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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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Arizona State Veteran's Benefits

The state of Arizona 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](#)

Arizona Veteran Housing Programs

Arizona State Veteran Home

The state of Arizona has 2 Veteran's homes, a 200 bed facility in Phoenix and a 120 bed facility in Tucson. Both are skilled care nursing facilities operated and maintained by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. The Veteran Homes offer different levels of nursing care and encourage residents to function at their highest level. The state-of-the-art facilities have been designed to be both functional and provide a pleasing environment with a southwest atmosphere.

Arizona Financial Assistance Benefits

Tax and License Fee Exemptions

1. To the extent not already excluded from Arizona gross income under set. 112 of the Internal Revenue Code, compensation received for active service as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States for any month during any part of which members served in a combat zone is exempt.
2. Federal (Civil Service or Military Retirement) payments up to \$2,500.00 per year are exempt. NOTE: Contact the Arizona Department of Revenue (1-800-845-8192) for any veteran tax issues.

Property Tax: The property tax of widows, widowers, and disabled persons may be waived in certain cases. Contact your County Assessor office for eligibility.

Vehicle License Tax and Registration Fees

No license tax or registration fee shall be collected from any veteran for a personally owned vehicle if such veteran is certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be one hundred percent service-connected disabled and drawing compensation on that basis. A veteran residing in Arizona shall be exempt from a vehicle license tax on a vehicle acquired by the veteran through financial aid from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This also applies to the surviving spouse, if the Veteran dies, until they remarry.

Arizona Employment Benefits

Employment Preferences

Age Limit: An honorably discharged veteran shall be eligible for employment preference, rights, and privileges under any merit system in the state or any political subdivision thereof, regardless of age, if otherwise qualified.

Civil Service: Veterans who pass an examination for employment by the state, county or city will have 5 points added to their certification score. The veteran must have served for more than six (6) months and be separated under honorable conditions. Veterans entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability will have 10 points added to their certification score. Certain spouses or surviving spouses shall be given a 5 point preference if the veteran died of a service-connected disability.

Fire Department: Members of any fire company inducted into the military establishment of the United States for military training are authorized reinstatement to their previous rating after discharge from military service.

Police And Fire Department: The period of military service shall be included in computing the length of service of the employee to determine eligibility for retirement.

Reserve Status/War Emergency: Appointive officers or employees of the state or of a political subdivision will be reinstated to their former position upon completion of military service to which they were inducted or ordered during time of war or were called to service because of their status as an active or inactive member of the Reserves.

Arizona Education Benefits

Tuition and Fees-Deferred Payment

A veteran or eligible dependent who has applied for educational benefits under the G. I. Bill state-supported community colleges, colleges and universities may defer payment of tuition, fees and required books for a period of 120 days with no interest charges. If, at the end of such period, the person has not received from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs the initial benefit monies for tuition and fees, an extension may be granted until such time benefits are received.

Other Arizona State Veteran Benefits

Burial and Headstones

When a veteran or a surviving spouse dies without sufficient means for funeral expenses, the County Board of Supervisors is responsible to ensure that burial will not be in a portion of ground used exclusively for burial of paupers. A suitable plot will be used, and the county may apply to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for expenses not to exceed \$150.00.

When the county buries an indigent veteran, the county clerk will make an application to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a suitable headstone and make arrangements for it to be placed at the head of the grave.

Voting in Elections

Absentee registration and voting by active duty military personnel and their eligible dependents residing out of state may be accomplished by prior to 7:00 p.m. on an Election Day. The County recorder may accept a federal postcard application in lieu of an affidavit of registration.

Recording of Discharges

Any county recorder, free of charge shall record military discharge papers. Location of each County Recorder's Office may be found in the blue pages of your area telephone directory.

Public Record Certification

Public officials shall issue without charge, certified copies of public records for use in making a claim for pension, compensation, allotment allowance, insurance, or other benefits from the United States.

Credit for Military Service for State Retirement Benefits

A participant of the state system or plan may receive credited past service or future service for active military service if the participant was honorably discharge from service. The period of military service for which the participant receives credited service is not on account with any other retirement system. Contact the nearest state personnel office for additional information and eligibility.

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Resident hunting and fishing licenses for members of the armed forces on active duty, stationed in state are available upon application. Complimentary licenses may be granted to veteran's 70 years or older who have been residents of this state for 25 years. Complimentary licenses will be issued to veterans verified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be one hundred percent service-connected disabled and who have been a resident for one year ore more.

Note: Contact the nearest Department of Game and Fish office.

Arizona State Parks

The Arizona State Parks department announced from Fort Verde State Historic Park that the agency will be instituting a new program to provide Arizona's 100% permanently disabled veterans with a "Disabled Veterans Annual Day Use pass." The pass will provide qualified veterans with day use access to all twenty-seven State Parks.

Special License Plates

Medal of Honor: Any resident of Arizona who is a recipient of the Medal of Honor may apply for a distinctive number plate at no additional cost.

- Prisoner of War: Any resident of Arizona who is a former prisoner of war may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial fee of \$15.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee with an annual renewal fee of \$5.00.
- Purple Heart: Any resident of Arizona who is a recipient of the Purple Heart may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial fee of \$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee with an annual renewal fee of \$5.00.
- Pearl Harbor Survivors: Any resident of Arizona who was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, received an honorable discharge, and was stationed at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu (or offshore not exceeding 3 miles), on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 A.M. to 9:45 A.M., is eligible for a Pearl Harbor distinctive number plate. An initial fee of \$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee with an annual renewal fee of \$5.00.
- National Guard: Any resident of Arizona who is or has been a member of the Arizona Air National Guard or Army National Guard may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial and renewal fee of \$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee.
- Veteran: Any resident of Arizona who was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and received an honorable discharge may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial and renewal fee of \$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee.

Transportation

Common carriers may give free or reduced rates to residents of homes for soldiers, and, with the consent of the Arizona Corporation Commission, to former soldiers and sailors for the purpose of attending any convention.

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