

State Senator
JOHN RAFFERTY

Veterans Programs & Services Update



44TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Dear Veteran,

Pennsylvania is home to more than 1.5 million veterans – ordinary people who were called upon to do something greater than themselves, and who answered that call.

Historically, Pennsylvanians have answered the call to defend freedom in astounding numbers. Our Commonwealth is home to one of the largest veteran populations in the nation.

I believe we have an obligation to all veterans to honor their service and contributions both in peace and war. That's why I have been a steadfast supporter of veterans programs, benefits, and organizations.

With that in mind, I'd like to provide you information on the more recent state programs and initiatives available to veterans, especially those living with a disability.

Of all the issues that come before the General Assembly, few are as important as meeting the needs of veterans who risked their lives for our nation.

I hope you find this information useful. And if I can ever be of assistance to you, please call or stop by my district office.

STATE BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

Veterans Emergency Assistance

This assistance provides aid on an emergency and temporary basis (not to exceed three months) to veterans for the necessities of life (food, shelter, fuel and clothing) to honorably discharged veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Widows, infant children or dependents who are sick, disabled or without means are also eligible.

The applicant must be a legal, permanent resident of Pennsylvania. Upon recent death of a veteran, his or her widow or orphan children are eligible provided the veteran would have qualified prior to death. For more information, call (717) 861-8909.

Real Estate Tax Exemption

Any honorably discharged, Pennsylvania resident veteran, who has a 100 percent service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Veterans Administration as a result of wartime military service, will be exempt from the payment of all real estate taxes levied upon the building and the land occupied by the veteran as a principal dwelling.

The dwelling must be owned by the veteran solely or jointly with a spouse, and the need for the exemption from the payment of real estate taxes must have been determined by the State Veterans commission.

Upon the death of a veteran, the tax exemption passes on to the unremarried surviving spouse. For more information, call (717) 861-8907.

Birth and Death Records

Certified copies of birth and death records are issued to veterans and their dependents without cost by the Division of Vital Statistics, P.O. Box 1528, 101 South Mercer Street, New Castle, PA 16103, or telephone (724) 656-3100.

PENSIONS

Paralyzed Veterans Pension

Requirements to receive a monthly pension are as follows:

- entered military service in Pennsylvania and currently resides in the state; and,
- suffered an injury or disease resulting in the loss of or use of two or more extremities (arms/hands or legs/feet) during an established period of war, armed conflict or combat-related activities in peacetime.

For further information, call (717) 861-8911.

Blind Veterans Pension

Requirements to receive a monthly pension are as follows:

- honorably discharged;
- gave Pennsylvania as his or her place of residence at the time of entering the military or naval forces of the United States; and,
- suffered an injury or incurred a disease at the time of service which resulted in blindness to the extent that he or she has 3/60 or 10/200 or less normal vision.

For further information, call (717) 861-8911.

RECREATION

Free Fishing Licenses

To be eligible for a free fishing license, a veteran:

- must be a resident of Pennsylvania who has a disability incurred in war or armed conflict; and,
- must have suffered the loss of or loss of use of one or more limbs, total blindness, or who is certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration as being 100 percent disabled during service duty.

Applications for a free fishing license may be made to a county treasurer or the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Applicants should have VA certification, discharge papers, and proof of wartime service.

Free Hunting Licenses



To be eligible for a free hunting license, a veteran:

- must have a disability that consists of the loss of or use of one or more limbs; and,
- must present a physician's certificate, discharge papers and proof of wartime service. The application for a free hunting license contains a statement that the applicant is a war veteran and that his/her disability was service-incurred. The county treasurer may also require an applicant's discharge papers.

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Antlerless Deer License

Qualifying disabled veterans who are residents of Pennsylvania can receive an antlerless deer license upon application to the county treasurer of their choice, regardless of the county allocation.

The fee for this guaranteed disabled veteran antlerless deer license is the same as the regular or military antlerless deer.

EDUCATION**Grants for Veterans and POW/MIA Dependents**

Qualified veterans of the U.S. Armed Services are eligible for consideration for state grants while they are full-time, undergraduate students. Veterans must be Pennsylvania residents and meet other PHEAA eligibility requirements.

Dependent children of members or former members of the U.S. Armed Services who served on active duty after January 31, 1955, who are listed as missing in action, and who were residents of Pennsylvania for at least 12 months prior to active duty are eligible for undergraduate state grants. For more information, call toll-free 1-800-692-7392.

Educational Gratuity

Payments of educational gratuities are for children of honorably discharged veterans who have been certified by the United States Veterans Administration as having wartime service-connected disabilities rated as totally and permanently disabled or children of veterans who die and have died of war service connected disabilities. For more information, call (717) 861-8910.

MOTOR VEHICLES

For requests and questions on the following information, call toll-free 1-800-932-4600.

Vehicle Registration

On the application of a disabled veteran whose service-connected disability is certified at 100 percent by the U.S. Veterans Administration, the Department of

Transportation will issue a special registration plate designating the vehicle as belonging to a disabled veteran or a severely disabled veteran.

Purple Heart Recipient/Ex-Prisoner of War License Plates

Any former POW or Purple Heart recipient owning a vehicle may apply for these plates. The plates may be used for a passenger car or truck with a registered gross weight of not more than 9,000 lbs.

When registering a vehicle, the applicant must pay a nominal fee to cover the cost of processing for issuing or renewing the registration.

Parking Placard

No fee is charged to a veteran with a disability certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration as service-connected for a parking placard designating the vehicle as used by a disabled person.

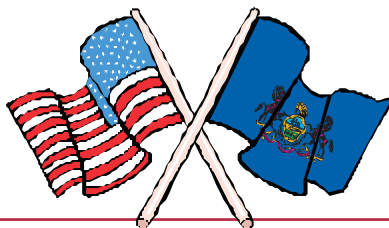
Use of the parking placard is restricted to passenger vehicles and vehicles with registered gross weight of no more than 9,000 pounds.

EMPLOYMENT**Civil Service Preference**

Honorably discharged veterans receiving a passing score on a State Civil Service examination are given an additional ten points on initial appointment only. Widows of veterans and wives of disabled service-connected veterans are also extended the same preferential rating. For more information, contact the Civil Service Commission, P.O. Box 569, Harrisburg, PA 17120, or call (717) 787-6039.

Veterans Employment

Veterans employment representatives are located throughout the Commonwealth. These representatives will assist veterans



with job counseling and placement information. For assistance, contact your local Employment Office.

State Retirement

Honorably discharged veterans employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a period of three years may buy back their time spent in the U.S. Armed Services (not to exceed five years) for retirement purposes.

ASSISTANCE AGENCIES**PA Bureau for Veterans Affairs**

Toll Free 1-800-547-2838

Governor's Veterans Outreach & Assistance Center

25 Moser Road • Pottstown, PA 19464
Toll-Free 1-800-247-2323

Miscellaneous

INDIANTOWN GAP NATIONAL CEMETERY
Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003-5002
Phone: (717) 865-5254

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICAN GENERAL INFORMATION LINE

Recording takes name and sends information about Agent Orange and veterans programs. Toll Free 1-800-827-1000.

State Veterans Homes

To be eligible, a veteran:

- must have served in the U.S. Forces or Pennsylvania Military Forces;
- must be honorably discharged; and,
- must be a Pennsylvania resident.

Applications are processed on a "first come, first served" basis. For more information or applications, contact your county Director of Veterans Affairs.

SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
Veterans Center • Veterans Drive
Spring City, PA 19475
(610) 948-2401

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS - FOR INFORMATION ON ALL BENEFITS CONTACT...**Berks County**

1901 Tulpehocken Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610
Edward Rodwell, Director
(610) 378-5601

Chester County

Gov. Serv. Ctr. Suite 385
601 Wettstown Rd.
West Chester, PA 19382-4545
F. Rodney Loper, Director
(610) 344-6375

Montgomery County

Montgomery County
Human Services Center
1430 DeKalb Street • P. O. Box 311,
Norristown, PA 19404-0311
Jim Seador, Director • (610) 278-3285



Collegeville Professional Center
3770 Ridge Pike
Collegeville, PA 19426
(610) 831-8830
FAX (610) 831-8837

SENATOR JOHN C. RAFFERTY, JR.
44TH DISTRICT

The Shoppes at Pughtown
2325 Pottstown Pike
Pottstown, PA 19465
(610) 469-8390
FAX (610) 469-8394

Senate Box 203044
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3044
(717) 787-1398
FAX (717) 783-4587
TTY (800) 364-1581