



Indiana Veterans Benefits Guide

STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS



Distributed by State Representative

Lisa Beck

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NOTE:

This document is not intended to be legal advice, but to give you some guidance. You are HIGHLY advised to get an attorney of your choosing. The Coalition for Court Access may be able to point you in the right direction to get assistance:
<https://indianalegalhelp.org>

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

The service organizations listed below are accredited to represent veterans and their dependents in the filing of claims. All offices are located at: 575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

American Legion

RM 325 317-916-3605

AMVETS

RM 314 317-916-3612

Disabled American Veterans

RM 324 317-916-3615

Military Order of the Purple Heart

RM 312 317-916-3625

Paralyzed Veterans of America

RM 313 317-916-3626

Veterans of Foreign Wars

RM 319 317-916-3629

Vietnam Veterans of America

RM 305T

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The mission of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is to assist Hoosier Veterans, service personnel, their dependents and/or survivors in obtaining every benefit and advantage due them under the laws of the State of Indiana and the United States. The definition of “Hoosier veteran” includes an individual who: (1) is a resident of Indiana; (2) served in a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard; and (3) completed any required military occupational specialty training and was not discharged or separated from the armed forces or the Indiana National Guard under dishonorable or other than honorable conditions. The Department works with a network of certified County Veteran Service Officers who assist veterans with information and preparation of paperwork at no cost.

302 W. Washington Street, Room E120, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Telephone: 317-232-3910

Fax: 317-232-7721

TOLL FREE (In State): 1-800-400-4520

Website: in.gov/dva

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE

575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-1581

Telephone toll free: 1-800-827-1000

Website: www.benefits.va.gov/indianapolis

• INDIANA BENEFITS •

DIAL 2-1-1 or Visit in211.org for Assistance

The telephone 2-1-1 dialing code for human services information provides assistance concerning: (1) domestic violence; (2) infant mortality; **(3) veterans**; (4) senior citizens; (5) vulnerable children; and (6) public health.

Tuition and Fee Exemption

There are three State Aid Programs for Tuition and Fee Exemption administered by IDVA through Scholar Track. Students must be eligible for the resident tuition rate for state supported schools in Indiana to use these state aid programs. All students must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before applying for these benefits in Scholar Track (see page 5).

1. Tuition and Fee Exemption for the Child(ren) of a Disabled Veteran or POW/MIA or Purple Heart Recipients

The Tuition and Fee Exemption for Children of Disabled Veterans and Children of Purple Heart Recipients provides up to 100% of tuition and regularly assessed fees for up to 124 semester credit-hours at Indiana public colleges and universities at the undergraduate resident tuition rate. Full program requirements listed at www.in.gov/che/4517.htm and www.in.gov/che/4994.htm.

Documents needed for eligibility determination:

- a. Proof of relationship to the veteran (step-children are not eligible for this benefit)
- b. A DD214 showing veteran's wartime service OR award of Service, Campaign or Expeditionary Medal if all active duty was during peacetime and equally hazardous duty was performed. If the student is applying as the child of a Purple Heart recipient or child of a POW, and the veteran is not service-connected disabled, proof of award of the Purple Heart Medal or POW status is required
- c. USDVA service-connected disability rating award letter

2. Tuition and Fee Exemption for Indiana Purple Heart Recipients

The Tuition and Fee Exemption for Indiana Purple Heart Recipients provides up to 100% of tuition and regularly assessed fees for up to 124 semester credit-hours at Indiana public colleges and universities at the undergraduate resident tuition rate. Full program requirements listed at www.in.gov/che/4521.htm.

Documents needed for eligibility determination:

- a. Proof of award of the Purple Heart Medal if not already annotated on the DD214 or DD215
- b. DD214 showing an Indiana Home of Record address at the time of entry

3. Tuition and Fee Exemption for Former Students of the Morton Memorial High School/ Soldier's and Sailor's Home

The Commission of Higher Education offers a supplement to other state grants by guaranteeing 100% of tuition and regularly assessed fees for students who are former students and/or graduates of Morton Memorial High School and former residents of the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home (ISSCH). In addition, remission for the cost of course-related books is available, up to \$600 per term. IDVA will verify the student's attendance at the Morton Memorial High School from the cumulative list IDVA has on file. No documents need be uploaded when applying for this program. Full program requirements listed at www.in.gov/che/4522.htm.

How to apply for tuition and fee exemption at scholartrack.in.gov

All students should create an account in Scholar Track. Once the account is verified the student can access their account and apply for the appropriate state aid program. Parents cannot apply for the student – it must be done under the student's account. Before the student submits the application, proof of relationship to the veteran parent must be uploaded or the application cannot be processed. A birth certificate, Consulate Report of Birth Abroad, or appropriate adoption paperwork are all acceptable. All documents need to list the veteran parent. If available, please also upload proof of veteran's active duty wartime service and proof of service connected disability and, if needed, proof of Indiana residency.

If you are the Child of the Veteran:

The biological or legally adopted child(ren) of eligible disabled Indiana veterans may be eligible for Tuition and Fee Exemption at any state-supported post-secondary school or university in the State of Indiana. Children of veterans must upload a copy of their birth certificate or adoption papers with their online application. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT APPLICATIONS WITHOUT UPLOADING PROOF OF RELATIONSHIP TO THE VETERAN. The child must have been legally adopted before age 18. Stepchildren are not eligible.

Veteran active duty military service requirements:

The veteran must have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of wartime or equally hazardous duty that was recognized by the award of a service, campaign or expeditionary medal of the United States (the military discharge DD214 / DD215, award orders, or certificate of the award must reflect the medal).

Eligible wartime dates are

WWII: December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946

Vietnam: Aug 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975

Korea: June 27, 1950 - Jan 31, 1955

Gulf War: August 2, 1990 - present

Indiana Residency Requirements: The veteran must have either entered the active military duty from an Indiana Home of Record address (as noted on the DD214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) or resided in Indiana 5 years before the student first applies for the benefit. Additional documents may be required for residency verification.

Child's relationship to the veteran requirements: Be the biological child of the veteran; OR, if adopted, the student must have been adopted prior to age 18. Step-children are not eligible for this program.

Note: If documents verifying the veteran's active, wartime, service dates and service-connected VA disability rating are not available for upload, IDVA will request this information from the VA Regional Office in Indianapolis. This can sometimes take a week or longer to obtain. These information requests do not include proof of award of the Purple Heart Medal or POW status of the veteran. This information must be uploaded if applying as the child of one of these two categories. Additional proof of the veteran's residency may be required as well before eligibility of the student can be determined. We will notify the student if additional documents are needed to verify the veteran's residency.

Additional program details:

For students whose veteran parents enlisted in the armed forces before July 1, 2011, the tuition and fee exemption for Children of Disabled Veterans or POW/MIA or Purple Heart Recipients covers 100% tuition and regularly assessed fees at the undergraduate resident tuition rate.

For students whose veteran parents enlisted in the armed forces on or after July 1, 2011, the tuition and fee exemption for Children of Disabled Veterans or POW/MIA or Purple Heart Recipients covers a percentage of tuition and regularly assessed fees at the undergraduate resident tuition rate based on the veteran parent's disability percentage assigned by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The percentage of tuition and regularly assessed fees covered is 20% + the veteran parent's VA disability percentage.

More details can be found at www.in.gov/dva/2378.htm.

Tuition Rates for Active Duty and Veterans

Active duty military personnel stationed in Indiana and their dependents are eligible for resident tuition rates at any state-supported college or university. Veterans who enroll in undergraduate courses at a state university within 12 months of discharge are now able to receive the in-state tuition rate. Indiana National Guard members are eligible for resident tuition rates for undergraduate and graduate courses at any state-supported college or university. Ref: IC 21-14-9

Students at Indiana state educational institutions who are members of the Indiana National Guard, the National Guard of a state contiguous to Indiana, the reserves, or armed forces who are on active duty or are called to active duty during an academic term, can now receive: (1) a tuition refund or credit; or (2) reenrollment in courses not completed due to active duty status. Ref: IC 21-27-2-1.5

Medal of Honor Recipients

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to reimburse expenses to Hoosier veterans who are Medal of Honor recipients who travel in Indiana to give speeches. Ref: IC 10-17-1-6 Sec 6(b)9

Military Family Leave

The spouse, parent, grandparents or siblings, including biological, adopted-, foster- or step-family of Hoosier veterans ordered to active duty deployments in the Armed Forces or the National Guard and who are employed by an employer who employs over 50 people, are eligible for an unpaid leave of absence of up to 10 days. The leave can be taken in the 30-day period after the service member receives their orders, while they are home on leave during the deployment, or in the 30-day period at the end of their deployment. Ref: IC 22-2-13

Military Family Relief Fund

The families of Hoosier active duty service members as well as National Guard and Reserves on Title 10 orders may apply for emergency grants for food, housing, utilities, medical services, transportation and other essential family support expenses which were caused by the mobilization of the service member. Contact local County Veterans' Service Officer or IDVA at 1-800-400-4520. Ref: IC 10-17-12

Jury Duty

Individuals on military orders are exempt from serving on a jury in any court of Indiana.
Ref: IC 10-16-16-1

Display of United States Flag Upon the Death of Certain Veterans

Upon the death of a member of the armed forces or the National Guard who is a resident of Indiana and who dies of wounds received in action either outright in action or who dies before reaching a medical treatment facility, the Governor shall, within 24 hours of receiving notice, issue a proclamation ordering the United States flag to be flown at half-staff on the day of the member's funeral or memorial service. IC 10-18-9

Flag at Half-Staff for the Funeral of a Post Member

Upon application, the Governor will authorize the flags at the Post to be lowered to half-staff upon the death of a member of a veterans' organization. Flag can remain at half-staff from the time of the veteran's death until after the funeral. Application can be downloaded online from <http://www.in.gov/dva/2357.htm> and faxed to (317) 232-7721 or mailed to IDVA.

Property Tax Deductions

Property tax deductions are available to disabled Hoosier Veterans under the following conditions:

1. IC 6-1.1-12-14, a \$14,000 dollar deduction is available to a veteran who:

a. Served at least 90 days of honorable service (can be peacetime service).

And:

b. Are totally disabled (not necessarily service-connected but the disability must be evidenced by a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pension certificate).

Or:

c. Are at least 62 years old and 10% service-connected disabled.

2. IC 6-1.1-12-13, a \$24,960 tax deduction is available for veterans who:

a. Served honorably in the Armed Forces during any period of wartime.

And:

b. Are at least 10% service-connected disabled.

3. A \$37,440 tax deduction is available for any veteran who:

a. Served honorably during any period of wartime.

And:

b. Is 100% service connected-disabled

Or:

c. Is at least 62 years of age with at least a 10% service-connected disability.

Income Tax Exemptions and Deductions

Current members of the active branches of service, National Guard and Reserves are eligible to receive an exemption of \$5,000 on their state income tax return. Veterans who are military retirees are eligible for the same exemption.

The amount of the deduction is the lesser of:

(A) the benefits included in the adjusted gross income of the individual or the individual's surviving spouse;
or

(B) six thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$6,250) plus the following:

- (i) For taxable years beginning in 2019, twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount of the benefits in excess of six thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$6,250).
- (ii) For taxable years beginning in 2020, fifty percent (50%) of the amount of the benefits in excess of six thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$6,250).
- (iii) For taxable years beginning in 2021, seventy-five percent (75%) of the amount of the benefits in excess of six thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$6,250).
- (iv) For taxable years beginning after 2021, one hundred percent (100%) of the amount of the benefits in excess of six thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$6,250). IC 6-3-2-4

Military Pay State Tax Exempt If Deployed to Combat Zone

Military pay earned while under orders to a combat zone is exempt from state tax. The exemption period begins with the date on the orders and ends when the orders end. Eligibility: Members of the Guard and Reserves.

Relief from Attachment

A disability benefit awarded to a veteran for a service connected disability under 38 U.S.C. 1101 et seq. is exempt from attachment from a judicial lien, process, or proceeding to collect a debt. This subdivision does not apply to a service connected disability benefit that is subject to child and spousal support enforcement under 42 U.S.C. 659(h)(1)(A)(ii)(V). IC 34-55-10-2(c)(12) (Effective 1 July 2010)

Memorial Day Expenses

In counties which annually coordinate a Memorial Day ceremony, including the placing of flags in local cemeteries, the county council may contribute an unspecified amount to each veterans' organization in the county or, if a Memorial Day society, county veterans' council or any other Memorial Day association exists, may donate an unspecified amount to that organization instead of to the separate veterans' organizations. IC 10-18-8-1 (removes the limit of the amount allowed to be donated).

Women Veterans Coordinator

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs has a regional Women Veterans Coordinator to assist female veterans with claims and applications and to assist with matters which may be unique to female veterans.

Women Veterans Coordinator – (317) 916-3462

Roudebush VAMC Women Veterans Program Manager – Judith Kelly, MSN/INF, RN; (317) 988-4642

VA Northern Indiana Health Care System Women Veterans Program Manager – Cassandra Johnson, BSN, RN; (260) 426-5431 ext. 72969

Governor's Memorial Certificate

A special certificate, signed by the governor, is available to surviving family members upon the death of an honorably discharged veteran to commemorate their service. This includes National Guard or Reservists who satisfactorily completed at least one period of enlistment. Application available at Indiana funeral homes, county VSO offices or call 1-800-400-4520.

Veteran Discrimination (Effective July 1, 2014)

It is unlawful for an employer to discriminate against a prospective employee if the applicant is a veteran or member of a reserve/national guard member.

Professional Licensing for Active Military and Spouses

Professional licenses, including teacher licenses, are to be expedited for active military assigned to a duty station in Indiana and their spouses. IC 25-1

Local Occupational Fees

Local occupational fees are waived for veterans or active duty military/national guard personnel. IC 36-1-3-11.2

Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy

Employers may utilize a voluntary veterans' preference policy for hiring, promoting, or retaining a veteran in private or public employment, including to members of the national guard of another state during state-sponsored activation.

Veteran Preference on State Contracts

Provides that an Indiana veteran-owned small business (VOSB) is eligible for the small business set aside procurement policy for state procurements and for procurements by political subdivisions that have adopted the set aside policy. Provides that the 15% price preference for small businesses applies to Indiana VOSBs. Requires the department of administration to adopt rules to increase contracting opportunities for Indiana VOSBs with a goal to procure in each state fiscal year at least 3% of state contracts with Indiana VOSBs. Provides for the development of programs to encourage cities, counties, towns, townships, and private businesses to adopt the state's VOSB procurement goal. Requires the department of administration to report on the percentage of state contracts with Indiana VOSBs. IC 4-13-16.5

Employment Assistance

With funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development provides services to Hoosier Veterans, including preference for program placement. Through the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP), and the Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) Program, Workforce Development Offices throughout the State are equipped to assist Hoosier Veterans with their transition from service to civilian life. The DVOPs specialize in tailored training and job placement opportunities for veterans with service-connected disabilities. LVERs coordinate services provided veterans including counseling, testing, and identifying training and employment opportunities. Using the list on the next page, contact the nearest Indiana Workforce Development Office with a veterans representative for more information.

- Indiana Department of Workforce Development: www.in.gov/dwd
- To make informed employment and education choices visit: www.careeronestop.org/militarytransition/

Military Custody and Parenting

A military parent who receives temporary deployment or mobilization orders may request a court to (1) to hold an expedited hearing to determine or modify custody or parenting time; and (2) to allow, with reasonable notice, a parent to present testimony and evidence by certain electronic means in a custody or parenting time proceeding if the military duties of a parent have a material effect on the parent's ability to appear in person at a regularly scheduled hearing concerning custody or parenting time. Allows a court, upon motion by a parent who has received military deployment orders, to delegate the parent's parenting time, or a part of the parent's parenting time, during the time that the parent is deployed to a person who has a close and substantial relationship with the parent's child, if the court determines delegating the time is in the best interests of the child. (IC 31-14-13-6.1 and 6.2) Also provides that an order delegating parenting time automatically terminates after the parent returns from deployment. It allows the court to terminate an order delegating parenting time if the court determines that the delegated parenting time is no longer in the best interests of the child. IC 31-17-2-21.1 and 21.2.

Veterans Court

The veterans court in Indiana seeks to assist veterans entering the justice system who suffer from substance abuse problems, post traumatic stress injuries, mental health disorders and/or homelessness. The court holds veterans responsible for their actions and also seeks treatment for their issues.

Treatment for Brain Injuries and PTSD

Legislation passed in 2017/2018 allows multiple providers to receive grants to administer Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment (HBOT) to veterans who are not responding to traditional therapy for brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder. The pilot program is currently set to run through June 30, 2021. Ref: IC 10-17-13.5; IC 10-17-12-8

Indiana Workforce Development Offices with Veterans Representatives:

Anderson.....	(765) 642-4981
Auburn.....	(219) 295-0124
Bedford	(812) 279-4400
Bloomington	(812) 331-6000
Columbus.....	(812) 314-8576
.....	(812) 314-8572
Connersville.....	(765) 825-3191
Corydon	(812) 738-8811
Elkhart.....	(219) 295-0105
Evansville.....	(812) 428-2970
Fort Wayne.....	(219) 447-3057
Franklin	(317) 736-5531
Gary	(219) 981-1520
Hammond	(219) 933-8332
Indy East.....	(317) 358-4522
.....	(317) 358-4523
.....	(317) 358-4524
Indy Westside	(317) 246-5415
.....	(317) 246-5416
.....	(317) 246-5417
Jeffersonville	(812) 288-6451
Kokomo.....	(765) 459-0571
Lafayette	(765) 474-5411
LaPorte	(219) 362-2175
Lawrenceburg	(812) 537-1117
Linton.....	(812) 847-4479
Logansport.....	(219) 722-6652
Madison	(812) 265-3734
Marion	(765) 668-8911
Martinsville	(765) 342-3324
Muncie	(765) 289-1861
New Albany	(812) 948-6102
New Castle	(765) 529-3010
Noblesville.....	(317) 773-4689
Plymouth.....	(219) 233-6175
Portage	(219) 762-6592
Richmond.....	(765) 962-8591
Salem	(812) 883-2283
Scottsburg.....	(812) 752-3886
Shelbyville.....	(317) 392-3251
South Bend	(219) 239-2672
Terre Haute	(812) 234-6602
Vincennes.....	(812) 882-8770

Addresses and phone numbers listed at www.in.gov/dva/2375.htm

GI Bill Education Benefits: The State Approving Agency

The State Approving Agency (SAA) is a division within the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs tasked with the responsibility of approving education and training programs for veterans with GI Bill education benefits. In addition to private and public colleges/universities and other education programs, there are more than 400 approved apprenticeship/OJT programs in the State. These apprenticeships/OJT programs are both union and non union and are found in both the public and private sector. Approved OJT programs are mostly found in the law enforcement and firefighter fields. In addition, the SAA approves medical/hospital based programs, flight schools, real estate, licensed barber/beauty schools and state owned certification tests. Additional apprenticeship-related material can be found at:

Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training
<http://oa.doleta.gov/>

Contact the State Approving Agency at (317) 234-6062 or toll-free at 1-800-400-4520 or visit our website, www.in.gov/dva/2331.htm, for information on education/training programs approved for GI Bill educational benefits

For Federal GI Bill Education information, see page 21 of this brochure.

Vehicle Operator License & License Plates: Operator's License

When the operator's license of an individual who is temporarily residing outside Indiana because of service in the armed forces of the United States has expired, the license remains valid for ninety (90) days following the person's discharge from service in the armed forces. To obtain a renewed license, the individual must do the following:

1. Apply for renewal of the operator's license during the ninety day period following the individual's discharge.
2. Show proof of the individual's discharge from service in the armed forces when applying for the renewal.

Ref. IC 9-24-12-6(e)

Military Designation on Driver's Licenses and ID Cards

An individual may request an indication of the individual's veteran status or active military or naval service status on the individual's driver's license or state identification card. Surviving spouses of deceased military personnel may also request similar identification on their driver's license or state identification card. Military documents issued by the United States Department of Defense will be required to verify all requests.

Commercial Drivers License (CDL) Exemption

Individuals who operate CMVs for military purposes are exempt from the requirement to obtain a CDL. This exception is applicable to active duty military personnel; members of the military reserves; member of the National Guard on active duty, including personnel on full-time National Guard duty, personnel on part-time National Guard training, and National Guard military technicians (civilians who are required to wear military uniforms); and active duty U.S. Coast Guard personnel. This exception is not applicable to U.S. Reserve technicians.

Other Bureau of Motor Vehicles Benefits for Military Families see <http://www.in.gov/bmv/2343.htm#1>

Hoosier Veteran Plates

Any resident of the State who was honorably separated from the active Armed Forces can purchase a military branch-specific Hoosier Veteran license plate. Simply take your DD-214 or your Discharge Certificate to your local BMV office and request the special plate. Plates denote the particular branch of service in which the veteran served. Plate numbers 1 through 100, including low-numbered motorcycle plates, are approved by the Director, IDVA. \$15 from the sale of each of these plates goes into the Military Family Relief Fund.

Support Our Troops Plates

As of January 1, 2007, this special plate with a yellow ribbon is available for purchase by all Hoosiers, whether or not they are a veteran. Most of the proceeds from each plate (\$20) goes into the Military Family Relief Fund.

POW/MIA

The Prisoner Of War - Missing In Action license plate sponsored by Indiana Rolling Thunder. The cost of the Prisoner Of War - Missing In Action license plate includes vehicle registration fees and taxes, a group fee of \$25, and an administrative fee of \$15. A portion of this money goes to the Military Family Relief Fund.

Disabled Hoosier Veteran Plates

A person may apply for, receive, and display a disabled Hoosier veteran license plate on the person's vehicle for private and personal use if the person, as the result of having served in the armed forces of the United States, has:

- (1) lost sight in both eyes or suffered permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to the extent of being eligible for service-connected compensation for the loss;
- (2) suffered the loss of one (1) or both feet or the permanent loss of use of one (1) or both feet;
- (3) suffered the loss of one (1) or both hands or the permanent loss of use of one (1) or both hands, or
- (4) a United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating for a physical condition that precludes the person from walking without pain or difficulty; or
- (5) been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as being at least fifty percent (50%) disabled with at least a 30% mobility disability rating and is receiving service-related compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Applications must be accompanied by a copy of the VA Rating Determination. Older DAV plates that only say DAV and do not have the universal handicap symbol are only valid in Indiana for parking purposes. Plates that do not have the universal handicap symbol may be exchanged free of charge at their local BMV. Applications may be obtained from either the BMV or the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the veteran's eligibility. Ref: IC 9-18-18-1, IC 9-18.18-2.

Ex-Prisoner of War Plates

The POW license plate is available to all ex-prisoners of war or to the surviving spouse of a deceased POW. Effective July 1, 2009 a veteran with a former Prisoner of War license plate is not subject to pay for metered parking and cannot be ticketed for parking for longer than permitted at a metered parking space.

Applications for these plates are available from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the eligibility of the applicant. Ref: IC 9-18-17-1

Purple Heart Plates

Any Hoosier Veteran who has received the Purple Heart Medal is authorized to have these special license plates.

Applications may be obtained at the BMV or from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The veteran must present official documentation of the award, and the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the veteran's eligibility. Ref: IC 9-18-19-1, IC 9-1819-2, IC 9-18-19-3

Peddlers, Vendors, or Hawkers License

State law provides that any wartime veteran who has an honorable discharge shall be granted these licenses by all cities and counties free of charge. See your county auditor. Ref: IC 25-25

Vital Documents For Veterans Benefits

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indiana State Archives have copies of DD-214s on file for many Hoosier Veterans who entered the service from Indiana. Additionally, many National Guard NGB Forms 22 are available. Copies of these will be provided upon request to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA). The processing time for such a request is usually one or two weeks. The IDVA or your County Veterans Service Officer can assist you with the paperwork to obtain other documents from the federal government. Ref:IC 10-5-7-1

Delayed High School Diploma

World War I and World War II, Korea and Vietnam Veterans who served between the following dates may apply to the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs for issuance of a high school diploma.

WWII: December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946

Korea: June 27, 1950 and Jan 31, 1955

Vietnam: Aug 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975

In addition the veteran must have:

- attended public or nonpublic high school in Indiana prior to military service, and
- been a student in good standing, and
- not graduated or received a diploma because of leaving high school for military service, and
- been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States

Veterans, or their surviving spouses or eligible family members, may submit application to the Department of Veteran Affairs. Ref: IC 20-20-7-3 Sec. 3

Military Education and Training

State educational institutions are required to adopt a policy to award educational credit to an individual who is enrolled in a state educational institution and successfully completes courses that: (1) are part of the individual's military service; (2) meet the standards of the American Council on Education for awarding academic credit; and (3) meet the state educational institution's role, scope, and mission. The law requires that the commission for higher education must adopt rules that establish uniform guidelines for state educational institutions to follow when implementing the requirements. It provides that an occupational licensure board shall issue a provisional license to a military service military spouse who meets certain requirements. (IC 21-42-7) (IC 25-1-17)

Combat to College Program

Requires state educational institutions that have at least 200 veteran students enrolled to establish a combat to college program (program). Requires a state educational institution to: (1) provide a centralized location for admissions, registration, and financial administration services for veteran students; (2) provide reasonable accommodations for disabled veteran students at a state educational institution's fitness facility; (3) develop programs to provide academic guidance specifically to veteran students; (4) develop programs to provide access to counseling services or resources to veteran students who are disabled or suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder; and (5) develop job search programs designed for veteran students. IC 21-41-9

Second Service for Veterans

Accredited state educational institutions are required to award academic credit to veterans who have completed courses or passed equivalency exams. This is designed to attract more veterans to the teaching profession in particular.

The Veterans Home

The Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette provides nursing and domiciliary care for any Hoosier Veteran who was honorably discharged from the armed forces. To qualify the veteran must have lived in-state for 1 year prior to submitting the application for residency. Veterans can also gain admission if the residency requirement is not met if the veteran joined the service from Indiana. The Home is open to both veterans and their spouses. Veterans who are Medicaid-eligible will be required to apply for that benefit. For more information write to the Home at: Indiana Veterans Home, 3851 N. River Rd., West Lafayette, IN, 47906-3762 or call (765) 463-1502. Ref: IC 10-17-9

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery (IVMC)

Located adjacent to the Madison State Hospital and Clifty Falls State Park in Madison, Indiana, any veteran eligible to be buried in a national cemetery will be eligible for burial in the IVMC. The spouse of an eligible veteran will also be eligible to be buried there. For an application for burial contact the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. To schedule an interment contact the Cemetery Superintendent at 1415 North Gate Road, Madison, IN 47250, 812-273-9220 / FAX 812-273-9221. Ref: IC 10-5-25

County Burial Allowances

Each County Auditor is authorized to pay up to an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for the burial of a veteran or the veteran's spouse, which may include up to \$100 for the setting of a federal headstone. Veterans must have received an honorable discharge, and an application must be filed with the county auditor in the county of residence. Ref: IC10-17-10 and IC 23-14-73

Resident Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing License

Any Indiana resident who is rated as service-connected disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may purchase a license to hunt and fish in the State of Indiana for a reduced fee. In order to receive this benefit the veteran must complete the Application for Reduced Fee Hunting and Fishing License for Disabled Veterans available from County Veteran Service Officers, or the Department of Natural Resource offices, or the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The form verifies that the veteran is service-connected disabled and authorizes the reduced fee and is verified by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. Ref: IC 14-22-12-1.5

Golden Hoosier Passport

A Hoosier Golden Passport provides unlimited admission to all Indiana State owned parks, recreation areas, reservoirs, forests, historic sites, museums, memorials and other Department of Natural Resource (DNR) facilities. The pass is half off the regular price and good for one calendar year. Persons eligible for a Disabled American Veteran license plate under IC 9-18-18-1 may purchase the Hoosier Golden Passport at DNR facilities around the State. If you have Disabled American Veteran plates on the vehicle simply drive to the gate and the attendant will sell you the Hoosier Golden Passport. If you do not have the plate but believe you are eligible you will be given a form to request the plate, which you must send to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs for verification. Former Prisoners of War will receive their Hoosier Golden Passport in the mail after their plates are issued. If you do not receive yours in a reasonable time, or have other plates on your vehicle but are entitled to POW plates, contact the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-622-4931.

Leave of Absence for Training

Any state, county, township, municipality or school corporation employee who is a member of the Indiana National Guard or a reserve component or is a retiree of the active military, Guard or reserves, is entitled to receive a leave of absence from duties in addition to their regular vacation period if they are on training duties of the state under the orders of the Governor or, is a member of any reserve component (including National Guard) under the order of the reserve component authority for any consecutive or nonconsecutive period that does not exceed a total of fifteen (15) days in any calendar year. The entitlement to a leave of absence without loss of time or pay provided in this subsection is not at the discretion of the member's employer. (IC 10-16-7-5)

Indiana VA Medical Centers

Richard L. Roudebush VAMC Locations

1481 W. 10th St
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2884
(317) 554-0000
Toll Free 1-888-878-6889

2121 Lake Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805-5199
(219) 426-5431
Toll Free 1-800-360-8387

1700 East 38th St.
Marion, IN 46953-4589
(765) 674-3321
Toll Free 1-800-498-8792

VA Clinics Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)

Adam Benjamin Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic
9301 Madison Street
Crown Point, IN 46307-8602
219-662-5000

Evansville VA Outpatient Clinic
500 E. Walnut Street
Evansville, IN 47713-2499
812-465-6202
Toll Free 1-800-772-8740

Muncie/Anderson VA Outpatient Clinic
3500 W. Purdue Avenue
Muncie, IN 47304
765-284-6822
Toll Free 1-888-354-6072

South Bend VA Outpatient Clinic
5735 South Ironwood Road
South Bend, IN 46614
574-299-4847
Toll Free 1-866-436-1291

Bloomington VA Outpatient Clinic
455 S. Landmark Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47403
812-336-5723
Toll Free 1-877-683-0685

Terre Haute VA Outpatient Clinic
110 West Honey Creek Parkway
Terre Haute, IN 47802
812-232-2890
Toll Free 1-800-427-5882

Lafayette VA Outpatient Clinic
3851 N. River Road
West Lafayette, IN 47806
765-464-2281
Toll Free 1-800-320-8387

Dearborn County CBOC
1600 Flossie Drive
Greendale, IN 47025
812-539-2313

Richmond VA Outpatient Clinic
4351 South A Street
Richmond, IN 47374
765-973-6915

VA Health Care Center New Albany
811 Northgate Blvd
New Albany, IN 47150

Goshen CBOC
2014 Lincolnway East, Suite 3
Goshen, IN 46526
574-534-6108

Vincennes CBOC
1813 Willow Street Suite 6A
Vincennes, IN 47591
812-882-0894
Fax: 812-882-5031

Scottsburg VA Healthcare Center
279 N. Gardner Street
Scottsburg, IN 47170
812-752-8375

Indiana Veterans Home

Residential long term care for Indiana veterans with at least one day of wartime service and their spouses.

3851 N. River Road
West Lafayette, IN 47906-3762
765-463-1502

Surrounding States' VAMCs

Jesse Brown VAMC IL
820 South Damen Avenue
Chicago, IL 60680
Phone: (312) 666-6500

Lakeside VAMC
333 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611
312/943-6600

Edward Hines Jr. VAMC
5th Street & Roosevelt Rd. P.O. Box 5000
Hines, IL 60141
Phone: (708) 343-7200

VA Illiana Health Care System
1900 East Main Street
Danville, IL 61832
Phone: (217) 442-8000

Robley Rex VA Hospital
800 Zorn Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
Phone: (502) 895-3401

Cincinnati VAMC
3200 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45220
Phone: (513) 861-3100

Dayton VAMC
4100 W. 3rd Street
Dayton, OH 45428
Phone: (513) 268-6511

Vet Centers

3833 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-988-1600

311 N. Weinbach Avenue
Evansville, IN 47711
812-473-5993

Gary Area Vet Center
6505 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410
219-736-5633

528 West Berry Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
219-460-5431

1355 S. 3rd Street
Louisville, KY 40208
502-894-6290

National, State and other Veterans' Cemeteries in Indiana

Marion National Cemetery
1700 East 38th Street
Marion, IN 46952
Phone: (765) 674-0284

Crown Hill National Cemetery
700 W. 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
Phone: (765) 674-0284

New Albany National Cemetery
1943 Ekin Avenue
New Albany, IN 47150
Phone: (502) 893-3852

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery
1415 North Gate Road
Madison, IN 47250
Phone: (812) 273-9220

County Veterans Service Officers:

All 92 counties in the State employ a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO). The County Veterans Service Offices have all the forms and other information you may need to obtain service from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the State of Indiana. The Service Officers will assist you in finding the information and resources you need to solve your service-related problems. For the most up-to-date list, visit www.in.gov/dva/2370.htm. This list is current as of September 2019:

INDIANA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS DIRECTORY

Adams.....	(260) 724-5371	Lawrence.....	(812) 275-6411
Allen.....	(260) 449-7861	Madison.....	(765) 641-9651
Bartholomew.....	(812) 379-1540	Marion.....	(317) 327-8387
Benton.....	(765) 884-1831	Marshall.....	(574) 935-8546
Blackford.....	(765) 348-3151	Martin.....	(812) 247-2210
Boone.....	(765) 483-4480	Miami.....	(765) 472-3901 ext. 1271 & 1860
Brown.....	(812) 988-5600	Monroe.....	(812) 349-2568
Carroll.....	(765) 564-2502	Montgomery.....	(765) 361-4133
Cass.....	(574) 753-7860	Morgan.....	(765) 349-5505
Clark.....	(812) 285-6345	Newton.....	(888) 663-9866 ext. 2514
Clay.....	(812) 448-9015	Noble.....	(260) 636-1298
Clinton.....	(765) 659-6389	Ohio.....	(812) 438-1011
Crawford.....	(812) 596-2419	Orange.....	(812) 723-3600 ext. 7
Daviess.....	(812) 254-8678	Owen.....	(812) 829-5027
Dearborn.....	(812) 537-8819	Parke.....	(765) 569-4036
Decatur.....	(812) 663-3161	Perry.....	(812) 547-2506
DeKalb.....	(260) 925-0131	Pike.....	(812) 354-6245
Delaware.....	(765) 747-7810	Porter.....	(219) 465-3587
Dubois.....	(812) 481-7090	Posey.....	(812) 838-8372
Elkhart.....	(574) 523-2342	Pulaski.....	(574) 946-3571
Fayette.....	(765) 825-8412	Putnam.....	(765) 653-5417
Floyd.....	(812) 948-5495	Randolph.....	(765) 584-1463
Fountain.....	(765) 793-6267	Ripley.....	(812) 689-7165
Franklin.....	(765) 647-5721	Rush.....	(765) 561-6497
Fulton.....	(574) 223-2217	St. Joseph.....	(574) 235-9978
Gibson.....	(812) 385-4522	Scott.....	(812) 752-8477
Grant.....	(765) 651-2423	Shelby.....	(317) 392-2140
Greene.....	(812) 384-2031	Spencer.....	(812) 649-6031
Hamilton.....	(317) 776-9610	Starke.....	(574) 772-9132
Hancock.....	(317) 462-8767	Steuben.....	(260) 668-1000 ext. 1060
Harrison.....	(812) 738-4249	Sullivan.....	(812) 268-5437
Hendricks.....	(317) 745-9239	Switzerland.....	(812) 427-4302
Henry.....	(765) 529-4305	Tippecanoe.....	(765) 742-1796
Howard.....	(765) 456-2511	Tipton.....	(765) 675-2221
Huntington.....	(260) 358-4863	Union.....	(937) 609-5784
Jackson.....	(812) 358-6115	Vanderburgh.....	(812) 435-5239
Jasper.....	(219) 866-9424	Vermillion.....	(765) 492-5346
Jay.....	(260) 726-6914	Vigo.....	(812) 462-3261
Jefferson.....	(812) 265-3600	Wabash.....	(260) 563-0661 ext. 1260
Jennings.....	(812) 352-9169	Warren.....	(765) 714-7371
Johnson.....	(317) 346-4563	Warrick.....	(812) 897-6177
Knox.....	(812) 885-2539	Washington.....	(812) 883-2063
Kosciusko.....	(574) 372-2436	Wayne.....	(765) 973-9207
LaGrange.....	(260) 499-6387	Wells.....	(260) 824-6403
Lake.....	(219) 755-3285	White.....	(574) 583-5937
LaPorte.....	(219) 326-6808 ext. 2216	Whitley.....	(260) 248-3189

NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVES

Hoosier Veterans Seamless Transition Program

Eligibility: Demobilized members of the National Guard and Reserves, as well as active duty soldiers. This service brings various agencies together at a central location, usually a National Guard armory, to help the veteran with the processing of federal and state claims and applications.

Military Pay vs. State Pay

Indiana allows Hoosiers who are employed by the state and who are called to active duty in the Guard or Reserves to receive the difference between their military pay (either state or federal active duty) and their state salary. They are also granted leave of absence without loss of time.

Educational Benefits (National Guard):

National Guard Tuition Supplement Grant

Through a partnership with the Indiana National Guard, the Commission for Higher Education guarantees 100% of tuition and regularly assessed fees for eligible members of the Indiana Air and Army National Guard. Students can attend either full-time or part-time and receive the National Guard Tuition Supplement Grant (NGSG) but can only be used in the fall and spring semesters. For additional information, visit www.in.gov/che/4516.htm.

INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a member of the Indiana National Guard in active drilling status
- Must not have been AWOL during the 12 months prior to enrollment in college for any academic term
- Must have all required ING paperwork submitted and approved to their ING education office prior to the start of classes (each semester). Forms and submission processes differ by ING branch. Students should contact their unit commander for details.

STATE FINANCIAL AID REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a high school graduate or hold a GED (ING might have other restrictions)
- Must file the current year FAFSA with an eligible Indiana institution listed.
- Must be seeking first Associate or Bachelor's degree at a public institution in the State of Indiana
- Must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements as established by the institution
- Must have filed an application for and, if applicable, used any federal and state financial assistance available to attend a State institution

National Guard Scholarship Extension Program

The National Guard Scholarship Extension Program is a limited scholarship that provides 100% of tuition and regularly assessed to former National Guard members who left the Guard under honorable discharge conditions, used the National Guard Supplement Grant in the past, and who served on active duty overseas since September 10, 2001. Students can attend either full time or part time. Former Guardsmen who believe they may qualify for this program can review the application and rules at ScholarTrack.IN.gov or contact:

Indiana Army National Guard
2002 South Holt Road
Indianapolis, IN 46241
ATTN: Education Services Office

Children and Spouse of National Guard

The Commission for Higher Education offers a supplement to other state grants by guaranteeing 100% of tuition and regularly assessed fees for students who are the child or spouse of a member of the Indiana National Guard who

suffered a service connected death while serving on state active duty. The deceased Indiana National Guard member must have been killed in the line of duty while deployed in the active military (Army or Air Force) or while engaged in other state active duty as determined by the Military Department of Indiana (MDI) under IC 10-6-7-7. Full program details are found at www.in.gov/che/4523.htm.

Employment Assistance

State employees receive 15 days military leave per year. **Eligibility:** Indiana National Guard members.

Job Training Priority

A National Guard member who has served on active duty for 30 days or more is entitled to priority for placement in any state or federal employment or training program administered by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) for up to one year after discharge if the member is otherwise eligible for the program. This law also applies to the spouse of the Guard member. (IC 22-4.1-4-3)

Exemption from Jury Duty

Indiana National Guard members on active duty orders are exempt from jury duty in any court in Indiana. (IC 10-16-16-1)

Medical Benefits

National Guard members on State Active Duty are entitled to medical, dental and hospital benefits.

Group Insurance

(Provided by the Indiana National Guard Association) \$5,000 for \$2/mo; \$10,000 for \$3.66; \$15,000 for \$5.33; \$20,000 for \$7.00; \$25,000 for \$8.67/mo; \$50,000 for \$17/mo and family plan of \$5,000/\$10,000 for \$3.66 or \$6.66 + \$1,000 to \$10,000 for each child depending on age. **Eligibility:** Indiana National Guard members.

Pensions/Funeral Expenses

A member of the Indiana National Guard who is wounded or disabled or was disabled in the service of the state shall be placed on the roll of invalid pensioners of the state and shall receive, upon audit and approval, the same pension or reward that a person under similar circumstances would receive from the United States. In case of a wound, an injury, or a disease that results in death, the surviving spouse, dependent children, or dependent parent of the member of the Indiana National Guard shall receive the pension and reward dating from the time of receiving the injuries on account of which the pension or reward is allowed. If a member of the Indiana National Guard dies in the active service of the state, the member's reasonable funeral expenses, not exceeding four thousand dollars (\$4,000), shall be paid by the state in the manner as the governor directs. (IC 10-16-7-19)

Legal Benefits

Limited arrest immunity to/from drill; A citation for a traffic violation is not a civil process and is not covered by this immunity. Legal defense is available for line-of-duty acts. (IC 10-16-7-8) **Eligibility:** Indiana National Guard members.

Leave of Absence While on State Active Duty

A member of the Indiana National Guard is entitled to receive from the member's employer a leave of absence from the member's respective duties in addition to the member's regular vacation period for the total number of days that the member is on state active duty. The leave of absence may be with or without loss of time or pay at the discretion of the member's employer. (IC 10-16-7-6) **Eligibility:** Indiana National Guard members.

National Guard License Plate

A resident of Indiana who is an active member of the Army or Air National Guard may apply for and receive one (1) or more National Guard License Plates. IC 9-18-20-3

• FEDERAL BENEFITS •

Veterans of the United States armed forces may be eligible for a broad range of benefits and services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). These benefits are codified in Title 38 of the United States Code. This section contains a brief overview of certain commonly sought information concerning Veterans benefits and services. For additional information, please visit www.va.gov. For a complete copy of “Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors,” call 1-800-827-1000 or download a pdf version from va.gov/opa/publications.

eBenefits

eBenefits is a joint VA/Department of Defense (DoD) Web portal that provides resources and self-service capabilities to service members, Veterans, and their families to apply, research, access, and manage their VA and military benefits and personal information through a secure Internet connection.

Through eBenefits Veterans can: apply for benefits, view their disability compensation claim status, access official military personnel documents (e.g., DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), transfer entitlement of Post-9/11 GI Bill to eligible dependents (service members only), obtain a VA-guaranteed home loan Certificate of Eligibility, and register for and update direct deposit information for certain benefits. New features are added regularly.

Accessing eBenefits: The portal is located at www.ebenefits.va.gov. Service members or Veterans must register for an eBenefits account at one of two levels: Basic or Premium. A Premium account allows the user to access personal data in VA and DoD systems, as well as apply for benefits online, check the status of claims, update address records, and more. The Basic account allows access to information entered into eBenefits by the service member or Veteran only. Basic accounts cannot access VA or DoD systems.

Reporting Fraud

Help VA’s Secretary ensure integrity by reporting suspected fraud, waste or abuse in VA programs or operations.

Report Fraud to:

VA Inspector General Hotline

810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20420

E-mail: vaoighotline@va.gov

VAOIG hotline: 1-800-488-8244

Fax: (202) 495-5861

Health Care

More information on VA health care is available at the following resources:

www.va.gov/health

www.va.gov/healthbenefits

VA Health Benefits toll-free 1-877- 222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST.

Basic Eligibility: A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for VA health care benefits including qualifying Reserve and National Guard members.

Minimum Duty Requirements: Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24-continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to Veterans discharged for hardship, early out or a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Enrollment: Veterans can complete applications for enrollment in VA health care by using one of the options below:

- To apply by phone, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387) Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EST. VA staff members will collect the needed information and process the enrollment application for an enrollment determination.
- When applying online at va.gov, Veterans fill out the application and electronically submit it to VA for processing. VA will search for your supporting documentation through its electronic information systems and will contact you if it is unable to verify your military service.
- The application form can also be downloaded from www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction. Mail the completed form to: Health Eligibility Center ATTN: Enrollment Eligibility Division 2957 Clairmont Road Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30329-1647
- Apply in person at any VA health care facility or VA regional office. Once enrolled, Veterans can receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country.

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line is a toll-free, confidential resource that connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at veteranscrisisline.net, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, 365-days a year even if they are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.

The professionals at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances — from Veterans coping with mental health issues that were never addressed to Veterans struggling with relationships or the transition back to civilian life. European access: Veterans and members of the military community in Europe may dial 0800-1273-8255 or DSN 118. For more information about VA's suicide prevention program, visit: www.Veteranscrisisline.net.

Education Benefits

Post-9/11 GI Bill: The Post-9/11 GI Bill is an education benefit program for service members and Veterans who served on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after Aug. 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date. For additional information on education and training opportunities, please visit: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/ or by calling 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).

Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility: To be eligible, the service member or Veteran must serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001, and remain on active duty or be honorably discharged. Active duty includes active service performed by National Guard members under title 32 U.S.C. for the purposes of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard; or under section 502(f) for the purpose of responding to a national emergency. Veterans may also be eligible if they were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after Sept. 10, 2001. Additionally, under the Colmery Act of 2017, also known as the "Forever GI Bill," all Purple Heart award recipients are eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill entitlement providing the award was made during service occurring on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and the recipient continues on duty or receives an honorable discharge.

Housing and Employment Benefits

Housing Grants for Disabled Veterans: Service members and Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a housing grant from VA to help build a new specially adapted house, to adapt a home they already own, or buy a house and modify it to meet their disability-related requirements. Eligible Veterans or service members may now receive up to three uses of the grant, with the total dollar amount of the grants not to exceed the maximum allowable. Housing grant amounts may be adjusted Oct. 1st every year based on a cost-of construction index. These adjustments will increase the grants amounts or leave them unchanged; grant amounts will not decrease. Previous

grant recipients who had received assistance of less than the current maximum allowable may be eligible for an additional grant usage. To obtain general information about the Specially Adapted Housing program, visit: www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp or call the program's local office at 1-877-827-3702.

Employment Services: In partnership with the Department of Labor, VA provides support to Veterans and transitioning service members at all stages of their job search, including career advice, resume building, and access to employers who want to hire Veterans and military spouses. Additional information and access to services are available at <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment>.

Preventing Veteran Homelessness: Veterans who believe they may be facing homelessness as a result of losing their homes can call 1-877-4AIDVET (877-424-3838) or visit: <https://www.va.gov/homeless/> to receive assistance in preventing homelessness.

Burial Benefits

VA operates 136 national cemeteries, of which 78 are currently open for both new casket and cremation interments, and 17 may accept new interments of cremated remains only. Burial options are limited to those available at a specific cemetery and may include in-ground casket, or interment of cremated remains in a columbarium, in ground, or in a scattering area. For more information, visit the National Cemetery Administration at www.cem.va.gov.

Burial Flags: VA will furnish a U.S. burial flag to recognize deceased Veterans who received an other than dishonorable discharge. This includes certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S armed forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951. Also, eligible for a burial flag are Veterans who were entitled to retired pay for service in the Reserves or National Guard; or would have been entitled if over age 60; and members or former members of the Selected Reserve who served their initial obligation; or were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; or died while a member of the Selected Reserve. The next of kin may apply for the burial flag at any VA Regional Office or U.S. Post Office by completing VA Form 21-2008; Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes. In most cases, a funeral director will help the family obtain the flag. For more information, visit http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp.

Memorial Markers: VA provides memorial headstones and markers for placement in a national cemetery, a Veterans cemetery owned by a state or in the case of a Veteran, in a state, tribal, local or private cemetery with "IN MEMORY OF" as the first line of inscription for those whose remains are unavailable for burial. Remains that are unavailable for burial are those that have not been recovered or identified, were buried at sea, donated to science or cremated and scattered completely. Only eligible Veterans are authorized to receive memorial headstones or markers for use in private cemeteries; memorial headstones and markers are not authorized for placement in tribal cemeteries (including Veterans). For memorial headstone or marker requests, applicants must be a member of the decedent's family (spouse, individual in a legal union with the decedent, child, parent, or sibling, whether biological, adopted, or steprelation, and any lineal or collateral descendant of the decedent).

To submit a claim for a headstone or marker, or for a memorial marker for placement in a private cemetery, use VA Form 40-1330, Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker (available at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>) and provide a copy of the Veteran's military discharge documents or proof of military service. Claims sent without supporting documents will be delayed until eligibility can be determined.

Mail the completed form and supporting documents to Memorial Products Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 5109 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134-3903. The form and supporting documents may also be faxed toll free to 1-800-455-7143.



The Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame Medallion

Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame

The Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame (IMVHOF), a 501(c)3 organization, was founded in 2013. The IMVHOF's stated objective is "to publically emphasize the honor brought to our state and nation by the sacrifice of Indiana military veterans and their families."

On April 25, 2013, the Indiana General Assembly recognized the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame organization. Indiana has the nation's only freestanding building dedicated to its Hall of Fame and follows only a handful of other states who have established similar organizations.

The year 2014 marked the first induction of Hoosier Veterans into the Hall of Fame. Each inductee received the Hall of Fame medallion and certificate. Up to 15 Indiana military veterans may be inducted into the Hall of Fame each year.

On April 5, 2018, the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame held the official grand opening of its memorial building located at 5360 Herbert Lord Road on the former Fort Benjamin Harrison in Lawrence, Indiana. Self-guided tours are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information about the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame, visit imvhof.com or call (317) 916-6164.

Veterans Views Radio Show
Veterans Views News
6849 Columbia Avenue
Hammond, IN 46324
(219) 844-0866
dss313@gmail.com
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