THE SOLDIER'S CREED

I am an American soldier.
I am a warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army values.
I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.
I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.
I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.
I am an expert and I am a professional.
I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.
I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American soldier.
Veterans Helping Veterans

If you were on active duty, the reserves, or the national guard and visited a doctor, hospital, health clinic or any other medical facility for any reason. This could mean thousands of dollars to you and your beneficiaries.
Veterans Helping Veterans

American Legion
Department of Florida
VA Entitlement Chairman
Larry Roberts
1301 W. BELL STREET
AVON PARK, FL 33825
(850)718-7773

County Veterans Service Officers

Alachua: (352)264.6740
Baker: (904)259.2516
Bay: (850)248.8280
Bradford: (904)966.6385
Brevard: (320)363.2012
Broward: (954)357.6622
Calhoun: (850)674.8305
Charlotte: (941)764.5579
Citrus: (352)527.5915
Clay: (904)269.6326
Collier: (239)252.8387
Columbia: (863)758.1013
Desoto: (863)993.4680
Miami-Dade: (786)469.4640
Dixie: (352)498.1246
Duval: (904)630.3680
Walton: (850)892.8140

Escambia: (850)912.2055
Flagler: (386)313.4014
Franklin: (850)653.8096
Gadsden: (850)875.8661
Gilchrist: (352)463.3188
Glades: (863)946.0566
Gulf: (850)229.6125
Hamilton: (386)792.1272
Hardee: (863)773.9853
Hendry: (863)675.5250
Hernando: (352)754.4033
Highlands: (863)402.6623
Hillsborough: (813)635.8316
Holmes: (850)547.2897
Indian River: (772)226.1499
Union: (386)496.4248
Washington: (850)638.6140

Jackson: (850)718.0003
Jefferson: (850)342.0176
Lafayette: (386)294.5010
Lake: (352)742.6585
Lee: (239)533.8381
Leon: (850)604.1940
Levy: (352)486.5210
Liberty: (850)643.5960
Madison: (850)923.3208
Manatee: (941)749.3030
Marion: (352)671.8422
Martin: (772)288.5448
Miami-Dade: (786)469.4640
Nassau: (904)548.4670
Okaloosa: (651)7258
Okeechobee: (863)763.6441
Orange: (407)836.8990
Osceola: (407)742.8455
Pasco: (727)834.3282
Pinellas: (727)464.8460
Polk: (863)534.5220
Putnam: (386)329.0327
St. Johns: (904)209.6160
St. Lucie: (772)337.5670
Santa Rosa: (850)981.7110
Sarasota: (941)861.2899
Seminole: (407)665.2371
Sumter: (352)689.4450
Suwannee: (386)364.3403
Taylor: (850)838.3513
Wakulla: (850)926.1072
Why there’s a need to help veterans

- Multiple and extended deployments.
- 25% of the homeless are combat veterans.
- Suicide rate for active duty and veterans is 4x greater than that of civilians.
- 200 + Veterans become disabled every day.
- Over 2 million veterans live without insurance.
- Between Active duty and Veterans there are 22-25 suicides a day.

Pending claims=801,000
Back Logged Claims=524,000
Basic Eligibility

• Any person who served in Active Duty Military, who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, may qualify for VA Health Care Benefits.
Enrollment

• For most veterans, entries into the VA health care system begins by applying for enrollment.
• To apply, complete VA Form 10-10EZ, application for health benefits, which may be obtained from any VA health care facilities
• or regional benefits office, online at: http://www.VA.gov/10-10ez.htm
• Or call 1-877-222-vets (8387).
• Once enrolled, veterans can receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country.
Important Documents to Expedite VA Benefits

• In order to expedite delivery, Veterans seeking VA benefits for the first time you must submit a copy of your service discharge form (DD-214, DD-215, or World War II Veterans discharge form),

• The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214 online http://vetrecs.archives.gov/

• you also need a copy of your military medical records if you need to order them you can at www.nationalarchivesandrecordsadministration.gov

• You also need veteran’s marriage certificate, children’s birth certificates or adoption papers to determine children’s benefits.
• **Tip # 1**

Have a "Well-grounded claim" with evidence of a medical condition that either started while you were in the military, or a pre-existing condition that was aggravated by your stint in the military.

*keep all records in a folder by oldest to newest, highlight and tab any condition mentioned in the claim*
Tip # 2

- Go to Veterans Administration.Com: then go to search Title 38 CFR, part 4 for your particular issue(s) relevant to what you are claiming.
- You can find it online: ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx
- (Must be able to navigate a computer, have someone assist if needed)
Tip # 3

• Get a letter from your doctor stating that your present condition is,

“MORE LIKELY THAN NOT, DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE HEALTH ISSUE YOU HAD IN THE MILITARY”.
Tip # 4

• Get letters from your family and friends stating, “how it is to live around you with your present condition”.

• At the end of the letter make sure this statement is written.
  “I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION I HAVE GIVEN IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF”.

Service – Connected Disability Compensation

- Disability Compensation is a monetary pay to veterans who are disabled by an injury, illness incurred or aggravated during active military service.
- These disabilities are considered to be service-connected.
- Disability compensation varies with degree of disability and the number of veteran’s dependents, and is paid monthly.
- Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation.
## 2020 VA Disability Compensation Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Veteran</th>
<th>W/Spouse</th>
<th>Vet + Spouse &amp; Child</th>
<th>Veteran W/ Child</th>
<th>Additional Children Under 18</th>
<th>Over 18/In School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$142.29</td>
<td>$142.29</td>
<td>$142.29</td>
<td>$142.29</td>
<td>$142.29</td>
<td>$142.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$281.27</td>
<td>$281.27</td>
<td>$281.27</td>
<td>$281.27</td>
<td>$281.27</td>
<td>$281.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>$435.69</td>
<td>$487.51</td>
<td>$525.10</td>
<td>$470.24</td>
<td>ADD $25.40</td>
<td>ADD $83.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>$627.61</td>
<td>$696.70</td>
<td>$747.50</td>
<td>$673.33</td>
<td>ADD $33.53</td>
<td>ADD $110.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$893.43</td>
<td>$979.79</td>
<td>$1,042.78</td>
<td>$950.33</td>
<td>ADD $42.67</td>
<td>ADD $138.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>$1,131.68</td>
<td>$1,235.31</td>
<td>$1,311.51</td>
<td>$1,200.77</td>
<td>ADD $50.83</td>
<td>ADD $166.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>$1,426.17</td>
<td>$1,547.07</td>
<td>$1,635.47</td>
<td>$1,506.43</td>
<td>ADD $59.94</td>
<td>ADD $194.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>$1,657.80</td>
<td>$1,795.97</td>
<td>$1,897.57</td>
<td>$1,750.25</td>
<td>ADD $68.07</td>
<td>ADD $221.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>$1,862.96</td>
<td>$2,018.41</td>
<td>$2,132.20</td>
<td>$1,966.59</td>
<td>ADD $77.22</td>
<td>ADD $249.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$3,106.04</td>
<td>$3,279.22</td>
<td>$3,406.05</td>
<td>$3,221.86</td>
<td>ADD $86.05</td>
<td>ADD $277.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* Veterans with ratings of at least 30% are eligible for additional allowances for dependents, including spouse, minor children, children between the ages of 18 and 23 who are attending school, children who are permanently incapable of self-support because of disability arising before age 18, and dependent parents. The additional amount depends on the disability rating. For more detailed rates visit: //www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/va compensation-tables
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

An average of 22 suicides a day between active duty and veterans.

Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255

In July 2010, the VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki, Allowed for qualification benefits for diagnoses from civilian mental health professionals. Drastically cutting waiting time for veterans.

Symptoms for PTSD at 50% disability

- Memory loss for names of close relatives
- Occupational and social impairment with reduced reliability and productivity
- Difficulty in establishing and maintain effective and social relationships
- Anxiety
- Chronic sleep impairment
- Depressed mood
- Mild memory loss

If you have been diagnosed with PTSD it does not mean that you will lose your right to own a firearm.
Agent Orange Symptoms

- VA assumes that certain diseases can be related to a Veteran’s qualifying military service. We call these "presumptive diseases." VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases.

- **AL Amyloidosis** A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs Chronic B-cell.

- **Leukemia’s** A type of cancer which affects white blood cells.

- **Chloracne** (or similar acne form disease) a skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

- **Diabetes Mellitus Type 2** A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body’s inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.

- **Hodgkin’s disease** A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia.

- **Ischemic Heart Disease** A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart that leads to chest pain.
• **Multiple Myeloma** A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow.

• **Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma** A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.

• **Parkinson’s disease** A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement. Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset a nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.

• **Porphyria Cutanea Tarda** A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

• **Prostate Cancer** Of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men. Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer) Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus. Soft Tissue

• **Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma, or mesothelioma)** A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues. See more at:

  http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp#sthash.DGJ6nSWv.dpuf
Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam were tested or stored elsewhere, including many military bases in the United States. Below is a list of bases.

- **Florida**
  - Locations: Orlando, FL; Cocoa, FL Date: 1944
  - Near Lake George, FL Date: 1944
  - Orlando, FL at Army Grove Air Force’s Tactical Center Date: 1944
  - Marathon, FL Dates: 1944
  - Bushnell Army Air Field, FL Date: 1945
  - Avon Air Force Base, FL Date: 1951
  - Englin Air Force Base, FL Date: 1952
  - Avon Park Air Force Base, FL Date: 1954
  - Jacksonville, FL Date: 1962
  - Eglin AFB, C-52A test area Dates: 1962-1970
  - Apalachicola National Forest near Sopchoppy, FL Date: 1967
  - Eglin AFB, FL Date: 1968
Death and Burial Benefits

• **Eligibility**: Veterans discharged from active duty, under conditions other than dishonorable and service members who died while on active duty. To verify eligibility for burial and memorial benefits, a copy of veterans’ discharge document “DD214” that specifies the period(s) of active duty and character of discharge, along with the deceased’s death certificate and proof of relationship to veteran (for eligible family members) are all that usually needed to determine eligibility.

• VA National Cemeteries (147 National Cemeteries)
  Headstone and Markers (VA Form 40-1330)
  Presidential Memorial Certificates (VA Form 40-0247)
  Burial Flag (VA Form 27-2008 or U.S. Post Office and Funeral Director)
  Reimbursement of Burial Expenses (VA Form 21-530)
  Burial Allowance (VA Form 21-530)
  Plot Allowance (VA Form 21-530)
  Military Funeral Honors (Active Military or Local Veteran Originations)
2019 Florida Veteran’s Benefits Guide

- www.FloridaVets.org
- www.FloridaVeteransFoundation.org
- (850) 488-4181 or 4182
- Education Benefits for Veterans and families
  - G.I. Home Loan
  - Property Tax Exemptions
  - Burial Benefits
- “V” for Veteran Designation on Driver License
  - 100% Disabled Veteran State ID card
- Driver License & State ID Fee Exemptions
- Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle License Plate
  - Florida State Park Discount Passes
  - Hunting and Fishing
  - Employment
  - Reemployment Rights
Veterans’ Preference

- Since the time of the Civil War, veterans of the U.S. armed forces have been given some degree of preference in appointments to federal jobs.
- To receive preference, a veteran must have been discharged or released from active duty in the U.S. armed forces under honorable conditions (with an honorable or general discharge). Preference is also provided for the spouse of a veteran with a permanent and total service-connected disability and widows and widowers of deceased veterans who died in service.
- A **veteran with 100% disability can still work, as long as they are not “unemployable”**.
For discounts and/or free tickets
Visit these online websites
  • VetTix.com
  • Military.com
  • Govx.com
  • Operation outdoor freedom
    • Veteran holidays

Military/Veteran Discounts
Ask everywhere you go.
Questions?