

SUMMARY OF VA BENEFITS

The Department of Veteran Affairs offers a wide range of benefits for veterans, service members, and their families. You may be eligible for VA benefits if you are:

- A veteran
- A veteran's dependent
- A surviving spouse, child, or parent of a deceased veteran
- An active duty military service member
- A member of the Reserve or National Guard

VA BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Compensation is a monthly payment made to a veteran who is at least 10 percent disabled as a result of military service. Pension is a monthly payment to a wartime veteran with limited income who is permanently and totally disabled or at least 65 years old. There are no time limits to apply for compensation and pension benefits.

HEALTH CARE

VA provides a number of health care services:

- Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy, and prosthetics
- Domiciliary, nursing home, and community-based residential care
- Sexual trauma counseling
- Specialized health care for women veterans
- Specialized mental health treatment for PTSD
- Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless veterans
- Readjustment counseling
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service in the Gulf or exposure to Agent Orange, radiation, and other environmental hazards
- Specialized program for Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans

NOTE: There are income restrictions for non-service connected veterans. There is no time limit to register for health care.

 **SALISBURY VA MEDICAL CENTER** 704-638-9000

COMBAT VETERANS

VA provides free health care for veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, for any illness possibly related to their service in that theater. **APPLICATION TIME LIMITS:** The veteran has five

years from the date of discharge from active duty on or after January 28, 2003. The veteran has until January 27, 2011 if he or she was discharged before January 28, 2003 and not enrolled as of January 28, 2008.

EDUCATION

VA pays benefits to eligible veterans, reservists, and active duty service members while they are in an approved education or training program.

ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE Persons who first entered active duty after June 30, 1985 are generally eligible under the Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30). The veteran must have contributed \$1,200 to the program. Those who entered for the first time after Dec. 31, 1976, and before July 1, 1985, are generally eligible for the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP). For these programs, veterans have 10 years from date of release to use these education benefits and have 36 months of eligibility.

POST 9/11 (New) Veterans who served at least 90 days on active duty after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible for this program. If the veteran has served less than 36 months, the benefit amount is prorated. If the service member is still on active duty, this benefit may be transferable to dependents according to DOD policies. This program has 48 months eligibility and is available for 15 years following release.

RESERVE/GUARD SERVICE Benefits are available to Reserve and national Guard members under Chapter 1606 for members who sign a six-year commitment after June 30, 1985 and under Chapter 1607 who were activated (under Federal authority) after 9/11 and served at least 90 continuous days. Some Reservists and National Guard members are eligible for Post 9/11.

 **EDUCATION ASSISTANCE** 1-888-442-4551

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

VA provides assistance to veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment. For veterans with serious service-connected disabilities, VA offers services to improve their ability to live independently. There are five service delivery options

- Reemployment
- Rapid Access to Employment

- Self-Employment
- Employment through Long Term Services
- Independent Living

DEPENDENT & SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is paid to widows and children of:

- Service members who died on active duty
- Veterans who died from service-related disabilities
- Certain veterans who were being paid 100 percent VA disability for 10 years

Death Pension is payable to some surviving spouses and children of wartime veterans. This benefit is based on financial need. Parents' DIC is payable to some surviving parents of veterans. This benefit is based on financial need.

BURIAL

VA offers certain benefits and services to honor our nation's deceased veterans.

- Headstones and Markers: VA furnishes a monument for all eligible veterans.
- Presidential Memorial Certificate: VA provides this for eligible recipient.
- Reimbursement of Burial Expenses: VA can pay up to \$2,000 for veterans who die of service-connected causes. They pay \$300 for burial plot; \$300 for funeral expenses for veterans who were receiving VA benefits and did not die of a service-connected disability.
- Burial in a VA National Cemetery: Most veterans and some dependents can be buried in a VA national cemetery.

 **NATIONAL CEMETERY (SALIS.)** 704-636-2661

VA PROVIDES NUMEROUS OTHER PROGRAMS

such as Home Loan Guarantees, Life Insurance, Home Improvement Grants, Auto Grants, Aid & Attendance, Dependent Education, and CHAMPVA.

STATE BENEFITS

North Carolina offers several benefits for its veterans:

- **NORTH CAROLINA STATE SCHOLARSHIP**
Program Children whose parent is 100% disabled from a wartime service connection or whose parent died on active duty may be eligible for an automatic award. There are also competitive scholarships.

 844-624-8387 (press option 2)

 ncdva.scholarships@milvets.nc.gov

- **HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES**
Veterans who are rated 50 to 100 percent disabled are eligible for reduced rate licenses.
- **AUTO LICENSE PLATES**
100 percent disabled veterans are eligible for a free Disabled Veteran License Plate.
- **PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**
100 percent disabled veterans are eligible for a partial tax exemption on their home.

 **TAX ADMINISTRATION** 704-216-8565

- **STATE CEMETERIES**
North Carolina has state cemeteries. A free burial plot is provided for eligible North Carolina veterans. Legal spouses can be buried for a small fee.

VETERANS NURSING HOMES

The state has four full-service skilled nursing facilities (in Fayetteville, Salisbury, Black Mountain, and Kinston) for veterans who must have lived in NC for 24 months.

 **SALISBURY CAMPUS** 704-638-4200
www.milvets.nc.gov/services/nc-state-veterans-homes

EDUCATION

Any member of the armed services qualifying for admission to an institution of higher learning shall be charged the in-state tuition rate.

EMPLOYMENT

Preference in State Government employment is granted to veterans, surviving spouses, or spouses of disabled veterans.

ROWAN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES

1935 Jake Alexander Blvd W, Suite A-2
Salisbury, NC 28147

PHONE 704-216-8138
FAX 704-638-3059

www.rowancountync.gov/vso

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

We assist veterans and their dependents in all facets of veterans' benefits. All services provided by Rowan County Veterans Services Office are free of charge.

VETERANS CRISIS LINE | 1-800-273-8255, press 1 | www.veteranscrisisline.net

**ROWAN
COUNTY**

NORTH CAROLINA

Be an original.