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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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Colorado State Veteran's Benefits

The state of Colorado 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](#)

Colorado Veteran Housing Programs

State Veterans' Home

Admission preference is given to Veterans, spouses, widows and mothers at State Veterans Center, Homelake, CO. With 40 operating beds in the domiciliary unit and 60 beds in nursing care service.

The Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home at Florence, CO with a bed capacity of 120 beds. Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home at Rifle, CO with a capacity of 100 beds. Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home at Walsenburg with a capacity of 120 beds. We have a new State Veterans Home. It is the Fitzimons State Veterans Home, located in Denver, CO. It has a capacity of 180 beds.

Colorado Financial Assistance Benefits

Colorado State Tax Advantage

There is a Property Tax Exemption for 100% service-connected disabled veterans.

Retired Military Pay: Members of the Armed Forces can exclude up to \$20,000 in any one taxable year from their retirement pay.

Eligibility: U.S. Armed Forces Retiree over 55 years or older.

Military Disability Retired Pay: Disability Portion - Length of Service Pay; Member on September 24, 1975 - No tax; Not Member on September 24, 1975 - Taxed, unless combat incurred. Retired Pay - Based solely on disability: Member on September 24, 1975 - No tax; Not Member on September 24, 1975 - Taxed, unless all pay based on disability and disability resulted from armed conflict, extra-hazardous service, simulated war, or an instrumentality of war.

VA Disability Dependency and Indemnity Compensation: Not subject to federal or state taxes.

Motor Vehicle Tax: No fee shall be charged to certain disabled Veterans or Ex-POWs who have established their right to benefits under public laws. Applies to subsequent vehicles, but only one at a time.

Burial Allowance

County allowance of up to \$50 for burial and up to \$50 for setting markers for pauper Veterans.

Colorado Veteran Employment Benefits

Employment Assistance

State Active Duty employee receives 15 days of paid military leave per year.

Eligibility: Colorado National Guard

Employment Preference

Disabled Veterans shall have 10 points added to their grades and non-disabled Veterans shall be credited with an additional 5 points for "state employment" For city and county governments that have a "Merit System" in place.

Colorado Veteran Education Benefits

Tuition Assistance

Any member of the Colorado National Guard is eligible for state tuition assistance, up to 100% tuition paid at any CO state-funded school depending on funding available. State funding can be used in conjunction with Federal Tuition Assistance. Deadline for Spring Semester is Dec. 1. Deadline for Fall Semester is July 1. Summer deadline is May 1 (if funding is available).

Eligibility: Colorado National Guard member must serve 2 years for each year granted.

Tuition Assistance for Children of POWs, MIAs, or Disabled/Deceased ARNG

Free tuition in certain State-support schools for children of prisoners of war or persons missing in actions who were Colorado residents when they entered the Armed Forces, or for children of Colorado National Guardsmen who died or were permanently disabled while on State active duty limited to dependents who do not qualify for Federal Education benefits.

Operation Recognition

Operation Recognition is a program to award High School diplomas to deserving and qualified WWII, Korea and Vietnam Era Veterans. Operation Recognition, is authorized by Colorado State Law and is offered by the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Association of School Boards.

Other Colorado State Veteran Benefits

Special Vehicle License Plates

The State provides plates at no cost to the Veteran include: recipients of the Medal of Honor, recipients of the Purple Heart, to certain disabled wartime Veterans, special disabled (50%+)Veterans license plates, and special license plates for former POWs. Plates for honorably discharged Veterans may be purchased for nominal fee. January 2007, There will be issued a "Valor Plate" for those veterans who have received the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force DSC, and Survivors of Pearl Harbor and/or their surviving spouse.

Medical Benefits

Dental coverage and full medical for line-of-duty

Eligibility: Colorado National Guard

Hunting and Fishing Privileges

Fishing license: No fee for

Eligibility: 1) Member of the Armed Forces stationed as a resident patient at a military hospital or convalescent station, 2) any resident patient at a USDVA hospital located within the State, 3) any Veteran who is permanently and totally disabled.

Small Game Hunting and Fishing License: Free lifetime combination small-game hunting and fishing license.

Eligibility: Resident Veteran with a service-connected disability of 60% or more.

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