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

St. Marys

St. Marys VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
205 Lakeshore Point, St. Marys, GA 31558
912-510-3440 veterans.georgia.gov/st-marys
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday



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
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Statesboro

3A West Altman St., Statesboro, GA 30458
912-871-1104 veterans.georgia.gov/statesboro
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Swainsboro

Emanuel County Office Building, Room 3
101 North Main St., Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-289-2617 veterans.georgia.gov/swainsboro
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Thomasville

406 Smith Ave., Thomasville, GA 31792
229-225-4050 veterans.georgia.gov/thomasville
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Tifton

222 Chestnut Ave., Tifton, GA 31793-0534
229-386-3856 veterans.georgia.gov/tifton
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Valdosta

Valdosta VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
2841 North Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31602-1938
229-333-2178 veterans.georgia.gov/valdosta
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Warner Robins

Georgia Veterans Education Career Transition Resource Center
1001 South Armed Forces Blvd., Warner Robins, GA 31088
478-293-1005 veterans.georgia.gov/warner-robins
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Washington

104 East Liberty St., Washington, GA 30673-1422
706-678-2821 veterans.georgia.gov/washington
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday



Waycross

415 Lott St., Waycross, GA 31501

912-285-6340 veterans.georgia.gov/waycross

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Waynesboro

Burke County Office Park, Room 107

715 West Sixth St., Waynesboro, GA 30830-0093

706-554-3874 veterans.georgia.gov/waynesboro

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Satellite Locations

In some areas where the Georgia Department of Veterans Service is unable to maintain a full-time Veterans Field Service Office, GDVS personnel provide itinerant service to satellite locations.

For a list of current satellite locations and itinerant service schedules, please visit veterans.georgia.gov/satellite-locations or contact your nearest GDVS Veterans Field Service Office.

Other State Agencies Assisting Veterans

Besides the GDVS, there are several state agencies with interests in assisting veterans.

Many are members of the Returning Veterans Task Force (RVTF), an intra-state task force that investigates how Georgia's state government agencies can coordinate services to better assist service members transitioning from active duty back into society.

Including the GDVS, which coordinates the group, the RVTF is comprised of 11 agencies.

Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia

• Assists in the development of veterans treatment courts

404-656-5171 gaaccountabilitycourts.org



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

- Provides treatment and support services to people with mental health challenges and substance use disorders, and assists individuals who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

404-657-2252 dbhdd.georgia.gov

Georgia Department of Community Health

- Provides Georgians with access to affordable, quality health care through effective planning, purchasing, and oversight.

404-656-4507 dch.georgia.gov

Georgia Department of Defense

- Coordinates and supervises all agencies and functions of the Georgia National Guard, including the Georgia Army National Guard, the Georgia Air National Guard, and the Georgia State Defense Force.

678-569-3911 gadod.net

Georgia Department of Human Services

- Delivers a wide range of human services designed to promote self-sufficiency, safety, and well-being for all Georgians.

- Gives priority to veterans for enrollment in Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which serves the unemployed age 55 and older looking to re-enter the workforce.

844-694-2347 dhs.georgia.gov

Georgia Department of Labor

- Offers assistance to job-seeking veterans and their families, including job search workshops, résumé and cover letter assistance, and resources for transitioning into the civilian workforce.

404-232-3527 dol.georgia.gov

Georgia Secretary of State

- Engages veterans in the elections process as members of the electorate and volunteers at the polls.

- Assists veterans in navigating the processes of applying for business, corporate, and other professional licensing.

404-656-2881 sos.georgia.gov



Technical College System of Georgia

- Provides support for veterans pursuing education
404-679-1600 tcsge.edu

University System of Georgia

- Provides support for veterans pursuing education
404-962-3000 usg.edu

Workforce Division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development

- Offers assistance through Operation: Workforce, a program through which veterans can find tools to translate their military occupational classifications into civilian jobs and search for career opportunities with employers who have pledged to hire veterans.
404-962-4069 operationworkforce.com

For more information on RVTF agencies and the services they provide, visit veterans.georgia.gov/rvtf.

Other State Agencies of Interest to Veterans

Georgia Department of Driver Services

- Offers commercial and regular passenger vehicle driver's licenses, driver's permits, and state identification cards.
404-657-9300 dds.georgia.gov

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

- Protects, conserves and enhances the state's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations.
404-656-3500 gadnr.org

Georgia Department of Revenue

- Offers information about taxes for individuals, corporations, and tax professionals.
855-406-5221 dor.georgia.gov

For general information on other Georgia state government agencies, call 1-800-GEORGIA or visit veterans.georgia.gov/agencies.



Appendix: Frequently Asked Questions

Records

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

If your Home of Record is listed as Georgia, the Georgia Department of Veterans Service should have a copy of your DD Form 214 on file. Contact the GDVS at 404-656-5940 to request a copy.

If your Home of Record is listed as another state, you may file a request via the National Archives: archives.gov/veterans.

If you are requesting a DD Form 214 for a family member, the request must be filed via the National Archives.

How do I obtain military medals from service?

You will need to complete a Standard Form 180 (SF 180), sign and mail it to the Military Records section of the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO. For assistance, you may contact any GDVS Veterans Field Service Office, call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at 800-827-1000, or visit archives.gov/veterans.

How do I obtain a Vietnam War Certificate of Honor?

As part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, the State of Georgia and the GDVS want to honor every Vietnam War veteran in the state.

The Vietnam War Certificate of Honor is available to every Georgia veteran with honorable service during the Vietnam War. This includes veterans with service in country and those who served in other capacities.

Each certificate is personalized with the Vietnam War veteran's name, rank, branch of service, and dates of service printed over the Seal of the State of Georgia and includes the official U.S. Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemorative Partner logo.

To learn more or apply for a certificate, contact the GDVS Commemoration Office at certificates@vs.state.ga.us or 404-463-3080.

What is a Veteran Identification Card? How do I get one?

The Veterans Identification Card Act 2015 (Public Law 114-31) was enacted on July 20, 2015. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is responsible for administering this program.

Service Connected, POW, and Purple Heart indicators will be available on the new identification card.

As of April 7, 2016, VA is drafting regulations and developing procedures and expects to implement the program in 2017.

Federal Benefits

Can the GDVS help me apply for federal veterans benefits?

Absolutely. GDVS personnel are certified to counsel veterans on their eligibility for federal veterans benefits and assist them in applying. Further, if the initial claim is denied, the GDVS can assist in the appeals process. Find an office near you by visiting veterans.ga.gov/field-offices.

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. The GDVS is happy to assist with the application process. Find an office near you by visiting veterans.ga.gov/field-offices. For additional information, see the compensation topic at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website, va.gov.

My spouse died 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 (DIC). This benefit pays a monthly payment to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of a veteran whose death was determined to be service-connected. The GDVS is happy to assist with the application process. Find an office near you by visiting veterans.ga.gov/field-offices. For additional information, see the DIC topic at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website, va.gov.

I was exposed to Agent Orange during my service.

What benefits am I entitled to, and how do I apply?

The chemical defoliate Agent Orange is closely associated with Vietnam, as it was used extensively in the jungles and adjoining regions. Any veteran who served in Vietnam is presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange. (Such “boots on the ground” service includes traveling certain waterways and adjacent areas.) Also presumed exposed are members of the Air Force and Air Force Reserve who worked on contaminated aircraft. Agent Orange was also deployed in the Korean demilitarized zone during 1968-71.

There are 14 medical conditions linked to Agent Orange exposure. (See the list at publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions.) A veteran who develops one of these conditions may be eligible for compensation and medical care.

The GDVS is happy to assist with the application process. Find an office near you by visiting veterans.ga.gov/field-offices.



Veterans in Georgia

How many veterans live in Georgia?

As of September 30, 2015, the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics estimated 752,449 veterans living in Georgia.

For more in-depth figures, including county-by-county breakdowns, visit the NCVAS website: va.gov/vetdata.

Can I have a list of all the veterans in an area?

The Georgia Department of Veterans Service does not maintain a list of all veterans living in Georgia. While we do maintain lists of veterans receiving services or assistance, that information is confidential and is not available to the public.

What information is available about Georgians killed in action?

Lists of all veteran casualties with a Home of Record in Georgia are currently being developed. Anyone interested in using these lists will be able to search for information by what conflict they served in, the county of the Home of Record, and year of death.

When these lists are completed, they will become available at veterans.georgia.gov/history.

How do I locate a veteran?

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Georgia Department of Veterans Service are limited, by law, to the extent they can help locate a veteran. VA will try to forward a letter to a veteran, but 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. Forward that letter and envelope to VA. Include a cover letter detailing as much identifying information about the veteran as possible: full name, date of birth, last known address, service serial number, VA claim number, Social Security number, last military address, rank, and date of discharge.

Mail the request to: VA Regional Office-Atlanta, Attention: Privacy Act Office (211D), 1700 Clairmont Road, Decatur, GA 30330.

VA will forward the letter to the veteran's address if it is known. If the address is unknown or if the letter is returned undeliverable, VA will return the writer's original letter.

Can you put me in touch with a veterans service organization?

GDVS maintains a list of the major veterans service organizations operating in Georgia. Visit veterans.ga.gov/vso-leadership.



Employment

How do I find a job with the GDVS?

As vacancies occur within the GDVS, they are announced and recruited via the Team Georgia Careers website: team.georgia.gov/careers. This is the primary recruiting site for job vacancies in Georgia state government agencies.

What other job resources are available from the state?

The Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) offers assistance to job-seeking veterans and their families. Job search workshops, résumé and cover letter assistance, and resources for transitioning into the civilian workforce are a few of the services provided for veterans.

Find more information at the GDOL's Veteran Assistance topic at dol.state.ga.us/js/find_vet_info.htm.

Aren't there companies specifically looking for veterans?

Job-seeking veterans may also be interested in Operation: Workforce, a program developed by the Workforce Division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development specifically to connect job-seeking veterans with employers who want to hire them.

Veterans can find tools to translate their military occupational classifications into civilian jobs and search for career opportunities with employers who have pledged to hire veterans.

Sign up as a job-seeker at operationworkforce.com.

How do I hire a veteran?

Operation: Workforce is a program developed by the Workforce Division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development specifically to connect job-seeking veterans with employers who want to hire them.

Sign up as an employer at operationworkforce.com.

Feedback

How can I provide feedback?

If you would like to report a problem, make a suggestion, give a compliment, or otherwise convey feedback on your experience with GDVS Veterans Field Service Office personnel, please use the form at veterans.ga.gov/feedback.

For any other issue, please direct your comments to the GDVS Public Information Division at gavetsvc@vs.state.ga.us. Your feedback will be forwarded to the appropriate office.



Appendix: O.C.G.A. References

The following are references to the specific sections of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated wherein the relevant law may be found: e.g., the law pertaining to Veterans Driving Licenses is found in Title 40, Chapter 5, Article 2, abbreviated as: O.C.G.A. 40-5-36.

To search the O.C.G.A., visit lexisnexus.com/hottopics/gacode.

Homestead Tax Exemptions

Disabled Veterans
O.C.G.A. 48-5-48
O.C.G.A. 48-5-380

Standard Homestead Exemption
O.C.G.A. 48-5-44

10-Acre Exemption for 65 and Older
O.C.G.A. 48-5-48-3

\$4,000 Exemption for 65 and Older
O.C.G.A. 48-5-47

Educational Purposes Exemption for 62 and Older
O.C.G.A. 48-5-52

Floating Inflation-Proof Exemption for 62 and Older
O.C.G.A. 48-5-47-1

Other Tax Exemptions

Abatement of State Income Taxes
O.C.G.A. 48-7-37

Ad Valorem Tax on Vehicles
O.C.G.A. 40-2-69

Business Certificate of Exemption
O.C.G.A. 43-12-1
O.C.G.A. 43-12-2

Sales Tax on Vehicles
O.C.G.A. 48-8-3

State Income Tax
O.C.G.A. 40-7-36

Driving Licenses/ID Cards

Veteran's Driver's License
O.C.G.A. 40-5-36

Veteran's ID Card
O.C.G.A. 40-5-103

License Plates

Veteran
O.C.G.A. 40-2-85.1

Woman Veteran
O.C.G.A. 40-2-85.1

Retired Military
O.C.G.A. 40-2-85.1

Commemorative Service
O.C.G.A. 40-2-85.1

Military Medal
O.C.G.A. 40-2-85.1

Purple Heart
O.C.G.A. 40-2-84
O.C.G.A. 48-5-478.2.

Medal of Honor
O.C.G.A. 40-2-68

Reserve Component
O.C.G.A. 40-2-65

Disabled Veteran
O.C.G.A. 40-2-69
O.C.G.A. 40-2-70
O.C.G.A. 48-5-478

Chosin Reservoir
O.C.G.A. 40-2-85.2.