



OUR MISSION VETERANS' ADVOCACY

FLORIDA VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE

www.FloridaVets.org

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

4040 Esplanade Way, Suite 180
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950
(850) 487-1533



*This guide sponsored by the
Florida Veterans Foundation*

www.FloridaVeteransFoundation.org



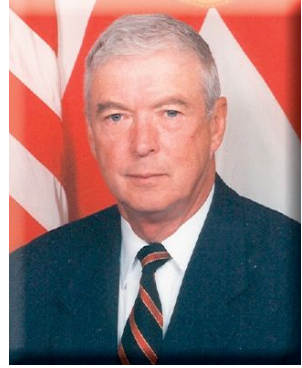
2011 Edition
Supersedes Previous Editions



Executive Director's Message

Several bills were signed into law following the 2010 Florida Legislative Session that benefit Florida's more than 1.6 million veterans and their families.

New legislation includes House Bill 1145, sponsored by Rep. Leonard Bembry and Sen. Carey Baker, which creates a veteran discount at state parks and provides for a lifetime family annual entrance pass at no charge for veterans with service connected disabilities (see page 9).



House Bill 971, sponsored by Representatives Gary Aubuchon and Dave Murzin and Senators Carey Baker and Charlie Dean, provides a voluntary \$1 contribution box on each Florida Driver License application and renewal form payable to the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund. The fund helps pay for the operation and maintenance of Florida's veterans' nursing homes and assisted living facility.

House Bill 1003, sponsored by Representatives Brad Drake and Kevin Ambler and Senators Dave Aronberg and Charlie Dean, removes the 10 percent disability threshold for Service Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses to become state certified, bringing it more in line with federal certification requirements.

House Bill 1455, sponsored by Rep. Maria Sachs and Sen. Dan Gelber, amends existing law relating to solicitation of funds by making it a felony to misrepresent military or veteran status while soliciting funds. The legislation prevents fraudulent fundraising by those who dishonestly tap into the prestige and credibility of heroic veterans for personal gain.

We hope you enjoy this booklet about federal and state veterans' benefits and how to obtain them. A consolidated list of benefits available to veterans and their families can be found on the department's website at www.FloridaVets.org

Bob Milligan

Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)

Interim Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs



Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Watching over and advocating for Florida's veteran population are the men and women of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. FDVA is a state agency responsible for assisting, without charge, Florida's veterans, their families and survivors in improving their health and economic well-being through quality benefit information, advocacy and education.

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Veterans and their families can visit the **Florida Vets First** one-stop web portal, which provides information and links

to services ranging from employment to health care, housing, education and benefits for veterans. You may also subscribe to FDVA's monthly e-mail newsletter by entering your e-mail address in the subscription box on www.FloridaVets.org

FloridaVetsFirst.com



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Federal Veterans' Benefits Timetable

Following separation or retirement from service, veterans have:

120 days - Veterans' Group Life Insurance

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) may be converted to Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), a five-year term policy, renewable for life. VGLI may be converted to an individual policy with any participating insurance company. For information, call toll free (800) 669-8477 or visit www.insurance.va.gov

180 days - One-time Dental Treatment

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides one-time separation dental care for certain service-connected dental conditions, if the certificate of discharge does not certify that the veteran was provided a complete dental examination and treatment prior to discharge. (38 CFR 17.161)

1 year - Appeal

A veteran has one year from the date of the original notification of a VA decision to file an appeal.

2 years - Insurance

A veteran with a new service-connected disability, but otherwise in good health, may apply to the VA for up to \$10,000 in life insurance coverage at standard rates. Veterans who receive a new rating of zero percent or greater are eligible for the coverage. The application must be made within two years from the date of being notified of a new service-connected status. The veteran must have received an other than dishonorable discharge and must have been released from active duty after April 25, 1951. To apply, call toll free (800) 669-8477 or visit www.insurance.va.gov

5 years - VA Health Care for Combat Vets

Military veterans who served in combat since Nov. 11, 1998, are now eligible for five years of free medical care for most conditions from the VA. The five-year window is also open to activated Reservists and members of the National Guard, if they served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998 and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

10 years - Montgomery G.I. Bill

Provides financial assistance to honorably discharged veterans who enlisted after June 30, 1985. For information on Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits, call toll free (888) 442-4551 or visit www.gibill.va.gov. (For expanded benefits, see new Post-9/11 GI Bill on page 5)

12 years - Vocational Rehabilitation

As part of a rehabilitation program for service-connected, disabled veterans rated at 10 percent or more and having a serious employment-related handicap, the VA may pay tuition, books, expenses and a monthly living allowance. For information, call toll free (800) 827-1000.

15 years - Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a federal education benefit program for individuals who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Children of an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces who has died in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible for the benefit. For information, call toll free (888) 442-4551 or visit the VA website at www.gibill.va.gov or the Florida Board of Governors' Post-9/11 GI Bill website at www.service2scholars.org

Reemployment Rights

A veteran has a right to be reemployed in his/her civilian job or a comparable job with associated benefits had the veteran not been absent due to military service. For information, contact the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service toll free (866) 487-2365 or visit www.dol.gov/vets. Public employees can contact FDVA at (727) 319-7400.

Medical Care

To the extent resources and facilities are available, the VA provides hospital care covering the full range of medical services to veterans. Eligible veterans may receive medical treatment at any VA Medical Center or Outpatient Clinic / Community Based Clinic in Florida.

G.I. Home Loan Guarantee

The VA may guarantee part of your loan for the purchase of a home, manufactured home, or condominium. In addition, veterans with conventional home loans now have options for refinancing to a VA guaranteed home loan as a result of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. For information, call (877) 827-3702 or visit <http://www.homeloans.va.gov/>

Burial Benefits

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides honorably discharged veterans, spouses and dependents with burial in a National Cemetery at no cost to the family. Cremated remains are also accepted. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried if they predecease the veteran. The VA will provide a headstone or marker for a private cemetery. The VA does not make funeral arrangements or perform cremations. Visit <http://www.cem.va.gov/> for more information.

State of Florida Veterans' Benefits

Free Benefits Counseling

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs has Claims Examiners co-located with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Bay Pines, each VA Medical Center, and many VA Outpatient Clinics in Florida. Assistance with claims is free and covers all state and federal veterans' programs. For more information, call (727) 319-7400 or visit www.FloridaVets.org/benefits/benefits.asp

For access to a listing of Florida Statutes (FS), visit www.leg.state.fl.us

Property Tax Exemptions

Any real estate owned and used as a homestead by a veteran who was honorably discharged and has been certified as having a service-connected, permanent and total disability, is exempt from taxation if the veteran is a permanent resident of Florida and has legal title to the property on January 1 of the tax year for which exemption is being claimed. (FS 196.081(1))

Any real estate owned and used as a homestead by the surviving spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who died from service-connected causes while on active duty is exempt from taxation if the member was a permanent resident of this state on January 1 of the year in which the member died. (FS 196.081(4)(a))

If, upon the death of the veteran, the spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead and permanently resides there, the exemption from taxation carries over to the benefit of the veteran's spouse until such time as he or she remarries, sells, or otherwise disposes of the property. If the spouse sells the property, an exemption not to exceed the amount granted from the most recent ad valorem tax roll may be transferred to the new residence as long as it is used as the primary residence and the spouse does not remarry. (FS 196.081(3))

Any real estate used and owned as a homestead by any quadriplegic is exempt from taxation. Veterans who are paraplegic, hemiplegic, or permanently and totally disabled who must use a wheelchair for mobility, or are legally blind, may be exempt from real estate taxation. Check with your local property appraiser to determine if gross annual household income qualifies. The veteran must be a resident of Florida. (FS 196.101)

Eligible resident ex-servicemembers with a VA certified service-connected disability of 10 percent or greater shall be entitled to a \$5,000 property tax exemption. The ex-servicemember must establish this exemption with the county tax official in the county in which he or she resides by providing documentation of this disability.

The unmarried surviving spouse of a disabled ex-servicemember, who on the date of the disabled ex-servicemember's death had been married to the ex-servicemember for at least five years, is also entitled to this exemption. (FS 196.24)

Any partially disabled veteran who is age 65 or older, who was a Florida resident at the time of entering military service, any portion of whose disability was combat-related, and who was honorably discharged, may be eligible for a discount from the amount of ad valorem tax on the homestead commensurate with the percentage of the veteran's permanent service-connected disability. Eligible veterans should apply for this benefit at the county property appraiser's office. (FS 196.082)

Service personnel entitled to homestead exemption in this state, and who are unable to file in person by reason of such service, may file through next of kin or a duly authorized representative. (FS 196.071)

100% Disabled Veteran State ID Card

A disabled veteran I.D. card may be issued by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to any veteran who is a permanent resident of the state and is determined by the VA or Department of Defense to have a 100 percent service-connected, permanent and total disability rating. (FS 295.17) This card may be used as proof of eligibility for any state benefit except exemption of homestead property taxes. Call the FDVA at (727) 319-7400, your County Veteran Service Office or visit www.FloridaVets.org/benefits/ident.asp for information.

Certification of Discharge or Separation

At the veteran's request, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall record, without cost, certificates of discharge or separation from the Armed Forces. (FS 28.222) **CAUTION:** Once on file with the Circuit Court, documents become official court records and are open to the public. To remove a military discharge record from the official court record, submit your request to the Court Clerk's office. Record removal is permanent and certified copies will no longer be available from the clerk.

Driver License Fee Exemption

Any veteran honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces who has a valid FDVA disabled veteran identification card or who has been determined by the VA or Department of Defense to have a total and permanent service-connected disability and is qualified to obtain a driver license is generally exempt from all fees. However, a fee may be applied to drivers seeking to reinstate a license. (FS 322.21(7))

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

State hunting and fishing licenses and permits shall be issued without fees for five years to any veteran who is a resident of the state, who is certified or determined to be totally and permanently disabled by the VA, or by any branch of the Armed Forces, or who has been issued a valid disabled veteran I.D. card by FDVA. The license can be reissued upon request every five years. (FS 379.353)

The Military Gold Sportsman's License is available for a reduced fee of \$20 to any resident who is an active or retired member of the U. S. Armed Forces, U. S. Armed Forces Reserve, National Guard, U. S. Coast Guard, or the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve upon submission of a current military identification card. This license is only available at tax collector's offices. (FS 379.354(4)(j))

Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle License Plate



An honorably discharged veteran who has been a resident of Florida continuously for the past five years or who has established a domicile in Florida, as provided by FS 222.17, may apply for one free disabled veteran "DV" license plate for an owned or leased vehicle. The veteran must provide proof of a service-connected 100-percent disability rating (*by the VA or any branch of the U.S. Armed Services*) or that the vehicle was acquired through financial assistance from the VA. Service charges may apply. (FS 320.084)



Free license plates with a wheelchair emblem are available for those veterans permanently confined to a wheelchair and who otherwise qualify for a DV plate. Service charges may apply. (FS 320.0842)

Please note: Parking spaces for persons with disabilities are for the exclusive use of individuals who have permanent or temporary mobility impairments. (F.S. 553.5041(3)). Disabled veterans who have been issued a "DV" plate may only park in designated handicapped parking spaces if they also have a mobility impairment. It is recommended that disabled veterans with a mobility impairment apply for the disabled parking plate with the international wheelchair accessibility symbol, instead of the "DV" plate to avoid possible fines and penalties.

No state agency, county, municipality or agency thereof may charge the driver of a vehicle displaying a Disabled Veteran license plate any fee for parking on the public streets or highways or in any metered parking space. (FS 316.1964(1)). There are exemptions to this benefit, which can be found in FS 316.1964.

Motor Vehicle License Plates

The following military license plates are available upon application to the owner or lessee of a vehicle that meet the necessary qualifications:

- **Medal of Honor** -- Issued to any U.S. citizen who is a resident of Florida and who was awarded the Medal of Honor while serving as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. (FS 320.0893)
- **Ex-POW** -- Issued to a resident of Florida who is a former prisoner of war, or their unremarried surviving spouse, who was a U.S. citizen serving with the U.S. Armed Forces or the armed forces of an allied nation or who was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and was not a U.S. citizen. (FS 320.089(2))
- **Gold Star** -- Honoring the family members of Florida servicemembers who have been killed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. To qualify, the applicant must be a resident of Florida at the time of the servicemember's death, and directly related as spouse, legal mother or father, or stepparent who is currently married to the mother or father of the fallen servicemember. (FS 320.0894)
- **Florida National Guard, U.S. Armed Forces Reserve, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom** – Issued to a retired member of the Florida National Guard or the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve or to a former member of the U.S. military who was deployed and served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom or in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. (FS 320.089)
- **Pearl Harbor** – Issued to a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. (FS 320.089)
- **Purple Heart** – Issued to a recipient of the Purple Heart medal. (FS 320.089)
- **U.S. Paratrooper** -- May only be purchased by current or former U.S. military personnel who, as part of their military duty, have been trained to jump from aircraft. (FS 320.0891)

Discount Passes for Florida State Parks

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection provides a 25-percent discount on annual passes to Florida's 160 State Parks for all veterans, active-duty service and reserve members. The pass is available for purchase at any Florida State Park staffed ranger station.

Honorably discharged veterans who have service connected disabilities, and surviving spouses of military veterans who have fallen in combat, will receive a lifetime family annual entrance pass at no charge. The free annual pass can only be obtained at a staffed ranger station. For more information on eligibility, call (850) 245-2157 or visit online at www.FloridaStateParks.org

Handicapped Toll Permit

Handicapped drivers with a valid driver's license who operate a vehicle specially equipped for the handicapped and are certified by a licensed physician or the VA as having permanent upper limb impairments/disabilities substantially affecting their ability to deposit coins in toll baskets, shall pass free through all toll gates. A window sticker from the Florida Department of Transportation must be obtained and displayed. (FS 338.155(3))

Commission as a Notary Public

The state's fee shall not be required for a commission as a Notary Public to a veteran with wartime service and who has been rated 50 percent or more for a service-connected disability. Other fees may apply. (FS 117.01(2))

Veterans' Preference in Florida

The state and political subdivisions of the state shall give preference in employment and retention to: 1) veterans with a VA service-connected disability; 2) spouses of veterans with permanent and total service-connected disability; 3) honorably discharged veterans with wartime service; 4) unremarried widow or widower of a veteran who died as a result of a service-connected disability; 5) a veteran who has served in a qualifying campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized, to include the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. A person eligible for veterans' preference does not forfeit employment/retention preference eligibility once he/she has been employed by a state agency or political subdivision. An applicant who believes he or she was not afforded employment/retention preference may file a complaint with FDVA. (FS 295.07, 295.11). For details on this benefit, call (727) 319-7462 or visit www.FloridaVets.org/pdf/vetpref_bro.pdf

Occupational License Taxes

A disabled wartime veteran who is unable to perform manual labor and is a permanent Florida resident shall be exempt from this tax up to \$50. The unremarried spouse of a deceased disabled veteran is also entitled to this exemption. (FS 205.171)

Disabled Veterans' Exemption from Fees

Total and permanently disabled Florida veterans are exempt from county and municipality building license or permit fees when making certain improvements to their residence in order to make the dwelling habitable or safe. Restrictions apply. (FS 295.16)

Education for Select Veterans and Families

Florida provides four-year college educational opportunities for dependent children and spouses of deceased or total and permanently disabled veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces through Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans. (FS 295.01) For more information, visit www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/factsheets/CDDV.htm

Dependent children of servicemembers Missing In Action or Prisoners Of War may be eligible for tuition benefits as well. For more information, call the Office of Financial Aid toll free at (888) 827-2004.

Florida waives undergraduate-level tuition at state universities and community colleges for Florida recipients of the Purple Heart and other combat-related decorations superior in precedence to the Purple Heart. Visit www.FloridaVets.org/pdf/ph_waiver.pdf for details on this waiver and specific eligibility criteria. (FS 1009.26 (8)) For more information, call (850) 245-0407.

Tuition Deferment

Any veteran or other eligible student covered under Title 38, U.S.C. is allowed one tuition deferment each academic year; an additional deferment may be authorized when a delay in benefits occurs. (FS 1009.27)

Tuition Assistance for Florida National Guard

Florida National Guard members have several programs at their disposal to offset the cost of college tuition. (FS 250.10(8)) For more information, call (904) 827-8595.

High School Diplomas for Veterans

The Florida Legislature has enacted laws in which eligible World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans who, as a result of being inducted into any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and unable to complete their high school education, can be awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma. For more information, call (850) 245-9029 or visit <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/veteran-diploma.asp>

Florida's Women Veterans

There are more than 138,000 women veterans in Florida. For information on women veterans' issues, contact Clara Miller at (850) 609-2740 or visit <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/>

Florida State Veterans' Homes

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs operates six skilled nursing facilities and one assisted living facility. All facilities are licensed by the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration and inspected annually by AHCA and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The homes are supervised 24-hours daily by registered and licensed nurses.

Employment

For employment opportunities, call the FDVA Human Resources Office at (850) 488-4182 or visit the *People First* website at <https://jobs.myflorida.com/joblist.html>

Admission

Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes in Florida include an honorable discharge, Florida residency for one year prior to admission, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician. For more information, call (727) 518-3202, Ext. 562.

State Veterans' Domiciliary Home

The **Robert H. Jenkins Jr. Veterans' Domiciliary Home** in Lake City (Columbia County) opened its doors to residents in 1990. The 150-bed Assisted Living Facility, which underwent renovations in 2010, provides a special combination of housing, personalized supportive services and incidental medical care to eligible veterans. Veterans admitted must be able to feed and dress themselves and be in need of assisted living care. Call (386) 758-0600 for more information.

State Veterans' Nursing Homes

The **Emory L. Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Daytona Beach (Volusia County) opened to residents in 1993. The 120-bed facility, which underwent renovations in 2010, provides skilled nursing care to its veteran residents. Call (386) 274-3460 for more information.

The **Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Land O' Lakes (Pasco County) opened to residents in 1999. The 120-bed facility provides skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (813) 558-5000 for more information.

The **Alexander “Sandy” Nininger State Veterans’ Nursing Home** in Pembroke Pines (Broward County) opened to residents in 2001. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer’s disease. Call (954) 985-4824 for more information.

The **Clifford C. Sims State Veterans’ Nursing Home** in Springfield (Bay County) opened to residents in 2003. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer’s disease. Call (850) 747-5401 for more information.

The **Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans’ Nursing Home** in Port Charlotte (Charlotte County) opened to residents in 2004. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer’s disease. Call (941) 613-0919 for more information.



The **Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans’ Nursing Home** in St. Augustine (St. Johns County) opened to residents in 2010. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer’s disease. Call (904) 940-2193 for more information.

Your purchase of the *Florida Salutes Veterans* or one of the approved Army, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard license plates directly helps veterans. The \$15 surcharge goes into a trust fund for the operation and maintenance of Florida’s veterans’ homes. A portion of the Marine Corps and *Support Our Troops* license plates also supports the State Veterans’ Homes Program. Anyone can purchase these plates. See page 9 for a list of other military tags whose proceeds support the homes.



You may also support the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund by making a \$1 contribution when renewing your Florida Driver License.

Veteran Employment Services

Employment services are offered through the *Employ Florida* network consisting of Workforce Florida, the Agency for Workforce Innovation and Florida's 24 Regional Workforce Boards encompassing 90 One-Stop Career Centers. Visit <http://www.floridajobs.org/workforce/veterans.html> or call toll free (800) 342-3450 or (850) 245-7105 for information.

Employ Florida Vets

Employ Florida Vets is a new online jobs portal to provide employment services to Florida veterans.

The initiative helps match servicemembers to the jobs

and training opportunities that suit the skills and experience gained in the military. Visit <http://veterans.employflorida.com/portals/veteran/> for more information.



Job Placement and Training

Qualified staff in One-Stop Career Centers provide services to veterans, military members and families. These services include interviewing, resume assistance, job referrals, job search and placement assistance, Internet access, training referrals, career planning and vocational guidance, veterans' job fairs, veterans' stand downs for homeless veterans and many other services. Visit http://www.floridajobs.org/workforce/Vet_Resources.html for more information.

Outreach Assistance

A network of professional Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists and Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER) provide priority workforce services to veterans, transitioning servicemembers and eligible spouses. Spouses of active duty members can also receive additional services through the Military Family Employment Program. A directory of DVOP and LVER staff across the state is located by visiting <http://www.floridajobs.org/PDG/vets/pdf/VetStaffDiro9.02.10.pdf>

Unemployment Compensation

To be eligible for unemployment compensation, veterans must have completed their first term of obligated service under honorable conditions or be released at the convenience of the government. Visit www.FloridaJobs.org for more information.

Veteran Small Business Ownership

The U.S. Small Business Administration offers programs and services for veterans seeking to establish or expand small businesses. One of SBA's initiatives is the Patriot Express Loan Initiative. The loan by SBA's network of participating lenders nationwide can be used for most business purposes and features SBA's low interest rates and fast turnaround time for loan approvals. For more information, visit <http://www.sba.gov/patriotexpress/>

Service-Disabled Veteran Business

The Florida Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act promotes access for service-disabled veteran businesses to state contracts and encourages other such veterans to start businesses. For more information, call (850) 487-0915 or visit MyFloridaMarketPlace at www.dms.MyFlorida.com/mfmp

Donating Wisely

Many people want to donate money and assets to help veterans. To assist you, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides information on charitable organizations, including any complaints that may have been filed. To contact them you may call their Consumer Hotline at (800) 435-7352. You may also visit them on the web at <http://csapp.800helpfla.com/cspublicapp/giftgiversquery/giftgiversquery.aspx>

A good rule of thumb is to donate to organizations that you know are legitimate and well-established. The VA has published a Directory of Veterans Service Organizations, which you can access by visiting <http://www1.va.gov/vso/>

You may also donate to the Florida Veterans Foundation (*see page 22*) or to one of the State Veterans' Homes (*see page 12*) through their respective donation coordinators.



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FDVA Offices

Offices include those located in federal facilities.

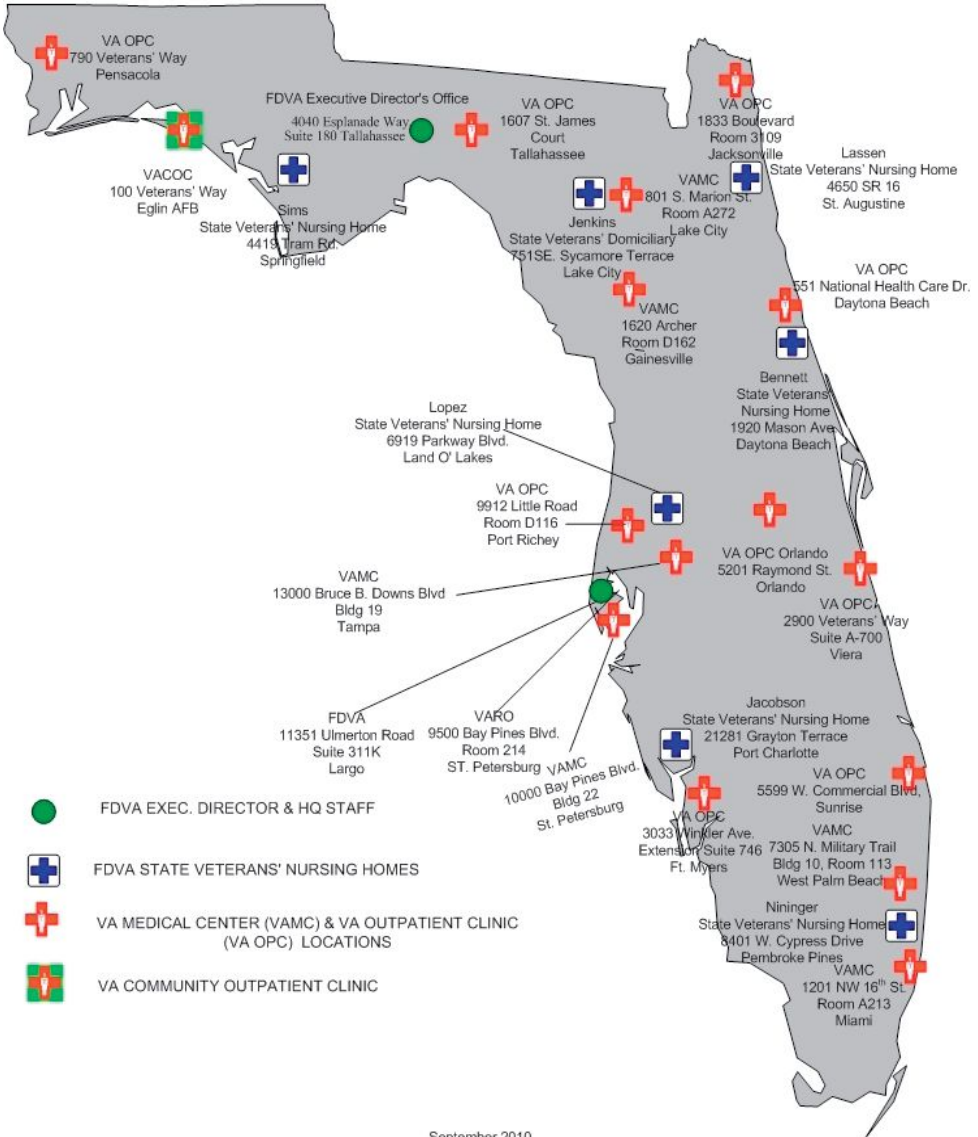
FDVA Executive Office 4040 Esplanade Way #180 Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 487-1533	*VAMC Bay Pines 10000 Bay Pines Blvd. Bldg. 22, #117 Bay Pines, FL 33744-5005 (727) 398-6661 x5489	**Eglin AFB CBOC 100 Veterans Way, Rm. 108 Eglin AFB, FL 32542 (850) 609-2740
FDVA Admin. Offices 11351 Ulmerton Rd. #311K Largo, FL 33778-1630 (727) 518-3202	*VAMC Gainesville 1601 Archer Rd. #D-163 Gainesville, FL 32608 (352) 374-6029	**VAOPC Fort Myers 3033 Winkler Ave. #746 Fort Myers, FL 33916 (239) 939-3939 x6331
FDVA Benefits and Assist. 9500 Bay Pines Blvd. #214 Bay Pines, FL 33744 (727) 319-7400	*VAMC Lake City 619 S Marion Ave. #A-163 Lake City, FL 32025 (386) 755-3016 x2070	**VAOPC Jacksonville 1833 Boulevard St. Jacksonville, FL 32206 (904) 232-2751 x3005
Jenkins Domiciliary Home 751 SE Sycamore Terrace Lake City, FL 32025 (386) 758-0600	*VAMC Miami 1201 NW 16th St. #A-213 Miami, FL 33125 (305) 325-3325	**VAOPC Port Richey 9912 Little Rd. #D-116 Port Richey, FL 34654 (727) 869-4227
Emory Bennett SVNH 1920 Mason Ave. Daytona Beach, FL 32117 (386) 274-3460	*VAMC Tampa 13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. Bldg. 19 Tampa, FL 33612 (813) 972-2000 x6589	***Pensacola JACC 790 Veterans Way Pensacola, FL 32507 (850) 912-2051 / 2052
Baldomero Lopez SVNH 6919 Parkway Blvd. Land O' Lakes, FL 34639 (813) 558-5000	*VAMC Orlando 5201 Raymond St. Orlando, FL 32803 (407) 599-1386 / 1318	**VAOPC Tallahassee 1607 St. James Court #220 Tallahassee, FL 32308 (850) 878-0191 x2032
Alexander Nininger SVNH 8401 W. Cypress Dr. Pembroke Pines, FL 33025 (954) 985-4824	*VAMC West Palm Beach 7305 N. Military Trail Bldg. 10, #113 West Palm Beach, FL 33410 (561) 422-8204	**VAOPC The Villages 8900 SE 165th Mulberry Ln Room 162 The Villages, FL 32162 (352) 674-5095
Clifford Sims SVNH 4419 Tram Rd. Springfield, FL 32404 (850) 747-5401	**Broward Co. VAOPC 9800 W. Commercial Sunrise, FL 33351 (954) 625-8727	**VAOPC Viera 2900 Veterans Way #A700 Viera, FL 32940 (321) 637-3693 / 3788
Douglas Jacobson SVNH 21281 Grayton Terrace Port Charlotte, FL 33954 (941) 613-0919	**VAOPC Daytona Beach 551 National Health Care Dr. Daytona Beach, FL 32114 (386) 323-7500 x30122	Note: There are FDVA Claims Examiners at the following State Veterans' Nursing Homes: - Clifford Sims SVNH - Douglas Jacobson SVNH - Clyde Lassen SVNH
Clyde Lassen SVNH 4650 State Road 16 St. Augustine, FL 32092 (904) 940-2193		

* VAMC denotes U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

** VAOPC and CBOC denote U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic

***JACC denotes Joint Ambulatory Care Clinic

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) Veterans' Assistance Locations



September 2010

County Veteran Service Offices

Information on veterans' programs, entitlements and referral services is available through a network of County Veteran Service Offices. Services are provided free of charge. A complete list of CVSOs can be found online at www.FloridaVets.org

VA Clinics

CBOC Boca Raton
901 Meadows Rd.
Boca Raton, FL 33433
(561) 416-8995

CBOC Bradenton
5520 State Road 64,
Suite 101
Bradenton, FL 34208
(941) 721-0649

CBOC Brooksville
14540 Cortez Blvd. #108
Brooksville, FL 34613
(352) 597-8287

CBOC Clermont
805 Oakley Seaver Drive
Clermont, FL 34711
(352) 536-8200

CBOC Coral Springs
9900 W. Sample Rd. #100
Coral Springs, FL 33065
(954) 575-4940

CBOC Deerfield Beach
2100 SW 10th St.
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
(954) 570-5572

CBOC Delray Beach
4800 Linton Blvd.
Building E, #300
Delray Beach, FL 33445
(561) 495-1973

CBOC Eglin
100 Veterans Way
Eglin AFB, FL 32542
(866) 520-7359

CBOC Fort Pierce
727 North US 1
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
(772) 595-5150

CBOC Hollywood
3702 Washington St. #201
Hollywood, FL 33021
(954) 986-1811

CBOC Homestead
950 Krome Ave. #401
Homestead, FL 33030
(305) 248-0874

CBOC Key Largo
105662 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-0164

CBOC Key West
1300 Douglas Circle, L-15
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 293-4609

CBOC Kissimmee
2285 N. Central Ave.
Kissimmee, FL 34741
(407) 518-5004

CBOC Lakeland
4237 South Pipkin Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33811
(863) 701-2470

CBOC Lecanto
2804 W. Marc Knighton
Court, Suite A
Lecanto, FL 34461
(352) 746-8000

CBOC Leesburg
711 W. Main St.
Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 435-4000

CBOC Marianna
4970 Highway 90
Marianna, FL 32446
(850) 718-5620

Miami Healthcare for
Homeless Veterans
1492 Flagler St.
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 541-5864

Miami Outpatient Substance
Abuse Clinic
1492 West Flagler Street,
Suite 101
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 541-8435

CBOC Naples
2685 Horseshoe Dr. #101
Naples, FL 34104
(239) 659-9188

CBOC Ocala
1515 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 369-3320

CBOC Okeechobee
1201 N. Parrot Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 824-3232

CBOC Orange City
2583 S. Volusia Ave., #300
Orange City, FL 32763
(386) 456-2080

CBOC Palatka
428 N. State Road 19
(inside Palatka Mall)
Palatka, FL 32162
(xxx) xxx-xxxx

Panama City VA Clinic
Naval Support Activity,
Bldg 387, 101 Vernon Ave.
Panama City Beach, FL
32407
(850) 636-7000

Taylor County VA Clinic
1215 North Peacock Ave.
Perry, FL 32347
(850) 584-5087

CBOC Palm Harbor
35209 US Hwy 19 N.
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
(727) 734-5276

CBOC Pembroke Pines
7369 W. Sheridan St. #102
Hollywood, FL 33024
(954) 894-1668

CBOC Port Charlotte
4161 Tamiami Trail, #401
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 235-2710

St Lucie PTSD Clinic
126 SW Chambers Court
Port St Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 878-7876

Additional Locations

CBOC Sarasota
5682 Bee Ridge Rd. #100
Sarasota, FL 34233
(941) 371-3349

CBOC Sebring
3760 US Hwy 27 S.
Sebring, FL 33870
(863) 471-6227

CBOC St. Augustine
1955 US 1 South, #200
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 829-0814

CBOC St. Petersburg
840 Dr. MLK Jr. Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 502-1700

CBOC Stuart
3501 SE Willoughby Blvd.
Stuart, FL 34997
(772) 288-0304

Broward County VA Clinic
9800 W. Commercial St.
Sunrise, FL 33351
(954) 475-5500

The Villages VAOPC
8900 SE 165th Mulberry Ln.
The Villages, FL 32162
(352) 674-5000

CBOC Vero Beach
372 17th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 299-4623

CBOC Zephyrhills
6937 Medical View Lane
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
(813) 780-2550



Vet Centers

If you have served in any combat zone, Vet Centers are in your community to help you and your family with readjustment counseling and outreach services.

Dade City Vet Center
16386 Spring Hill Dr.
Brooksville, FL 34604
(727) 597-3512

Clearwater Vet Center
29259 US Hwy 19 North
Clearwater, FL 33761
(727) 549-3600

Coral Springs Vet Center
10077 NW 29th Street
Coral Springs, FL 33065
(954) 357-5555

Fort Lauderdale Vet Center
713 NE 3rd Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
(954) 356-7926

Fort Myers Vet Center
4110 Center Pointe Drive, Unit 204
Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 479-4401

Gainesville Vet Center
105 NW 75th Street, Suite 2
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 331-1408

Daytona Beach Vet Center
605 8th St., Bldg 703
Holly Hill, FL 32117
(407) 404-1002

Jacksonville Vet Center
300 East State Street, Suite J
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 232-3621

Jupiter Vet Center
6650 W. Indiantown Rd., Suite 120
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 422-1220

Key Largo Vet Center Outstation
105662 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-0164

Palm Beach Vet Center
Spectrum Center 2311 10th Ave., N. #13
Lake Worth, FL 33461
(561) 585-0441

Melbourne Vet Center
2098 Sarno Road
Melbourne, FL 32935
(321) 254-3410

Miami Vet Center
8280 NW 27th Street, Suite 511
Miami, FL 33122
(305) 718-3712

Orlando Vet Center
5575 S. Semoran Blvd., #36
Orlando, FL 32822
(407) 857-2800

Palm Beach Vet Center
Spectrum Center 2311 10th Ave., N. #13
Lake Worth, FL 33461
(561) 585-0441

Pensacola Vet Center
4501 Twin Oaks Drive, Suite 104
Pensacola, FL 32506
(850) 456-5886

Sarasota Vet Center
4801 Swift Road, Suite A
Sarasota, FL 34231
(941) 927-8285

St. Petersburg Vet Center
2880 1st Ave. North
St. Petersburg, FL 33713
(727) 893-3791

Tallahassee Vet Center
548 E. Bradford Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 942-8810

Tampa Vet Center
8900 N Armenia Avenue, #312
Tampa, FL 33604
(813) 228-2621

For more information on VA Vet Centers, visit www.vetcenter.va.gov

Florida Veterans:

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**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

To learn more about VA Hospitals and Clinics in Florida visit www.visn8.va.gov

Florida Veterans Foundation

The Florida Veterans Foundation is pleased to provide funding for the 2010-2011 edition of the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide. This publication is a valuable tool for Florida's more than 1.6 million veterans by providing information on how to obtain federal and state veterans' benefits.



The Florida Veterans Foundation was established by the Florida Legislature in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The foundation is a Direct Support Organization of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs that provides assistance, funding and support for FDVA in carrying out its mission. Tax deductible contributions help to fulfill our mission to provide much needed assistance to Florida's veterans and their families in times of financial need, as well as advancing initiatives that promote support of Florida's large veteran population. One hundred percent of all donations go to support the foundation's programs, no donations are used for operating expenses.

Please visit us at www.FloridaVeteransFoundation.org or call (850) 487-1533 to learn more about the foundation and how you can help those who sacrificed so much in the name of freedom and democracy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Haynes".

John L. Haynes
Major, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)
Chairman, Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc.



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Mail Your Donation to:

Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc.
4040 Esplanade Way, Suite 180
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950

Benefits and Health Care Contacts

Reference	Phone	Website
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	1-800-827-1000 TDD 1-800-829-4833	www.va.gov www.vba.va.gov
Veterans Health Care Eligibility/Enrollment	1-877-222-8387	www.va.gov/elig
VA Regional Office, St. Petersburg, Fla.	1-800-827-1000	www.vba.va.gov/ro/south/spete
Burial, Headstone and Marker Information	1-800-697-6947	www.cem.va.gov
Military Funeral Honors		www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil
Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola	(850) 453-4108/4846	http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/barrancas.asp
Bay Pines National Cemetery	(727) 398-9426	http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/baypines.asp
Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell	(352) 793-7740	http://www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/florida.asp
Jacksonville National Cemetery	(904) 358-3510	http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/jacksonville.asp
Sarasota National Cemetery	(941) 861-9840	http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp
South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth	(561) 649-6489	http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp
St. Augustine National Cemetery	(352) 793-7740	<i>Closed to new interments</i>
Returning Veterans	1-800-827-1000	http://www.oefoif.va.gov
TRICARE	1-800-444-5445	www.tricare.mil
Gulf War Veterans	1-800-749-8387	www1.va.gov/gulfwar
Women Veterans	(850) 609-2740	www1.va.gov/womenvet
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	1-800-336-4590	www.esgr.mil
National VA Homeless Hotline	1-877-424-3838	http://www1.va.gov/homeless/
VA Web Automated Reference Materials System (WARMS)		www.warms.vba.va.gov
VA Home Loan Guaranty Services	(888) 244-6711	www.homeloans.va.gov
National Veteran Suicide Prevention Hotline	1-800-273-8255 Press 1	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
Florida Relay Service - <i>For those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or speech impaired</i>	Dial 7-1-1	www.ftri.org

Salute Florida's Veterans and Military

These are among the state's most affordable specialty tags. \$15 of the purchase price goes into a trust fund for the operation and maintenance of Florida's veterans homes. Anyone can purchase these tags. For more information about tags, visit <http://www.flhsmv.gov/specialtytags/pmlpfaq.html> or call (850) 617-2000.

To purchase a patriotic license tag, contact your county tax collector's office.

