

NEW JERSEY VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**





Welcome to the New Jersey Veterans Benefits Guide. This guide continues a tradition of providing relevant information to New Jersey's Veterans community.

Keeping you informed is part of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMAVA) continuing outreach efforts. Through extensive research and preparation, NJDMAVA has assembled valuable material into this edition of the Veterans Benefits Guide. Many New Jersey Veterans are unaware of the numerous federal and state program benefits, entitlements and services they have earned in defense of this great nation.

Our website at www.nj.gov/military/veterans acts as a portal to assist New Jersey's Veterans in obtaining information they need to access benefits and services more efficiently and effectively.

We encourage you to contact the Department's Veterans Service Officers for additional information and assistance when applying for a program, benefit or entitlement.

"Serving those who served" are more than just our watchwords at NJDMAVA; it is a promise that we will support those, whose service and sacrifice have ensured this nation's survival.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387)
www.nj.gov/military/veterans

If you are reading this publication online, you can click on any of the images or URLs to go to the link.

Follow us on:



MEDICAL

United States Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Administration (VA)
(800) 827-1000



VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS HEALTH ELIGIBILITY CENTER

For eligibility and additional information: (877) 222-8387. You may also visit the website at: www.va.gov/healtheligibility

VA MEDICAL CENTERS (VAMC)/CLINICS

New Jersey

VAMC East Orange Campus, 385 Tremont Avenue (973) 676-1000
VAMC Lyons Campus, 151 Knollcroft Road (908) 647-0180
Brick, James J. Howard Clinic, 970 Route 70 (732) 206-8900
Camden Clinic, 300 Broadway, Suite 103 (877) 232-5240
Cape May Clinic, 1 Munro Avenue (800) 461-8262 Ext. 2850
Elizabeth Clinic, 654 East Jersey Street, Suite 2A (908) 994-0120
Hackensack Clinic, 385 Prospect Avenue (201) 487-1390 / (201) 342-4536
Hamilton Clinic, 3635 Quakerbridge Road (609) 570-6600
Jersey City Clinic, 115 Christopher Columbus Drive (201) 435-3055
Marlton Clinic, 3000 Lincoln Drive East (844) 441-5499
Morristown Clinic, 340 West Hanover Avenue (973) 539-9791/9794
Northfield Clinic, 1909 New Road (800) 461-8262 Ext. 2800
Paterson Clinic, 11 Getty Ave, Bldg. 275 (973) 247-1666
Piscataway Clinic, 14 Wills Way, Bldg. 4 (732) 981-8193
Sewell Clinic, 211 County House Road (877) 823-5230
Tinton Falls Clinic, 55 N. Gilbert Street, Bldg. 4 (732) 842-4751
Vineland Clinic, 1051 W. Sherman Avenue, Bldg. 3 (800) 461-8262 Ext. 6500

Philadelphia

VAMC University & Woodland Avenue (215)823-5800 / (800) 949-1001
VAMC Coatesville, 1400 Black Horse Hill Road, (610) 384-7711

Delaware

VAMC 1601 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington (302) 994-2511 / (800) 461-8262

www.va.gov/directory/ is the website for New Jersey, Philadelphia and Wilmington VA Medical Center facilities, with contact numbers and explanations of benefits.

EYEGLASSES, HEARING AIDS AND DENTAL CARE/HEALTH INSURANCE

Eyeglasses and hearing aids normally require a service rating of 10 percent or more. Routine dental treatment for teeth, or jaws is provided to Veterans who are 100 percent service-connected, have a service-connected dental disability, or are former prisoners of war.

For active duty and retired members of the Uniformed Services, their families and survivors; contact TRICARE Military Health Care Program, Northeast Region, call (877) **TRI-CARE** (874-2273) or visit www.tricare.mil

HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN

Many VA hospitals have VA Women Veterans Health Centers whose services include gynecology, sexual trauma counseling, mammography screening and transition assistance programs for women separating from the Armed Forces.

www.womenshealth.va.gov

CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS

(855)829-6636

Washington, DC **(202) 273-6193**, or call the VA **(800) 827-1000** to find out if your local VA hospital has a Women Veterans Health Center.

Women's Health Issues **(973) 676-1000 Ext. 1695**

VA Mammography Hotline **(888) 492-7844**

VA ID Card

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides eligible Veterans with a Veterans Identification Card (VIC) for use at VA medical facilities. The VIC protects the privacy of Veterans' sensitive information, as it no longer displays the social security number or date of birth on the front of the card. Only Veterans who are eligible for VA medical benefits will receive the card.

The card's purpose is for identification and check-in at VA appointments. Veterans should safeguard their VIC similar to other identification cards that contain personal information.

Veterans are warned to keep their VIC safe and secure. Some bar code readers, including those available as cell phone applications, can scan the bar code on the front of the card, and reveal the Veteran's social security number. This could make the Veteran subject to identity theft if the card is lost or stolen.

If the VIC is lost or stolen, Veterans should contact the VA medical facility where they took their picture to request a new card be re-issued. Since the photo is retained, there is no need for the Veteran to go to the VA to retake a picture for the card. Identifying information such as name and other information will be asked to assure proper identification of the caller.

If the Veteran does not receive the card in the 7-10 day time frame, the Veteran should contact the local VA medical facility where the card was requested or call VA at **(877) 222-VETS (8387)**.

For more information, go to www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic/index.asp

LOCAL VET CENTERS

Vet Centers offer broad readjustment services for combat theater and other veterans. They focus on counseling for military traumas, employment and family problems. They also provide referral services for VA benefits, medical assistance, and liaison with community agencies. Individual and group counseling are available for Veterans and their significant others.

The centers also provide substance abuse information, referrals and job counseling **(800) 905-4675**.

New Jersey

Bloomfield Vet Center

2 Broad Street, Suite 703

Bloomfield, NJ 07003

(973) 748-0980

Lakewood Vet Center

1255 Route 70, Unit 22N
Parkway Seventy Plaza
Lakewood, NJ 08701
(908) 607-6364

Secaucus Vet Center

110A Meadowlands Parkway, Suite 102
Secaucus, NJ 07094
(201) 223-7787

Trenton Vet Center

934 Parkway Avenue, Suite 201
Ewing, NJ 08618
(609) 882-5744

Ventnor Vet Center

6601 Ventnor Avenue, Suite 105, Ventnor Building
Ventnor, NJ 08406
(609) 487-8387

Pennsylvania**Bucks County Vet Center**

2 Canals End Plaza, Suite 201B
Bristol, PA 19007
(215) 823-4590

Philadelphia Vet Center NE

101 E. Olney Avenue, Suite C-7
Philadelphia, PA 19120
(215) 924-4670

Philadelphia Vet Center

801 Arch Street, Suite 502
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 627-0238

New York**Middletown Vet Center**

726 E. Main Street, Suite 203
Middletown, NY 10940
(845) 342-9917

Staten Island Vet Center

60 Bay Street
Staten Island, NY 10301
(718) 816-4499

To find your local Vet Center, call (800) 827-1000

Online at:

www.vetcenter.va.gov

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

The state of New Jersey offers a program that addresses the readjustment problems of Veterans and offers treatment to combat Veterans of all war periods.

Treatment is extended to the family members affected by the Veteran's affliction. State Veterans Service Officers can assist with scheduling counseling and filing of any applicable VA claims. Contracted clinicians, experienced in PTSD counseling, determine the best course of treatment for the Veteran and the Veteran's family.

For more information contact a local Veterans' Service Officer or contact **(888) 8NJ-VETS**

NJ VET TO VET HELPLINE

(866) 838-7654

<http://ubhc.rutgers.edu/vet2vet/>

NJ Vet to Vet, is operated by Rutgers University and funded by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, is a peer-counseling program for assessing a Veteran's mental health needs. This toll-free help line is available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week for Veterans and their families. Services include: Veteran peer support, family support, clinical assessment, case management, referrals to a network of mental health providers, web-based peer support and live chat.



SUICIDE PREVENTION

(800) 273-8255 (TALK)

Recognizing suicide warning signs:

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.
- Hopelessness, anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Pick up the phone if you are experiencing an emotional crisis and need to talk to a trained VA professional.

(800) 273-8255 (TALK)

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Vet Centers and VA Medical Facilities have substance abuse treatment programs. See page 2 for a list of locations. You may also refer to Alcoholics Anonymous at **(800) 245-1377**.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF)

Soldier On
(866) 406-8449

Community Hope
(973) 463-9600

Volunteers of America
(856) 854-4660

Coaching Into Care
(888) 823-7458

Operation Red Shield – The Salvation Army
(888) 302-6100

Homeless Veterans
(877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838)

Veterans Caregivers Support Line
(855) 260-3274

Community Justice Center (Trenton)
(609) 218-5120

Catholic Charities
(855) 767-8387

Jewish Family Services
(609) 822-1108

Wounded Warrior Project
(877) 832-6997
www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Salvation Army
(908) 851-9300

USO (United Service Organizations)

Provides information and recreation services to uniformed military personnel.

(888) 484-3876
www.uso.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

(888) 8NJ-VETS (888-865-8387)
www.state.nj.us/military

US Department of Veterans Affairs

(800) 827-1000

www.va.gov

VA Affordable Care Act

(877) 222-VETS (8387)

GI Bill

(888) 442-4551

www.benefits.va.gov/gibill

VA Life Insurance

(800) 669-8477

Helpline (Agent Orange & Gulf War)

(800) 749-8387

Direct Deposit

(877) 838-2778

Headstone (status of claims only)

(800) 697-6947

Device for Deaf (TDD)

(800) 829-4833

New Jersey State Family Programs Office

(888) 859-0352 #8

Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

(973) 645-1955

HOUSING

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veteran Resource Center (HUDVET) provides housing for homeless, disabled and low-to-moderate income Veterans, and general home ownership assistance.

(800) 998-9999

Email: hudvet@hud.gov

www.hud.gov/hudvet

HOMELESS

National Coalition of Homeless Veterans provides help for homeless Veterans nationwide. Call to find a local shelter *(800) VET-HELP*

VA New Jersey Health Care System Program for Homeless Veterans at:

(908) 647-0180 ext. 1-4217, (973) 645-3769

Treatment & Rehabilitation Screening *(888) 725-3000*

Transitional Housing Programs

Veterans Haven North

(908) 537-1963

Veterans Haven South

(609) 561-0269

Hope House for Women with Children

(201) 420-1070

Homeless Multipurpose Center, Philadelphia

(215) 923-2600

HOME KEEPER PROGRAM

New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA)

637 South Clinton Avenue

P.O. Box 18550

Trenton, NJ 08650

www.njhousing.gov

Home Keeper Call Center

(877) 496-4951

www.njhomekeeper.nj.gov

STAND DOWN

Assists New Jersey's homeless Veterans "combat" life on the streets by providing necessities ranging from food and clothing to medical, legal and mental health services. The committees are always looking for volunteers. If you need assistance or would like to volunteer, contact **(888) 8NJ-VETS (865-8387)**.

HOME LOANS

Veterans can apply for a VA home loan with any mortgage lender that participates in the VA home loan program, call **(888) 244-6711**, or visit: www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans

NEW JERSEY PROPERTY TAX BENEFITS

The New Jersey Property Tax Exemption/Deduction requires a Veteran to serve during a specific war time period. Any time served after 1975 requires the Veteran to have served at least 14 days in a combat zone (Haiti Operation Uphold Democracy is not approved for tax deduction/exemption purposes).

Disabled Veteran Exemption requires a 100 percent VA Certificate of Disability. The exemption should be permanent and total, partial or temporary is non-qualifying. The property must be owned and occupied by the claimant, and must be their legal residence in this state.

An annual \$250 Veterans Property Tax Deduction requires citizenship, state residency, active wartime service in the U.S. Armed Forces, honorable discharge, property ownership, and the timely completion of an application. If living, the Veteran must own the property in whole or in part to qualify for the deduction. Surviving spouse qualifies if all criteria are met. Eligibility for the deduction is established as of October 1 of the pre-tax year. The application can be filed at the local tax assessors office with appropriate documentation.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs provides advocacy for Veterans, benefits counseling and a variety of other services.

(888) 8NJ-VETS (865-8387)

www.nj.gov/military

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

These organizations assist Veterans through the VA system and advocate for Veterans' rights. They are not affiliated with the government.

AMVETS

(877) 7-AMVETS

email: amvets@amvets.org

www.amvets.org

American Legion

(973) 623-6298

www.legion.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars

(973) 297-3226

www.vfw.org

Vietnam Veterans of America

(973) 297-3227

www.vva.org

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)

(212) 982-9699

<http://iava.org>

Disabled American Veterans

(973) 297-3378

www.dav.org

Jewish War Veterans

(609) 396-2508

www.jwv.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart

(973) 297-3389

www.purpleheart.org

NJAVSO/NACVSO

(973) 297-3230

<http://njasvo.org>

EMPLOYMENT

The Department of Labor Veterans Program provides counseling, testing, placement and other assistance through local offices.

New Jersey Department of Labor One-Stop Career Centers

Visit: <http://jobs4jersey.com/jobs4jersey/jobseekers/oscc/>

New Jersey LVERs and DVOPs provide services to Veterans at One-Stop Career Centers throughout the state.

For One Stop Career Centers near you, call: (877) *USA-JOBS* or visit: <http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/>

Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP)

DVOP provides job and training opportunities, with emphasis on Veterans with service-connected disabilities. DVOP specialists provide outreach and offer assistance by promoting community and employer support for employment and training opportunities, including apprenticeship and on-the-job training.

Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) are state employees located at the state's local employment service offices who provide assistance to Veterans by supervising the provision of all services, including counseling, testing and identifying training and employment opportunities.

US Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Services

www.dol.gov/vets

RE-EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

Returning to pre-military job:

New Jersey: (609) 562-5550

VETERANS PREFERENCE/DISABLED VETERANS PREFERENCE

To be eligible for Veterans preference under New Jersey Law, one must have served on active duty during one of the following periods. Proper documentation is required: WD Form 53-55, DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter if applicable.

1. World War II: 90 days active duty on or after September 16, 1940 and must have begun on or before December 31, 1946.
2. Korean Conflict: 90 days active duty on or after June 23, 1950 and must have begun on or before January 31, 1955.
3. Vietnam Conflict: 90 days active duty on or after December 31, 1960 and must have begun on or before May 7, 1975.

To be eligible for Veterans preference under New Jersey Law for the following peacekeeping missions, one must have served in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Haiti, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or on board any ship actively engaged in patrolling the territorial waters of that nation for a period of at least 14 days beginning on or before the date of termination of that mission or operation. Proper documentation of DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter (if applicable) is required.

1. Lebanon Crisis: 14 days on or after July 1, 1958, commencing on or before November 1, 1958.

2. Lebanon: 14 days on or after September 26, 1982 and must have begun on or before December 1, 1987.
3. Grenada: 14 days on or after October 23, 1983 and must have begun on or before November 21, 1983.
4. Panama: 14 days on or after December 20, 1989 and must have begun on or before January 31, 1990.
5. Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm: 14 days on or after August 2, 1990 to February 28, 1991.
6. Somalia: 14 days on or after December 5, 1992 and must have begun on or before March 31, 1994.
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation Joint Endeavor/Operation Joint Guard): 14 days on or after November 20, 1995 and on or before June 20, 1998.
8. Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy): 14 days on or after September 19, 1994 and on or before March 31, 1995.
9. Operation's Southern and Northern Watch: 14 days on or after August 27, 1992.
10. Operation Enduring Freedom: 14 days on or after September 11, 2001.
11. Operation Iraqi Freedom: 14 days on or after March 19, 2003.
12. Operation New Dawn: 14 days on or after September 1, 2010.

To be eligible for disabled Veterans preference, one must be a "Veteran" as described above and must have incurred a disability for which the Veteran is receiving 10 percent or greater disability compensation from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Spouses of disabled Veterans, surviving spouses of disabled Veterans or Veterans and parents of Veterans who died in service are eligible for preference, if the Veteran would have been eligible for Veterans preference. Proper documentation is required (DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter).

NOTE: Individuals whose only active service was for training (basic training, advanced training, officer candidate school, weekend drills, and annual training) in connection with a Reserve or National Guard obligation are not eligible for Veterans' preference.

NOTE: Merchant Marine Personnel who served in World War II, and who present a DD-214 which establishes 90 days of active service during the period noted above, are entitled to Veteran's preference.

PL 2007, Chapter 115, S2430/A3147/A3874, signed on July 18, 2007, changes when proof of veteran status is required for civil service examinations for certain Veterans. Veterans will be able to establish Veteran preference eight days prior to list issuance.

New Jersey values the contributions that our Veterans have made, and continue to make, for our country's freedom and for other nations around the world. As such, New Jersey's merit system provides absolute Veterans preference in employee selection. This means that qualified Veterans are placed at the top of an open competitive employment list ahead of non-Veterans regardless of their scores. Disabled Veterans and Veterans are placed on promotional lists according to their scores, but they have preference over non-Veterans when a disabled Veteran or Veteran is at the top of a certification of the list to an appointing authority.

For information on obtaining Veterans preference on CSC examinations, you must apply to the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, (888) 865-8387 by completing the Civil Service Veterans preference claim form.

New Jersey Civil Service for Pension Purposes

A person is entitled to Veterans preference of Veteran status for pension purposes under the same conditions listed under Veterans Preference; the only exclusion is that Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy) is not included for pension purposes.

(609) 530-6857 or (609) 530-6954

HELMETS TO HARDHATS

This program places men and women from the Armed Forces into building and construction careers.

(866) 741-6210

www.helmetstohardhats.org

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

Assists military personnel transitioning to a new career as a public school teacher. A network of state offices provides participants with assistance with certification requirements, routes to state certification and employment leads.

(800) 680-0884

www.proudtoserveagain.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Small Business Administration (SBA)

The SBA provides services to Veterans thinking of starting a small business.

New Jersey: *(973) 645-2434*

New York: *(212) 264-4354*

Pennsylvania: *(610) 382-3062*

Delaware: *(302) 573-6294, ext. 227*

National: *(800) 827-5722*

www.sba.gov

Veterans Online Business Registry (VETBIZ)

Enables Veterans to post information online about their business, to inform government and corporate buyers about their capacity to perform and inform agencies, contracting officers and businesses about their products and services. This also links to Veterans Business Outreach Centers.

(866) 584-2344

www.vip.vetbiz.gov

EDUCATION

New Jersey State Approving Agency (SAA)

The SAA operates under contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, maintaining the State's authority to supervise programs at traditional colleges. The agency also approves and supervises programs at non-traditional "for profit" schools including non-degree programs, apprenticeships and other on the job training, flight, and correspondence schools. The SAA has its foundation in federal law, under Title 38, United States Code. To find out if your program of study is approved call **(609) 530-6849**.

For program specific information, contact the Veterans' Assistance Office at the educational institution.

POW – MIA Tuition Benefit Program

Free undergraduate college tuition is available to any child born or adopted before, during or after the period of time his or her parent was officially declared a prisoner of war (POW) or person missing in action (MIA) after January 1, 1960. The POW – MIA must have been a New Jersey resident at the time he or she entered the service or whose official residence is in New Jersey. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at **(609) 530-6949**.

War Orphan Tuition Assistance

Children of those service personnel who die while in the military or due to service-connected disabilities, or who are officially listed as MIA by the U.S. Department of Defense may claim \$500 per year for four years of college or equivalent training. To qualify, the Veteran must have been a state resident and the child must be a resident. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at **(609) 530-6949**.

Veterans Tuition Credit Program

Provides additional education benefits to veterans eligible for "federally funded" education programs who served on active duty from December 31, 1960 to May 7, 1975 and were legal residents of New Jersey at the time of induction into the Armed Forces or service or for a period not less than one year prior to making application. The amount of the award is \$400 annually or \$200 per semester for full-time and for part-time \$100 per semester. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at **(609) 530-6949**.

Financial Aid

Veterans are advised to file FAFSA forms as well as apply for the GI Bill. Lists of scholarships, grants and financial aid available to Veterans and their dependents can be found at www.finaid.org/military. Be sure to contact the financial aid office at your institution.

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges

This consortium of colleges and universities provides educational opportunities for service members and their families.

(800) 368-5622 or (202) 667-0079

www.soc.aascu.org

OTHER BENEFITS

Operation Recognition

This program will award a state-endorsed high school diploma to any New Jersey Veteran who left a New Jersey high school to enter military service during World War II. This program has been extended to cover Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam era as well.

Who qualifies:

Current New Jersey Veteran.

Left a New Jersey High School to join the military between the dates of September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946, June 23, 1950 and January 31, 1955, or December 31, 1960 through May 7, 1975.

Honorably discharged.

All branches of service including Merchant Marine and Coast Guard are eligible.

Those who have earned a (GED) are also eligible.

Diplomas may also be issued posthumously. Surviving family members of eligible veterans are urged to apply.

Required information:

A copy of your DD-214 or discharge papers

The name and address of the high school you attended

The year you would have graduated

Your name, address and daytime phone number

Send Request to:

Operation Recognition—DVS-VBB

New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

Box 340

Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

INSURANCE

VA Life Insurance

(800) 669-8477

Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

(800) 419-1473

CHAMPVA

Medical care for Veterans' dependents and survivors

(800) 733-8387

NEW JERSEY CATASTROPHIC ENTITLEMENT

Eligible Veterans/surviving spouses receive a monthly entitlement of \$62.50.

Criteria: A Veteran must be a New Jersey resident in receipt of a permanent service-connected disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that resulted from wartime service resulting in one of the following catastrophic disabilities resulting in a 100 percent rating: loss of sight; amputation of both hands, both feet or one hand and one foot; hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm on either side of the body; paraplegia and permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body; osteochondritis and permanent loss of use of both legs; multiple sclerosis and the loss of use of both feet or both legs; quadriplegia.

For more information contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at *(609) 530-6954*.

MEDALS

New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal (NJDSM)

Criteria: Must be an honorably discharged Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States; served in time of war or national emergency in a combat theater or operation; a resident or former resident of the State of New Jersey who was a resident of this State at the time of entry into active military service or who has been a resident of this State for at least 20 years in the aggregate.

Recipients whose service was recognized by the award of a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal or equivalent receive the NJDSM with a Silver Oak Leaf Cluster. Posthumous awards are authorized.



New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal (NJMSM)

Criteria: Must be an honorably discharged Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States; served in time of war or national emergency in a combat theater or operation. Presented to combat veterans who were not residents of New Jersey when they entered the military service, but who are current New Jersey residents and have resided in the state for the previous five years. Posthumous awards are authorized.

New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal (NJVSM)

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. In addition, it requires military service in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after December 31, 1960 and on or before May 7, 1975. Posthumous awards are authorized.

New Jersey Korean Service Medal (NJKSM)

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. In addition, it requires military service in Korea, Japan, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after June 23, 1950 and on or before January 31, 1955. Posthumous awards are authorized.

New Jersey POW/MIA Service Medal (NJ POW/MIA)

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal and was officially listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the Department of Defense. Posthumous awards are authorized.

Individuals applying for an award must forward a completed New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Application for Award/Program form, or a similar request in writing along with a copy of the service member's DD 214 form (Separation from Active Duty) attesting to the fact that an Honorable Discharge was granted.

For more information contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at: (609) 530-6954.

VETERANS HEALTHCARE

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs manages three state-of-the-art long-term nursing facilities.



Memorial Home at Paramus

1 Veterans Drive, PO Box 608
Paramus, NJ 07653-0608
(201) 634-8525



Memorial Home at Menlo Park

132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013
Edison, NJ 08818-3013
(732) 452-4102



Memorial Home at Vineland

524 North West Blvd
Vineland, NJ 08360-2895
(856) 405-4200

DEATH, BURIAL AND RELATED BENEFITS

New Jersey Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Free interment and perpetual care is available to Veteran residents of New Jersey, their spouses and dependent children. Pre-registration encouraged.

350 Province Line Road
Wrightstown, NJ 08562
(609) 738-2400

Eligibility for Federal VA burial and death benefits: Call your local Veteran Service Office or contact the VA at **(800) 827-1000**.

NEW JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Assists Veterans in need of transportation. Free transportation is offered to VA medical centers and clinics, other hospitals, private physicians, VA Regional Office and local Veteran Service Offices. Contact your local Veterans Service Officer to make arrangements. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at **(609) 530-6949**.

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will annually issue the following items free to each qualified Disabled Veteran: a fire arm, bow and arrow, fishing or all around hunting license, a pheasant and quail stamp and a trout stamp. New Jersey residents must be honorably discharged and declared by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected disability.

Contact: **(908) 637-4125**

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Certain Disabled Veterans may be entitled to exemptions from registration and plate fees. Contact the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Services **(609) 292-6500**.

VETERANS' DESIGNATION

To honor Veterans, a special designation has been created for display on their driver's license or non-driver ID card.

On March 1, 2015, in an effort to provide this recognition as quickly as possible, the Motor Vehicle Commission began issuing custom-designed stickers to those Veterans who wish to display them on their driver's licenses or non-driver ID cards. The MVC will notify those Veterans who requested these stickers at a later date when a permanently imprinted Veteran's designation is available.

For more information, go to: www.state.nj.us/mvc/Licenses/vet.htm



VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES (VSO)

State Supervisors

(609) 530-6830 / 7050 / 6863

Newark Liaison Office

20 Washington Place

Newark, NJ 07102-3174

(973) 297-3336 / Fax: (973) 642-0830

Atlantic/Cape May Veterans Service Office

Atlantic City Armory, 1008 Absecon Boulevard

Atlantic City, NJ 08401

(609) 441-3060 / 3061 / Fax: (609) 441-3899

Bergen/Passaic Veterans Service Office

125 State Street, Suite #109,

Hackensack, NJ 07601-5435

(201) 996-8050 / 8051 / Fax: (201) 996-8009

Burlington Veterans Service Office

555 High Street, Suite #6A

Mt Holly, NJ 08060

(609) 518-2273 / 2274 / Fax: (609) 518-2275

Camden/Gloucester Veterans Service Office

Woodbury Armory

658 N Evergreen Avenue

Woodbury, NJ 08096

(856) 853-4184 / 4185 / 4186 / Fax: (856) 384-3781

Essex/Union Veterans Service Office

20 Washington Place, Room #431

Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 297-3230 / Fax: (973) 648-2356

Hudson Veterans Service Office

Jersey City Armory, 678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306
(201) 536-3401 / Fax: (201) 536-3404

Mercer Veterans Service Office

151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room #136
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
(609) 671-6697 / 6696 / Fax: (609) 671-6698

Middlesex/Somerset Veterans Service Office

1060 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
(732) 937-6347 / 6348 / Fax: (732) 937-6417

Monmouth Veterans Service Office

630 Bangs Avenue, Suite #320
Asbury Park, NJ 07712
(732) 775-7009 / 7005 / Fax: (732) 775-3612

Ocean Veterans Service Office

James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic
970 Route 70
Brick, NJ 08724
(732) 840-3033 / 3034 / Fax: (732) 840-0399

Salem/Cumberland Veterans Service Office

524 Northwest Boulevard,
Vineland, NJ 08360
(856) 405-4388 / 4390 / 4389 / Fax: (856) 696-6499

Sussex/Morris Veterans Service Office

479 W Clinton Street
Dover, NJ 07801
(973) 366-0245 / 8347 / Fax: (973) 366-0360

Warren/Hunterdon Veterans Service Office

200 Sanatorium Road
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
(908) 537-0831 / 0832 / Fax: (908) 537-0833

I OWE YOU!

A detailed illustration of Uncle Sam, the iconic symbol of the United States. He is depicted as an older man with a white beard and hair, wearing a top hat with a blue band and a white star. He is dressed in a blue suit jacket over a white shirt and a red bow tie. He is pointing his right index finger directly at the viewer, creating a sense of personal address. The background is plain white.

**VETERANS,
YOU MAY BE
ABLE TO
RECEIVE
BENEFITS
YOU'RE
NOT EVEN
AWARE
OF!**

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