

# CHAPTER 23

## STUDY PLAN

# CALIFORNIA BENEFITS

## OBJECTIVE

To understand the benefits available to veterans living in California, and how to assist veterans wishing to submit claims for such benefits.

## REFERENCES

- Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 35
- 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 3, Subpart A, § 3.2(c)(i); and Part 38 § 38.620
- California Government Code, §§ 18971-18979
- California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Chpt. 1, §§ 30730-30736; Title 12, Chpt. 2 – 4 ,
- California Military and Veterans Code, Div. 2, Chpt. 1, §§ 1010-1050; Chpt. 2, § 146; Div. 4, Chpt. 4, §§ 890-899; Chpt. 5, §§ 920-975.5; Chpt. 6, §§ 980-999.80;
- California Education Code, Div. 5, Chpt. 2, § 66025.3 and § 66025.8
- *California Veterans Resource Book*, available at [www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Documents/Veteran\\_%20Resource\\_%20Book\\_2014.pdf](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Documents/Veteran_%20Resource_%20Book_2014.pdf)

## SUMMARY

The state of California provides several veterans' benefits in addition to the federal benefits that are available to veterans through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This chapter will familiarize you with California state benefits, and how to assist claimants in applying for them.

# CALIFORNIA EDUCATION BENEFITS

## COLLEGE TUITION FEE WAIVER FOR VETERAN DEPENDENTS



This program 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. All applicants must meet California residency requirements.

There are **four plans** under which dependents of veterans may be eligible: **A, B, C, and D.**

### Plan A:

A Plan A beneficiary must be the dependent of a veteran who 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. A Plan A beneficiary **cannot** receive benefits concurrently under both Plan A and VA Chapter 35. A beneficiary must sign an "election" statement acknowledging they are not receiving concurrent benefits. For children who wish to receive Plan A benefits, the event which caused basic entitlement (i.e. the date the veteran died of service-connected causes) must have occurred before the child's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

The following dependents are **eligible** for **Plan A**:

1. The child of a veteran who is totally disabled due to service-connected disabilities, or whose death was officially rated as service-connected. The child must be over 14 years old and under 27 years old (unless the child is a veteran, in which case the age limit is extended to age 30).
2. The spouse or Registered Domestic Partner (RDP) of a veteran who has been rated as service-connected and totally disabled. There are no age limit restrictions.

3. The unmarried surviving spouse or RDP of a veteran whose death has been rated as service-connected. There are no age restrictions.
4. Any dependent of a 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.

The following chart shows the qualifying periods of **wartime service**:

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#### PERIODS OF WARTIME:

These periods (beginning after 1900) are recognized by the VA as constituting "Wartime Service" according to 38 C.F.R. § 3.2(c)-(i)

**Mexican Border Period:** May 9, 1916 to April 5, 1917, if the veteran served in Mexico, on the borders thereof; or the waters adjacent thereto.

**World War I:** April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918, inclusive. If the veteran served with US forces in Russia, the ending date is April 1, 1920. Service after November 11, 1918 and before July 2, 1921 is considered World War I service if the veteran also served in the active military, naval or air service after April 5, 1917 and before November 12, 1918.

**World War II:** December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946, inclusive. If the veteran was in service on December 31, 1946, continuous service before July 26, 1947 is considered World War II service.

**Korean Conflict:** June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955 inclusive.

**Vietnam-Era:** February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975, inclusive, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975 is inclusive in all other cases.

**Persian Gulf War:** August 2, 1990 through a (future) date to be prescribed by Presidential proclamation or law.

**Plan B:**

Children are the only dependents eligible under this plan. Wartime service is not a requirement under Plan B. Recipients of Plan B education benefits may also receive concurrent benefits under VA Chapter 35.

The following dependent children are **eligible** for **Plan B**:

1. The child of a veteran who has a service-connected disability, or had a service-connected disability at the time of death whose annual income does not exceed the **annual income limit**,
2. The child of a veteran who died of service-related causes whose annual income does not exceed the annual income limit.

The **annual income limit** for eligible children includes the child's adjusted gross income, plus the value of support provided by a parent. CDVA sets the annual income limit in accordance with the "national poverty level" for a "single person under age 65" as published



by the United States Census Bureau. The Census Bureau may adjust the poverty level several times per year; however, the Fee Waiver income limit is set just once a year and does not change for subsequent Census Bureau adjustments. CDVA will issue a bulletin to announce the established level for each academic year. The beneficiary's current academic year's entitlement is based upon the previous calendar year's annual income.

**Plan C:**

Plan C is designed for dependents of members of the California National Guard.

The following dependents are **eligible** for **Plan C**:

1. Any dependent of any member of the California National Guard who, in the line duty while on **active service to the state**, was killed.

2. Any dependent of any member of the California National Guard who is permanently disabled as a result of an event that occurred while in the service to the state.

**Plan D:**

Medal of Honor recipients and children of Medal of Honor recipients under the age of 27 may be **eligible**. Benefits under Plan D are limited to undergraduate studies only. Applicants are subject to income restrictions, which are the same as that for Plan B. Benefit recipients may receive concurrent VA Chapter 35 benefits.

To **apply** for any of all four plans, applicants must fill out California Department of Veterans Affairs College Fee Waiver Program for Veterans Dependents' Form available at: [www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/PublishingImages/Pages/Fiscal-Forms-and-Information/Dependents%20Fee%20Waiver%20Application%20%28DVS%2040%29.pdf](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/PublishingImages/Pages/Fiscal-Forms-and-Information/Dependents%20Fee%20Waiver%20Application%20%28DVS%2040%29.pdf).

Applicants should try to apply for fee waiver benefits prior to attending school. Benefits are awarded on an academic year basis. Students are required to reapply each year. NOTE: The earliest effective date fee waiver benefits may be awarded is the first day of the academic year in which an application is received.

**NON-RESIDENT COLLEGE FEE WAIVER**

This program waives non-resident fees at all State of California Community Colleges, California State University, or University of California campuses.



The following persons are **eligible**:

1. A student who is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in California on active duty for more than one year immediately prior to being discharged is entitled to resident classification.
  - a. Her or his resident classification will be valid for the length of time that the veteran lives in California after being discharged, up to the minimum length of time necessary to become a resident.

2. An undergraduate student who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in California on active duty (except a member of the armed forces assigned for educational purposes to a state-supported institution of higher education).
3. A student seeking a graduate degree who is a member of the U.S. Armed forces stationed in California on active duty (except a member of the armed forces assigned for educational purposes to a state-supported institution of higher education). There is a two-year limit for graduate-level studies.
4. 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. There is a one-year limit for graduate level studies.

To **apply**, applicants should contact the Admissions Office of any State of California Community College, California State University, or University of California campus.

### **CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AWARD PROGRAM (CNGEAAP)**

This program issues financial awards to members of the California National Guard (CNG) and State Military Reserve (SMR). The CNGEAAP can pay for up to 100% of fees at the Universities of California, California State Universities, California Community Colleges, and for certain eligible California proprietary and public institutions.

To be **eligible**, a person must:

1. Be an active member of the CNG or the SMR, who has served two years;
2. Agree to remain an active member in the CNG or the SMR throughout the participation period in the CNGEAAP;
3. Agree to use the award to obtain a certificate, degree, or diploma that is currently not held;
4. Have been accepted to, registered at, or enrolled in a qualifying institution as defined by section 69432.7(l) of the California Education Code;

5. Maintain enrollment in at least three academic units per term;
6. Agree to maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average annually;
7. Be a California resident as determined by the institution (based on resident and non-resident tuition); and
8. Not be receiving a Cal Grant award check in the same academic year.

**To apply**, claimants must **1.** Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) found at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), **2.** Complete the CNGEAAP application found at [nationalguard.csac.ca.gov/Disclaimer.aspx](http://nationalguard.csac.ca.gov/Disclaimer.aspx), and **3.** 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 his or her Commander. All three completed application forms must be submitted to the CNGEAAP Coordinator. The Coordinator's contact information can be found at: [www.calguard.ca.gov/education](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/education).

## CALIFORNIA HOUSING BENEFITS

### CALVET HOME LOANS

The CalVet Home Loan program is not the same as the VA loan guarantee program. CalVet is a lender of home loan funds. Similar to a commercial bank, CalVet has a number of loan options available (one of which is the federal VA guarantee program). But, unlike commercial banks, CalVet's program offers lots of options that include low cost home insurance, competitive interest rates, low or no down payment, low fees/closing costs, and low home insurance deductibles.

### CalVet offers loans on:

- Single Family Homes, Condos, Co-ops, and Mobile Homes on land
- Mobile homes in a park
- Farm loans
- Home Improvements
- Rehabilitation for those houses not up to VA standards
- Construction take-out or construction for building a new home

To be **eligible** for a CalVet Home Loan, veterans need not have served during a period of wartime. Only 90 days of active duty service, and an Honorable or General discharge are required. Members still currently on active duty are eligible after meeting the 90 days requirement; a statement of service from the veteran's current command is required. Current members of the National Guard and Reservists who qualify as first-time home buyers, or who buy in certain areas, are eligible as well. Former members of the National Guard and/or Reserves whose only active duty was for training purposes are not eligible. However, if a National Guard member, or Reservist, was ordered to active duty by Presidential Executive Order, the veteran may be eligible.

To **apply** for a CalVet Home Loan, use the online application at: [secure.web-loans.com/loancenter-apply-short.aspx?t=12%2f2%2f2014+12%3a23%3a25+AM](https://secure.web-loans.com/loancenter-apply-short.aspx?t=12%2f2%2f2014+12%3a23%3a25+AM) .

### THE VETERANS HOMES OF CALIFORNIA

CalVet operates eight veteran home campuses (VHC) providing residential and long-term care services. Each VHC offers different levels of care combinations and social and recreational activities.

The levels of care include:

- 1. skilled nursing facilities (SNF)
- 2. intermediate care facilities (ICF)
- 3. residential care for the elderly or assisted living (RCFE)
- 4. domiciliary or independent living (DOM)
- 5. SNF memory care for veterans with symptoms of dementia or Alzheimer's disease

**CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS HOMES**

LOCATION	CAPACITY	LEVELS OF CARE
Barstow	400	DOM, ICF, SNF, SNF Memory Care
Chula Vista	400	DOM, RCFE, SNF
Fresno	300	RCFE, SNF, SNF Memory Care
Lancaster	60	RCFE
Redding	150	RCFE, SNF, SNF Memory Care
Ventura	60	RCFE
W. Los Angeles	396	RCFE, SNF, SNF Memory Care
Yountville	1023	DOM, RCFE, ICF, SNF, SNF Memory Care

**NOTE:** Outpatient Clinics are available at all VHC.

To be **eligible** for admission to the VHC, veterans must:

- 1. Be age 55 or over and/or have a significant disability, or be homeless;
- 2. Have served on active duty in the U.S. military and have been discharged honorably or under honorable conditions;
- 3. Still be able to live independently or qualify for a higher level of care offered at one of the VHC;

4. Be a California resident;
5. Be enrolled in a qualified federal, state or private health service plan, or have an application for such a plan pending;
6. Be able to live with and get along with other people in a structured communal environment.

To **apply** to live in one of the VHC, applicants must fill out the following form: [www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes/Documents/vhcapp.pdf](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes/Documents/vhcapp.pdf). Applications should be sent to the specific home(s) to which the applicant is interested in applying. Admissions office contact information can be found through the following website: [www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetHomes).

## CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

### VETERANS PREFERENCE IN CALIFORNIA CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

Additional points will be added to eligible veterans' final scores on civil service examinations as follows:

#### Open Entrance Exams:

- 15 additional points for disabled veterans
- 10 additional points for other veterans and surviving spouses

#### Open Non-Promotional Entrance Exams:

- 10 additional points for disabled veterans
- 5 additional points for other veterans

The following persons may be **eligible** for this preference:

1. Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 10% or higher,
2. Veterans with wartime service who were honorably discharged,
3. Veterans who served under honorable conditions for a period of at least 181 days,
4. Spouses of totally disabled service-connected veterans, and

5. Unmarried surviving spouses of a veteran who has died of service-connected causes.

### **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.



Honorably discharged veterans may be **eligible**, but criteria will differ based upon local jurisdiction.

To **apply**, veterans must bring proof of honorable discharge to their local county/city licensing authority.

### **DISABLED VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DVBE) PROGRAM**

The goal of this program is, at a minimum, that 3% of all state contract dollars will be spent with certified disabled veterans. As a DVBE, a business may market to State agencies, will be listed in the State's Internet Certified firm listing, and will be eligible for a DVBE incentive on applicable State contracts.

The following veterans may be **eligible** to become part of a DVBE:

1. The veteran must have received an honorable discharge,
2. The veteran must be at least 10% service-connected disabled, and
3. The veteran must be a California resident.

The following businesses may be **eligible**, if the business:

1. Is 51% owned by one or more California-resident disabled veterans,
2. Has its home office located in the United States, and
3. Becomes certified through California Department of General Services (DGS) as a DVBE.

To **apply**, a veteran must apply online at [www.getcertified.dgs.ca.gov](http://www.getcertified.dgs.ca.gov).

## CALIFORNIA CEMETERY AND BURIAL BENEFITS

California veterans, dependents and survivors may be eligible for burial services in one of the State's cemeteries. There are currently three state cemeteries in California: 1) Northern California Veterans Cemetery, 2) Yountville Veterans Cemetery, and 3) California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery.

To be **eligible**, a veteran, dependent, or survivor must meet the United States Department of Veterans Affairs eligibility requirements for burial in a national cemetery. The following is a list of those individuals who are eligible for burial in a national cemetery, and thereby in a California state cemetery (38 C.F.R. § 38.620 and 12 C.C.R. § 461):



- a. Any veteran (which for purposes of this section includes a person who died in the active military, naval, or air service).
- b. Any member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces, and any member of the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard, whose death occurs under honorable conditions while such member is hospitalized or undergoing treatment, at the expense of the United States, for injury or disease contracted or incurred under

honorable conditions while such member is performing active duty for training, inactive duty training, or undergoing that hospitalization or treatment at the expense of the United States.

- c.** Any Member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force whose death occurs under honorable conditions while such member is—

  - Attending an authorized training camp or on an authorized practice cruise;
  - Performing authorized travel to or from that camp or cruise; or
  - Hospitalized or undergoing treatment, at the expense of the United States, for injury or disease contracted or incurred under honorable conditions while such member is—
    - Attending that camp or on that cruise;
    - Performing that travel; or
    - Undergoing that hospitalization or treatment at the expense of the United States.
  
- d.** Any person who, during any war in which the United States is or has been engaged, served in the armed forces of any government allied with the United States during that war, whose last such service terminated honorably, and who was a citizen of the United States at the time of entry on such service and at the time of his or her death.
  
- e.** The spouse, surviving spouse, minor child, or unmarried adult child of a person eligible under paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), or (g) of this section. For purposes of this section—

  - A surviving spouse includes a surviving spouse who had a subsequent remarriage;

- A minor child means an unmarried child under 21 years of age, or under 23 years of age if pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution; and
  - An unmarried adult child means a child who became permanently physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before reaching 21 years of age, or before reaching 23 years of age if pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution.
- f. Such other persons or classes of persons as may be designated by the Secretary.
- g. Any person who at the time of death was entitled to retired pay under chapter 1223 of title 10, United States Code, or would have been entitled to retired pay under that chapter but for the fact that the person was under 60 years of age.
- h. Any person who:
- Was a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States at the time of their death; and
  - Resided in the United States at the time of their death; and
  - Either was a—
    - Commonwealth Army veteran or member of the organized guerillas—a person who served before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, while such forces were in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to the military order of the President dated July 26, 1941, including organized guerilla forces under commanders appointed, designated, or subsequently recognized by the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, or other competent authority in the Army of the United States, and who died on or after November 1, 2000; or

- New Philippine Scout—a person who enlisted between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, with the Armed Forces of the United States with the consent of the Philippine government, pursuant to section 14 of the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945, and who died on or after December 16, 2003.
- i. Any biological or legally adoptive parent who dies on or after October 13, 2010, and whose deceased child:
  - Is a veteran who dies on or after October 7, 2001, and
      - Except as provided in paragraph (i)(2) of this section, dies as the direct result of hostile action with the enemy, while in combat, while in transit to or from a combat mission if the cause of death is directly related to hostile action, or while hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the United States for injury incurred during combat; or
      - Is killed mistakenly or accidentally by friendly fire that was directed at a hostile force or what was thought to be a hostile force; or
      - Died from a training-related injury while performing authorized training activities in preparation for a combat mission;
    - Is interred in a national cemetery; and
    - Has no spouse or child who is buried, or surviving spouse or child who, upon death, may be eligible for burial, in a national cemetery under paragraph (e) of this section.
  - A parent is not eligible for burial if the veteran dies due to the elements, a self-inflicted wound, combat fatigue, or a friendly force while the veteran was

in an absent-without-leave, deserter, or dropped-from-rolls status or was voluntarily absent from a place of duty.

- A parent may be buried only within the veteran child's gravesite.
- No more than two parents are eligible for burial per deceased veteran child.
- Parent burial eligibility is subject to a determination by the Secretary that there is available space within the veteran's gravesite.

To **apply**, an Eligibility Determination Form and a Pre-need Determination Form (to simplify and assist the veteran's next of kin at the time of death) can be downloaded at: [www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/PublishingImages/Pages/State-Veterans-Cemeteries/Cemetery\\_Eligibility.pdf](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/PublishingImages/Pages/State-Veterans-Cemeteries/Cemetery_Eligibility.pdf).



## OTHER CALIFORNIA SPECIFIC BENEFITS

### MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES WAIVED

This benefit waives the registration fees for motor vehicle registration 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.

The following veterans may be **eligible**:

1. Medal of Honor recipients,
2. American Ex-Prisoners of War, and
3. "Disabled Veterans" as defined by the section on Disabled Veterans License Plates below.

To **apply** a veteran should complete a Department of Motor Vehicles Form REG 17A, and provide proof of their eligibility. Ex-Prisoners of War should complete a DMV Form REG 17.

Both forms are downloadable from [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov). Mail completed forms to: DMV PLACARD, Special Processing Unit, MS D238, P.O. Box 932345, Sacramento, CA 94232-0001.

### SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FOR CALIFORNIA VETERANS



This program provides specific decorated license plates for **eligible** veterans: Medal of Honor recipients, Legion of Valor, Former Prisoners of War, Pearl Harbor Veterans, and Purple Heart recipients. To **apply** complete a Department of Motor Vehicles Form REG 17A and provide proof of qualification. Former POWs must complete DMV Form REG 17. Both forms are downloadable from [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov). Mail completed forms to: DMV PLACARD, Special Processing Unit, MS D238, P.O. Box 932345, Sacramento, CA 94232-0001.

### DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATE (DV)

Eligible veterans can receive special DV plates. DV plates permit parking at all metered parking in the state with no time limits and no fees, and allow for parking in handicapped zones.

To be **eligible** for this benefit, the veteran must fit into *any* of the categories listed below:

- a. Has a disability which has been rated at 100 percent by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, due to a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility; or
- b. Is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of an assistant device; or
- c. Has lost, or has lost use of, one or more limbs; or
- d. Has suffered permanent blindness, as defined in Section 19153 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

To **apply**, a veteran must have a VA official complete the Medical Statement for Service-Connected Disabled Veterans (VA officials will have access to this form) which indicates that the veteran has a service-connected disability with at least one of the above listed mobility

impairments. Then, complete and sign DMV Forms REG 195 and REG 256A. Both forms are downloadable from [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov). Mail completed forms to: DMV PLACARD, Special Processing Unit, MS D238, P.O. Box 932345, Sacramento, CA 94232-0001.

### FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES

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

To be **eligible**, a veteran must be an honorably discharged veteran with a 50% or greater service-connected disability. There is no residency requirement.

To **apply** a veteran must download and complete an application from the Department of Fish and Wildlife website at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Hunting#994193-reduced-fee](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Hunting#994193-reduced-fee). Applications should be submitted to one of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Offices which are listed at the bottom of the application.

### STATE PARKS AND RECREATION PASS

This pass allows eligible veterans to use all basic State Park System operated facilities for free.

To be **eligible** a veteran must be:

1. An honorably discharged veteran,
2. A California resident, and
3. Have a 50% or more service-connected disability, or have been held as a prisoner of war by forces hostile to the United States, or be a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.



To **apply** a veteran must download and complete a Department of Parks and Recreation application found at [www.parks.ca.gov/pages/737/files/dpr619.pdf](http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/737/files/dpr619.pdf) and submit proof of their qualifications for the benefit with the application. Applications can be mailed to: California State Parks, ATTN: Distinguished Veteran Pass Program, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA

94296-0001. Applications can also be delivered in person to: Park Pass Sales Office, 1416 9<sup>th</sup> St. – Room 144, Sacramento, CA 95814.

## PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

California has two property tax exemptions, one for non-disabled veterans and one for disabled veterans.

### Non-Disabled Veterans Exemption

To be **eligible** a veteran must have been honorably discharged. The spouse or pensioned-parent of a deceased, honorably discharged veteran is also eligible. 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.

### Disabled Veterans Exemption

This is a tax exemption for the home of a disabled veteran or an unmarried spouse of a deceased disabled veteran. There is no personal wealth restriction for this exemption (unlike the veterans exemption). This exemption is only available on a veteran's principal property, and the home may only receive one property exemption. This means that if a homeowner's exemption has been granted on a property, and an owner later qualifies for the disabled veterans' exemption, the homeowner's exemption should be cancelled so that the disabled veterans' exemption may be used, as it is the greater benefit.

To be **eligible**, a veteran must be disabled because of an injury incurred in military service. The veteran must:

1. Be blind in both eyes, or
2. Have lost the use of two or more limbs, or
3. Be totally disabled as determined by the VA, or by the military branch from which the veteran was discharged.

An unmarried **surviving spouse** may also be **eligible** if the servicemember died as the result of a service-connected injury or disease incurred while on active duty or as the result of

active duty. So, the veteran may not have been eligible during his or her lifetime, but his or her surviving spouse may *become* eligible upon the veteran's death.

A veteran may **apply** for an exemption at their local County Assessor's Office. A listing of County Assessor's Offices can be found at [www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/assessors.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/assessors.htm).

### THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN VETERANS ROSTER



The California Women Veterans Roster is part of the CalVet Women Veterans Division. The roster is meant to serve as an "information bridge" that connects California's women veterans to updated information about benefits, programs, services and resources available to them. To join the roster, women veterans can fill out the online form at: [www.calvet.ca.gov/WomenVets/Pages/Women-Veterans-Roster.aspx](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/WomenVets/Pages/Women-Veterans-Roster.aspx).

### THE CALIFORNIA VETERANS REGISTRY AT THE CALIFORNIA VETERANS MEMORIAL

The California Veterans Registry is a permanent record of all California veterans who have served in the military since California's statehood was established in 1850. All California veterans **who received an honorable discharge** are **eligible** to the basic information of name, rank, and branch of service. Veterans can add themselves to the registry online at: [www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CVRRegister1.aspx](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CVRRegister1.aspx).



## STUDY QUESTIONS

Using the assigned references and reading materials, answer the following questions:

1. For children who wish to receive Plan A benefits under California's College Tuition Fee Waiver for Veteran Dependents, the event which caused basic entitlement must have occurred before the child's:
  - a. 16<sup>th</sup> birthday
  - b. 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
  - c. 21<sup>st</sup> birthday
  - d. There is no time limit
2. The income of a child dependent receiving Plan B benefits under California's College Tuition Fee Waiver for Veteran Dependents must meet the income limits for eligibility purposes. For this purpose, the value of any support received from a parent **is** included. (T/F)
3. To be eligible for admission to one of California's Veterans Homes, a veteran must have been discharged under honorable conditions. (T/F)
4. To be eligible for admission to one of California's Veterans Homes, a veteran must be enrolled in, or have an application pending for, a qualified federal, state, or private health service plan. (T/F)
5. According to the Veterans Preference in California Civil Service Examinations, how many extra points are added for disabled veterans on open entrance exams?
  - a. 5 points
  - b. 10 points
  - c. 15 points
  - d. 20 points