



VETERANS' BENEFITS







THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
GOVERNOR

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for your service to our country. You now join more than 359,000 Oregon veterans, and are entitled to some valuable benefits. As a veteran myself, I know first hand just how important these benefits are to you and your future. I went to college on the GI bill, and it has made all the difference in my life. You, along with your families, have made a tremendous sacrifice by choosing to defend our nation. Whether it's a home loan, educational benefits, or help in finding a new job, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs will help steer you in the right direction.



As Oregon's Governor, I take great pride in the important work you have done to protect our freedoms. I salute your service to this great country, and encourage you to take advantage of the vital benefits you have earned. It's a chance for us to give back to you after all you have done for us.

Serving your country in the armed forces is a lifelong badge of honor. Your state and your country owe you a debt of gratitude.

Sincerely,

Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski

Dear Veteran,

I would like to join the Governor and my fellow Oregonians in thanking you for your service to our state and nation. This precious time spent away from friends and family was in defense of our most precious American possession, freedom. As a result of your voluntary service, you will be known for the rest of your life as an American military veteran. This entitles you to a number of valuable benefits and I urge you to take advantage of them.



Please review this booklet carefully. You will find it invaluable to you in exploring your veteran benefits, such as home loans, educational assistance, re-employment rights and much more. Remember, as a veteran these are earned entitlements and in some cases must be used within certain time limits.

As the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, I take great pride in the talented and dedicated employees of our Department. They are waiting to serve you. Please feel free to contact us at anytime. Remember, at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, *"Everyday is Veterans Day."*

Sincerely,

Jim Willis
Director

This resource booklet is intended to serve as an informational guide to state and federal veteran benefits. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is committed to assisting veterans and their families with obtaining the benefits earned as a result of a veteran's honorable military service.

To help obtain these benefits, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs provides veteran service officers free-of-charge to assist veterans and their families with applying for benefits. Veterans Service Officers also are available through most counties or through National Service Organizations, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, AMVETS and others.

For more information regarding veteran benefits or to schedule an appointment to meet with a veteran service officer, contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs at 503-373-2085 or 1-800-692-9666.

If you have any questions about the contents or resources contained in this guide, please do not hesitate to contact the:

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
700 Summer Street NE, Salem, OR 97301
Toll Free within Oregon 1-800-692-9666 or 503-373-2085
Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
www.oregon.gov/ODVA

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VERY IMPORTANT - As a veteran, you have earned for yourself and potentially for your family benefits as a result of your service to this country. This guide contains brief overviews of some of the benefits for which you may qualify. Remember, you must apply for your benefits to receive them. Some benefits have time limitations during which they must be used. Please visit your local county veterans service office or a veterans' organization national service officer with a copy of your DD Form 214 or call the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to find out more about your veterans' benefits 1-800-692-9666 (Toll Free within Oregon) or 503-373-2085. www.oregon.gov/ODVA/BENEFITS

SAFEGUARD YOUR DD Form 214 - This document is key to accessing your veterans' benefits. Oregon county clerks will record a veteran's discharge document free of charge.

VETERANS' HOME LOANS

STATE OF OREGON

ORVET STATE VETERANS' HOME LOANS

For more than 60 years, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has made home loans to veterans at favorable interest rates. More than 330,000 home loans have been made to veterans in Oregon.

The ODVA's State Veteran's Home Loan program offers favorable interest rates and enables honorably-discharged veterans to purchase a single-family owner-occupied home.

Eligibility for the program can be established prior to making actual application for a home loan. A veteran's eligibility for the program expires 30 years after discharge from qualifying active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

For program qualifications, contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Toll-Free within Oregon, 1-888-673-8387.
From outside of Oregon 503-373-2070.

For more information,
review the ODVA's website:
www.oregon.gov/ODVA/HOMELOANS

or contact us by email at
orvetshomeloans@odva.state.or.us.

FEDERAL

HOME LOAN GUARANTEES

U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home loan guarantees are made to servicemembers, veterans, reservists and unmarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes.

VA guaranteed home loans offer several important advantages over most conventional loans including a guarantee that protects the lender against loss due to nonpayment by the borrower. A VA Certificate of Eligibility is required.

To ask about home loan guaranty information, call the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) toll free,
1-888-349-7541
www.homeloans.va.gov

or call the

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
(Toll Free within Oregon)
1-800-692-9666
or from outside of Oregon
503-373-2085
www.oregon.gov/ODVA

EDUCATION

STATE OF OREGON

STATE EDUCATIONAL AID

This program pays up to \$150 per month for full time study or training and \$100 per month for part time study or training. Payments are made directly to qualifying veterans for:

- College/University
- Vocational School
- Home Study

Benefits will be paid for as many months as the veteran spent on active duty service up to a maximum of 36 months.

A veteran's military discharge must be under honorable conditions.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
Veterans' Services,
1-800-692-9666 (Toll Free within Oregon)
or 503-373-2085
www.oregon.gov/ODVA/BENEFITS

TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM

The Oregon Legislature passed a law that provides a full-tuition waiver for a bachelor's or master's degree at an Oregon University System institution for children or spouses of servicemembers who died on active duty, became 100 percent disabled in connection with military service, or died as a result of a disability sustained on active duty after September 11, 2001.

Information on the tuition waiver as well as the application form can be found at www.ous.edu.

FEDERAL

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Provides monthly education assistance benefits for:

- College/University
- Technical and Vocational School
- Vocational Rehabilitation for disabled veterans

These benefits must be used within 10 years of separation from service and within 12 years from the date of establishing a service-connected disability.

A veterans' military discharge must be under honorable conditions.

For information, visit the USDVA website at www.gibill.va.gov or contact Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, 1-800-692-9666 (Toll Free within Oregon) or 503-373-2085, or contact the Enrollment/Registration office at the school that you plan to attend.

EMPLOYMENT

STATE OF OREGON

UNEMPLOYMENT

Veterans returning from service may be eligible for State of Oregon unemployment insurance benefits. A copy of your DD Form 214 is needed to apply for benefits. Local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVERs) and the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs) work to assist veterans with their employment needs.

Oregon Employment Department
Main Office 1-800-237-3710 (*Toll Free*)
or 503-947-1394
www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/VETS

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
Veterans' Services 1-800-692-9666
(*Toll Free within Oregon*) or 503-373-2085

EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE POINTS

Honorably discharged veterans receive preference points when applying for public employment. These preference points can be used more than once. A 15-year limit from date of discharge does apply unless the veteran is disabled.

Oregon Employment Department
Main Office
1-800-237-3710 (*Toll Free*)
or 503-947-1394
www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/VETS

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
Veterans' Services
1-800-692-9666 (*Toll Free within Oregon*)
or
503-373-2085

FEDERAL

RE-EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

Enforced under federal statutes, veterans can return to their employment with accrued status upon release from service.

U.S. Department of Labor
1-800-237-3710 Ext. 71490
or 503-947-1490
www.dol.gov/vets/

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides a number of services to assist veterans who own or are considering starting small businesses. Services include loan guarantee programs, venture capital assistance, and government contracting assistance. Contact your SBA District Office.

For a location nearest you call
(Toll Free) 1-800-827-5722
www.sba.gov
or call the Office of
Veterans Business Development
at 202-205-6773 - www.business.gov

VETERANS TRANSITION FRANCHISE INITIATIVE

Commonly known as 'VetFran', the program allows veterans to acquire a franchise with a down payment of 10 percent or less of the initial franchise cost.

For information contact the
Center for Veterans Enterprise
at 1-866-584-2344 (*Toll Free*)

MEDICAL CARE

STATE OF OREGON

BENEFIT ASSISTANCE

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) works to assist veterans with applying for medical care through the federal VA healthcare system.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
Veterans' Services
1-800-692-9666 (*Toll Free within Oregon*)
or 503-373-2085
www.oregon.gov/ODVA/BENEFITS

OREGON VETERANS' HOME

Opened in 1997, the Oregon Veterans' Home is a 151-bed Medicare/Medicaid certified, long-term care facility.

The Home provides skilled nursing, Alzheimer's and other dementia care, and inpatient and outpatient rehabilitative care to veterans, spouses of veterans, and parents all of whose children died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Home is located in The Dalles, and overlooks the scenic Columbia River.

Oregon Veterans' Home
1-800-846-8460
or
541-296-7190
www.oregon.gov/ODVA/VETSHOME

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VA MEDICAL CARE

The VA healthcare system provides medical care to veterans through a network of medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, outreach clinics, rehabilitative centers and Vet Centers. Services available include:

- Hospital care
- Outpatient care
- Pharmacy services
- Rehabilitative care
- Alcohol and drug-dependence treatment
- Gulf War Registry programs
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment

Priority is given to disabled veterans.

Visit the VA website at
www1.va.gov/health

The Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA) provides reimbursement for most medical expenses for the spouse and children of certain veterans.

www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva

DENTAL TREATMENT

Dental care for certain qualified veterans.
Certain time limitations apply.

U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Benefits
1-877-222-8387
or

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
1-800-692-9666 (*Toll Free within Oregon*)
or
503-373-2085

OTHER VETERANS' BENEFITS

STATE OF OREGON

AUTO LICENSE REGISTRATION - One-time registration fee for motor vehicle registration for service-connected disabled veterans in receipt of compensation. Contact the Department of Motor Vehicles, General Information: 503-945-5000; Portland Metro Area, (503) 299-9999.

CLAIMS ASSISTANCE - The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) assists veterans, their dependents and survivors with applying for their federal and state veterans' benefits. The ODVA provides one-on-one assistance in obtaining records needed for such claims, including visits to claimants who are house-bound or live in nursing homes, and who are incarcerated. Contact the ODVA Veterans' Services Office in Salem, 1-800-692-9666 (toll free in Oregon) or 503-373-2085 or ODVA Veterans' Service Office in Portland at 503-412-4785.

CONSERVATORSHIP - ODVA provides Estate Management for certain veterans and their dependents. Call the Veterans' Services Office, 1-800-692-9666 (Toll Free within Oregon) or 503-373-2085.

DOCUMENTS - Free recording and certified copies of public records for veteran-related purposes, including birth, marriage, death, and divorce decrees. Contact your local County Recorders Office.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - Currently, ODVA offers temporary financial assistance to meet emergency needs of Oregon veterans and their immediate families. For information, or to apply for this assistance, contact ODVA at 503-373-2264 or 1-800-692-9666 ext. 2264 (Toll Free within Oregon).

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES - Free permanent hunting and angling licenses for veterans with service-connected disabilities of 25 percent or more. Contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-720-6339 or the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, Veterans' Services, at 1-800-692-9666 or 503-373-2085.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION - The exemption is a portion of the value from property tax for veterans with disabilities of 40 percent or more. The exemption is also available to a war veteran's surviving spouse who has not remarried. Contact your local County Tax Assessors Office or the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, 1-888-828-8801 ext. 2199 (Toll Free within Oregon) or 503-373-2199.

STATE PARKS USE - Veterans with a service-connected disability have free year-round camping and day-use privileges at RV and tent sites in Oregon State Parks. Contact the Oregon State Parks information center at 1-800-551-6949.

OTHER VETERANS' BENEFITS

STATE OF OREGON

OREGON VETERANS' SMALL BUSINESS REPAIR LOAN - The Oregon Veterans' Small Business Repair Loan is a zero-percent loan intended to help recently returning servicemembers recover their businesses that had suffered a setback during their deployments. Veterans can apply for up to \$20,000 if they are the majority owner of their business. For more information, contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs at 1-800-692-9666.

VETERAN LICENSE PLATES - The Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles offers a variety of license plates relating to military service. A portion of the fees from the "VETERAN" plate helps support the Oregon Veterans' Home, a 151-bed, Medicare/Medicaid certified, skilled-nursing care facility, located in The Dalles. To obtain a "VETERAN" license plate take your DD-214 to your local DMV Office and complete the appropriate form.



VETS NEWS - The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs publishes a bi-monthly newsletter - *VETS NEWS* - for veterans and others interested in news affecting veterans and their dependents. To subscribe to this free newsletter contact ODVA Public Information, 1-888-828-8801 ext. 2385 (Toll Free within Oregon) or 503-373-2385. The *VETS NEWS* can be viewed online as well at www.oregon.gov/ODVA/INFO/VetsNews.shtml

WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE - The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs holds a veteran conference for women who served in the military. The purpose of the conference is to provide outreach and information to Oregon's women veteran population to ensure they are aware of the benefits they have earned as a result of their military service. For more information contact ODVA Public Information, 1-888-828-8801 ext. 2385 (Toll Free within Oregon) or 503-373-2385.



OTHER VETERANS' BENEFITS

FEDERAL

NOTE: The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) assists veterans, their dependents and survivors with applying for federal and state veterans' benefits including those listed below. The Department also assists with obtaining records needed to apply for these benefits.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans' Services
1-800-692-9666 (*Toll Free within Oregon*) or 503-373-2085

AUTOMOBILE ADAPTATION ASSISTANCE - Veterans and servicemembers may qualify if they have service-connected loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands or feet, or permanent impairment of vision of both eyes.

BURIAL BENEFITS - Veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable are eligible for burial in a national cemetery, a burial flag, a headstone or grave marker and a burial allowance under certain circumstances. Dependent spouse/children are eligible for national cemetery burial, if the veteran is buried there.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE - Any veteran who is entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability for which he or she uses prosthetic or orthopedic appliances may receive an annual clothing allowance.

COMPENSATION - Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. This includes but is not limited to:

- Prisoners of War
- Radiation Exposure
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Agent Orange and other Herbicides
- Gulf War Veterans
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

DEATH PENSION - This is a needs-based benefit paid to an unmarried surviving spouse or an unmarried child of a deceased wartime veteran if they are eligible. The VA's website contains additional information at www.vba.va.gov/survivors.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC) - This is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a veteran in certain circumstances. More information can be found at www.vba.va.gov/survivors.

Questions? Contact ODVA for assistance or for telephone numbers of county veterans' service officers or veterans' organization national service officers nearest you.

OTHER VETERANS' BENEFITS

FEDERAL

GOLDEN ACCESS PASSPORT AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL ACCESS PASS - The Golden Age and Golden Access Passports have been discontinued and have been replaced by the America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass - Access Pass.

This lifetime access pass is for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with documented permanent disabilities. The pass provides access to and use of Federal recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee into National wildlife refuges. It also allows the pass owner discounts for camping, swimming and parking fees.

Previous passes will still be accepted according to the provisions of the pass. Visitors are encouraged to contact the site they plan to visit and inquire about pass acceptance before visiting.

For more information on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's), visit <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/general.html>.

LIFE INSURANCE - Honorably discharged veterans with service-connected disabilities may qualify for insurance. The insurance programs were developed to provide benefits for veterans who may not be able to get insurance from private companies. The VA website provides more information at www.insurance.va.gov.

PENSION - Veterans with low incomes who are non-service connected permanently and totally disabled or 65 years or older may be eligible for monetary support if they have 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE (PMC) - A Presidential Memorial Certificate is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans. A copy of the deceased veteran's military discharge document (DD214) along with a copy of the death certificate must be provided when requesting a PMC. Visit the VA website at www.cem.va.gov/CEM/pmc.asp for more information.

SPECIAL HOME ADAPTATION GRANT- Veterans who have specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a grant for the purpose of modifying an existing home to meet their adaptive needs. There is more information at the VA website www.homeloans.va.gov/sah.

WOMEN VETERANS - Women veterans are eligible for the same VA benefits as male veterans. However, additional gender-specific services and benefits are available for women veterans. The VA website has more information at www1.va.gov/womenvet/page.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

For more than 60 years, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has served Oregon's veterans, their dependents and survivors. The Department is honored to be able to serve those who have given so much of themselves in service to this country.

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, with the support of our citizens, recognizes and honors Oregon's veterans and their families by providing the highest quality programs, service and benefits.

Contact the Department at the numbers listed below for more information or questions about how we can help ensure that you are getting the benefits to which you are entitled and have earned as a result of your military service.

At the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, "EVERYDAY is Veterans Day!"

Veterans' Home Loans	1-888-673-8387 503-373-2070
Veterans' Benefits	1-800-692-9666 503-373-2085
Oregon Veterans' Home	1-800-846-8460
• skilled nursing care	541-296-7190
• rehabilitative care	
Public Information Services	1-800-828-8801 503-373-2386

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
700 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-1285

Visit our website at www.oregon.gov/ODVA

IMPORTANT INFORMATION/RESOURCES



Please feel free to contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs at the numbers listed below for information or questions. We are here to help ensure that you are getting the assistance you may need and the benefits to which you are entitled and have earned as a result of your military service.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
700 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-1285

1-800-692-9666 (Toll Free within Oregon) or 503-373-2085



- NOTES -



