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

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# North Carolina State Veteran's Benefits

The state of North Carolina 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

## North Carolina Veteran Housing Programs

### North Carolina State Veterans Nursing Homes

The State of North Carolina is proud to offer two full-service, skilled nursing facilities for veterans. One is located adjacent to the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC and the second on the W.G. Hefner Medical Center campus in Salisbury, NC.

Their primary mission is to provide high quality nursing care to veterans, which will improve their quality of life. At the North Carolina State Veterans Nursing Homes, we know how to meet the special needs of veterans. Dedicated to excellence, our highly skilled professional staff provides exceptional care and activities to enrich individuals.

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

## North Carolina Financial Assistance Benefits

### Income Tax Relief

**Cancellation of Certain Assessments and Abatement of Income Tax:** Any assessment of income tax due prior to the time a person was inducted into the Armed Forces will be canceled and abated if the serviceperson was killed while a member of the Armed Forces or is receiving service-connected disability compensation. No interest is payable on refunds made under this section of the law.

**Allowances, Servicepersons:** Subsistence and quarters allowances, uniform and equipment allowances and mustering-out payments are not taxable to the serviceperson as income. Mileage and per diem allowances for official travel and transportation are excludable from the service income except to the extent that they exceed the travel and transportation expenses.

**Deductions, Servicepersons:** Income tax deduction may be claimed for insignia, swords, aiguillettes, epaulets, campaign bars, cap devices, chin straps and the cost of altering uniforms necessitated by change in rank.

**Disability Pay, U. S. Government:** All disability payments to veterans by reason of service in the Armed Forces are not reportable as income for income taxation purposes.

**Education and Training Allowances:** U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs payments made to veterans enrolled in schools and training establishments under the GI Bill are exempt from income taxation.

**Grants for Motor Vehicles:** Grants by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs for motor vehicles for veterans who lost their sight or the use of their limbs are exempt from income taxation.

**Grants for Specially Adapted Housing:** Grants by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs to seriously disabled veterans for homes designed for wheelchair living are exempt from income taxation.

**Gratuity Pay, Six-Months:** The six-months gratuity pay to a beneficiary of a deceased serviceperson is exempt from income taxation.

Hostile Fire Duty Pay: Exemption is same as Federal Internal Revenue Service.

Insurance Dividends, Government Insurance: Dividends and all other proceeds except interest on dividends from G. I. insurance policies are exempt from income taxation.

Retired Pay: The following is exempt from income taxation: Any amount, not to exceed \$4,000 received by a taxpayer during any year as retired or retainer pay as a result of service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States.

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### **Property Tax Relief**

**Certain Vehicles.** A motor vehicle owned by a disabled veteran that is altered with special equipment to accommodate a service-connected disability. As used in this section, disabled veteran means a person as defined in 38 U.S.C. -- 101(2) who is entitled to special automotive equipment for a service-connected disability.

**Specially Adapted Housing.** Disabled veterans who receive U. S. Government assistance under Title 38, United States Code Annotated for the acquisition of specially adapted housing are eligible for an exclusion from ad valorem taxation on the first \$38,000 in assessed value of housing together with the necessary land therefore which is owned and used as a residence by the disabled veteran.

**Veterans Organizations.** Real and personal property belonging to veterans organizations as defined by statute shall not be listed, appraised, assessed, or taxed for ad valorem purposes.

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## **North Carolina Employment Benefits**

### **Employment Preference**

Preference in State Government employment is granted to veterans, their surviving spouses or the spouses of disabled veterans, without regard to age, provided they are otherwise qualified. Military leave with reemployment rights is also granted State employees. The Employment Service Division of the Employment Security Commission assists in endeavoring to secure suitable employment for disabled veterans. Any person desiring information and assistance with matters related to employment and job placement should contact the nearest local employment office of the Employment Security Commission. Veterans Employment Representatives are available to render specialized service for veterans.

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### **Licensing Law Helps Veterans and Spouse**

The North Carolina Governor has signed a new law which permits military-trained applicants who have been awarded a military occupational specialty and military-spouse applicants who are licensed in another jurisdiction to receive occupational licenses in North Carolina. Regardless of occupational specialty, all military or out-of-state qualifications must meet or exceed North Carolina's licensure standards. A licensing board will determine eligibility to qualify for licensing and certification based on training, experience and competency requirements. There are more than a 100 different occupational licensing agencies in North Carolina, and each licensing board will be required to implement the new statute within one year from the date the act becomes law.

## **North Carolina Education Benefits**

### **Scholarships**

Any member of the armed services qualifying for admission to an institution of higher education, but not qualifying as a resident for tuition purposes shall be charged the in-state tuition rate for enrollments while a member of armed services in the state.

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## **Other North Carolina State Veteran Benefits**

### **Guardians**

State law provides for the appointment and supervision of guardians for incompetent veterans, incompetent dependents of veterans and minor dependents of members of the armed forces or veterans in certain circumstances, to manage U.S. funds payable to such persons.

### **Hunting and Fishing Licenses**

All 50% or more disabled veterans may obtain a lifetime hunting-fishing license upon the payment of \$10.00. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in North Carolina, their spouses and their dependents under age 18 residing with them are deemed residents of North Carolina for the purpose of purchasing licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

### **Auto License Plates**

The following auto license plates are available to eligible persons:

- American Legion
- Bronze Star Recipient
- Combat Veterans
- Disabled Veteran
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Legion of Valor
- Military Reservist
- Military Retiree
- National Guard Member
- Partially Disable Veteran
- Pearl Harbor Survivor
- Prisoner of War
- Purple Heart Recipient
- Silver Star Recipient
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Vietnam Veteran
- Fees

### **Drivers License**

In general, State law allows a military drivers license expiration procedure within the Division of Motor Vehicles to renew upon request to North Carolina residents on active duty, to their spouses and dependent children.

### **Handicapped Parking Privileges**

Disabled veterans issued a registration plate are entitled to park in spaces designated for the handicapped and unlimited parking time in most parking zones having time restrictions.

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

### **Absentee Registration and Voting**

Persons who are in the armed forces, their spouses, veterans in government hospitals, etc., who are otherwise qualified to vote may register and vote by mail in primaries and general elections, subject to the procedural details set forth in the law.

### **Disabled Voters, Primary or General Elections**

Assistance in Voting. A voter who, on account of physical disability, blindness or illiteracy is entitled to assistance as prescribed in the law, in getting to and from the voting booth and in marking their ballots.

Voting Outside the Voting Enclosure. Voters who are able to travel to the voting place, but because of age, physical disability or physical barriers encountered at the voting place are unable to enter same without physical assistance, may vote from their vehicles or in the immediate proximity of the voting place, subject to certain procedures prescribed by law.

**Records**

Discharges. The Register of Deeds of any North Carolina county is required to record, free of charge, all official discharges from the armed forces offered for registration. Free certified copies of discharges so recorded may be obtained by members or former members of the armed forces and by representatives of the N. C. Division of Veterans Affairs upon application.

Other Records, Including Discharges. Representatives of North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs who need copies of State and local public records in assisting clients may obtain same without charge. Exception: certain privileged and confidential records whose disclosure is otherwise provided for by law.

Certified Copy of Public Record. A certified copy of any public record required by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the Division of Veterans Affairs for use in determining the eligibility of any person to participate in benefits made available by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs shall be provided without charge by the official responsible for the custody of the public record. The document shall be issued to the applicant for such benefits or any person acting on his or her behalf or the representative of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the Division of Veterans Affairs.

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**Retirement Credit, Military Service, State and Participating Local Government Employees**

Under certain conditions and subject to the confines of State law, credit for both State and local government retirement plans can be granted for military service performed by an eligible employee. Further inquiry should be made to Employee's Retirement and Health Benefits Division, N. C. Department of the Treasurer, Raleigh, N. C.

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