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

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# Virginia Commonwealth Veteran's Benefits

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

- [Veteran Long Term Care Benefits](#)
- [Veteran Employment Benefits](#)
- [Veteran Education Benefits](#)
- [Other Commonwealth Sponsored Veteran Benefits](#)

## Virginia Veteran Long Term Care

### Virginia Veterans Care Centers

The commonwealth of Virginia runs two long term care centers: the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond, and the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke. Honorably discharged veterans who are residents of Virginia are eligible for admission.

## Virginia Veteran Employment Programs

### Virginia Transition Assistance Programs

Recognizing that transition from military service is not complete on the date of your discharge, the Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP) is designed to provide transition resources and assistance to veterans who now call Virginia home. VTAP assists transitioning veterans connect with employment, education, entrepreneurial, and supportive services, and helps educate participating veterans and veteran services providers on available resources and opportunities.

## Education Assistance Programs

### Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program

The Military Survivors and Dependents Program (MSDEP) provides education benefits to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became at least 90 percent disabled as a result of military service in an armed conflict. Military service includes service in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, the Virginia National Guard, or the Virginia National Guard Reserves. Armed conflict includes military operations against terrorism or as the result of a terrorist act, a peace-keeping mission, or any armed conflict after December 6, 1941. This program may pay for tuition or fee at any state-supported college or university in Virginia. Benefits are available for up to four years.

### Honorary Diplomas for Veterans

Veteran Honorary High School Diplomas recognize the life experiences of veterans who were unable to complete their high school education because of service in the armed forces during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Since the first honorary diplomas were issued in 2001, more than 1,000 have been awarded to veterans of these three wars.

To obtain an honorary diploma, a veteran may submit a statement to the Veterans Education Unit of the Virginia Department of Education describing his or her service, the location of the last school attended, and affirming that he or she was unable to complete high school upon return to civilian life. The guidelines also allow family members and veterans' organizations to submit this information on behalf of the veteran.

## Other Virginia Commonwealth Veteran Benefits

### License Plates

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offers a variety of veteran and military-related license plates.

**Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Licenses**

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) offers a lifetime hunting and fishing license to service-connected, totally and permanently disabled veterans for minimal fee.

**Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries**

The Commonwealth of Virginia operates three veterans cemeteries located in Amelia, Dublin, and Suffolk. Honorably discharged veterans may be buried at no cost, there is a \$300 cost for their eligible family members.

Visit the [Virginia Dept.of Veterans Services](#) website for more information on any of these programs.