

Our Country is Safer Because of YOU

You were called and you went, and our country is more secure and free because of your selfless service, courage and sacrifices. As America's veterans of many wars and much combat, we are very proud of you and stand ready to support you in any way we can. Our Chapters will welcome you home and into their care.

When you make a transition from the military status, your new veteran status gives you access to many benefits and entitlements. Our National Service Program (NSP) and its **National Service Officers (NSOs)** will provide you with:

- Counseling on your benefits from a variety of government sources
- Help with filing claims for disability
- Assistance with entering the VA health care system

Yes, we are here to help you, and our services cost you **nothing**. Don't try to go it alone. Let us help you and guide you. After all, we have been there too.

Help with Military Transition

If you are leaving military service, only a **Transition Service Officer (TSO)** from the Disabled American Veterans (**DAV**) or Veterans of Foreign Wars (**VFW**) is allowed to help you **during** the transition and represent you with a signed Power of Attorney (**POA**). National Service Officers from all Veterans Service Organizations are not allowed to assist you until **after** you are discharged. ALL Service Officer support is **free**. We, who meet you, are not professionals, but we can refer you to professional help when needed.

Welcome Home and THANK YOU for Your SERVICE

Government Job Preferences and State Benefits

A 30% or higher VA disability rating, or a Purple Heart Medal, qualifies you for a **lifetime** 10-point government job preference for many federal and state agency jobs. For federal jobs, you use the Standard Form (**SF**) **15** with your application to provide proof of disability or a Purple Heart Medal award.

Veterans with less than a 30% disability rating have a **lifetime** 5-point government job preference. Written proof of service is required with your job application. **State** benefits and government job preferences for veterans are at <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory>

Assistance with Appeals of VA Claims Decisions

You have the right to appeal a VA decision on your claim for benefits within one year from the date on your VA notification. You may represent yourself or have an NSO, other approved agent, or attorney represent you. NSO representation is free. Attorney's fee may be up to 20% of your disputed claim's value. For further information, please see http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ461.109

E-mail or call for help or questions

Welcome Home and THANK YOU for Your Service



The Military Order of the *Purple Heart*

and

MOPH Service Foundation



We appreciate your tax-deductible donations.

All information is current as of Spring 2011.

Some Initial and Practical Advice

- 1- Keep good copies of **ALL** your medical records, especially from the date of your first injury or wound in combat. You have a right to these medical records, and, in fact, you should keep your own Medical 201 file. These records will be very important for you in pursuing any claim with the VA.
- 2- The VA provides assistance to veterans, their eligible dependents and survivors in all states through a variety of programs available in medical centers, clinics, or vet centers. Major military hospitals have VA Liaison Officers assisting seriously injured veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with their military to VA transition.
- 3- You can help resolve any dispute with your unit about the facts of your wound or injury by sending an e-mail inquiry to your unit, regardless of where it is located. We can help with senior officer follow up assistance if needed.

Special License Plates

All states have military, veteran and Purple Heart license plates. Many states have plates for combat veterans and some military awards. The **Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)** in your state may require a copy of your orders or other proof of military service and award.



New Post 9/11 GI Bill Summary

These provisions are all effective on August 1, 2009. For 36 months of active service on or after 11 Sep 2001, or for 30 days service and a service connected disability discharge, you are eligible for 36 months tuition and assistance for up to 15 years after retirement or an honorable discharge. Lesser benefits are available for shorter periods of service. After 10 years of active duty service, a person may transfer tuition to an eligible spouse or dependent child.

For more information and details:
DVA Education Customer Service Office
1-888-442-4551 (7 AM – 7 PM Central Time)
www.gibill.va.gov, and/or www.newgibill.org,
and/or <http://education.military.com>

Other Educational Assistance

Many schools offer military and veterans tuition rates. A Purple Heart Medal qualifies you for free tuition at many universities and colleges, on a **state-by-state** and **school-by-school** basis.

Some military and veterans groups offer scholarships and grants to military service members, veterans, and their families. Purple Heart recipients, their spouses, children, and grandchildren are eligible for scholarships from the MOPH.

Many states provide tuition assistance or waivers to military service members, veterans, and their families. Check with your state and school of interest on an individual basis, and **ask** about available assistance programs.

Free information about military and veteran friendly schools and scholarship is available at <http://aid.military.com/scholarship/search-for-scholarships.do>.

Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)

American Legion

(202) 861-2700 • www.legion.org

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

(202) 554-3501 • www.dav.org

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

(212) 982-9699 • www.iava.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

(703) 354-2140 • www.purpleheart.org

Veterans Vocational Technical Institute

1-800-274-9772 (M-F 10 AM – 6 PM Eastern Time)

www.vvti.org (MOPH Foundation Program)

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

1-800-VFW-1899 (839-1899) • www.vfw.org

NOTE: Some VSOs may require membership or give service priority to their members. **MOPH provides free service to ALL veterans. Membership is NOT required.**

Military and VA

Military OneSource

1-800-342-9647 • www.militaryonesource.com

National Resource Directory

www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov

DoD Center of Excellence for TBI Injury

1-866-966-1020 • www.afterdeployment.org

Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline

1-800-984-8523 • wfsupport@conus.army.mil

Marine for Life Program

1-866-645-8762 • www.m4l.usmc.mil

VA Benefits and Programs

1-800-827-1000 • www.va.gov

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

Veterans, press 1. Family, listen for options.