



# GI Bill Benefits for Family Members

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**"GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>."**

# Agenda:

- Introduction
- Ch35
- Maine State Tuition Waiver
- TOE Ch33
- Fry Scholarship & Expansion Update

# Our Mission

Evaluate and approve programs of education & training and tests for licensing and certification,

Conduct Outreach to increase usage of GI Bills with emphasis on development of job training programs,

Serve as advocates for GI Bill recipients, and

Work with “partners and stakeholders” to protect resources available under GI Bills

# Ch35 Dependents Educational Assistance

Who: Dependents of 100% Permanently & Totally Disabled Veterans.

What: 45 mos of benefits. Currently \$1004 per month.

When: Spouse has 10 yrs from P&T determination to use the benefit. Children have until age 26. Children can start drawing benefit at age 18 while attending High School. First 5 months of benefits used while in HS is not charged against the total of 45.

# Ch35 Dependents Educational Assistance (2)

Ch35 can be used for a wide variety of pursuits including:

On-The-Job Training (OJT) or Apprenticeship Programs

Colleges/Universities

Non-College Degree training

Certification programs

Trade programs

DVEM Maine State Tuition Waiver for UMS, CCs, and MMA.

[http://www.maine.gov/dvem/bvs/educational\\_benefits.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dvem/bvs/educational_benefits.htm)

207-430-6035

Note: GI Bill money cannot be used in calculating Financial Aid.

# Ch33 Post 9/11 GI Bill- Transfer of Entitlement (TOE)

Who: Veteran may “Transfer Entitlement Benefits” in part or whole to spouse or children under certain conditions.

What: 36 mos of benefits. Must serve 36mos on Active Duty to receive full benefit. Smaller rates for reduced service. Will pay all in-state public school costs (tuition & fees) to include grad pgms. Up to (approx.) \$19,000 per academic year for private schools. Schools may also enter into the “Yellow Ribbon Program” to offset high costs; essentially a matching grant program between the school & the VA. These funds go direct to the school. Will also pay a housing allowance.

# **Ch33 Post 9/11 GI Bill- Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) (2)**

When: Veteran and Spouse have 15 yrs from last active duty end date. Children have until age 26.

How: Veteran **MUST** transfer entitlement while a participating member of the Military (no IRR/ING). Veteran can change entitlement at any time. TOE is not a marital asset.

# Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

- Amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) to include the children (and now also spouses) of service members who die in the line of duty after Sept. 10, 2001. The benefit is effective August 1, 2009; the same day the Post-9/11 GI Bill takes effect. Eligible spouses and children attending school may receive:
- Full tuition & fees paid directly to the school for all public school in-state students. For those attending private or foreign schools tuition & fees are capped at a statutory maximum amount per academic year.
- A monthly housing allowance
- A books & supplies stipend



# Children

- Children of an active duty member of the Armed Forces who has died in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, are eligible for this benefit. A child may be married or over 23 and still be eligible.
- Eligible children:
  - are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level
  - may use the benefit until his or her 33rd birthday
  - are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program

# Spouse

- As a result of HR3230, signed into law August 2014.
- Have 15 years from date of death use benefit or the date on which the individual remarries.
- Are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level
- Effective date – “shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after January 1, 2015.”

# To Apply for Benefits

- Make sure that your selected program is approved for the use of GI Bill benefits. Your State Approving Agency (that would be me!) can inform you and the school or company about the requirements.
- To apply, obtain and complete [VA Form 22-5490](#), Dependents Application for VA Education Benefits. Send it to:

Buffalo VA Regional Office

PO Box 4616

Buffalo, NY 14240-4616

If you are a son or daughter, under legal age, a parent or guardian must sign the application.

- You can also apply on-line through <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/apply.asp>
- The VA will send you a letter determining your eligibility. Don't lose it!

# Then What?

- Contact the GI Bill representative (also known as the “School Certifying Official” or SCO) at your school. They will certify your enrollment to the VA.
- The SCO is the key to you getting your benefits.
- The SCO is also responsible for reporting any changes in your course load (to include withdrawal or termination) to the VA.

# Sequence of Use for Maximizing Benefits

- First: Ch35 for High School (first 5 months are not counted towards months of eligibility).
- Second: TOE 33 (if any). Includes Yellow Ribbon.
- Fry.

# Questions?

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