CALIFORNIA VETERANS BENEFITS

CORE PATHWAY

MODULE 5

THIS MODULE INCLUDES:
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WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
As a resident of California, you may be eligible for both federal veteran benefits and state-specific veterans benefits as well. This lesson provides a brief overview of some of the benefits provided for California veterans and their families.

SUGGESTED MATERIAL FOR REVIEW:
All the modules in Core Pathway are important to review along with this module.
WHAT ARE CALIFORNIA VETERANS BENEFITS?

California veterans and their eligible dependents may be eligible for unique benefits and services in addition to those available through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). Specific California benefits include College Tuition Fee Waiver, Motor Vehicle Registration Fee Waiver, Special License Plates, veterans Driver’s License, Fishing and Hunting Licenses, Parks and Recreation Discounts, CalVet Home Loans, and Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises.

COLLEGE TUITION FEE WAIVER FOR VETERAN DEPENDENTS

The College Tuition Fee Waiver for Veteran dependents benefit waives mandatory system-wide tuition and fees at any state of California Community College, California State University, or University of California campus. This program does not cover the expense of books, parking or room and board. There are four plans under which dependents of veterans may be eligible.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE WAIVER

This benefit waives registration fees and provides a free license plate for one passenger motor vehicle, one motorcycle, or one commercial motor vehicle of less than 8,001 pounds unladen weight.

VETERANS LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM

The California’s Veterans License Plate Program allows current servicemembers, veterans, family members, and supporters of veterans the opportunity to proudly display their support for those men and woman that served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The program has over 100 different emblems and logos to choose from and place on the automobile’s license plate.

DRIVER’S LICENSE FACT SHEET

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) worked together to create the veteran driver license Initiative. This initiative allows California veterans to obtain a “Veteran” designation on their California driver license or identification card (DL/ID). Interested veterans need to present a valid DD-214 (must show discharge status) to a local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) to receive veteran status.
verification. Then the veteran takes the CVSO verification form to a DMV field office for processing. DMV charges an additional $5, plus the cost of a new, renewal, or duplicate license fee for this enhancement.

**FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES**
This benefit reduces annual fees for fishing and hunting licenses for disabled veterans.

**STATE PARKS AND RECREATION PASS**
The Distinguished Veteran Pass entitles the holder to the use of all basic State Park System operated facilities, including camping and day use, at no further charge. The pass is not valid at units operated by local government, private agencies, or concessionaires and it is not valid for special events, group campsites, and commercial use or for supplemental fees. The pass cannot be used in conjunction with any other pass and/or discount.

**BUSINESS LICENSE, TAX AND FEE WAIVER**
The Business License, Tax, and Fee Waiver benefit waives municipal, county, and state business license fees, taxes, and fees for Veterans who hawk, peddle, or vend any goods, wares, or merchandise owned by the veteran, except spirituous, malt, vinous, or other intoxicating liquor, including sales from a fixed location.

**PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS**
California has two separate property tax exemptions: one for veterans and one for disabled veterans.

**FIND A USDVA FACILITY**
Use the facility locator or call 1-(877) 222-VETS (8387).

**CONTACT YOUR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**
The County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) are locally-funded agencies established to assist veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services accrued through military service. These County Veteran Service Offices promote the interest and welfare of veterans, their dependents, and their survivors by enhancing their quality of life through counseling, education,
benefits assistance, and advocacy. They connect veterans to their benefits by assisting in their interactions with VA.

- Visit the CalVet website for more information, or
- Find the CVSO closest to you, or

CalVet strongly recommends you work with the CVSO nearest you. Your CVSO can guide you through the benefits and services available as well as help connect you with other local resources.

**EBENEFITS**

Apply for compensation, pension, housing, education and training, healthcare, insurance, and burial benefits through [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov). For these California veteran-specific benefits, having an account with eBenefits is particularly useful. Even though this can seem as a tiresome and needless task, it is actually very beneficial for you to create an account. The reason is that it creates a great central location to store important Veteran documents that you will need when applying for different veteran benefits. You will be able to access your account anywhere and at any time, provided an internet connection is available.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Email us at [CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov](mailto:CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov)

**CALIFORNIA VETERAN EDUCATION BENEFITS**

Do you want to go to college or a trade school in California? Below are California specific veterans education benefits that you may be entitled to that can be utilized concurrently with your federal veterans benefits.

As a veteran there are several educational programs available which you may use for a wide variety of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) approved education and training programs.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCCO) have partnered together to assist servicemembers, veterans, and family members by streamlining their application to a California Community College.
If you’re not qualified for any VA education benefits, don’t let that discourage you from enrolling in college. [www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com) is a great tool to assist you in finding a way to further your education. Financial aid is available to cover enrollment fees and help with other costs such as books, supplies and even rent. Financial aid experts are located on all 112 campuses and are available to provide free one-on-one assistance.

You can also find contact information on the California Community College financial aid offices nearest to you. Depending on where you live, you might have received information for one office or for several.

The information includes the name of the college, its physical address (in case you want visit them in person), its web site address, a direct telephone number for the financial aid office, as well as an email address that you can use if you want to ask your questions online.

[www.CCCApply.org](http://www.CCCApply.org) is your online gateway to the California Community Colleges. Each year nearly three million students from all over the world build their career skills, prepare for transfer to four-year colleges and universities, or simply enrich their lives through learning at one of the 112 Community Colleges in California.

Visit [www.CCCApply.org](http://www.CCCApply.org) today and begin your path to higher education!

**NON-RESIDENT COLLEGE FEE WAIVER**

The Non-Resident College Fee Waiver waives non-resident fees at all state of California Community Colleges, California State University, or University of California campuses.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

- A student who is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in this state on active duty for more than one year immediately prior to being discharged is entitled to resident classification. This classification is valid for the length of time the veteran lives in this state after being discharged up to the minimum time necessary to become a resident.

- An undergraduate student who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in this state on active duty is eligible, except a member of the Armed Forces assigned for educational purposes to a state supported institution of higher education.
• An undergraduate student who is a natural or adopted child, stepchild, or spouse who is a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces stationed in this state on active duty is eligible.

• A student seeking a graduate degree, who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in this state on active duty except a member of the Armed Forces assigned for educational purposes to a state-supported institution of higher education, is eligible. There is a two-year limit for graduate-level studies.

• A student seeking a graduate degree who is a natural or adopted child, stepchild, or spouse who is a dependent of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in this state on active duty is eligible. There is a one-year limit for graduate level studies.

To apply, contact the Admissions Office of any state of California Community College, California State University, or University of California campus or the local County Veterans Service Office.

TROOPS TO COLLEGE
Troops to College, was created to attract more veterans to California state universities by making campuses more veteran-friendly. The initiative was designed to showcase the full range of programs and services available to veterans at California state universities.

The program is designed to help veterans, especially combat veterans, transition to civilian life and the college environment. Veterans and their families may enroll in a course about combat stress, post-traumatic stress disorders, and other issues affecting veterans returning to civilian life. The course is taught by a VA counselor who is also a combat veteran. The curriculum is specifically designed to increase the student veteran’s academic, work, and social success. The class provides participants instruction in interpersonal skills, methods of adapting to civilian life and work careers, and techniques for managing military operational stress.

For more information, go to [http://www.calstate.edu/Veterans/](http://www.calstate.edu/Veterans/).
CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AWARD PROGRAM (CNGEAAP)

The California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP) issues financial awards to qualifying members of the California National Guard (CNG) and State Military Reserve (SMR). This financial education benefit can pay for up to 100 percent of fees at the Universities of California, California State Universities, and California Community Colleges. It can also be used for eligible California proprietary and public institutions. With combined military training and a civilian education in areas such as engineering, nursing, communications and information technology, California’s National Guard members will be able to serve on two fronts.

HOW TO APPLY

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) found at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- Complete the CNGEAAP application found at [https://nationalguard.csac.ca.gov/Disclaimer.aspx](https://nationalguard.csac.ca.gov/Disclaimer.aspx).
- Download and print the Statement of Understanding found at [www.calguard.ca.gov/education](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/education) and have it signed by the Veteran’s Commander.

Note: Discretionary summers will not be covered by the CNGEAAP. Only participants attending mandatory summers will be eligible for an award check. As of January 1, 2015, CNG EAAP participants attending a summer term must submit documentation from their unit commander starting enrollment in the summer term will not adversely impact a participant’s attendance at mandatory military training in order to be eligible for an award for the term.

For additional information visit the Commission's website at [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov).

CALIFORNIA VETERAN DEPENDENT COLLEGE FEE WAIVER

Did you know that if you have GI Bill benefits that will go unused, you can pass the benefits on to your dependents? Below are different plans, eligibility criteria, and how to apply.
CALIFORNIA COLLEGE FEE WAIVER

The College Tuition Fee Waiver for veteran dependents benefit waives mandatory system-wide tuition and fees at any State of California Community College, California State University, or University of California campus. This program does not cover the expense of books, parking or room and board. There are four plans under which dependents of veterans may be eligible.

PLAN A

- The unmarried child of a veteran who is 100 percent disabled (you have a permanent and total disability if you cannot engage in any substantial gainful activity because of your physical or mental condition; a physician must certify that the condition has lasted or can be expected to last continuously for 12 months or more) due to service-connected disabilities or whose death was officially rated as service-connected is eligible. The child must be over 14 years old and under 27 years old to be eligible. If the child is a veteran, then the age limit is extended to age 30;

- The spouse or Registered Domestic Partner (RDP) of a wartime veteran who has been rated as service-connected totally disabled is eligible. There are no age limit restrictions;

- The unmarried surviving spouse or RDP of a wartime veteran whose death has been rated as service-connected is eligible. There are no age limit restrictions;

- Any dependent of any veteran who has been declared missing in action, captured in the line of duty by hostile forces, or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power is eligible.

The veteran must have served at least one day of active duty during a period of war as declared by Congress, or during any time in which the veteran was awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal. Concurrent receipt of benefits under Plan A and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Chapter 35 benefits is prohibited. To receive benefits under Plan A, a dependent must sign an "election" statement acknowledging this fact. There are no income restrictions under this plan. To be eligible, the event which caused basic entitlement to benefits (i.e., the date the veteran died of service-connected causes or the date VA rated the veteran as totally disabled as a result of service-connected disabilities) must have occurred prior to the child's 21st birthday.
PLAN B
The child of a veteran who has a service-connected disability or had a service-connected disability at the time of death or died of service-related causes is eligible. The child's annual income, which includes the child's adjusted gross income, plus the value of support provided by a parent, may not exceed the annual income limit. The current academic year entitlement is based upon the previous calendar year’s annual income. Under Plan B, wartime service is not required and there are no specific age requirements. Children are the only dependents eligible under this plan. There is no prohibition against receiving concurrent VA Chapter 35 benefits.

PLAN C
Any dependent of any member of the California National Guard, who in the line of duty while on active service to the state, was killed, died of a disability resulting from an event that occurred while in active service to the state, or is permanently disabled as a result of an event that occurred while in the service to the state is eligible. Surviving spouses or RDPs who have not remarried are also eligible.

"Active service to the state," for the purpose of this benefit, means a member of the California National Guard activated pursuant to Section 146 of the Military and Veterans Code. A copy of those orders pursuant to Section 146, not Section 143, must be furnished to establish eligibility.

PLAN D
Medal of Honor recipients and children of Medal of Honor recipients under the age of 27 may qualify. Benefits under Plan D are limited to undergraduate studies only, and applicants are subject to both income and age restrictions. There is no prohibition against receiving concurrent VA Chapter 35 benefits.

HOW TO APPLY
Please use the College Fee Waiver Calculator to verify eligibility.

To apply download an application, then go to your local County Veterans Service Office. For more information, you can also contact the admissions office or the VA office of any California college system campus.
FIND A USDVA FACILITY
Use the facility locator or call 1-(877) 222-VETS (8387).

CONTACT YOUR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
The County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) are locally-funded agencies established to assist veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services accrued through military service. These County Veteran Service Offices promote the interest and welfare of veterans, their dependents, and their survivors by enhancing their quality of life through counseling, education, benefits assistance, and advocacy. They connect veterans to their benefits by assisting in their interactions with VA.

- Visit the CalVet website for more information, or
- Find the CVSO closest to you, or

CalVet strongly recommends you work with the CVSO nearest you. Your CVSO can guide you through the benefits and services available as well as help connect you with other local resources.

EBENEFITS
Apply for compensation, pension, housing, education and training, healthcare, insurance, and burial benefits through www.ebenefits.va.gov. This a great place for veterans to store electronic copies and required documentation related to veteran-specific benefits. It is a time consuming, and boring process to create an account, but once completed you will now have a place to access those documents wherever and whenever you have an internet connection.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
Email us at CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov

CALVET HOME LOANS
At some point you will want to buy a home in California. Not only may you be entitled to a VA home loan, but you can potentially qualify for California veterans home loan. Unfortunately, though, you cannot use both the Federal VA Home Loan and the CalVet Home Loan at the same time. Here’s a breakdown of the loans:
CALVET HOME LOANS

If you are a California veteran looking to purchase or refinance a home, you may want to consider a CalVet Home Loan. You'll find the CalVet Loan will save you money and provide protection for your home and investment. CalVet has expanded eligibility so that most veterans (including those now on active duty) wanting to buy a home in California are eligible, subject to financial qualification and available bond funds.

Eligibility

Nearly all veterans purchasing homes in California are eligible for a CalVet Home Loan, including veterans who served during peacetime. Only 90 days of active duty and discharge classified as “honorable” or “under honorable conditions” are required. Information to confirm your eligibility is disclosed on your “Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty” Form DD-214. Veterans currently on active duty are eligible after serving the 90-day active duty requirement. A Statement of Service from your current command is required. Current and former members of the National Guard, including U.S. Military Reserves, may be eligible by meeting specific requirements. Also, there are no prior residency requirements. A veteran may have entered military service from outside of California.

We encourage you to call us at 1-(866) 653-2510 or visit our website to confirm your eligibility.

HOW MUCH HOME CAN YOU AFFORD?

CalVet can help you get pre-approved for your purchase. A pre-approval confirms that you are eligible and financially qualified for a specified loan amount. Knowing the size of your loan will help you in selecting a home and negotiating your purchase.

You can start the pre-approval process by submitting an inquiry online at the CalVet website or you can download the application and submit it by mail, fax or email. Once you have obtained a pre-approval, you will know how much you can borrow, and be ready to purchase your new home.

FEATURES OF THE CALVET HOME LOAN

- Fire and hazard
- Insurance at low group rates
- Disaster protection
- For earthquake and flood damage – great coverage with low deductibles and low premiums
- Low cost group life insurance coverage

**TYPES OF PROPERTY FINANCED BY CALVET**
- Single family homes
- Planned Unit Developments (PUD)
- Condominiums
- Manufactured homes installed on a permanent foundation
- Mobile homes in mobile home parks
- Farms

**USE A MORTGAGE BROKER**
If you are already working with a mortgage broker, ask them about CalVet. If the broker is not approved with CalVet they can be approved during the application process.

**LOAN AMOUNTS**
CalVet’s maximum loan amount is dependent upon varying loan features, such as the loan program or property type. CalVet offers a loan amount that exceeds conventional conforming loan amount limits. To obtain current maximum loan amounts, please visit our website or call us at 1-(866) 653-2510.

**LOAN FEES**
CalVet loan fees are typically lower than fees charged for other government or conventional loans. CalVet only collects an up-front funding fee and does not charge a monthly mortgage insurance premium, which can cost you thousands of dollars over the life of the loan. If you are using the CalVet/VA loan program and the veteran has a 10 percent or more disability rating, the funding fee is waived. Funding fees are subject to change. Please visit our website or call us for the most current information.
CalVet charges a 1 percent loan origination fee on all loans. CalVet makes your loan more affordable by not charging additional lender fees.

**AFTER CLOSING YOUR LOAN**
Your relationship with CalVet continues after loan closing through the servicing of your loan. CalVet provides online access to your account. By visiting our website, you can register to access your account online or you can call Loan Servicing at (916) 503-8362.

**USE YOUR CALVET LOAN AGAIN AND AGAIN**
The CalVet Home Loan is not a one-time benefit. If you had a CalVet loan in the past that was paid in full as agreed, you may apply again.

**CALVET 97**
This loan provides alternative financing for veterans or property types that fall outside the CalVet/VA loan requirements. If you need a loan that exceeds your available VA entitlement only a 3 percent down payment is required.

**SPECIAL LOAN PROGRAMS**
**CalVet Home Improvement Loans**
Want to remodel, repair, add an addition or add disabled accessibility to your home? Home improvement Loans are available for existing mortgage holders.

**CalVet Construction Loans**
Want to build a home or place a manufactured home on your property? CalVet has a construction loan to help you buy a home site and get your home built all with one loan and one-time escrow, saving you time and money.

**CalVet Rehabilitation Loans**
A CalVet Rehabilitation Loan can be used to purchase a qualifying home and then provide funds to do the repairs and renovations necessary to make it just right for you.
**APPLY ONLINE**

Visit [our website](#) to start the application process. After answering a few questions, our system will confirm your eligibility. A CalVet representative will contact you to offer assistance and help you through the application process.

**CALVET HOME LOAN CONTACT INFORMATION**

P.O. BOX 942895

Sacramento, CA 94295-0001

1-(800) 952-LOAN (5626)

[www.calvet.ca.gov/homeloans](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/homeloans)

loanapps@calvet.ca.gov

**CALIFORNIA VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**

**STARTING A BUSINESS**

The following groups can provide assistance if you need help in starting a business or have business related questions:


- Sacramento Veterans Business Outreach Center [https://www.vbocix.org/](https://www.vbocix.org/) – The Sacramento Veterans Business Outreach Center links veterans with a broad range of business services to assist them with starting or expanding a business.

- The Center for Veterans Enterprise Web Portal [https://www.vip.vetbiz.va.gov/](https://www.vip.vetbiz.va.gov/) – The principle purposes of this site are to provide information about the VIP verification process; to assist veteran business owners in registering their business in the Secretary's Database of Veteran-owned small businesses and to enable VA contracting officers to easily identify Service-
Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) and VOSBs eligible for procurement opportunities.

- Small Business Administration (SBA) Small Business Planner [https://www.sba.gov/business-guide](https://www.sba.gov/business-guide) – Whether you’re sitting down to write your business plan, wondering about your legal obligations, or researching your financing options, you’ll find the information you need right here.

**BUSINESS FINANCING OPTIONS**
The Small Business Administration (SBA) is the primary source for business loans. Please contact your local SBA office and ask for the Veterans Business Development Officer for assistance [https://www.sba.gov/offices/regional/ix](https://www.sba.gov/offices/regional/ix). CalVet, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), and the Department of General Services (DGS) do not have programs for business start-up funding. Reference the brochure [How to do Business with the California State Government](https://www.sba.gov/offices/regional/ix) for an overview of working with the state of California.

**THE DISABLED VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM (DVBE)**
The state of California established the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Program to help DVBEs compete more effectively for a portion of the State’s contract dollars. It also promotes self-reliance for California’s disabled veterans by offering them the opportunity to gain experience in business, while sharing their expertise with the citizens of California. The program provides a goal that, at a minimum, 3 percent of all state contract dollars be spent with certified disabled veterans.

To become a DVBE, a veteran must have received an honorable discharge, be at least a 10 percent service-connected disabled, and a California resident. Furthermore, the state requires a business be 51 percent owned by one or more California-resident disabled veterans. A DVBE may have its daily operations managed and controlled by one or more disabled veterans; the disabled veteran(s) who manages and controls the business is not required to be the disabled veteran business owners(s). The home office of the DVBE must be located in the United States; the office cannot be a branch or subsidiary of a foreign corporation, foreign firm, or foreign-based business. The business must be certified through California Department of General Services (DGS) as a DVBE.
As a certified DVBE, the firm is eligible for the DVBE Participation Program which:

- May market to state agencies under GC Section 14838.5, the SB/DVBE option described on the DGS website;
- Is listed in the state’s Internet Certified firm listing giving the firm more visibility and expanded business networking opportunities with state and local Government Reciprocity partners and prime contractors;
- Is now eligible for a DVBE incentive on applicable state contracts.

CERTIFY ONLINE

Certify online at www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Programs/OSDS/GetCertified.aspx. There is no charge for certification and the business can apply online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It takes only minutes if all the required financial information is at hand.

The certification process is the responsibility of DGS, Procurement Division (PD), and Office of Small Business and DVBE Services (OSDS). The OSDS is available to assist in completing the necessary documents and ensuring appointments are available in Sacramento for personal assistance. There is no cost involved with applying for certification. The firm may also qualify for a small business certification, which offers additional contracting benefits. To obtain DVBE certification, a firm must:

- Complete the online application at www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Programs/OSDS/GetCertified.aspx;
- Provide a copy of an Award of Entitlement (AOE) letter from VA or the DoD, dated within six months of the date the application is submitted to OSDS (To obtain a copy of the AOE letter, call VA at 1-(800) 827-1000;
- Other required support documents will be determined when completing the online STD Form 812. OSDS will provide assistance in this area.
For more information or help certifying, contact:

Office of Small Business and DVBE Services
707 3rd Street, 1st Floor, Room 400 West
Sacramento, CA 95605
1-(916) 375-4940 or leave a message if after hours

CalVet highly recommends all DVBEs also certify as a small business. To verify qualification as a small business, go to www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/Home.aspx. When certifying, complete the small business form first. Upon completion, most of that information will be transferred over to the DVBE application.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
Email us at CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov.

VETERANS TAX BENEFITS

Even though you are a veteran, you will still need to pay your taxes. The upside to all of this is that California offers tax benefits for certain veterans. Read the eligibility criteria below to see if you qualify.

BUSINESS LICENSE, TAX, AND FEE EXEMPTION
The Business License, Tax, and Fee exemption benefit exempts eligible veterans from municipal, county, and state business license fees, taxes, and fees. The exemption applies to veterans who hawk, peddle, or vend any goods, wares, or merchandise owned by the veteran, except spirituous, malt, vinous, or other intoxicating liquor, including sales from a fixed location.

Who is Eligible?
Honorably discharged veterans who engage in sales (not services) activities may be eligible. Eligibility criteria will differ based upon local jurisdiction.

How Do I Apply?
Bring proof of honorable discharge to the local appropriate county/city licensing authority.
Property Tax Exemptions

California has two separate property tax exemptions: one for veterans and one for disabled veterans.

Veterans Exemption

The California Constitution provides a $4,000 real property (e.g., a home) or personal property (e.g., a boat) exemption for honorably discharged veterans or the spouse or pensioned-parent of a deceased, honorably discharged veteran. Most persons, however, are disqualified from this exemption due to restrictions on the value of property a claimant may own. A person who owns property valued at $5,000 or more ($10,000 or more for a married couple or for the unmarried surviving spouse of a qualified veteran) is not eligible for this exemption. Thus, a veteran who owns a home would most likely not qualify for the veteran’s exemption.

Disabled Veterans Exemption

The California Constitution and Revenue and Taxation Code Section 205.5 provides a property tax exemption for the home of a disabled veteran or an unmarried spouse of a deceased disabled veteran.

There is a basic $100,000 exemption or a low-income (less than $52,470) $150,000 exemption available to a disabled veteran who, because of an injury incurred in military service:

- Is blind in both eyes; or
- has lost the use of two or more limbs; or
- is totally disabled as determined by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) or by the military service from which the veteran was discharged.

An unmarried surviving spouse may also be eligible if the service person died as the result of a service-connected injury or a disease incurred while on active duty or as the result of active duty. In other words, a veteran may not have been eligible during his or her lifetime, but the surviving spouse may become eligible for the exemption upon the Veteran’s death.

Unlike the veterans exemption, the disabled veterans exemption has no personal wealth restriction. The exemption is only available on a veteran’s principal place of residence. The home may only receive one property exemption. Thus, if a homeowner’s exemption has been granted on a
property and the owner subsequently qualifies for the disabled veterans exemption, the homeowner’s exemption should be cancelled to allow for the disabled veterans exemption as it provides the greater benefit.

**HOW DO I APPLY?**

Eligible veterans or surviving spouses may apply for an exemption at their local County Assessor’s Office. A listing of County Assessor’s Office may be found in the county government section of the telephone book or at [www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/assessors.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/assessors.htm).

**HOW TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS OR SERVICES**

The specific veterans benefits or program web page will provide tailored information about how to apply for a particular benefit or program. Generally, servicemembers, veterans, and families can apply for benefits using one of the methods below.

**MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE WAIVER**

Because of your service, the state of California has stated that they may waive motor vehicle registration. Below is more information to see if you qualify and how to apply. This benefit waives registration fees and provides a free license plate for one passenger motor vehicle, one motorcycle, or one commercial motor vehicle of less than 8,001 pounds unladen weight.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Medal of Honor recipients, American Ex-Prisoners of War and 100 percent disabled veterans due to a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with their mobility are eligible.

**HOW DO I APPLY?**

In order to qualify the veteran must present the following to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV):

1. Completed and signed Miscellaneous Certification (DMV Form REG 256A)
2. A letter obtained by the veteran for the Disabled Veterans License Plate Program (PCGL LTR 112) from a U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Regional Office that states the veteran’s service-connected disabilities. The veteran may obtain this letter by visiting a County Veterans Service Office or a CalVet District Office and request the letter be mailed to their home address.

3. Completed medical certification.

4. Submit all required documentation to:

   Department of Motor Vehicles
   Special Processing Unit, MS D238
   P.O. Box 932345Sacramento, CA 94232-0001

**DRIVER LICENSE VETERAN DESIGNATION**

Putting a “veteran” designation on your driver license or identification card is a potential benefit that can make it easier to self-identify as a veteran without having to carry your VA ID or DD-214. The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) worked together to create the Veteran Driver License Initiative. This initiative allows California veterans to obtain a "Veteran" designation on their California driver license or identification card (DL/ID). Interested veterans need to present a valid DD-214 (must show discharge status) to a local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) to receive veteran status verification. Then the veteran takes the CVSO verification form to a DMV field office for processing. DMV charges an additional $5.00, plus the cost of a new, renewal, or duplicate license fee for this enhancement.

**FIND A USDVA FACILITY**

Use the facility locator or call 1-(877) 222-VETS (8387).

**CONTACT YOUR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**

The County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) are locally-funded agencies established to assist veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services accrued through military service.
These County Veteran Service Offices promote the interest and welfare of veterans, their dependents, and their survivors by enhancing their quality of life through counseling, education, benefits assistance, and advocacy. They connect veterans to their benefits by assisting in their interactions with VA.

- Visit the CalVet website for more information, or
- Find the CVSO closest to you.

CalVet strongly recommends you work with the CVSO nearest you. Your CVSO can guide you through the benefits and services available as well as help connect you with other local resources.

**EBENEFITS**

Apply for compensation, pension, housing, education and training, healthcare, insurance, and burial benefits through [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov). This a great place for veterans to store electronic copies and required documentation related to veteran-specific benefits. It is a time consuming, and boring process to create an account, but once completed you will now have a place to access those documents wherever and whenever you have an internet connection.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Email us at [CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov](mailto:CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov).

**VETERAN LICENSE PLATES**

California’s Veterans License Plate Program allows current servicemembers, veterans, family members, and supporters of veterans with the opportunity to proudly display their support for those who served in the United States Armed Forces. The program has more than 100 different emblems and logos to choose from and place on the automobile’s license plate.

**CALIFORNIA “HONORING VETERANS” LICENSE PLATES**

Available to all California motorists, this special California license plate may be ordered with the branch of service, unit, or veteran service organization logo/emblem of choice. More than 70 insignias are available, and the logo will be prominently displayed to the left of a six number/letter combination. Original sequential plates are $50.00 (this may be a tax-deductible contribution and is
in addition to normal DMV license fees). “Personalized” license plates (choice of up to 6 characters) are available for $78.00. The annual renewal fees for sequential and personalized are the same – $40.00 for auto, truck or motorcycle. All proceeds from the sale of veterans plates are used to expand veteran services statewide.

**HOW TO APPLY**
Those interested in an “Honoring Veterans” license plate should apply online at https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/portal/ipp2/welcome. More information on how to obtain veterans plates is available on the CalVet website https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/License-Plates.aspx and can be obtained from a local County Veterans Service Office (page 182).

**SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FOR CALIFORNIA VETERANS**
California also offers special license plates to honor the service of the following veterans:

- **Medal of Honor** - Medal of Honor recipients are eligible for one set of free commemorative license plates.

- **Legion of Valor** - Veterans who are recipients of the Medal of Honor, Army Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross are eligible for special Legion of Valor license plates.

- **Former Prisoners of War** - Former American Prisoners of War are eligible for one set of free commemorative license plates.

- **Pearl Harbor Veterans** - An honorably discharged veteran who was stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, is eligible for special Pearl Harbor Survivor license plates.
  - **Purple Heart** - Any veteran who is a Purple Heart recipient is eligible for special Purple Heart license plates.

**GOLD STAR LICENSE PLATES**
“Gold Star Family” license plates are available to families free of charge who want to honor loved ones lost during service to their country.
Note: The plates must be assigned to a California-registered vehicle owned by the qualified family member. Gold Star Family License Plates are only available as sequential plates through DMV headquarters.

HOW TO APPLY
Each qualified family member who applies for a Gold Star Family License Plate is required to submit original copies of the following completed and signed forms:

- Project Gold Star License Plate Application;
- Special License Plate Application (REG 17A);
- Report of Casualty (DD Form 1300) from the Department of Defense.

The Project Gold Star License Plate application must be certified by a County Veteran Service Office. Mail applications and necessary documentation to:

Department of Motor Vehicles
Special Processing Unit
P.O. Box 932345 MS D238
Sacramento, CA 94232

HOW TO APPLY
Complete a DMV Form REG 17A and provide proof of aforementioned medal award or evidence of being stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Former POWs must complete DMV Form REG 17.

Mail completed application and necessary documentation to:

Department of Motor Vehicles
P.O. Box 932345
Sacramento, CA 94232

For more information, call the DMV at 1-(800) 777-0133 or visit www.dmv.ca.gov.

Note: Veterans with a Medal of Honor, Legion of Valor, Former Prisoner of War, Pearl Harbor, or Purple Heart license plate may park his or her motor vehicle, weighing not more than 6,000 pounds.
gross weight, without charge, in a metered parking space. This does not exempt a vehicle with the aforementioned license plates from complying with any other state law or ordinance.

STATE PARK AND RECREATION PASS

If you are not interested in hunting and fishing, but still want access to California’s immense state parks, then this benefit is right for you. What better way to get peace of mind, and quiet all the noise around you than to get out into nature. Below is more information to see if you, or your family member veteran, can qualify.

STATE PARK AND RECREATION PASS

The Distinguished Veteran Pass entitles the holder to the use of all basic State Park System operated facilities, including camping and day use, at no further charge. The pass is not valid at units operated by local government, private agencies, or concessionaires and it is not valid for special events, group campsites, and commercial use or for supplemental fees. The pass cannot be used in conjunction with any other pass and/or discount.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any honorably discharged war veteran who is a resident of California with a 50 percent or more service-connected disability or was held as a prisoner of war by forces hostile to the United States, or recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Download and complete a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) application. Submit proof of service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or greater or provide documentation showing status as a former Prisoner of War or Medal of Honor recipient status along with a copy of the Veteran’s California Driver’s License and a completed DPR Form DPR 619.

Veterans may apply in person at:

Park Pass Sales Office
1416 9th Street, Room 114
Sacramento, CA 95814
Veterans may also apply by mail. Send completed applications and required documentation to:

California State Parks
Attn: Distinguished Veteran Pass Program
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing. Once the pass is received, veterans may use it for reservations and applicable benefits. The pass holder is required to present the Distinguished Veteran Pass and a valid California driver license or other suitable photo identification, along with any campsite reservation or tour ticket, and to pay any supplemental fees at the park.

FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES

What better way to experience the outdoors and get a little solitude than to fish or hunt? As a veteran you may qualify for reduced cost hunting and fishing licenses. Below, we will discuss in more detail the criteria for achieving that.

FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES

This benefit reduces annual fees for fishing and hunting licenses for veterans with disabilities.

Disabled Veteran Sport Fishing and Hunting License

Reduced-fee licenses are available for any honorably discharged Veteran of the US Armed Forces with a service-connected disability rating of 50 percent or greater.

To prequalify to purchase a disabled veteran license, submit a letter from VA documenting that you were honorably discharged from the U.S. military and have a service-connected disability rating of 50 percent or greater. After your eligibility has been verified, your customer record will be updated. Once you receive notification from the department that your customer record has been updated, you will be able to purchase a low cost disabled veteran sport fishing license and/or hunting license anywhere licenses are sold.
Recovering Servicemember Sport Fishing and Hunting Licenses

Reduced-fee hunting licenses are available for recovering servicemembers. The Fish and Game Code defines a recovering servicemember as a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or a Reserve, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy and is in an outpatient status while recovering from a serious injury or illness related to the member's military service.

Submit a letter from your commanding officer or from a military medical doctor verifying your eligibility as a recovering servicemember. Please have your commanding officer or military medical doctor include the expected recovery date in your verification letter. The department will enter this date into your customer profile and allow you to renew your license until this date without submitting another letter from your commanding officer or doctor.

Reduced-Fee Sport Fishing License for Low-Income Seniors (65 years or older)

Even though this is not a veteran-specific California benefit, veterans may still fall under this state benefit. If you do not qualify for the other fishing license benefit, you may be eligible under the Reduced-Fee Sport Fishing License for Low-Income Seniors.

Fish and Game Code, Section 7150, authorizes CDFW to issue Reduced-Fee Sport Fishing Licenses to anglers who meet specific criteria. Additional validations or cards are required for certain species and must be purchased at the regular fee. Any person 65 years of age or older who is a resident of California and whose total monthly income from all sources does not exceed the income levels below. Income Verification from your Social Security office is required annually.

- $889.40 for single persons, or
- $1,496.20 for married persons (combined income)

Free Sport Fishing Licenses

Though this benefit is not expressly devoted to veterans, servicemembers may also fall into one or more of the following categories. It is well within your interest, as a veteran to look into this more.

Fish and Game Code, Section 7151, authorizes the CDFW to issue free Sport Fishing Licenses to anglers who meet specific criteria. Additional validations or cards are required for certain species and areas and must be purchased at the regular fee.
Free Sport Fishing Licenses are available for anglers who meet any of these criteria:

1. Any person, with central vision acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the aid of the best possible correcting glasses, or central vision acuity better than 20/200 if the widest diameter of the remaining visual field is no greater than 20 degrees. Certification of blindness by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist is required. Any person who was issued this license under this criteria through ALDS may renew their licenses at any CDFW license agent, CDFW license sales office or online. Print Free Sport Fishing License Application - Blind (PDF)

2. Any person who is a resident of the state and who is so severely physically disabled as to be permanently unable to move from place to place without the aid of a wheelchair, walker, forearm crutches or a comparable mobility-related device. Verification by a licensed physician or a copy of the previous year's free fishing license is required. Any person who was issued this license under this criteria through ALDS may renew their licenses at any CDFW license agent, CDFW license sales office or online. Print Free Sport Fishing License Application - Mobility Impaired (PDF)

3. Any developmentally disabled person. Certification by a licensed physician or the director of a State regional center is required. Any person who was issued this license under this criteria through ALDS may renew their licenses at any CDFW license agent, CDFW license sales office or online. Print Free Sport Fishing License Application - Developmentally Disabled (PDF)

4. Any Native American or lineal descendant who is a resident of the state and whose total annual income does not exceed $11,770 for the head of the household, plus $4,070 for each additional family member living with them. Certification by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (B.I.A.) or proof of being on a tribal registry is required. Verification of income is required annually. Print Free Sport Fishing License Application - Low Income Native Americans (PDF)

HOW TO APPLY
Send a photocopy of your identification and documentation of eligibility by:

- Email at LRB@wildlife.ca.gov
- FAX at 1-(916) 419-7585
- Mail or apply in person at any CDFW license sales office.

Include:

- Identification
  - Your driver’s license; and
  - Your GO ID number (from your previously issued ALDS fishing or hunting license). If you do not have a GO ID number, create a customer record online to obtain a GO ID number.
- A letter documenting your eligibility
  - Disabled veterans must submit a letter from VA.
  - Recovering servicemembers must submit a letter from their Commanding Officer or a military doctor.
- Telephone number
- Email address (optional, but may expedite issuance)
- For hunting licenses only - proof of hunter education. (Proof is not needed if you purchased a California hunting license after 2011. CDFW will have your hunter education on file.)

Complete the appropriate application above and follow the instructions to obtain your first license. All applications will be reviewed and eligibility will be verified prior to license issuance. Allow 15 business days for review and processing of your application. After your first free sport fishing license has been issued, if you qualify for the license based on disability, you may renew your license from any CDFW license agent, CDFW license sales office or online.

Low-income Native Americans must apply for their sport fishing licenses at a CDFW License Sales Office (in person or by mail) each year where their income will be verified annually.
CEMETERIES AND BURIALS

Death is a difficult subject to think about, let alone discuss with the close, intimate people in our lives. What can be more difficult is dealing with burial. Below is information on how to reserve a plot in a federal or state veterans cemetery.

FOR VETERANS

Pre-Need Burial Eligibility Determination

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has implemented this pre-need eligibility program so that veterans, spouses and unmarried dependent adult children may better prepare for burial in a VA national cemetery prior to the time of need. Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery, along with a copy of supporting documentation of military service such as a DD-214, if readily available, by: toll-free FAX at 1-(855) 840-8299; email to Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

Authorized representatives can also apply on behalf of eligible claimants. An authorized agent or representative is an individual authorized by the claimant to make decisions on the claimant’s behalf. An authorized representative first needs to be recognized by VA as an authorized representative or agent by filing a VA Form 21-22 Appointment of Veterans Service Organization As Claimant Representative or VA Form 21-22a Appointment of Attorney Or Agent As Claimant Representative. You can access the forms at www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-22-ARE.pdf and VA Form 21-22a at www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-22A-ARE.pdf. Written authorization should be included with the VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery, if available. A notarized statement is not required.

NATIONAL CEMETERY

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our 135 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some veterans may also
be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the veteran.

The veteran's family should make funeral or cremation arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation office will be at the family's expense.

**ELIGIBILITY**

The National Cemetery Scheduling Office has the primary responsibility for verifying eligibility for burial in VA national cemeteries. A determination of eligibility is made in response to a request for burial in a VA national cemetery. To schedule a burial, FAX all discharge documentation to 1-(866) 900-6417 and follow-up with a phone call to 1-(800) 535-1117.

http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/eligible.asp

**NATIONAL CEMETERIES**

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<tr>
<th>Cemetery</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>FAX</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bakersfield National Cemetery</td>
<td>30338 East Bear Mountain Blvd.</td>
<td>661-867-2250</td>
<td>661-867-2253</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arvin, CA 93203</td>
<td>Or</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>866-632-1845</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: 661-867-2253</td>
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<td>Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery</td>
<td>Cabrillo Memorial Drive</td>
<td>619-553-2084</td>
<td>619-553-6593</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>San Diego, CA 92106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Gate National Cemetery</td>
<td>1300 Sneath Lane</td>
<td>650-589-7737</td>
<td>650-873-6578</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>San Bruno, CA 94066</td>
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<td>Los Angeles National Cemetery</td>
<td>950 S Sepulveda Blvd.</td>
<td>310-268-4675</td>
<td>310-268-3257</td>
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<td>Los Angeles, CA 90049</td>
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<td>Miramar National Cemetery</td>
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<td>858-658-7360</td>
<td>858-658-7397</td>
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<td>Riverside National Cemetery</td>
<td>22495 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside, CA 92518</td>
<td>951-653-8417</td>
<td>951-653-5233</td>
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<td>Sacramento Valley National Cemetery</td>
<td>5810 Midway Road, Dixon, CA 95620</td>
<td>707-693-2460</td>
<td>707-693-2479</td>
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<td>San Francisco National Cemetery</td>
<td>1 Lincoln Boulevard, Presidio of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA 94129</td>
<td>650-589-7737</td>
<td>650-873-6578</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery</td>
<td>32053 W McCabe Rd, Santa Nella, CA 95322</td>
<td>209-854-1040</td>
<td>209-854-3944</td>
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</table>

**STATE CEMETERIES**

**California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery**

The opening ceremony for California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC) was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016. The CCCVC is the second California Veterans Cemetery developed and constructed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Cemetery Grants Program. The facility is in Monterey County in the city of Seaside. The first phase of the cemetery accommodates cremated remains only.

Eligibility applications for columbarium burials are available here: [VSD-002, Eligibility for Burial Benefits Determination](#). Please submit applications to the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery: 2900 Parker Flats Road, Seaside, CA 93955. For any questions, please contact the cemetery office at 1-(831) 393-9371.

**Northern California Veterans Cemetery**

The Northern California Veterans Cemetery (NCVC) is the first California Veterans Cemetery constructed with the cooperation of the US Department of Veterans Affairs and is operated by the state. State veterans cemeteries are intended to serve areas that are not adequately served by a National Cemetery. NCVC, located near Redding, California, primarily serves the veteran population.
in the eighteen northern-most California counties. The currently developed area of the cemetery provides sufficient burial space for more than thirty years. Beyond that, the cemetery has the capacity for expansion of space for well beyond 100 years. Any eligible veteran, along with their spouse and eligible dependents, may be interred at the cemetery.

NCVC is located at 11800 Gas Point Road, Igo, CA 96047 or you may call the office at 1-(866) 777-4533.

**Yountville Veterans Cemetery**

The Yountville Veterans Cemetery is located on 11 acres of oak covered hills in the northwest corner of the Yountville Veterans Home. This historic cemetery marks the resting place of over 5,700 veterans and dependents. The cemetery currently accepts only the interment of the veteran home's residents and their eligible dependents. Eligibility for interment is equivalent to the requirements for burial in a national cemetery.

[https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/State-Veterans-Cemeteries.aspx](https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/State-Veterans-Cemeteries.aspx)

**HEADSTONES, MARKERS AND MEDALLIONS**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

A government-furnished headstone or marker may be provided for eligible veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone. A government-furnished medallion may be provided for eligible veterans who served on or after April 6, 1917 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. The style chosen must be permitted by the officials in charge of the private cemetery where it will be placed.
When burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative.

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense.

**SETTING GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES AND MARKERS**

Cemetery staff in national, military post, and military base cemeteries are responsible for setting the headstone or marker at no cost to the applicant. Some state veterans' cemeteries may charge the applicant a nominal fee for setting a government-furnished headstone or marker.

Arrangements for setting a government-furnished headstone or marker in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all placement costs are at private expense.

**CLEANING AND CARING FOR GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES AND MARKERS**

The National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training completed a study in 2011 to evaluate general cleaning needs of marble government-issued headstones. The findings are found in [*Best Practice Recommendations for Cleaning Government-Issued Headstones*](#).

**CHECKING STATUS OF A HEADSTONE, MARKER OR MEDALLION REQUEST**

To obtain the status of headstones or markers ordered for national or state cemeteries, please contact the cemetery directly.

To obtain the status of headstones or markers ordered for private cemeteries, please use the following instructions: If more than 30 days have passed since your claim was submitted to VA in Washington, D.C. by you, or someone assisting you, please call our Applicant Assistance Unit to verify we are in receipt of your claim.

If more than 60 days have passed since submitting your claim and the grave is still not marked, you should contact the cemetery, funeral home, or other party responsible for accepting delivery of
the headstone, marker or medallion to see if they have received it. If they have not received it, you may call our Applicant Assistance Unit between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday, at 1-(800) 697-6947.

**Please Note:** The above telephone number is for questions related to headstones, markers and medallions only ordered for private cemeteries.

For assistance in obtaining veterans’ records or for information on other VA benefits, please call your local Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at 1-(800) 827-1000.

**MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND MARKERS**

Memorial headstones and markers, for individuals or groups, are furnished for eligible deceased active duty servicemembers and veterans whose remains are not recovered or identified, are buried at sea, donated to science or whose cremated remains have been scattered.

Memorial headstones and markers may also be furnished in national, military post/base or state veterans cemeteries to eligible spouses whose remains are unavailable for interment, whether or not they predecease the eligible veteran.

These headstones and markers bear an “IN MEMORY OF” inscription as their first line and must be placed in a recognized cemetery.

Memorial headstones and markers for spouses and other dependents are not available for placement in private cemeteries.

A **VA Form 40-1330, Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker** must be submitted to request a burial or memorial headstone or marker.

**PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES**

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current president, to honor the memory of deceased veterans who are eligible for burial in a national cemetery.
History
This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by all subsequent presidents. Statutory authority for the program is Section 112, Title 38, of the United States Code.

Administration
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers the PMC Program by preparing the certificates which bear the current president's signature expressing the country's grateful recognition of the veteran's service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Eligibility
A PMC is authorized for veterans who are eligible for burial in a national cemetery by reason of any of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), or (7) of section 2402(a) of title 38 U.S. Code §112.

Application
An eligible recipient (i.e., next of kin, a relative or friend upon request, or an authorized service representative acting on behalf of such relative or friend) may apply for a PMC by completing a VA Form 40-0247, Presidential Memorial Certificate Request Form. More than one PMC may be requested. To expedite the processing of the claim, please submit the veteran's military discharge documents and death certificate. Do not send original documents, as they will not be returned.

Check the Status
If you have already requested a PMC more than sixteen (16) weeks ago and have not received it yet, please call 1-(202) 565-4964 to find out the status of your request. Please do not send a second application unless we request you to do so.

Veteran Service Officers and Funeral Homes: If you have questions about the status of a request please contact us at 1-(202) 565-4964. You may also send request for status by email to pmc@va.gov. Our application form (VA Form 40-0247) is shown above. Please save this form to your computer and make as many copies as you might need.
BURIAL FLAGS

WHY DOES VA PROVIDE A BURIAL FLAG?
A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran’s military service to his or her country. VA will furnish a burial flag for memorialization for an all veterans other than dishonorably discharged:

1. Veteran who served during wartime
2. Veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941
3. Veteran who served after January 31, 1955
4. Peacetime veterans who were discharged or released before June 27, 1950 after serving at least one enlistment, or for a disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty
5. Certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951
6. Certain former members of the selected Reserves

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE BURIAL FLAG?
Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin, as a keepsake, after its use during the funeral service. When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making the request for it. For those VA national cemeteries with an Avenue of Flags, families of veterans buried in these national cemeteries may donate the burial flags of their loved ones to be flown on patriotic holidays.

HOW CAN YOU APPLY?
You may apply for the flag by completing VA Form 27-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes. U.S. Post Offices are the primary issuing point for burial flags. Generally, the funeral director can help you obtain a flag. Call and confirm with the post office in advance. Not all local post offices have burial flags on hand, but they should be able to direct you to the closest issuing post office. Regional VA Offices can also help identify local issuing points.
CAN A BURIAL FLAG BE REPLACED?
The law allows us to issue one flag for a veteran's funeral. We cannot replace it if it is lost, destroyed, or stolen. However, some veterans' organizations or other community groups may be able to help you get another flag.

HOW SHOULD THE BURIAL FLAG BE DISPLAYED?
The proper way to display the flag depends upon whether the casket is open or closed. VA Form 27-2008 provides the correct method for displaying and folding the flag. The burial flag is not suitable for outside display because of its size and fabric. It is made of cotton and can easily be damaged by weather.

BURIAL BENEFITS
Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our 135 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the veteran.

The veterans family should make funeral or cremation arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation office will be at the family's expense.

FOR BURIAL IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY
Burial benefits available for veterans buried in a private cemetery may include a Government headstone, marker or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. There are not any VA benefits available to spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery.
POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK REGARDING BURIAL IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY

VA-NCA-IS-1 Interments in VA National Cemeteries – provides information on the National Cemetery Administration’s history, arranging a burial in a national cemetery, military honors, burial eligibility and locations of national and state Veterans cemeteries.

FIND A USDVA FACILITY

Use the facility locator or call 1-(877) 222-VETS (8387).

CONTACT YOUR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

The County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) are locally-funded agencies established to assist veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services accrued through military service. These County Veteran Service Offices promote the interest and welfare of veterans, their dependents, and their survivors by enhancing their quality of life through counseling, education, benefits assistance, and advocacy. They connect veterans to their benefits by assisting in their interactions with VA.

- Visit the CalVet website for more information, or
- Find the CVSO closest to you, or
- CalVet strongly recommends you work with the CVSO nearest you. Your CVSO can guide you through the benefits and services available as well as help connect you with other local resources.

EBENEFITS

Apply for compensation, pension, housing, education and training, healthcare, insurance, and burial benefits through www.ebenefits.va.gov. This a great place for veterans to store electronic copies and required documentation related to veteran specific benefits. It is a time consuming, and boring process to create an account, but once completed you will now have a place to access those documents wherever and whenever you have an internet connection.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Email us at CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov
RESOURCES

FIND A VA FACILITY
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Visit the CalVet website for more information, OR
Find the CVSO closest to you.

VA HOTLINES
Veterans Crisis Line
• 800-273-TALK (8255), or
• Text: 838255
Combat Call Center
• 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)
Women Veterans Call Center
• 855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636)