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***If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?***

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# Delaware State Veteran's Benefits

The state of Delaware provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- [Housing Benefits](#)
- [Financial Assistance Benefits](#)
- [Employment Benefits](#)
- [Education Benefits](#)
- [Other State Veteran Benefits](#)

## Delaware Veteran Housing Programs

### State Veterans Home

The Delaware Veterans Home, established in 2007, is a long-term care facility located on 24 acres in Milford, Delaware. The Home offers skilled nursing care on four units with a total of 150 beds.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces, or a retired member of the National Guard, or Reserves who is eligible for retirement pay at age 60 and has served on active duty for 180 days or more (not necessarily consecutively)
- A resident of Delaware for three proceeding years prior to admission.
- Requires a nursing home level of care.

## Delaware Financial Assistance Benefits

### Pension Benefits for Paraplegic Veterans

Each paraplegic veteran eligible for benefits hereunder shall receive a pension from the State of \$3,000 per year payable in equal monthly installments at the end of each month in which such veteran is eligible. The veteran must file evidence with the Pension Office that: he/she is a paraplegic and fully disabled to the extent that he/she has no voluntary control over either of his/her legs, and he/she is listed on the rolls of the U.S. Veterans Administration as totally disabled for the cause, and the disability is a direct result of service in the armed forces of the United States while the United States was officially at war or during a period when the United States was engaged in hostilities with another nation as a member of the United Nations.

Persons under age 60 receiving pensions from employers, the United States, the State or any subdivision thereof, may deduct up to \$2,000 off of their federal adjusted gross income. Amounts received as pension by persons age 60 or older from employers, the United States, the State or any subdivision thereof may deduct up to \$12,500 off of their federal adjusted gross income.

## Delaware Veteran Employment Benefits

### State Employment Veterans Preference

The rules shall provide for preference to be given to veterans of the armed forces of the U.S. who served during wartime. Such rules shall provide that: Preference shall be confined to original entrance and shall not be applied to promotion within the classified service or to retention in case of reduction in force; Preference shall be granted only in the form of credits to be added to earned ratings in examinations, with disabled veterans receiving no more than 10 points and other veterans no more than 5 points. A definition of a disabled veteran shall be set forth in the rules; All veterans shall be required to obtain a passing examination mark before preference credits. Employees in the classified service who, while in good standing, leave or have left the state service to engage in military service shall be given credit for seniority purposes for the time served in the armed forces not to exceed three years. Any preference points for which a veteran would qualify after complying with the provisions above, may be claimed by his or her unmarried widow or widower providing he or she achieves a passing examination grade.

Visit the [Delaware Department of Veterans Affairs](#) website for contact information and benefits assistance.

### **Tax Credit for Employers Hiring Veterans**

Delaware Governor Jack Markell has signed a bill giving tax credits to those who hire veterans. The new Veteran's Tax Credit in Delaware will be 10 percent of a qualified veteran's wages, up to a maximum of \$1,500. Employers may take the credit the year a veteran is hired and the two subsequent tax years. According to the new law, a "qualified veteran" is anyone who has served in a hostile environment such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

## **Delaware Veteran Education Benefits**

### **Educational Benefits For Children Of Deceased Veterans, Etc.**

In order to qualify for this entitlement an applicant shall be: the child of a member of the armed forces who was killed while on active duty or who died from disease, wounds, injuries or disabilities arising or resulting from performance of duty; a member of the armed forces who is being held, or who was held prisoner of war; or a member of the armed forces officially declared missing in action; a person who at the time of application for benefits is at least 16 years of age, but not more than 24 years of age, and a resident of the State for at least three years prior to the date of application; attending or admitted for attendance at an educational institution beyond the high school level in a program not to exceed four years in duration. Benefits are administered by the Delaware Postsecondary Education Commission.

### **Education Benefits For Active Members Of The Delaware National Guard**

Any active member of a federally recognized unit of the Delaware National Guard, who meets the requirements for satisfactory membership as defined by the Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard, shall be eligible for funding support by the Delaware National Guard for certain post-secondary education tuition and fees.

## **Other Delaware State Veteran Benefits**

### **Special License Plates**

Special License Plates are available through DMV for: Former Prisoners Of War, Formerly Missing-In-Action, Purple Heart Recipients, Medals of Valor Recipients, Disabled Veterans, Delaware National Guard & Reserve Members, Retired Military, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam War Veterans, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), and Gold Star Lapel Button.

### **Disabled Veteran Combined Special License Plate**

A special license plate is available to those veterans who are eligible for both the Disabled American Veteran designation and the universally-recognized symbol for those requiring special parking accommodations. This benefit allows the veteran to park in a disabled parking space without having to go through a separate application process.

### **Registration and Inspection of Motor Vehicles of Disabled Veterans**

A motor vehicle owned by a disabled veteran who is eligible for 'adaptive equipment' benefits (which includes, but is not limited to power steering, power brakes, power window lifts, power seats, and special equipment necessary to assist the eligible person into and out of the automobile or other conveyance) shall be exempt from the payment of registration fees (limited to one automobile per eligible veteran at any one time).

### **State Park Admission**

Any veteran who honorably served or is honorably serving, including members of the Delaware National Guard, resides in the State of Delaware and owns a motor vehicle registered in Delaware shall receive a 50% discount on the annual fee for vehicle entrance to state parks and recreational areas.

### **Hunting, Trapping and Fishing License**

Any member of the Armed Forces while stationed within the State shall be deemed a resident of the State for the purpose of obtaining a license. Veterans with a disability rating of 60 percent or more by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may obtain a no-fee license.

**State Employment**

Veterans preference shall be provided to earned ratings with ten points granted to disabled veterans and five points granted to all other eligible veterans. Any preference points for which a veteran would qualify may be claimed by his or her unmarried widow, widower, spouse of a member of the armed forces who is POW or MIA, or spouse of a veteran who is totally disabled.

**License and Permits for Military Spouses**

Professional Regulations will issue a six- month temporary occupational license, when required, to a military spouse relocating in Delaware. The temporary license will allow for the spouse to obtain employment in their discipline, pending application for endorsement or reciprocity.

**Delaware Veterans Home**

The home is a 150 bed long term care facility offering skilled nursing services and a special needs unit to serve those who may suffer from forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. The Delaware Veterans Home is located at 100 Delaware Veterans Blvd, Milford, Delaware.

**Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery**

Veterans, their spouse, or dependent children are eligible for interment at either of two State Veterans Cemeteries. The cemeteries are located in Bear, and Millsboro Delaware.

**Notary Service for Veterans**

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs provides no fee notary service for veterans, dependents and their families.

**Copy of Death Certificate**

The State Registrar shall furnish a certified copy of a veteran's death certificate for no fee to the next of kin acting on behalf of the veteran for settlement of the veteran's affairs.

Visit the [Delaware Department of Veterans Affairs](#) website for more information about any of these programs.