VETERANS BENEFITS OVERVIEW





BENEFITS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE

- **★**FEDERAL
- *STATE
- *LOCAL
- *MISCELLANEOUS









FEDERAL BENEFITS

★BURIAL BENEFITS Oct 7

★VA HEALTHCARE Oct 14

★VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION Oct 21

★VA Non-Service-Connected Pension Oct 28

★SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS Nov 18









BURIAL BENEFITS

What will the VA pay (or provide)?

- ★ Burial and/or plot allowance for eligible veterans
- ★ Headstone, grave marker, or niche marker
- ★ Memorial Certificates "signed" by the current President

Cemeteries: Beech Grove veterans section, state (Winchendon & Agawam), & federal (Bourne)









VA HEALTHCARE

- ★ Must meet time in service requirements
- **★** Discharge under Honorable conditions
- ★ If veteran meets certain qualifying criteria, automatically eligible
 - ★ If veteran does not meet any of the qualifying criteria, eligibility is based on prior year's household income









VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION

- ★ Monthly, tax-free monetary benefit (10% or more) that is payable to veteran only
- ★ Claim can be filed for:
 - ★ Illness or injury that incurred while serving in the military, or
 - ★ Military service made existing condition worse, or
 - ★ Illness incurred after service from exposure during military service
- ★ Physical or mental health conditions covered
- ★ 30% or higher, receive higher amount with dependents









VA NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED PENSION

- ★ Monthly, tax-free monetary benefit for low income veterans who fall below yearly income and asset limits (\$138,489 for CY 2022)
- ★ Veteran must meet wartime service & discharge requirements
- **★** Three levels:
 - ★ Pension: no medical conditions, but veteran must be 65 or older or permanently & totally disabled
 - ★ Housebound additional amount added to pension if veteran is housebound due to medical condition(s)
 - ★ Aid & Attendance additional amount added to pension if veteran needs assistance from another person with ADLs









VA SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS - PENSION

- ★ Monthly, tax-free monetary benefit for low income un-remarried surviving spouse and unmarried dependent child(ren) of veterans who fall below yearly income and asset limits (\$138,489 for CY 20%22)
 - ★ Income limit is lower than it is for veterans
- ★ Veteran must meet wartime service & discharge requirements
- ★ Same three levels as for veteran: Pension, Housebound, & Aid & Attendance









VA SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS - DIC

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

- ★ Monthly, tax-free monetary benefit
- ★ Eligibility is based on certain qualifying conditions
- ★ Payable to surviving spouse*, minor child or dependent/disabled adult child, or parent**
- * Spouse married to veteran for at least 1 year
- ** Parent income must fall below a certain amount









STATE BENEFITS

- ★FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (CHAPTER 115)
- **★PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS**
- *DISABLED VETERAN ANNUITY

Nov 4

- **★WELCOME HOME BONUSES**
- *RMV VETERANS BENEFITS









FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (CH. 115)

- ★ Non-taxable monetary assistance for veterans and their eligible survivors who meet income and asset limits
- ★ Administered by VSO in community of residence
- ★ Can assist with shelter, heat, and/or medical expenses
- ★ May also assist with hearing aids, glasses, and dental
- ★ If low income & without means to pay for burial, may pay burial expenses up to \$4,000 for a burial that costs no more than \$5,000 for veteran and spouse without being enrolled in this program.









PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Mass. General Law Chapter 59, section 5

- ★ Veteran with service-connected disability rating between 10% and 100% can get partial abatement on annual property taxes
- ★ Surviving spouse of a veteran who died from a service-connected disability can receive 100% exemption of property taxes
- ★ Must re-apply every year









DISABLED VETERAN ANNUITY

- ★ Massachusetts resident
- ★ 100% service-connected veteran (including IU)
- ★ Un-remarried surviving spouse of service member/veteran whose death is rated as service-connected by VA
- ★ Parent of service member/veteran whose death is rated as serviceconnected by VA









WELCOME HOME BONUSES

★ Must have lived in Massachusetts for at least 6 months prior to entry into military & received an Honorable discharge

✓ World War II

☑ Korea

✓ Vietnam

☑ Persian Gulf

☑ Global War on Terror

☑ National Guard COVID Activation

✓ Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal recipient (not during other bonus qualifying dates)









✓ Purple Heart

✓ Medal of Honor

RMV VETERAN BENEFITS

- ★ "Veteran" designation on license or ID
- **★** License Plates:
- ☑ Bronze Star

 ☑ Silver Star
- ☑ Legion of Valor ☑ Distinguished Flying Cross
- ✓ Veteran with or without branch logo
- ☑ Disabled veteran









LOCAL & MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS

- *Westport Veteran-Designated Parking
- **★ VETERAN ID CARD**
- * MILITARY DISCOUNTS
- **★ DISABLED VETERAN PX & COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES**
- **★ ONLINE MILITARY EXCHANGES**
- * NATIONAL PARK ACCESS









WESTPORT VETERAN-DESIGNATED PARKING

- ★ Available at
 - ★ Town Hall (north side of building)
 - **★** Town Hall Annex (south side of building)
- ★ Proof of veteran status displayed in or on car:
 - ★ Veteran license plate OR
 - ★ Placard from the VSO





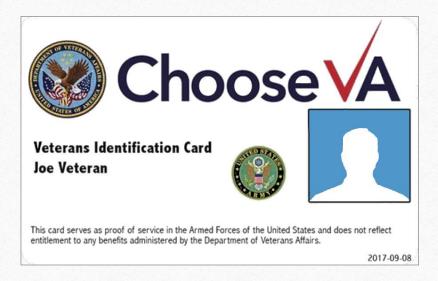


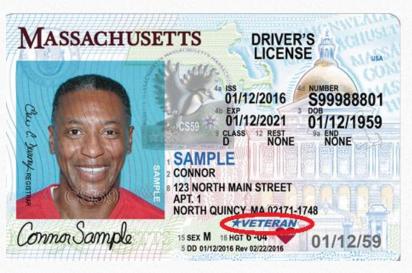




VETERAN ID CARD

- ★ Can be used in place of state-issued ID or DD214 as proof of military service for discounts
- ★ Active duty, Reserve, or National Guard
- ★ Honorable or General Under Honorable discharge only













VETERAN ID CARD

- ★ Can apply online ONLY and will need a login to either:

- ☑ ID.me or ☑ LOGIN.gov or ☑ MyHealtheVet
- ★ Need email address and smartphone that you can access email (and ideally text messages)
- ★ Need to upload digital files of

- ☑ DD214 ☑ your picture ☑ front & back of ID
- ★ Can get physical ID or digital ID or both









MILITARY/VETERAN DISCOUNTS

- ★ Many retailers offer discounts to veterans, but you have to ask
- ★ Some retailers require you to register online, then show identification in store (Lowes & Home Depot are 2 examples)
- ★ Some businesses offer discounts only around certain holidays (Memorial Day, 4th of July, Veterans Day)









EXCHANGE & COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES

- ★ Effective 1/1/2020, access to US military installation exchanges and commissaries granted to:
 - ☑ Purple Heart recipients

 - ✓ Veterans with service-connected disability rating of 0% to 90%
 - ☑ Caregiver of a veteran eligible in the above categories
- ★ Certain MWR facilities are also available at the discretion of the branch of service or base commander









ONLINE MILITARY EXCHANGES

- ★ Effective 11/11/2017, all honorably discharged veterans including Reserve and Guard - became eligible to shop at online military exchanges
- ★ Does not grant base access
- **★** Tax-free shopping
- ★ Check eligibility online at: www.shopmyexchange.com/account/register









NATIONAL PARK ACCESS

- ★ Effective 11/11/2020
- ★ Veterans and Gold Star families
- ★ Free access to national parks, wildlife refuges, and other Federal lands managed by the Dept. of the Interior
- ★ Lifetime pass available online (\$10 processing fee) or free in person at sites that issue passes.









RESOURCES - FEDERAL BENEFITS

- ★ Burial: www.va.gov/burials-memorials/
- ★ VA Healthcare: www.va.gov/health-care/
- ★ Disability: va.gov/disability
- ★ Pension: www.va.gov/pension/
- ★ Survivor: www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/









RESOURCES - STATE BENEFITS

- ★ Chapter 115 Financial Assistance Program: www.mass.gov/service-details/financial-help-for-veterans-and-family-members
- ★ Property Tax: www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cisvet/vetprptax.htm
- ★ Disabled Veteran Annuity: <u>www.mass.gov/service-details/veteran-annuity-payment</u>
- ★ RMV Benefits: <u>www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cisvet/vetmotor.htm</u> or <u>www.mass.gov/info-details/disabled-veteran-fee-and-tax-exemptions</u>
- ★ Welcome Home Bonuses: <u>www.mass.gov/orgs/veterans-bonus-division</u>









Resources – Miscellaneous Benefits

- ★ Veteran ID Card: eauth.va.gov/accessva/#forVeterans/
- ★ Discounts: <u>www.westport-ma.com/veterans-services/pages/military-</u>veteran-discounts
- ★ On-base Exchange & Commissary Access: www.va.gov/resources/commissary-and-exchange-privileges-forveterans/
- ★ Online Exchanges: www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans
- ★ National Parks: https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm



