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

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# California State Veteran's Benefits

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

- Housing Benefits
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Veteran Business Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

## California Veteran Housing Programs

### Veterans Homes of California

The Benefits: Professional and low cost residential, assisted living and medical care facilities throughout California.

Who May Be Eligible: Aged or disabled U.S. veterans who are residents of California.

### Calvet Farm and Home Loans

Direct loans from the State of California, highly competitive rates, quick processing, unbeatable earthquake and disaster coverage, and proven ability to work well with homeowner veterans.

Who May Be Eligible: Any veteran who served honorably on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, who resides in and wishes to purchase a farm or home in California.

Apply at any California Department of Veterans Affairs CalVet District Office (located in the state government section of your telephone book), or

California Department of Veterans Affairs  
Farm and Home Loan Division  
1227 'O' Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
1-800-952-5626

Or visit [California Department of Veterans Affairs](#) website for contact information and benefits assistance.

## California Financial Assistance Benefits

### Property Tax Exemptions

Property tax exemptions on the assessed value of a home of:

- a) up to \$111,296 if the total household income from all sources is over \$49,979 per year.
- b) up to \$166,944 if the total household income from all sources is under \$49,979 per year.

Who May Be Eligible: a) Wartime veterans who are in receipt of service-connected disability compensation at the totally disabled rate. b) Unmarried surviving spouses or registered domestic partners of veterans who are in receipt of service-connected death benefits. c) Wartime veterans who are service-connected for loss the use of two or more limbs. d) Wartime veterans who are service-connected for blindness.

To apply contact your local County Assessors Office (located in the county government section of your telephone book).

### **Motor Vehicle Registration Fees Waived**

Waiver of registration fees and free license plates for one passenger motor vehicle, or one motorcycle, or one commercial motor vehicle of less than 8001 pounds unladen weight.

Who May Be Eligible: Medal of Honor recipients, American Ex-Prisoners of War and "disabled veterans" as defined in the "Disabled Veterans License Plate" section of this pamphlet.

### **California Employment Benefits**

#### **Employment and Unemployment Insurance Assistance**

Assistance in obtaining training and employment as well assistance in obtaining unemployment insurance.

Who May Be Eligible: All veterans.

#### **Veterans Preference in California Civil Service Examinations**

Additional points added to the final score of a civil service examination as follows: a) Open Entrance Exams-15 points for a disabled veteran and 10 points for other veterans and surviving spouses. b) Open Non-promotional Entrance Exams-10 points for disabled veterans and 5 points for other veterans.

Who May Be Eligible: a) Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 10% or greater. b) "Wartime" veterans who served have served with honor. c) A veteran who served under honorable conditions for a period of at least 181 days d) Spouses of totally disabled service-connected veterans. e) Unmarried, surviving spouses of a veteran who has died of service-connected causes.

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

### **California Veteran Business Benefits**

#### **Business License, Tax and Fee Waiver**

Waiver of municipal, county and state business license fees, taxes and fees, for veterans who hawk, peddle or vend any goods, wares or merchandise owned by the veteran, except spirituous, malt, vinous or other intoxicating liquor, including sales from a fixed location.

Who May Be Eligible: Honorably discharged veterans who engage in sales (not services) activities may be eligible. Eligibility criteria differs based upon local jurisdiction.

#### **Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunities**

Certified veteran owned businesses can participate in the state goal of awarding 3% of all state contracts to disabled veterans through the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Program.

Who May Be Eligible: Veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 10% or greater who own at least 51% of a business, and who meet other eligibility criteria.

### **California Education Benefits**

#### **College Tuition Fee Waivers for Veterans' Dependents**

Waiver of mandatory system-wide tuition and fees at any State of California Community College, California State University or University of California campus.

Who May Be Eligible: Plan A: The spouse, registered domestic partner, child (under the age of 27) or unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran who is totally service-connected disabled, or who has died of service-connected causes may qualify. Plan B: The child of a veteran who has a permanent service-connected disability. The child's income and value of support provided by a parent cannot exceed the national poverty level.

## **Non-Resident College Fee Waiver**

Waiver of non-resident fees (pay at California resident rate) at all State of California Community Colleges, California State University or University of California campuses. Eligibility includes the following individuals:

- A student who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States stationed in this state on active duty for more than one year immediately prior to being discharged from the armed forces is entitled to resident classification for the length of time he or she lives in this state after being discharged up to the minimum time necessary to become a resident.
- An undergraduate student who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in this state on active duty, except a member of the Armed Forces assigned for educational purposes to a state-supported institution of higher education.
- An undergraduate student who is a natural or adopted child, stepchild, or spouse who is a dependent of a member of the armed forces of the United States stationed in this state on active duty.
- A student seeking a graduate degree who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in this state on active duty, except a member of the Armed Forces assigned for educational purposes to a state-supported institution of higher education. There is a two-year limit for graduate level studies.
- A student seeking a graduate degree who is a natural or adopted child, stepchild, or spouse who is a dependent of a member of the armed forces of the United States stationed in this state on active duty. There is a one-year limit for graduate level studies.

Eligible students can apply at the Admissions Office of any California system campus.

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

## **Other California State Veteran Benefits**

### **Disabled Veteran License Plates**

Waiver of registration fees and free "DV" handicap parking license plates for one passenger motor vehicle, or one motorcycle, or one commercial motor vehicle of less than 8001 pounds unladen weight.

Who May Be Eligible: A "disabled veteran" is any person who, as a result of injury or disease suffered while on active service with the armed forces of the United States, suffers any of the following:

- a) Has a disability which has been rated at 100 percent by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, due to a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility or,
- (b) Is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of an assistant device or,
- (c) Has lost, or has lost use of, one or more limbs or,
- (d) Has suffered permanent blindness, as defined in Section 19153 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

Obtain a signed doctor's statement that indicates that the veteran in question has a service-connected disability with at least one of the above listed mobility impairments, complete DMV forms REG 195 and REG 256A, and mail the completed package to:

DMV PLACARD  
P.O. Box 942869  
Sacramento, CA 94269-0001  
1-800-777-0133

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

### **Vehicle Registration Fee Waiver**

Waiver of registration fees and free license plates for one passenger motor vehicle, or one motorcycle, or one commercial motor vehicle of less than 8001 pounds unladen weight.

Available to Medal of Honor recipients, American Ex-Prisoners of War and "disabled veterans" as defined in the "Disabled Veterans License Plate" section of this pamphlet.

Medal of Honor recipients should complete a DMV form REG 17A, and proof of receipt of the Medal of Honor. Ex-Prisoners of War should complete a DMV form REG 17, and proof of former status as a POW.

Applications and necessary documentation should be mailed to:

Department of Motor Vehicles  
P.O. Box 932345  
Sacramento, CA 94232  
1-800-777-0133  
[www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov)

### **Veterans Claims Representation**

The Benefit: Professional, accredited, USDVA claims and ratings review, and representation in appellate processes.

Who May Be Eligible: Any veteran, dependent or veteran's survivor applying for USDVA benefits.

### **Fishing and Hunting Licenses**

The Benefits: Reduced annual fees for fishing and hunting licenses.

Who May Be Eligible: Any veteran with a 50% or greater service-connected disability.

First time applicants must submit proof of their service-connected disability from the USDVA.

The California Department of Fish and Game  
License and Revenue Branch  
1740 N. Market Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
Phone (916) 928-5805

[Department of Fish & Wildlife/e](#)

### **State of California Veterans Cemetery**

The Benefit: Complete, professional burial services at no cost to veterans (\$500 fee for spouses or dependents).

Who May Be Eligible: Veterans, dependents and survivors who meet USDVA eligibility requirements for burial in a national cemetery.

### **Veterans License Plates**

These special California license plates may be ordered with the armed force or veterans service organization logo/emblem of your choice. Over 100 insignias are available, and your logo will be prominently displayed to the left of a six number/letter combination. Sequential plates are only \$30 per year. You may also "personalize" your Vets Plates (your choice of up to 6 characters) for an additional one-time fee of \$10.

### **The California Women Veterans Roster**

Unfortunately, women veterans have not applied for or utilized their veterans benefits as have their male counterparts, which ultimately dilutes the voice of veterans overall. The California Women Veterans Roster is an information bridge that connects California's women veterans to the various resources and benefits available to them.

The roster is strictly confidential and used solely as a link among California's women veterans. Help give women the voice they earned through service to our country. If you are a woman veteran, join the California Women Veterans Roster! If you are not a woman veteran, please give the gift of information and pass a copy of the roster application form (see below) on to a woman veteran or someone you know associated with women veterans.

### **The California Veterans Registry at the California Veterans Memorial**

The California Veterans Registry is a permanent record of all California Veterans -- past and present -- who have served our nation since statehood was established in 1850. Whether cook or fighter pilot, mechanic or chief of staff, this memorial will honor them all, and forever immortalize the contributions that California veterans have made to their nation.

Each California veteran is entitled to the basic information of name, rank and branch of service. To create a truly living memorial, California veterans are encouraged to expand on the basic information by contributing to the enhanced registry.

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