

Maryland Veterans

Benefits & Information Guide Spring 2008



www.mdva.state.md.us

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony J. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

James A. Adkins
Secretary

Benefits and Services Available to Maryland's Veterans

Who is a veteran?

This is the general definition. The complete definition can be found in Title 38 U.S.C. section 101.

- A person who served on full time active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, other than active duty for training, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- An individual who died while serving on active duty, or was disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while performing active duty for training or inactive duty training.
- Certain members of a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Certain members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (formerly the Coast and Geodetic Survey) and the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service.

Obtaining Copies of your DD-214 Or other Separation Documents

Whenever a veteran requests benefits and services, a copy of the individual's discharge papers are required to verify eligibility. This includes admission to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland's five veterans' cemeteries, VA claims and a myriad of other services provided to veterans and their families.

World War II veterans, who were Maryland residents at the time of entry into the service, and veterans who were discharged after October 15, 1979 and had a Maryland address at the time of discharge, can contact our Baltimore Office at 800-446-4926 to inquire if we have a copy of their discharge papers.

Veterans and their next of kin can also request a copy of the service member's DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty from the National Archives. Information on requesting a copy of a service member's DD-214 can be accessed via the web at: www.archives.gov/veterans/. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may contact the National Archives at:

The National Archives & Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road

College Park, MD 20740-6001

1-866-272-6272 or 1-86-NARA-NARA

Fax: 301-837-0483

TDD lines for College Park, MD: 301-837-0482



Claims Assistance

The Service Program of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs assists veterans and eligible dependents in acquiring their benefits. The staff of the Service Program is authorized to represent veterans and their dependents before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as provide general information to those seeking assistance, regardless of representation. The Service Program currently has Service Officers located in communities throughout Maryland to aid and serve veterans and their eligible dependents. Contact the Program Office most convenient to you. Appointments may be scheduled through the Program Office nearest the itinerant location.

It pays to seek representation when filing claims for federal VA disability benefits. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs data shows that veterans represented by accredited organizations receive significantly greater disability benefits than their non-represented counterparts.

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Benefit Service Program Offices

Baltimore (B)

Federal Building
31 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410-230-4444
800-446-4926

Cumberland (C)

12501 Willowbrook Rd SE
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-759-5251

Eastern Shore (ES)

6827 E. New Market Ellwood Road
Hurlock, MD 21643
866-497-3684

Frederick (F)

Multi-Service Center
100 West Patrick Street
Room 2120
Frederick, MD 21701
301-694-2155

Landover (L)

425 Brightseat Road
Landover, MD 20785
301-909-6325

Itinerant Benefit Service Program Locations

The letters listed next to each location indicate which service office you should call to make an appointment.

- Bel Air (B)
- Cambridge (Monday only) (ES)
- Charlotte Hall (L)
- Chestertown (ES)
- Easton (ES)
- Denton (ES)
- Frostburg (C)
- Elkton (B)
- Greenbelt (L)
- Grasonville (ES)
- Hagerstown (F)
(Tuesday only)
- Havre de Grace (B)
- Lonaconing (C)
- Leonardtown (L)
- Rockville (L)
- Oakland (C)
- Snow Hill (ES)
- Salisbury (Thursday only) (ES)
- Westminster (F)
- Westernport (C)
- Westover (ES)
- Wheaton (L)



Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Care at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

Maryland's veterans home is located on 125 acres on the site of the former Charlotte Hall Military Academy in Charlotte Hall, Maryland. Opened in 1985, this 504-bed facility provides a continuum of care from the 226-bed Assisted Living unit to a higher level of care in the 278-bed Nursing Home. Specialized care, for those suffering from Alzheimer's and other related dementias, is provided in a 42-bed secured unit.

Residents receive food and shelter, primary medical care, ancillary therapeutic services and recreational activities – all in a supervised protective environment.

LEVELS OF CARE

Assisted Living

The Assisted Living Program is designed to meet the needs of veterans requiring minimal assistance with everyday activities and is intended to help maintain their independence.

Skilled Nursing

Residents receive a complete range of clinical services under the direction of physicians and other licensed health care professionals, for 24 hour care, seven days a week. Residents of dementia units benefit from staffing and design features that ensure their safety and security.

Listed below are the eligibility requirements for admission:

- Honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the legal spouse of a veteran eligible to be admitted to Charlotte Hall*
- Maryland resident
- Age 62 or older, unless disabled and unable to work

*The admission of non-veteran spouses must be at no cost to the State, except for Medicaid.

For further information, go to www.charhall.org or call the admissions office at 800-522-8387, Ext. 1409# or 301-884-8171.

Scholarship and Education Benefits

Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship:

Aid for tuition and other educational expenses are available for veterans and their family members who are attending an institution of higher learning within the borders of the State of Maryland. You must be:

- The son or daughter of a member of the United States Armed Forces who died, or is 100 percent disabled as a direct result of military service;
- A veteran who suffers, as a direct result of military service, a disability of 25 percent or greater and has exhausted or is no longer eligible for federal veterans' educational benefits;
- The son, daughter or surviving spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, who died as a result of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the attack on the Pentagon in Virginia, or the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania;
- A POW/MIA of the Vietnam Conflict or his/her son or daughter;
- Or a state or local public safety employee or volunteer who was 100 percent disabled in the line of duty. Call 800-974-1024 for more information.

VETERANS OF THE AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ CONFLICTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program is designed to provide financial assistance to United States armed forces personnel who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts, and their sons, daughters, or spouses who are current high school seniors, and full-time and part-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students enrolled in an eligible accredited Maryland postsecondary institution.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Uniformed Services Members of the United States who served in Afghanistan, or contiguous air space as defined in federal regulations, on or after October 24, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense; or in Iraq, or contiguous waters or air space as defined in federal regulations, on or after March 19, 2003, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States

Secretary of Defense, may apply for a scholarship if they are:

- A veteran who served at least 60 days in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts, as defined above;
- An active duty member of the Armed Forces who served at least 60 days in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts, as defined above;
- A member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts and served at least 60 days, as defined above; or
- a son, daughter, or spouse of:
 - a veteran or active duty member of the Armed Forces who is serving or has served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts at least 60 days, as defined above; or
 - a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces or Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts and served at least 60 days, as defined above.

For more information go to www.mhec.state.md.us or call Linda Asplin at (410) 260-4563.

Hodson Trust Star Scholarship – Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

The Hodson Trust and four Maryland colleges (Hood College, Johns Hopkins University, St. John's College [Annapolis campus] and Washington College) are awarding annual undergraduate and graduate scholarships to eligible veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. Each of the four schools will award

up to a total of three scholarships a year beginning with academic year 2007-08 until academic year 2012. The scholarships will meet 100 percent of each participating institution's published annual tuition, room, board, books and mandatory student fees, not otherwise covered by federal, state and outside assistance.

Candidates for the Hodson Trust Scholarship must:

- Provide proof of deployment of at least 60 days in Afghanistan or Iraq after September 11, 2001. Eligible applicants include veterans who did not meet the 60-day active service period as a result of a service-related injury or condition.
- Provide proof of Maryland residency at the time of deployment and Maryland residency following return to the United States.
- Apply for and accept all federal and state need-based grants, all available military educational benefits and any special scholarship programs designed for veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts.
- Meet all requirements for admission at a participating institution, and maintain full-time enrollment and good academic standing in order to continue the scholarship through graduation. A recipient's individual scholarship term will not extend beyond four years.

Contact the Office of Admissions at one of the participating institutions to apply for the Hodson Trust Star Scholarship:

Hood College

(800) 922-1599 or admissions@hood.edu

St. John's College

(410) 626-2522 or (800) 727-9238 or admissions@sjca.edu

Washington College

(410) 778-7700 or adm.off@washcoll.edu

Johns Hopkins University

Krieger School of Arts and Sciences
Whiting School of Engineering
(410) 516-8171 or gotojhu@jhu.edu

Carey Business School
School of Education
(410) 872-1230



School of Nursing
(410) 955-9840

Bloomberg School of Public Health
(410) 955-3004

High School Diplomas

County Boards of Education award high school diplomas to Korea and World War II veterans who left high school early to enter the Armed Forces. Diplomas are also issued to any veteran upon successful completion of the General Educational Development (GED) test. Call 410-767-0538 for information.

Financial Aid

Aid to Service-Disabled Veterans and Military Reservists or National Guard Personnel called to active duty

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) provides no-interest loans for the purpose providing financial support or making the home, automobile, or place of employment accessible to individuals with disabilities to:

- Small business employers of military reservists and National Guard personnel called to active duty
- Businesses owned by military reservists and National Guard personnel called to active duty
- Service-disabled veterans

For more information and to apply, contact Laurie Atherholt at latherholt@mdva.state.md.us or (410) 260-3840.

Tax Benefits

Property Tax Exemption:

A property tax exemption is available to the following individuals, for their primary residence located in the State of Maryland:

- Veterans who are 100 percent disabled for service-connected causes. The exemption passes to the veteran's spouse upon his or her death.
- surviving spouse of active duty military personnel who died in the line of duty
- surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran
- a spouse who receives the dependency and indemnity compensation

The application form is available to be downloaded at www.mdva.state.md.us. For more information, contact your county's tax assessor's office, or go to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation website at www.dat.state.md.us/.

Military Retired Pay Income Tax Exemption:

Military retirees are exempt from Maryland income tax on the first \$5000 of their retirement income. In addition, military retirees who are over the age of 65, totally disabled, or who have a spouse who is totally disabled, receive an additional subtraction. For more information, go to www.marylandtaxes.com.

Vessel Excise Tax:

Active duty military personnel are exempt from the 5% vessel excise tax levied on the sale, resale or transfer of a vessel. The exemption is for not more than one year to current owners of vessels who are members of the armed services and who are serving on active duty. For more information, go to www.dnr.state.md.us.



Military-Related License Plates

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) offers military-related license plates to veterans. To purchase a plate, go to your local MVA office.

Fee: \$25.00

Eligible Vehicles:

- Passenger Cars
- Multi-purpose vehicles
- Motorcycles
- Trucks (10,000 lbs or less)

You must submit:

- Application for Military Related License Plates (form #VR-120)
To download the form from the internet, go to www.marylandmva.com/Resources/VR-120.pdf
- Application fee

And one of the following:

- Discharge papers (Form DD-214)
- Medal Certification
- Written proof from National Personnel Records Center

License Plates for Disabled Veterans:

One hundred percent (100%) disabled veterans are eligible to receive a disabled license plate for a motor vehicle without charge, entitling them to special parking privileges. The veteran may choose a regular disability plate or a disabled veteran plate with the universal symbol. Call 800-950-1682 or visit your local Motor Vehicle Administration office.

Absentee Voting

Service members and their spouses who are citizens of the State of Maryland are eligible to vote in their local jurisdiction by absentee ballot. Call the Election Board for your county or 800-222-8683.

Game Hunting & Fishing Licenses

100% service-connected disabled veterans and former POWs may obtain free hunting and fishing licenses. Additionally, Maryland residents in the Armed Forces, or service members who are on active duty and stationed in Maryland, may hunt without cost, if they

are on official leave. Call 800-918-2870 or go to www.dnr.state.md.us for details.

Admission to State Parks

The Maryland Park Service offers an Access MD Pass for free entry into State Parks to individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the Golden Age Pass allows free entry for individuals 62 and older. For more information, call 410-260-8186 or go to www.dnr.state.md.us for more information.

Veterans Establishing Businesses

Maryland offers a wide range of resources to individuals establishing businesses. For more information, please contact the Governor's Office of Business Advocacy (410) 767-6300, or go to the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs website, www.mdva.state.md.us.

Veterans with Disabilities

The Maryland Department of Disabilities provides services and information to individuals with disabilities. For more information, go to www.mdod.maryland.gov.

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration provides community based services and support to eligible individuals. For more information, go to www.ddamaryland.org

The Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services provides services to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment and independence. www.dors.state.md.us

Business Assistance

Veterans Establishing Businesses

Governor's Office of Business Advocacy and Small Business Assistance

The Governor's Office of Business Advocacy and Small Business Assistance (GOBA), which is a part of the State Department of Business & Economic Development, provides personalized attention to business clients, acting as liaison, ombudsman, and

problem-solver to identify and resolve business concerns quickly and efficiently. Through collaboration with other state departments and agencies, GOBA helps guide, stimulate and promote the development of small and minority businesses, and it assists in the development of small and minority business initiatives. GOBA may be reached at the following address, or by calling (410) 767-6300.

Governor's Office of Business Advocacy and Small Business Assistance

217 East Redwood Street, 10th Floor

Baltimore, MD 21202

410.767.6300

www.choosemaryland.org

Maryland Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC)

The SBDC is dedicated to helping you establish and expand your business. We accomplish this by providing a variety of management and technical assistance programs designed to help you, the aspiring and existing small business owner.

To obtain more information and find the SBDC office nearest you visit the SBDC web site at www.mdsbdc.umd.edu/.

The Governor's Office of Minority Affairs (OMA)

OMA is dedicated to assisting Maryland's minority and women business owners. They provides a wide range of referral and technical services for clients who either own an existing business or want to start a new business. In addition to helping minority businesses navigate Maryland's complex certification and procurement processes, OMA is responsible for managing and overseeing the Minority Business Program for all state agencies.

To learn more about specific programs that you may benefit from call (877) 558-0998 or visit the OMA website at www.oma.state.md.us.

Reach Independence through Self-Employment (RISE)

RISE is a program for people with disabilities interested in starting their own business and who are eligible for services through the MD Division of

Rehabilitation Services (DORS). Individuals interested in starting their own business must first speak to a DORS counselor. The RISE program helps business clients explore the feasibility of self-employment as a realistic vocational option; develop a comprehensive business; receive individualized technical assistance; explore multiple funding sources for your venture; obtain market information to help you select the right industry; and receive an assessment of your plan by business and banking experts.

In addition, DORS will provide limited funding for a small business if necessary after the business plan has been favorably reviewed by the RISE Program's Business Plan Review Committee and approved by DORS.

For more information call (888) 788-7473 or visit the RISE web site at www.riseprogram.com.

Maryland Financing Programs

Maryland offers a number of financing programs to assist the state's business community. Specific financing programs for small business clients include the following:

- Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority
- Neighborhood Business Development Program
- Economic Development Opportunities Fund (Sunny Day Fund)
- Maryland Industrial Development Financing Authority
- Community Development Block Grant Program
- Maryland Economic Adjustment Fund

Information about all small business financing programs offered by the state can be found at the Department of Business & Economic Development web site at www.choosemaryland.org.

Employment Assistance

Maryland Workforce Exchange

Job Seekers! If you are interested in finding a better job or career, the Maryland Workforce Exchange allows you to search for current job openings in your community, create resumes to apply on-line for jobs, file for unemployment insurance and find

occupational training that meets your needs. For more information, go to <https://mwe.dllr.state.md.us/>.

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP)/ Local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVER)

The DVOP/LVER specialists provide services to meet the employment needs of veterans. In addition to helping veterans find employment and training opportunities, DVOP/LVER staff provide vocational guidance and referral to supportive services to veterans with significant barriers to employment.

To obtain more information on the DVOP/LVER program contact your local Maryland One-Stop Career Center. Information on the Career Centers can be found at www.dllr.state.md.us/county/.

Veterans Point Preference for State Employment

The appointing authority for skilled and professional appointments will award a credit of ten points on any selection test to:

- an eligible veteran;
- the spouse of an eligible veteran who has a service connected disability; or
- the surviving spouse of a deceased eligible veteran.

A credit of two additional points will be given to any veteran with a service connected disability or former POW who is applying for a skilled or professional appointment.

Current state employees and veterans who are convicted of a crime after being discharged from or completing military service are not eligible for this credit.

Burial Benefits

The State of Maryland and the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to offer our veterans, and their eligible dependents, a final resting place at one of five state veterans' cemeteries throughout Maryland. Our program is the largest of its kind in the nation. The following facilities provide interment services during the normal business week (Monday through Friday) and are open to the public 365 days of the year. Veterans who are residents of the State of Maryland

and have received an discharge under honorable conditions and their eligible dependents are eligible for burial at one of Maryland's five veterans' cemeteries. Plots are available on a first come, first-served basis. There is no cost to the veteran for burial plot, opening/closing, headstone and state liner (if used). Eligible dependents have a minimal opening/ closing cost and a direct cost for state liner (if used). There is a pre-interment program where veterans can indicate their desire to be buried in one of the five state veterans' cemeteries and verify their eligibility for burial by filling out a pre-interment application. **For more information, call one of the cemeteries or download the application at www.mdva.state.md.us.**

Eligibility Requirements for Interment

Who is eligible to be buried in Maryland's State Veterans' Cemeteries?

A veteran who was a legal resident in Maryland either

- (1) At time of entry into active service
- (2) At time of death
- (3) For a period of at least two years.

The spouse, widow or widower of an eligible veteran or service member, including the widow or widower of an Armed Forces member lost or buried at sea, or officially determined to be permanently absent in a status of "missing" or "missing in action" who met the legal residence requirements at the time the eligible veteran



or service member was last known to have been alive. In addition, the child of an eligible veteran may be buried in a State Veterans' Cemetery.

Establishing Burial Eligibility

An individual's status as a veteran or eligible service member and legal residence within Maryland must be established by reasonable and substantial evidence before the veteran or a member of the veteran's immediate family may be interred.

Maryland Veterans Cemeteries

Allegany County – Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery

14205 Pleasant Valley RD, NE
Flintstone, MD 21530
301-777-2185

Anne Arundel County – Crownsville Veterans Cemetery

1122 Sunrise Beach RD
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-987-6320

Baltimore County – Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery

11501 Garrison Forest RD
Owings Mills, MD 21117
410-363-6090

Dorchester County – Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery

6827 East New Market Ellwood RD
Hurlock, MD 21643
410-943-3420 or 866-497-3684

Prince George's County – Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery

11301 Crain Highway
Cheltenham, MD 20623
301-372-6398

Washington Confederate Cemetery

Closed to new burials
(Located in Rose Hill Cemetery)
600 South Potomac St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Maryland Veterans Memorials

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs manages three veterans' memorials. The Maryland World War II Memorial is in Annapolis, and the Korean War and Vietnam Veterans Memorials are in Baltimore. Additionally, the Department shares joint responsibility with the City of Baltimore for the War Memorial Building in Baltimore. For more information visit our web site www.mdva.state.md.us

War Memorial Building

101 North Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Erected in 1927 to honor Marylanders who died in World War I

Maryland World War II Memorial

Route 450 at Naval Academy Bridge
1920 Ritchie Highway
Annapolis, MD 21401

Korean War Memorial

Canton Water Park
2903 Boston Street
Baltimore, MD 21224

Maryland Veterans Vietnam Memorial

Middle Branch Park
2825 South Hanover Street
Baltimore, MD 21225



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Outreach & Advocacy Program

16 Francis Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-260-3838
Toll Free 866-793-1577
Fax 410-216-7928

Veterans Service Program

Claims Assistance
31 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-230-4444
Toll Free 800-446-4926 – Ext. 6450
Fax 410-230-4445

Veterans Home Program

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
29449 Charlotte Hall Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-884-8171
Toll Free 800-522-8387
Fax 301-884-8036

Cemetery and Memorial Programs

1122 Sunrise Beach Road
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-923-6981
Fax 410-987-3920

United States Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities Serving Maryland

VA Regional Offices

Baltimore, MD	800-827-1000
Washington, DC	800-827-1000 or 202-418-3343

For assistance with compensation and pension, the GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation, VA Home loans, Life Insurance, and Survivors' Benefits

VA Medical Centers

Baltimore, MD	410-605-7000
Ft. Howard, MD	410-477-1800
Perry Point, MD	410-642-2411
Martinsburg, WV	304-263-0811
Washington, DC	202-745-8000

VA Medical Clinics

Cambridge, MD	410-228-6305
Charlotte Hall, MD	301-884-7102
Cumberland, MD	301-724-0061
Ft. Howard, MD	410-477-1800
Glen Burnie, MD	410-950-4140
Greenbelt, MD	301-345-2463
Hagerstown, MD	301-665-1462
Loch Raven, (Baltimore) MD	410-605-7650
Pocomoke, MD	410-957-6718

Vet Centers

Aberdeen, MD	410-272-6771
Baltimore, MD	410-764-9400
Cambridge, MD	410-228-6305
Elkton, MD	410-392-4485
Silver Spring, MD	301-589-1073

Veteran Service Organizations Offering Claims Assistance in Maryland

American Legion	410-230-4420
AMVETS (American Veterans)	410-230-4430
Disabled American Veterans	410-230-4440
Military Order of the Purple Heart	410-230-4460
Veterans of Foreign Wars	410-230-4480
Paralyzed Veterans of America	410-230-4470



www.mdva.state.md.us

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs