

Connecticut State Veteran's Benefits

As of September 2014



The state of Connecticut provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Housing Benefits
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Veteran Housing Programs

Connecticut Veterans' Home

The Department has a health care center with a capacity of 250 beds, a 50-bed substance abuse recovery program and a 500-bed Residential Program. Professional services are provided by staff physicians, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, OT, PT, RT, dieticians and social workers are augmented by community specialists, as well as, networking to local VA and major area hospitals when appropriate. By Statute, veterans who are able to pay in whole or in part for programs or services determined by the applicable fee schedule will receive a monthly bill for such services rendered.



**Sgt John L. Levitow (USAF) Veterans Health Center
287 West St. Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

The Healthcare Center at the CT Veterans' Home provides long term care to veterans with chronic and disabling medical conditions. These conditions include but are not limited to heart and lung disease, stroke, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other dementias. The program also provides End-of-Life care, Palliative care and Respite care.

The Healthcare Center is licensed by the CT Department of Public Health as a Chronic Disease Hospital.

To qualify for admission to the Healthcare Center a veteran must:

- Submit an application in advance
- Submit a report of medical history and physical examination
- Pass an eligibility check
- Have a chronic medical condition or need which requires skilled nursing care or requires 24 hour assistance or supervision with activities of daily living

At times, admission may be deferred until an appropriate bed is available. For more details on the facility and services it provides click on the appropriate category below

Healthcare Center Departments and Services

[Admissions](#)

[Chaplains/Spiritual Services](#)

[Dental](#)

[Health Information Management Services](#)

[Medical Staff](#)

[Nursing](#)

[Orthotic and Prosthetic Services](#)

[Physical Therapy](#)

[Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine Services](#)

[Speech and Language Pathology](#)

[Utilization Review Nurse Coordinator/Risk Manager](#)

[Fellowship House - Substance Abuse Recovery](#)

[Cardiopulmonary](#)

[Clinical Education/Staff Development](#)

[Dietitian](#)

[Laboratory](#)

[Mental Health Services](#)

[Occupational Therapy](#)

[Pharmacy](#)

[Radiology](#)

[Social Work](#)

[Therapeutic Recreation](#)

[Volunteers](#)

State Income Tax Exemptions

Connecticut veterans receiving federally taxable military retirement pay are eligible for an exemption from the state income tax. Connecticut applies a 50 percent exemption from the state income tax on federally taxable military retirement pay to members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Army and Air National Guard.

Property Tax Exemptions

Veterans, who have ninety days of wartime service, including Merchant Marines, who served during WWII, are eligible for a \$1,500 exemption for property tax purposes (e.g., real property or automobiles). You have the option to choose to apply this exemption to your real estate or automobile tax. Certain veterans, who do not own real property or a motor vehicle, may be eligible for a tax refund if they are leasing a motor vehicle.

Veterans below a certain income level and/or service connected disabled veterans are eligible for additional property tax exemptions (up to \$10,000 for paraplegics). Surviving spouses of veterans may also be eligible for this benefit. Contact your municipality's Tax Assessor Officer for specific details.

By Connecticut's definition, this exemption is the reduction of the property's assessed value for tax purposes.

Financial Assistance Benefits

The Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund

The Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund (SSMF) is a state fund administered by the American Legion for the purpose of providing temporary financial assistance for veterans with ninety days of wartime service, who are disabled, unemployed or for sickness. An applicant must be a resident of the State of Connecticut at the time of application for benefits. SSMF provides funding for emergency needs such as clothing, food, medical and surgical aid, and general care and relief. For further information please call 860-296-0719.

Visit the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.ct.gov/ctva/site/default.asp> for contact information and benefits assistance.

State Employment Benefits

Employment Assistance

An employee who leaves any public authority or public agency to enter the armed forces can be reinstated in their former position. Veterans must reapply within ninety days following receipt of a certificate from the armed forces confirming satisfactory service.

For classified competitive state exams, a wartime veteran eligible for or receiving VA compensation receives an additional ten points. A wartime veteran not eligible for VA compensation or pension receives five additional points. A spouse of a qualified veteran is also eligible for additional points. However, to qualify, the veteran or spouse must achieve a passing grade on the examination score. If an honorably discharged veteran has served in a military action for which he/she received, or is entitled to receive, a campaign badge or expeditionary medal, he/she qualifies for five additional points if they receive a passing grade on their examination.

On a competitive municipal examination, a wartime veteran eligible for VA compensation or a pension, who has received a passing score, receives ten additional points.

A wartime veteran not eligible for compensation or a pension, who has received a passing score, receives five additional points.

Visit the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.ct.gov/ctva/site/default.asp> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Veteran Education Benefits

Educational Benefit/Tuition Waivers

State law provides that tuition fees at state educational institutions be waived for certain veterans and certain dependents.

Approved institutions for this benefit are:

- State Regional Community/Technical Colleges
- State Universities

In order to be eligible for a tuition waiver, one must:

- Be a veteran who served 90 days of active duty during a period of war as defined in; and
- Have been accepted to an approved institution; and
- Be a Connecticut resident at the time of acceptance to the institution.
- A veteran's dependents can also qualify for tuition waiver if the veteran is declared missing in action while serving in the armed forces after January 1, 1960.

High School Diplomas and Veterans of WWII

Local Boards of Education may award diplomas to those WWII veterans who did not receive them when they left high school before graduation for military service.

Visit the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.ct.gov/ctva/site/default.asp> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Other State Veteran Benefits

Burial in Connecticut's Veterans' Cemetery

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Cemetery Administration does not maintain a cemetery in Connecticut. However, any veteran discharged with other than a dishonorable discharge is eligible for burial free of charge in its state veterans' cemetery. Spouses are also eligible for this benefit. There is no charge for the plot, single or double depth, or cremation, for the opening or closing of the grave or the perpetual care of the grave. A white, upright marble headstone/marker is required and provided by the Federal Government; it is installed by cemetery personnel at no cost. The vault that the casket is placed in is required and is the responsibility of the family. Veterans can arrange in advance to reserve a space in the cemetery; however, an exact gravesite is assigned after a person dies. An eligible veteran's spouse may be buried in the cemetery before the veteran. Many towns statewide operate their own veterans' cemeteries, which are independent from the State Veterans' Cemetery. Burial in these cemeteries is usually limited to residents of the town in which the cemetery is located.



State Veterans' Cemetery Middletown, CT

State Veterans Cemetery Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a veteran who served at least 90 days of active duty and was released from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions.
- Must have either entered the service as a Connecticut resident, died as a Connecticut resident or provide proof of one-time residency in Connecticut.
- Must be the spouse of an eligible veteran.
- Honorable service in the Armed Forces of any country allied with the United States is also acceptable.

For additional information contact : Cemetery and Memorial Services, Department of Veteran's Affairs, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 Telephone: 860-721-5838

Location and hours of the State Veterans' Cemetery: State Veterans' Cemetery, 317 Bow Lane, Middletown, CT 06457 Everyday 7:30 a.m. to sunset. Burials take place: Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 2:00 pm.

Motor Vehicles Waiver

State law provides for free motor vehicle registration and special plates to former prisoners of war and recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Veterans, who were state residents at the time of induction and who apply within two years of receiving an honorable discharge, are exempt from paying for an operator's license and examination fees for one licensing period.

State law also provides that fees may be waived for the following registration items, subject to a formal determination by the Department of Motor Vehicles:

- Special License plates for disabled veterans
- Special fee license plates for certain disabilities (loss of use or loss of limb, or blind) handicapped and overtime parking.
- If receiving auto grant from the VA or Medal of Honor recipient, exemption from registration fees.

The Connecticut DMV has available the below license plates for use by the military community. For eligibility requirements and procurement details click on the title of the appropriate plate below.



[Disabled American Veteran](#)



[First Company Governor's Foot Guard](#)



[First Company
Governor's Horse Guard](#)



[Flag-Style
Veteran](#)



[Gold Star Family](#)



[Greater Hartford
Chapter of 82nd Airborne](#)



[Iwo Jima
Survivor](#)



[Korean War
Veterans Association Inc.](#)



[Laos Veterans
of America](#)



[Marine Corps.
League Inc.](#)



[Military Order of the Purple Heart](#)



[National Guard Assoc. of Connecticut \(Active\)](#)



[National Guard Assoc. of Connecticut \(Retired\)](#)



[Pearl Harbor 1941](#)



[Second Company Governor's Foot Guard](#)



[U.S. Submarine Veteran](#)



[Veteran Motorcycle Plate](#)

Retirement

Members of The Municipal Employees' Retirement System, who leave municipal employment to enter the armed forces while the United States is at war, engaged in hostilities, or during national emergencies and are re-employed by the municipality within six months of discharge, are credited with the period of

service as though they had been continuously employed. This six-month limitation can be extended due to service-related disability.

Visit the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.ct.gov/ctva/site/default.asp> for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/connecticut-state-veterans-benefits.html> Sep 2014++]

Military Discounts in Connecticut

1. MVDC has a list of over 5,500 locations in Connecticut that have discounts for military personnel or veterans. Similar to businesses, the state of Connecticut provides discounts for its veterans and military population. If you are looking for business discounts, use the search tool for business discounts at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/connecticut.html>

2. **Veterans Designation on driver's license:** Yes

3. Discounted Fees and Taxes

- Armed Forces Property Tax Interest Forgiveness.
- Property tax exemptions for service connected disabled veterans.
- Servicemember's Motor Vehicle Property Tax Exemption.
- Fifty percent of military pension exempt from state income tax.
- Wartime service bonuses of \$50 per month for mobilized guardsmen and reservists.
- Motor vehicle registration exemption for active duty personnel and qualified veterans

4. Education Discounts

- Tuition waiver for national guard and veterans for state colleges and universities
- Tuition waivers for children or spouses of qualified veterans or service members that have died in action at in state schools.
- In state tuition for all active duty and spouses stationed in Connecticut.
- Certification of credits for military training.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/connecticut.html> Sep 2014 ++]