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

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# Louisiana State Veteran's Benefits

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

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

## Louisiana Veteran Housing Programs

### Louisiana War Veterans Homes

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs operates five War Veterans Homes. These homes, located in Reserve, Monroe, Bossier City, Jackson, and Jennings provide nursing care.

For admission to a Louisiana State Veterans Home, a veteran must be a resident of the state of Louisiana. State residence is not mandatory if the applicant is referred from an in-state United States Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center or by a Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' Assistance Counselor. The applicant must agree to abide by all rules and regulations governing the Home. Applicants who have income will be expected to pay for their care as is set forth in the care and maintenance schedule adopted for governing the Home residents. Spouses and Gold Star parents are eligible if they meet basic qualifying criteria. The applicant must undergo an examination to ascertain whether he/she meets the criteria for admission to the Home.

### Property Tax Exemptions

The property tax for Veterans rated with 50% or greater disability is frozen at the current rate, this also applies to spouses of deceased disabled Veterans. There are income limits and other qualifications, check with your local assessor's office to see if it is available in your parish.

## Louisiana Employment Benefits

### Military Service Relief Act

Revised Statutes 29:401-425 relative to military and veterans affairs provide for employers compensation, leave status, retirement credit, life, health and accident insurance coverage, re-employment rights upon release from military service, prohibits against academic penalties, deferral of state income taxes, validation of professional and occupational licenses, and protection of any vacancy in office held by an Elected or Appointed Official, for citizens of Louisiana called to military service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States. The district court in which the state or its political subdivision exercises authority or conducts its business shall have jurisdiction to hear action to enforce the Act.

### Veterans Civil Service Preference (Employment Preference)

Article X, of the Louisiana Constitution provides a five-point preference in original appointments to persons honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States who served between the following dates of wartime service:

April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918  
September 27, 1940, through July 25, 1947  
June 25 1950, through January 31, 1955  
July 1, 1958, through May 7, 1975  
August 2, 1990, through, date to be determined  
(must have been awarded the Southwest Asia Medal)

Or in a peacetime campaign or expedition if a campaign badge or expeditionary medal is authorized.

Ten points preference in original appointments are accorded each honorable discharged veteran who served in either war or peacetime and has one or more service connected disabilities established with the U.S. Department of Veterans

Affairs.

Veterans preference also extends to layoffs over other employees of equal lengths of service and efficiency ratings.

## **Louisiana Education Benefits**

### **Dependents Educational Assistance**

Section 288 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 has been amended and re-enacted to provide financial aid for children and surviving spouses of certain veterans of this state who died in service in the Armed Forces of the United States or died of a service connected disability incurred during a wartime period.

The law provides the same benefits for those children of living veterans who are rated 90% or above disabled, including 100% individual unemployability, by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs "Schedule for Rating Disabilities", as a result of a disability or disabilities incurred in service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The law further requires that the deceased veteran must have been a resident of the State of Louisiana for at least twelve months immediately preceding entry into service. The living veteran must have resided in the state not less than twenty-four months immediately preceding the child's admission into the Program.

The surviving spouse must use this Program within ten years of the date eligibility is established. A child must be between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five.

### **National Guard Tuition**

Members are exempt from tuition at any state-funded college, university, or vocational/technical school for five years or a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first. The Adjutant General of Louisiana is responsible for the overall policies, guidance, administration, and proper utilization of this program.

## **Other Louisiana State Veteran Benefits**

### **Military Retiree Pay Tax Exemption**

Military retirement benefits are exempt from Louisiana state taxes.

### **Free Hunting/Fishing Licenses**

Disabled veterans classified with a service connected permanent disability, rated 50% or higher and who are Louisiana residents can get hunting and fishing licenses free of charge. Active duty military will also be granted resident status when purchasing hunting and fishing licenses. Applications may be obtained and certified by contacting the local Parish Veterans Service Office.

### **Free Entrance to State Parks**

Eligible Veterans are exempt from paying the day-use entrance fee to any Louisiana state park. Contact your LDVA Parish Office for details.

### **Discounts on Driver's License or ID Fees**

Veterans may qualify for special discounts or waivers on fees for LA Driver's Licenses and ID's.

### **Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal Program**

Authorized in 2008 as a way to honor, thank, and recognize Louisiana Veterans for their honorable military service..

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