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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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Pennsylvania State Veteran's Benefits

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

- Veteran Housing Benefits
- Veteran Financial Assistance Benefits
- Veteran Employment Benefits
- Veteran and Dependents Education Benefits
- Other State Sponsored Veteran Benefits

Pennsylvania Veteran Housing Programs

State Veterans Homes

The veterans must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States or Pennsylvania military forces, released from service under honorable conditions.

The veteran must be a bona fide resident of the Commonwealth when applying. Spouses and surviving spouses of eligible veterans may also apply. Applications are processed on a "first come, first served" basis.

Visit the [Pennsylvania Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs](#) website for contact information and benefits assistance.

Pennsylvania Financial Assistance Benefits

Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus Program

Pennsylvania voters gave overwhelming approval to funding for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Compensation Program when they voted in the general election on November 7, 2006. This program will provide payments to veterans of Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield (August 1990 to August 1991). Implementation of the new program will require consideration of regulations and various administrative actions.

Visit the [Pennsylvania Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs](#) website for contact information and benefits assistance.

Veterans Emergency Assistance

Provides financial aid in an emergency and temporary basis (not to exceed three months in a 12-month period) to veterans, their widows, infant children or dependents who reside in Pennsylvania for the necessities of life (food, dairy, shelter, fuel and clothing). An honorably discharged veteran must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during established war service dates or during peacetime hostile fire or terrorist attack as determined by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Upon the recent death of a veteran, his widow or orphan children are eligible provided the veteran would have qualified prior to his/her death.

Real Estate Tax Exemption

Any honorably discharged veteran who is a resident of the Commonwealth shall be exempt from the payment of all real estate taxes levied upon any building, including the land upon which it stands, occupied by him as his principal dwelling, provided that as a result of wartime military service the veteran has a 100% service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; that such dwelling is owned by him solely or jointly with his spouse (an estate by the entirety); and that the financial need for the exemption from the payment of real estate taxes has been determined by the State Veterans' Commission. Upon the death of the qualified veteran, the exemption passes on to the unmarried surviving spouse if the financial need can be shown.

Blind Veterans Pension

Provides for a pension of \$150.00 per month for a person who served in the military or naval forces of the United States, or women's organization officially connected therewith, who gave the Commonwealth as his/her place of residence when entering the military and while performing duties connected with the service, suffered an injury or incurred a disease which resulted in loss of vision so that the visual acuity with the best correcting lens is 3/60 or 10/200 or equivalent, or less normal vision in the better eye. Less normal vision than 3/60 or 10/200, or equivalent, includes circumstances where the widest diameter of the visual field of the better eye has contracted to such an extent that it subtends an angular

distance of not greater than 20?. The term does not include a person separated from the military or naval forces of the United States or a women's organization officially connected therewith under other than honorable conditions.

Paralyzed Veterans Pension

Provides for a pension of \$150.00 per month for any person separated under honorable conditions from the Armed Forces of the United States, who gave the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as his or her place of residence at time of entering the military or naval forces of the United States, and who currently resides in Pennsylvania. Veterans qualify for the pension if they suffered an injury or disease resulting in the loss or loss of use of two or more extremities (arms/hands or legs/feet).

Visit the [Pennsylvania Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs](#) website for contact information and benefits assistance.

Pennsylvania Education Benefits

Educational Gratuity

Payment of educational gratuities are for children of honorably discharged veterans who have been certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having wartime service-connected disabilities rated as totally and permanently disabled or children of veterans who die or have died of war service-connected disabilities or died in service during a period of war or armed conflict. Children must be between the ages of 16 and 23, living within the Commonwealth five years prior to application and must attend a school within the Commonwealth to be entitled to this educational gratuity.

Visit the [Pennsylvania Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs](#) website for contact information and benefits assistance.

Other Pennsylvania State Veteran Benefits

[Learn more about the other Pennsylvania Bureau of Veterans' Affairs Benefits.](#)