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# Maryland State Veteran's Benefits



The state of Maryland 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
- Health Care
- Other State Veteran Benefits

## Maryland Veteran Housing Programs

### **Charlotte Hall Veterans Home**

Maryland's veteran's home is located on 125 acres on the site of the former Charlotte Hall Military Academy in Charlotte Hall, Maryland. Opened in 1985, the 504-bed facility provides a continuum of care from the 226-bed Assisted Living unit to a higher level of care in the 278-bed Nursing Home. Specialized care, for those suffering from Alzheimer's and other related dementia, is provided in a 42-bed secured unit. Listed below are the eligibility requirements:

- Honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the legal spouse of a veteran eligible to be admitted to Charlotte Hall\*
- Maryland resident
- Age 62 or older, unless disabled and unable to work

Visit the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.mdva.state.md.us/index.html> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Maryland Financial Assistance Benefits**

### **Property Tax Exemption**

A property tax exemption is available to veterans who are permanently and totally disabled from service-connected causes, for their primary residence located in the State of Maryland.

The exemption passes to the veteran's spouse upon his or her death. The surviving spouse of active duty military personnel who died in the line of duty as well as the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran, or a spouse who receives the dependency and indemnity compensation (effective June 30, 2006) may also receive an exemption.

### **Military Retired Pay Income Tax Exemption**

Military retirees are exempt from Maryland income tax on the first \$5000 of their retirement income. In addition, military retirees who are over the age of 65, totally disabled, or who have a spouse who is totally disabled receive an additional subtraction. (Effective July 31, 2006, for all taxable years after December 31, 2005)

### **Vessel Excise Tax**

Active duty military personnel are exempt from the 5% vessel excise tax levied on the sale, resale or transfer of a vessel. The exemption is for not more than one year to current owners of vessels who are members of the armed services and who are serving on active duty.

### **Survivor Benefits**

The surviving spouse, child, dependent parent, or estate of any Maryland resident who is killed while serving in the uniformed services of the United States in the conflict in Iraq or Afghanistan shall receive a \$50,000 death benefit and property tax exemption.

Visit the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.mdva.state.md.us/index.html> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Maryland Employment Benefits**

Maryland offers several employment assistance help veterans successfully transition to a civilian career. In addition the state offers several programs to help veterans start and run their own small business enterprises.

Visit the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.mdva.state.md.us/index.html> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Maryland Education Benefits**

### **Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship**

Aid for tuition and other educational expenses are available for veterans and their family members who are attending an institution of higher learning within the borders of the State of Maryland. You must be:

- *A veteran or active duty military member who served in the conflicts in Iraq or Afghanistan (Effective June 1, 2006)*

- The son or daughter of a member of the United States Armed Forces who died or was 100 percent disabled as a direct result of military service;
- A veteran who suffers, as a direct result of military service, a disability of 25 percent or greater and has exhausted or is no longer eligible for federal veterans' educational benefits;
- The son, daughter or surviving spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack who died as a result of the attacks on the World Trade Center in
- New York City, the attack on the Pentagon in Virginia, or the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania;
- A POW/MIA of the Vietnam Conflict or his/her son or daughter; the son, daughter or surviving spouse (who has not remarried) of a state or local public safety employee or volunteer who died in the line of duty;
- Or a state or local public safety employee or volunteer who was 100 percent disabled in the line of duty.

### **High School Diplomas**

County Boards of Education award high school diplomas to Korea and World War II veterans who left high school early to enter the Armed Forces. Diplomas are also issued to any veteran upon successful completion of the General Educational Development (GED) test.

Visit the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.mdva.state.md.us/index.html> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Maryland Veteran Health Care Programs**

### **Veteran Health Care Programs**

Maryland offers several health care programs to help both young and older veterans. These programs include mental health assistance, PTSD, and drug and alcohol abuse programs.

Visit the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.mdva.state.md.us/index.html> for contact information and benefits assistance.

## **Other Maryland State Veteran Benefits**

### **Veterans Benefit Claims Assistance Program**

The Service and Benefits Program of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs assists veterans and eligible dependents in acquiring their benefits. The staff of the Service Program is authorized to represent veterans and their dependents before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as well as provide general information to those seeking assistance, regardless of representation.

The Service Program currently has Service Officers located in communities throughout Maryland to aid or serve veterans and their eligible dependents. Contact the Program Office most convenient to you. Appointments may be scheduled through the Program Office nearest the itinerant location.

### **State Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Program**

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs administers a system of five state veterans' cemeteries, across the State and oversees the Washington Confederate Cemetery located in the Rose Hill Cemetery. A burial plot is provided to eligible veterans and their eligible dependents, when the veteran is a resident of the State of Maryland and has received an honorable discharge. Plots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to the veteran for burial plot, opening/closing, headstone and State liner (if used). Eligible dependents have a minimal

opening/closing cost and a direct cost for State liner (if used). There is also a pre-interment program where veterans can indicate their desire to be buried in one of the Five (5) State veteran's cemeteries and verify their eligibility for burial.

### **Maryland Veterans Memorials**

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs manages three veteran memorials. The Maryland World War II Memorial is in Annapolis, Korean War and Maryland Veterans Vietnam Memorials are in Baltimore. The Department shares joint responsibility for the War Memorial Building in Baltimore with the City of Baltimore.

### **Obtaining Copies of Documents**

Whenever a veteran requests benefits and services, a copy of the individual's discharge papers is required to verify eligibility. This includes admission to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland's five veteran cemeteries, VA claims and a myriad of other services provided to veterans and their families. World War II veterans who were Maryland residents at the time of entry into the service, and veterans who were discharged after October 15, 1979 and had a Maryland address at the time of discharge, can contact our Baltimore Office to inquire if we have a copy of their discharge papers. Veterans and their next of kin can also request a copy of the service member's DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty from the National Archives.

### **Game Hunting & Fishing Licenses**

100% service-connected disabled veterans and former POWs may obtain free hunting and fishing licenses. Additionally, Maryland residents in the Armed Forces, or service members who are on active duty and stationed in Maryland, may hunt without cost, if they are on official leave.

### **Admission to State Parks**

The Maryland Park Service offers an Access MD Pass for free entry to State Parks to individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the Golden Age Pass allows free entry to individuals 62 and older.

### **Auto Tags**

Certain severely disabled veterans (amputees, blind veterans and veterans who are 100% disabled) may be issued a disabled license plate for a motor vehicle without charge entitling them to special parking privileges.

Visit the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.mdva.state.md.us/index.html> for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/maryland-state-veterans-benefits> Mar 2013++]