

FLORIDA VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE 2022



Courtesy of the Florida Veterans Foundation

BOLDLY SERVING MORE THAN 30 YEARS

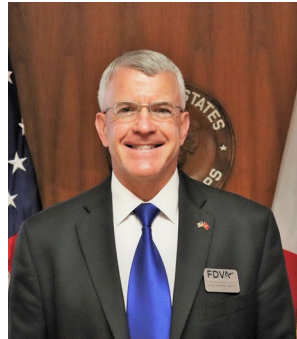


FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

www.FloridaVets.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you for reading the 2022 edition of the *Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide*. At the end of World War II, the State of Florida recognized the need to provide services to returning service members and created a division within state government to connect veterans with their earned benefits. To better serve Veterans and their families, Florida voters in 1988 overwhelmingly approved a Constitutional Amendment to create a Cabinet Agency to "Honor Those Who Served U.S." Today, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs is the premier point of entry for Florida Veterans to access earned services, benefits and support.



FDVA operates a network of seven State Veterans' Homes and provides statewide outreach to connect Veterans, their families and survivors with earned services, benefits and support. Two additional state veterans' homes will open in the first half of 2022.

Our Veterans' Claims Examiners, who are often the first-line contact with our state's Veterans, can be reached by calling (727) 319-7440. You may also contact them via e-mail at VSO@fdva.state.fl.us. You'll also find our claims examiners in all VA Medical Centers and most VA Outpatient Clinics. All outreach services are free to the Veteran.

We encourage you to learn more about your earned services, benefits and support. Follow us online at www.FloridaVets.org and on our many social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Working together to ensure a positive future for Florida Veterans and their families, we'll ensure the Sunshine State continues to be the most Veteran sought after state in the nation. We are honored to serve you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James S. Hartsell".

James S. "Hammer" Hartsell
Executive Director
Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Florida is proud to be the most military and veteran friendly state in the nation. As a veteran, I will make sure our state continues to honor the countless sacrifices made by the 1.5 million veterans who call our state home.



Over the past year we have continued to expand our commitment to veterans in Florida. In June of 2021, I signed three bills that support active-duty military, veterans, and their families by providing access to educational programs, workforce training and strengthening veteran preferences for state employment. In 2021, I also directed CareerSource Florida to use more than \$15 million to help connect military veterans and their spouses with workforce training and employment opportunities in our state. I look forward to doing even more for our veterans in 2022.

In Florida, our reasoning is simple - we support our veterans because they have supported us. Not only do veterans make incredible sacrifices for our state, but we also know our military and defense industry supports more than 860,000 Florida jobs. According to the latest data, having a military friendly state has generated \$96.6 billion in economic impact in one year.

With our large, retired military population, there is a welcoming community for veterans no matter what part of the state you are in. The Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide is full of resources that draw veterans and their families to our state. As Americans and Floridians, we continue to support those who ensured our nation remains the land of the free.

Please share this guide with your fellow veterans and family members so that these services can reach as many eligible individuals as possible. We honor your service and appreciate the sacrifices you and your family have made to defend our freedom.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis
Governor
State of Florida

The printing of the 2022 edition of the *Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide* is provided by a generous grant from the Florida Veterans Foundation. Please visit www.HelpFLVets.org to make a donation in support of their mission of No Florida Veteran Left Behind.

FLORIDA VETERANS FOUNDATION (FVF)

2021 has been challenging with COVID-19 adding to hardships already faced by Veterans. FVF is the Direct Support Organization of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. FVF provides special focus for those facing, at times, what seems to be insurmountable odds from the pandemic. I am excited to report that the nonprofit Foundation is now in its 13th year working towards the improvement of Florida's 1.5 million Veterans and Veteran Service Organizations.



The Foundation operates for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c) (3), and works closely with the 67 County Veteran Service Offices, which are "frontline" for Florida Veterans and local Veteran organizations providing hands-on care for our Veterans. The Foundation is the safety net for Florida Veterans and works proactively, partnering with State Veteran Service Organizations to assist veterans in need with employment, housing, transportation, and benefits assistance.

The Foundation website, www.HelpFLVets.org, provides Veterans and their Families important emergency assistance information and links that include COVID assistance, financial assistance, and more. We also continue to pursue initiatives that will greatly benefit Florida Veterans with resources in Veteran suicide prevention and elderly Veteran outreach, connecting them with their earned VA monetary benefits.

Florida Veterans Crisis Line

For 24-hour counsel, call the National Veteran Crisis Hotline at 1-800-273- 8255. Remember, you are NOT alone! Florida Veterans can call the Florida Veterans Support Line at 1-844-MyFLVet (693-5838) or 2-1-1.

Connecting Aging Veterans with Benefits

Many Florida Veterans and their families are also unaware of earned VA benefits available such as VA Pension with Aid and Attendance, which helps subsidize the cost of Long-Term Care. Our combined efforts, with the Foundation partners such as the National Association of Veterans & Families, ensure that earned benefits go to aging veterans in Florida. Visit <https://helpflvets.org/aging-wartime-veterans/> for more information.

You may also visit www.HelpFLVets.org to purchase vouchers for the new Gadsden Flag, Don't Tread on Me, License Plate, become an ambassador, honor a veteran, donate in memory of, or donate to support many of our services and programs.

Thank YOU for helping us fulfill our mission of "No Florida Veteran Left Behind"



Commander Dennis O. Baker, USN (ret)
Chairman, Florida Veterans Foundation

Military and Veterans Assistance Program



Ashley Moody

Florida is blessed to be home to the third largest veteran population in the United States. These veterans deserve our support and admiration for the jobs performed in service to our country. They have also earned benefits connected to their service and sacrifice defending our nation and interests abroad. Without these brave men and women, there would be no United States of America.

While having a large population of service members in our communities is a great advantage for our state, there are some unscrupulous individuals who seek to exploit their service—targeting them with scams and deceptive business practices.

My Military and Veterans Assistance Program exists to help educate military members, veterans and their families about the scams they may encounter, what they can do to protect themselves from fraud and how they can help others by reporting suspicious activity.

In addition, members of my MVAP team work directly with military service members and veterans who have been targeted to help resolve their consumer protection related issues or find other outside assistance if necessary. To learn more about MVAP, visit MyFloridaLegal.com/MVAP. To view a copy of my office's Military Consumer Protection Resource Guide, visit MyFloridaLegal.com/MilitaryGuide.

Financial Literacy and Insurance Assistance



Jimmy Patronis

The Department of Financial Services offers two financial education programs specifically for veterans:

Financial Frontlines is an online initiative that provides information to help families fight against financial frauds and debt with the use of an in-depth Resource Guide, a series of tip sheets and an educational video library. Financial Frontlines covers topics such as identity theft, credit scoring, budgeting, predatory lending and the

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Visit Financial Frontlines at www.MyFloridaCFO.com/YMM/FinancialFrontlines.

Serve Save Succeed is a financial literacy resource and online forum for current and former military service members and their families on finance-related topics. The site covers saving, budgeting, frauds, scams, identity theft and scholarships. Visit Serve Save Succeed at www.MyFloridaCFO.com/ServeSaveSucceed.

The Department will assist you with your insurance questions and concerns or open a formal complaint. Their experienced Helpline Specialists are trained and informed about changes that occur to categories of insurance such as health, life, auto, bonds, warranties, annuities and more. They are ready to contact the insurance company

on your behalf to assist you with your insurance complaint. For more information, call toll free 1-877-693-5236 or send an email to **Consumer.Services@myfloridacfo.com**.

Agriculture and Consumer Services Assistance



Nikki Fried

From promoting veterans agriculture to providing consumer protection to veterans, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is ready to serve Florida veterans.

FDACS actively promotes and supports initiatives that facilitate Florida veterans' entry into agriculture. As Florida farmers retire at a rate that outpaces the rate that younger farmers are beginning agriculture careers, veterans are uniquely positioned to fill this gap in Florida's agriculture

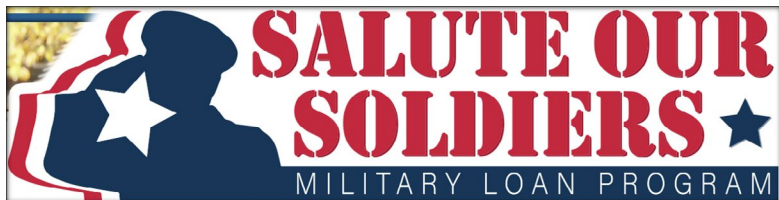
industry. Meaningful agriculture careers also provide veterans with the purpose that some struggle to regain after leaving the military.

The FDACS Consumer Services Division provides protection from fraud, waste, and abuse to all Florida residents, to include veterans and military members. Under the Florida Forest Service, Operation Outdoor Freedom provides recreational and rehabilitative opportunities to wounded veterans on state forests, agricultural lands, and private lands throughout Florida at no cost. **(See Page 20 for details.)**

Florida concealed weapon or firearm license applications submitted by active military members and veterans are now expedited. For information, visit **www.fdacs.gov**.

FDACS waives some first-time business related licensing application fees for veterans, their spouses, or a business entity in which the veteran or spouse has a majority ownership stake. Other fees may apply.

For information on FDACS veterans initiatives, visit **www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Veterans**. For further information on these programs, contact FDACS Veterans Affairs Director, Edgar Rodriguez at (850) 766-8582 or **Ed.Rodriguez@FDACS.gov**



The *Salute our Soldiers Military Loan Program* offers military members and veterans 30-year, fixed-rate first mortgage loans at a lower rate and with several down payment assistance options. The program is available to borrowers who are purchasing a primary residence, meet income and purchase price limits, can qualify for a first mortgage loan, and successfully complete a homebuyer education course. For details, visit **www.floridahousing.org** or call (850) 488-4197.

OUR VISION

FDVA is the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits and support.

OUR MISSION

To advocate with purpose and passion for Florida veterans and link them to superior services, benefits and support. The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs was founded on July 1, 1989, following the passing of a Constitutional Amendment in 1988 by Florida voters establishing a state agency responsible for advocating for Florida's veterans, their families and survivors. FDVA is a Cabinet Agency, reporting to the governor and Cabinet officers, with an appointed executive director as agency head. FDVA has primary offices in Largo, with staff offices in Bay Pines and Tallahassee.

Free Benefits & Disability Claims Counseling

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs has Claims Examiners co-located with the VA Regional Office in Bay Pines, each VA Medical Center and many VA Outpatient Clinics. Assistance with claims is free and covers all state and federal veterans' programs. FDVA, through its Bureau of State Approving Agency, also evaluates and approves secondary and post-secondary education programs so Floridians can take advantage of federal veterans' educational programs such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill®. For more information or for assistance, call (727) 319-7440 or visit **FloridaVets.org**. Most federal, state and local veterans' benefits require proof of military service through an official discharge document, often called a DD-214 or one of its predecessors. You may request a free copy of your military service record through the National Archives at **www.archives.gov/veterans**.

County Veteran Service Offices

Information on current federal, state and local veterans' programs, entitlements and referral services is also available in Florida through a network of County Veteran Service Offices. Counselors are trained and accredited annually by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. All services are provided free of charge. A list of offices can be found online at **www.FloridaVets.org/benefits-services**.

State Women Veterans' Coordinator

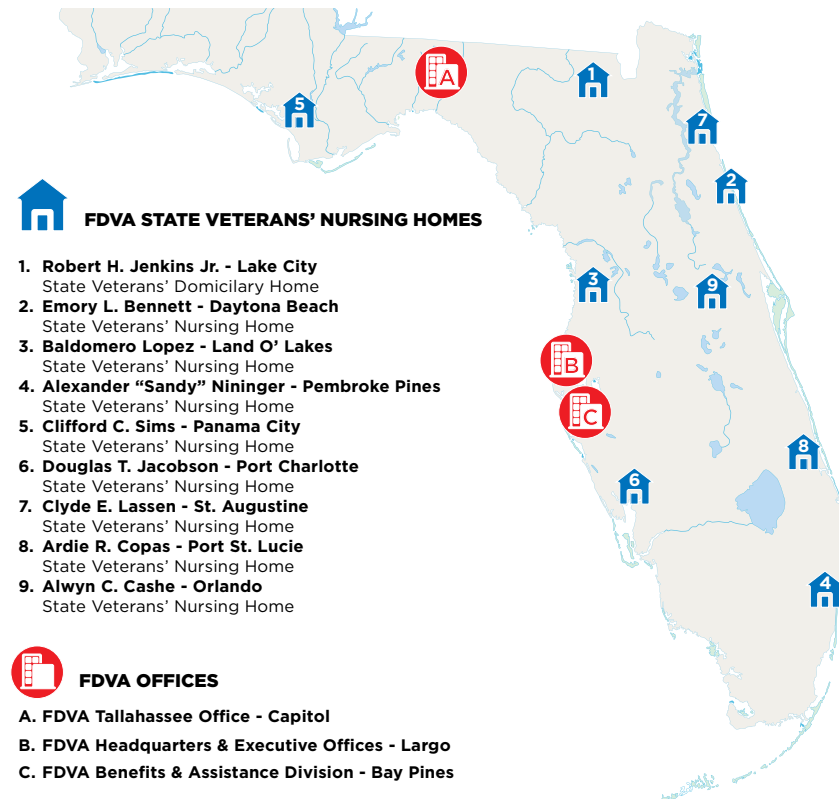
The Sunshine State is home to approximately 162,000 women veterans. Many women veterans don't know they are eligible for the full range of federal and state benefits. To help connect women veterans with earned benefits and services, FDVA hosts an annual state women veterans' conference. A Woman Veteran license plate is also available for purchase. For more information on women veterans' issues, call (727) 319-7418 or visit **www.FloridaVets.org/our-veterans/women-veterans**.

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 Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration and inspected annually by AHCA and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The homes are supervised round the clock by registered and licensed nurses. Under the IRS tax code, monetary donations to specific state veterans' homes are tax deductible. Per Florida Statutes, all such donations are to be used for the benefit of the home and its residents. You may also support the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund by making a \$1 contribution when renewing your Driver License.

Employment

Our State Veterans' Homes enjoy Five Star and Gold Seal ratings for the care they provide. You can come to work each day knowing you will be using state-of-the-art technology and equipment to provide your residents with the best care possible. The Homes have a new training and employment opportunity that will allow you to receive your Certified Nursing Assistant certification with continual employment after training is completed. For employment opportunities, call the FDVA Human Resources Office at (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5579 or visit the People First website at www.jobs.myflorida.com.



Resident Admission

Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes include an honorable discharge, Florida residency, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician.

Veterans' Homes

The **Robert H. Jenkins Jr. Veterans' Domiciliary Home** in Lake City (Columbia County) opened to residents in 1990. The 150-bed Assisted Living Facility provides a special combination of housing, personalized supportive services and primary medical care to eligible veterans. Call (386) 758-0600 for more information. Address: 751 SE Sycamore Terrace, Lake City, FL 32025.

The **Emory L. Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Daytona Beach (Volusia County) opened to residents in 1993. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care to its veteran residents. Call (386) 274-3460 for more information. Address: 1920 Mason Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

The **Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Land O' Lakes (Pasco County) opened to residents in 1999. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (813) 558-5000 for more information. Address: 6919 Parkway Boulevard, Land O' Lakes, FL 34639.

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. Address: 8401 West Cypress Drive, Pembroke Pines, FL 33025.

The **Clifford C. Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Panama City (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. Address: 4419 Tram Road, Panama City, FL 32404.

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. Address: 21281 Grayton Terrace, Port Charlotte, FL 33954.

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. Address: 4650 State Road 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

The **Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home** in Port St. Lucie (St. Lucie County) will open to residents in 2022. The 120-bed facility will offer skilled nursing care and accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. For more information, call (772) 241-6132.

The **Alwyn C. Cashe State Veterans' Nursing home** in Orlando (Orange County) will open to residents in 2022. The 112-bed facility will offer skilled nursing care and accommodate residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. For more information, call (407) 741-4613.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: HEALTH CARE

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 Clinic in Florida.

Free Health Care for Recent Combat Vets

Combat veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after Jan. 28, 2003, are eligible to enroll in the VA health care system for five years from the date of discharge or release. The enrollment period begins on the discharge or separation date of the service member from active duty service, or in the case of multiple call-ups, the most recent discharge date. Veterans, including activated Reservists and National Guard members, are eligible if they served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998, and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

One-time Dental Treatment

Following separation or retirement from service, veterans have 180 days to receive one-time separation dental care from the VA, 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)

VA Offers Dental Insurance Program

VA partnered with Delta Dental and MetLife to allow eligible veterans, plus family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), to purchase affordable dental insurance. There are no eligibility limitations based on a service-connected disability rating or enrollment priority assignment. For more information, visit Delta Dental at www.deltadentalvadip.org or MetLife at www.metlife.com/vadip.

VA Mission Act

The VA Mission Act of 2018 consolidates U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs community care programs, revises other VA health care programs and facilities provisions, and makes appropriations for veterans care. The bill establishes the Veterans Community Care Program to furnish hospital care, medical services and extended care services through certain non-VA providers to veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system or otherwise entitled to VA care. The Mission Act builds off previous law, the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability (Choice) Act, which Congress passed in 2014. For more information, visit www.congress.gov/115/bills/s2372/BILLS-115s2372enr.pdf

Agent Orange/Gulf War Illness

Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, or suffer illnesses and served in the Gulf War during military service may be eligible for VA benefits, including disability compensation for diseases/illnesses presumed to be caused from these deployments. Your dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits. For more information, call the Help Line at 1-800-749-8387 or send an e-mail to GW/AOHelpline@vba.va.gov

Camp Lejeune

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has established a presumption of service connection for eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Active duty, Reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River, N.C. for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) from Aug. 1, 1953, through Dec. 31, 1987, may be eligible for disability benefits. For more information, visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: EDUCATION

Florida waives out-of-state tuition and fees for all honorably discharged veterans who reside in the state and who are enrolled in Florida public, post-secondary institutions, through the "Congressman C.W. Bill Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Act." The out-of-state tuition and fee waiver is extended to spouses and dependent children receiving educational assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and who reside in Florida while enrolled in Florida public, postsecondary institutions (see FS 1009.26(13)).

Out-of-state tuition and fees are waived for active duty members residing or stationed outside of the State of Florida (FS 1009.26(14)).

Florida waives undergraduate-level, certificate or diploma tuition at state universities, colleges, career and technical centers for Florida residents who are recipients of the Purple Heart and other combat-related decorations superior in precedence to the Purple Heart. Call (850) 245-0407 for more information. (FS 1009.26(8))

Florida postsecondary institutions will waive the transcript fee of active duty members or honorably discharged veterans, including his or her spouse and dependents (FS 1009.26(17)).

The Florida Department of Education provides scholarship opportunities for dependent children and spouses of veterans who died from a service-connected disability or who are 100 percent service-connected permanent and total disabled veterans through the Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans program. (FS 295.01) Visit www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org for application information, residency and eligibility requirements, or call toll free (888) 827-2004 for more information. Dependent children of service members Missing in Action or Prisoners of War may also be eligible for scholarship benefits. This scholarship may be received in addition to VA's Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA - Ch 35).

For information pertaining to federal VA educational assistance, to include Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Programs, please call (888) 442-4551 or visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill

Each Florida College System institution and state university offering priority course registration for segments of the student population shall provide priority course registration to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who are receiving GI Bill® educational benefits (FS 1004.075).

The benefit also applies to spouses and dependent children receiving transferred GI Bill® education benefits.

Florida State Colleges and Universities also allow current members of the U.S. Armed Forces and honorably discharged veterans to earn academic college credit for college-level training and education acquired in the military. Consult your local campus for details.

Active Duty Service members using DoD's Military Tuition Assistance for enrollment in Florida College System institutions may have fees waived by the institution (FS 1009.25(15))

Honorably discharged veterans who were inducted into the U.S. Armed Forces prior to completing their high school education can be awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma. Visit www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/veterans-diplomas.stml or call (850) 245-0446 for more information.

FEDERAL VETERANS' BENEFITS: EDUCATION UPDATES

Post-9/11 GI Bill®

Post-9/11 GI Bill® recipients who transitioned out of the military after January 1, 2013, and those receiving the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (see VA website for details), no longer have a 15-year delimiting date for the use of their awarded education benefits (PL 115-48).

Montgomery GI Bill®

Provides eligible veterans who enlisted after June 30, 1985, educational assistance after leaving the service to if honorably discharged veterans who enlisted after June 30, 1985, and if the servicemember elected to participate in the education program within the first 12 months of service. The delimiting date of this benefit is 10 years from the discharge date.

Please go to www.benefits.va.gov for information pertaining to VA educational assistance for Chapters 31 (VR&E), 35, 1606 and 1607 beneficiaries.

Retroactive Induction

Effective April 1, 2021, VA announced they will not count veteran entitlement used in the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E - Ch 31) program against the 48-month rule (maximum entitlement). To maximize educational assistance, a veteran would want to use VR&E benefits first and then GI Bill® benefits.

Chapter 33 Verification of Enrollment

Chapter 33 beneficiaries must verify their enrollment at a school to VA, effective August 1, 2021, for beneficiaries attending Noncollege Degree schools and effective December 17, 2021 for beneficiaries attending Institutions of Higher Learning (degree granting schools) (PL 116-315, Section 1010).

COVID-19 Updates

Special health emergency provisions for the administration of GI Bill® education programs end December 22, 2021, unless extended by Congress. For updates pertaining to the COVID-19 health emergency and for Student FAQs, please visit <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/covid19educationbenefits.asp>

VA's New, Temporary and/or Pilot Programs

STEM Program - The Edith Nourse Rogers Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Scholarship provides a maximum award of \$30,000 to Post-9/11 or Fry Scholarship students who have exhausted or will exhaust entitlement, within 180 days. Eligible veterans and Fry Scholarship students must be pursuing an undergraduate STEM degree at an Institution of Higher Learning or must be enrolled in a clinical training program for health care professionals. Eligible veteran and Fry Scholarship students who have already obtained an undergraduate degree in a STEM field and who are enrolled in a teaching certification program to teach in a STEM field, are also eligible to apply (PL 115-48). Visit www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/stem-scholarship/

VET TEC Program - VA's 5-year Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) Pilot Program commencing August 1, 2018 to provide training benefits to eligible veterans who enroll in high technology education programs (Information Science, Computer Programming, Data Processing, Media Applications, or Computer Software) at approved Noncollege Degree schools. Only one day of GI Bill® entitlement is needed for eligibility and program does not use beneficiary's benefits. Training and a monthly housing allowance (MHA) is provided to students. Students may also train as online only students; however, the MHA would be ½ of national average (PL 115-48). Visit www.va.gov/education/about-gi-billbenefits/how-to-use-benefits/vettec-high-tech-program/

VRRAP Program - VA's temporary Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) commenced March 11, 2021 and the last payment in this program will be made on December 11, 2022. This temporary program was created as an economic stimulus package with aid targeted to assist individuals and businesses to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible veterans will receive up to 12 months of tuition, fees and monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill® rates. Beneficiaries must be pursuing an Associate's Degree or a Noncollege Degree Certificate program, with an approved provider, and must be pursuing a high-demand occupation, as

determined by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics. Eligible veterans must be between the ages of 22 and 66, must be unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but may not be receiving unemployment benefits. VR&E (Ch 31) beneficiaries are not eligible; however, Post-9/11 GI Bill® recipients who transferred their education benefits to a family member are eligible (PL 117-2 American Rescue Plan of 2021). Visit www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/

National Call to Service Program - Qualified MGIB veterans may choose a benefit as an alternative to the Montgomery GI Bill. Visit www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/national-call-to-service-program/

For more information about U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance, call toll free (888) 442-4551 or visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

For COVID-19 Information affecting VA Education Benefits go to www.benefits.va.gov/GIBill/COVID19EducationBenefits.asp

VETERANS' BENEFITS: PENSION

Aid & Attendance / Dependency & Indemnity Compensation

Pension is a needs-based benefit paid to wartime veterans who meet certain age or non-service connected disability requirements. Aid and Attendance is an increased monthly pension amount paid to a veteran or surviving spouse. You may be eligible if you require the aid of another person in order to perform activities of daily living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting or adjusting prosthetic devices.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military service members who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease. A death certificate indicating the cause of death was service-connected is evidence needed by survivors when applying for the DIC benefit. However, the service-connected condition does not have to be the immediate cause of death; it need only be a "significant contributor" to the veteran's death. Veterans and their spouses should provide copies of the veteran's VA Disability Rating Letter to their non-VA physicians. Physicians should add the letter to the veteran's medical record.

For eligibility requirements, contact an FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiner or County Veteran Service Officer. You may also visit www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets.asp or call toll free (800) 827-1000.

Note: The programs, processes and criteria for receiving Social Security and VA disability benefits are different. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans or call toll free (800) 772-1213 for more information.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: HOME LOANS & PROPERTY TAXES

G.I. Home Loan Guarantee and Adaptive Housing Grants

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. The VA also provides grants to veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities to help purchase or construct an adapted home, or modify an existing home to accommodate a disability. For information, call (877) 827-3702 or visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans.

Basic Property Tax Exemptions

Eligible resident veterans with a VA certified service-connected disability of 10 percent or greater shall be entitled to a \$5,000 deduction on the assessment of their home for tax exemption purposes. The veteran 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 unremarried surviving spouse of a disabled ex-service member is also entitled to this exemption. (FS 196.24)

Additional 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 Jan. 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 an Armed Forces member who died from service-connected causes while on active duty is exempt from taxation if the member was a permanent resident of Florida on Jan. 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 partially disabled veteran who is age 65 or older, 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) This exemption carry over to surviving spouses effective Jan. 1, 2021.

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)

Service members 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)

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)

VETERANS' BENEFIT: INSURANCE

Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is a program that allows you to continue life insurance coverage after you separate from service. Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) may be converted to VGLI within one year and 120 days of discharge. For more information, call toll free (800) 419-1473 or visit www.insurance.va.gov.

Other 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. Call toll free (800) 669-8477 or visit www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/s-dvi.asp.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: BURIAL & FAMILY SUPPORT

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides honorably discharged veterans, spouses and dependents with burial in a national cemetery at no cost. Cremated remains are also accepted. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried if they predecease the veteran. The VA provides eligibility determinations for interment in a national cemetery prior to the time of need. Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a national cemetery. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office toll free at (800) 535-1117. The VA provides the gravesite, grave liner, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate and

perpetual care of the gravesite at no cost to the family. The VA also provides a headstone, marker or medallion for placement on a private headstone at a private cemetery at no cost to the family. The VA does not make funeral arrangements. For more information, visit www.cem.va.gov or call toll free (800) 697-6947.

Gold Star Families

Florida honors its Gold Star Families. Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult things anyone can go through. Florida Survivor Outreach Services connects you with people who can help you move forward and find strength. SOS Support Coordinators are located strategically throughout Florida to provide long-term support and assistance. A Gold Star license plate is also available from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. For more information, visit www.floridavets.org/our-veterans/gold-star-families.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING & FEE EXEMPTIONS

Veteran Designation on Driver License

Florida veterans can add a veteran designation to their driver license or ID card by visiting any Florida driver license office, to include those operated by county tax collectors. Requirements: 1) present a discharge document which shows an Honorable or Under Honorable Conditions discharge from active duty; 2) visit www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/ what-to-bring to ensure you have all other documents. Veterans who need to obtain a copy of their DD-214 may request it online at www.archives.gov/veterans. While renewing or replacing a driver license or ID card, veterans may also voluntarily request information on veterans' benefits be forwarded to them.

100% Disabled Veteran State ID Card

A disabled veteran ID 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% service-connected, permanent and total disability rating. (FS 295.17) The card may be used as proof of eligibility for any state benefit except exemption of homestead property taxes. For application information, call (727) 319-7440.

Driver License & State ID Fee Exemptions

Any veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who has been issued a valid identification card by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with Section 295.17, Florida Statutes, has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a 100% total and permanent service-connected disability rating for compensation, or has been determined to have a service-connected total and permanent disability rating of 100%, is in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States Armed Services, and who is qualified to obtain a driver's license under this chapter is exempt from certain driver license fees. The Veteran must present a card or letter from the VA stating 100 percent total and permanent service-connected disability rating for compensation, or a service-connected total and permanent disability rating of 100 percent. (LR24.4a) However, some reinstatement fees are required.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or a county tax collector may issue or renew a state ID card to a person who presents evidence that he or she is homeless without payment of fees. A nominal fee may apply in offices operated by county tax collectors. Homeless veterans may prove their status with a letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that establishes eligibility in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program, known as HUD-VASH.

Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle License Plate

A veteran discharged honorably or under honorable conditions 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 or that the vehicle was acquired through VA financial assistance. Note: 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 320.084). For eligibility requirements and more information, call (850) 617-2000 or visit www3.flhsmv.gov/dmv/Proc/rs/RS-17.pdf.

Parking for Disabled Veterans

Parking spaces for persons with disabilities are for the exclusive use of individuals who have permanent or temporary impairments. (F.S. 553.5041(3)). Disabled veterans who have been issued a “DV” plate may park in designated handicapped parking spaces. Disabled veterans with a mobility impairment may apply for the disabled parking plate with the wheelchair emblem to avoid possible fines and penalties. No state agency, county, municipality or agency thereof may charge the driver of a vehicle displaying a “DV” license plate any fee for parking on public streets, highways or in any metered parking space. There are exemptions to this benefit, which may be found in Florida Statute 316.1964. Legislation also prohibits the governing body of each publicly owned or publicly operated airport from charging parking fees to vehicles displaying certain disabled veteran license plates.

Handicapped Toll Permit

Licensed drivers 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))

Military License Plates

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles issues special use license plates for eligible military members and veterans. These special use license plates, honoring wartime service, awards, campaigns and decorations, and status are issued after the applicant provides documents establishing proof of status, such as a DD-214, and upon payment of the license tax imposed by s. 320.08, F.S. License fees and taxes vary. Visit www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/personalized-specialty-license-plates for more information.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: RECREATIONAL DISCOUNTS & FEE WAIVERS

Florida State Park Discount Passes

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection provides a 25-percent discount on the purchase of Individual and Family annual passes to Florida's State Parks for all active duty and honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard. Honorably discharged veterans with service-related disabilities, surviving spouses of members of the U.S. military who have fallen in combat, and parents of members of the U.S. military who have fallen in combat are eligible to receive a free-for-life Military Entrance Pass.

Discounted annual passes and the Military pass can only be obtained at a Florida state park with a staffed ranger station, ticket counter or museum. For specific details regarding proof of eligibility, call (850) 245-2157 or visit www.FloridaStateParks.org.

County and municipal departments of parks and recreation provide a full or partial discount on park entrance fees to current military service members, honorably discharged veterans, service-connected disabled veterans and the surviving spouse or parents of a military service member who died in combat. Consult your local county or municipal park for details.

All veterans and Gold Star Families are eligible for free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests. In addition to receiving access to National Parks, the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have indefinitely waived entrance or standard amenity fees for veterans and Gold Star Families. Please visit the National Parks Service at www.nps.gov for more information about how to access this new benefit.

Hunting and Fishing

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, Armed Forces Reserve or National Guard upon submission of a current military ID card. For more information, visit myfwc.com/license/recreational/military-gold. The license is available through an online verification process at www.GoOutdoorsFlorida.com. The license may also be obtained at Florida tax collectors' offices with proof of residency and a current military identification card.

State hunting and fishing licenses and permits shall be issued without fees for five years to any veteran who is a Florida resident, certified or determined to be 100% totally and permanently disabled by the VA or the U.S. Armed Forces, or who has been issued a valid disabled veteran ID card by FDVA. For more information, visit www.myfwc.com. (FS 379.353).

Operation Outdoor Freedom

Supported by Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried and led by the Florida Forest Service, Operation Outdoor Freedom provides recreational and rehabilitative opportunities to wounded veterans on state forests, agricultural lands and private lands throughout Florida at no cost. Designated state and agricultural lands throughout Florida grant qualified veterans with unique opportunities for recreation and rehabilitation. The Florida Forest Service, within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, provides hundreds of veterans with the Operation Outdoor Freedom experience. For more information, call (863) 578-1894 or visit www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Veterans/Operation-Outdoor-Freedom



VETERANS FLORIDA

Veterans Florida is a non-profit corporation created by the State of Florida and the state's designated SkillBridge assistance organization. They provide powerful tools to help veterans find a new career, start a business, and connect with helpful resources in the Sunshine State. Visit www.veteransflorida.org to learn more.

Career Opportunities

Florida's veteran-friendly businesses in high-growth fields such as aerospace, manufacturing, logistics, research and development, and technology seek to hire and provide training for veterans, transitioning servicemembers, and members of the National Guard and Reserves. Veteran Employment and Training Specialists help you translate military skills for employers, get placed into skills-based careers, assist with resume and interview preparation, and connect with SkillBridge opportunities. Visit www.veteransflorida.org/careers to register.

Entrepreneurship

Leadership, discipline, and attention to detail — your military skills directly correlate to becoming a successful entrepreneur, and the Veterans Florida Entrepreneurship Program is a proven world-class training initiative designed specifically for veterans. They've joined forces with Florida's top universities, startup incubators, and coworking spaces to equip veterans with tools to start or grow a business and provide access to vitally important small business development resources. Visit www.veteransflorida.org/entrepreneurship to sign up.

Agriculture

The Veterans Florida Agriculture Program is a six-month training fellowship that provides veterans and servicemembers a comprehensive, hands-on experience and equips you with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to compete for leading careers in Florida's \$150 Billion agriculture industry. Learn more at www.veteransflorida.org/agriculture.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Employment services for veterans, military members and their families are offered through the CareerSource Florida network, which includes the Department of Economic Opportunity, Florida's 24 local workforce development boards and more than 100 career centers. Available services include interview preparation, resume writing assistance, job and training-related referrals, career planning, vocational guidance, job search and placement assistance, and internet access.

Local Veterans' Employment Representatives conduct outreach to employers and business associations and engage in advocacy efforts with hiring executives to increase employment opportunities for veterans and encourage the hiring of disabled veterans. The Disabled Veterans Outreach Program provides individualized career services to veterans with significant barriers to employment, with the maximum emphasis directed toward serving veterans who are economically or educationally disadvantaged. For more information, visit www.careersourceflorida.com/your-local-team or call (866) 352-2345 (option 2).

Employ Florida Vets

The Florida Veterans Program Portal is an online resource from Employ Florida for veterans' employment and employer recruitment information. The portal provides information and resource links to assist veterans, their families, and employers in accomplishing their employment goals and is available 24/7. For more information, visit veteran.employflorida.com/vosnet/Default.aspx or call toll free (800) 438-4128.

Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers is a DoD career transition program designed to help transitioning service members and veterans begin new careers as K-12 school teachers. Many former military personnel have made this transition and have found teaching as a very rewarding career. If you would like to speak with someone who has made this transition, we are able to put you in contact with those who have made the transition. For information about the program and teaching opportunities in Florida call (833) 358-7667 or email t2t@tcc.fl.edu.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) protects the employment rights and ensures the reemployment of veterans, reservists and National Guard members after a period of active service and prohibits employment discrimination because of past, current, or future military obligations. It covers all employers, regardless of size, in the public and private sectors. Call toll free (866) 487-2365 or visit www.dol.gov/agencies/vets for more information.

Business License Fee Waivers

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation may waive the initial licensing fee, application fee and unlicensed activity fee for military veterans and their spouses at the time of discharge who apply

for a state professional license. The application must be submitted within 60 months after the veteran has been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces including the Florida National Guard. The waiver does not include examination or other incidental fees. The law applies to new licenses for more than 20 professions under DBPR's jurisdiction, including construction, real estate, certified public accountants and cosmetologists. Visit www.myfloridalicense.com/DBPR/military-services/veterans-services or call (850) 487-1395 for more information.

Health License Fee Waivers

The Florida Department of Health has programs in place to aid veterans in finding employment in health-related fields. The department offers expedited health care practitioner licensure through the Veterans Application for Licensure Online Response (VALOR) system. They also offer expanded licensure fee waivers for military veterans and their spouses applying for health care licensure in Florida. The department continues to assist county health departments in recruiting military veterans and their spouses to work in health-related fields. If you were honorably discharged within the past 60 months, call (850) 488-0595 or visit www.flhealthsource.gov/valor#Veterans.

Veterans' Preference in Florida

The state, and all political subdivisions of the state, shall give preference in employment, promotions after being deployed and retention. (FS 295.07, 295.11) Individuals who qualify for this preference are as follows:

A disabled veteran who has served on active duty in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, has received an honorable discharge, and has established the present existence of a service-connected disability that is compensable under public laws administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or who is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension by reason of public laws administered by the VA and U.S. Department of Defense.

The spouse of a person who has a total disability, permanent in nature, resulting from a service-connected disability and who, because of this disability, cannot qualify for employment, and the spouse of a person missing in action, captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.

A wartime veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14), who has served at least one day during a wartime period. Active duty for training may not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph.

The unremarried widow or widower of a veteran who died of a service-connected disability.

The mother, father, legal guardian, or unremarried widow or widower of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who died in the line of duty under combat-related conditions, as verified by the U.S. Department of Defense.

A veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14), F.S. Active duty for training may not be allowed for eligibility under this paragraph.

A current member of any reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Florida National Guard.

Veterans must have been honorably discharged as indicated on their DD214 to be eligible for preference. Eligible applicants who meet the requirements for the position are guaranteed preference at every step throughout the hiring process.

Public entity employers who advertise for qualifying positions must make the applicant aware that preference is available. The employer must also provide the applicant with information as to what can be done if the veteran believes he/she was denied preference for employment, promotion or retention.

An applicant who believes he or she was not afforded employment, promotion or retention preference may file a complaint with the FDVA. The complaint must be made within 60 days from the date a non-select notice was received. The FDVA can investigate and make a determination as to whether a violation has occurred. For more information, call (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5511, or email veteranspreference@fdva.state.fl.us. You can also mail a detailed complaint to: 11351 Ulmerton Rd, Suite 311-K, Largo, FL 33778-1630.

Florida Veteran Certified Business Enterprises

The Department of Management Services' Office of Supplier Diversity certifies eligible Florida-based veteran-, woman- and minority-owned small businesses. The Office of Supplier Diversity also provides technical assistance, certification support and pertinent information about state contract opportunities, special events and networking activities. Learn more by visiting www.dms.myflorida.com/osd or call (850) 487-0915. The U.S. Small Business Administration also offers programs and services for veterans seeking to establish or expand small businesses. For more information, call toll free (800) 827-5722.

Veteran Readiness and Employment Service

Veterans may receive Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) services to help with job training, employment accommodations, resume development and job seeking skills coaching. Other services may be provided to assist veterans in starting their own businesses or independent living services for those who are severely disabled and unable to work in traditional employment. For more information, visit www.benefits.va.gov/VOCREHAB/index.asp or call toll free (800) 827-1000.

VETERANS' BENEFITS: LEGAL Legal Advice & Counsel

The Governor's Initiative on Lawyers Assisting Warriors (GI LAW) draws from the talent of Florida's leading law firms to provide pro bono services for military members. There are discussions to expand this service to veterans in the future. For more information, visit www.enterprise-florida.com/floridadefense/lawyers-assisting-warriors/

Legal Clinics in VA Facilities: www.va.gov/ogc/docs/LegalServices.pdf

American Bar Association resources for veterans:

www.americanbar.org/groups/committees/veterans_benefits

The Florida Bar, in conjunction with the American Bar Association, administers a free virtual legal advice clinic for Floridians. Visit:

www.florida.freelegalanswers.org

Certification of Discharge or Separation

You may request a copy of your military service record by visiting the National Archives online at www.archives.gov/veterans.

At a veteran's request, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall record, without cost, that portion of certificates indicating character of discharge, separation, or service in accordance with Section 28.222(3) (d), Florida Statutes. CAUTION: Once on file, documents become official court records and are open to the public.

Legal Aid for Veterans - 1 (866) 486-6161 Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. When you call, you will speak to a screener who will determine your eligibility and set your appointment with an attorney.

Florida Veterans Legal Helpline can assist with Landlord-Tenant Matters, Consumer Credit Issues, Foreclosure, Divorce/Child Support, Driver Licenses/ID cards, Social Security, Public Benefits, Discharge Upgrades, VA Benefits and other Civil Legal Matters (No Criminal or Traffic Matters).

Veterans Courts

Veterans returning from combat may suffer from post-traumatic stress or may have difficulty reintegrating into society. Due to alienation and lack of support, some veterans fall into drug and alcohol abuse or develop mental health issues. Thirty-one Veterans Courts in Florida have been established as of 2022 to address these issues.

Section 394.47891, Florida Statutes, established the T. Patt Maney Veterans' Treatment Act, which authorizes a veterans' court with the purpose of addressing the substance abuse and mental health needs of veterans within the criminal justice system. Successful completion of Veterans Court has helped decrease the recidivism rates of its participants through the proper diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues and as a result of the supportive roles mentors play in the process. Recent legislation has expanded the pool of eligible veterans.

For more information, visit www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Court-Improvement/Problem-Solving-Courts/Veterans-Courts

There is a helpful Veterans Resources Guide for the Florida State Court System at www.flcourts.org/content/download/217060/1968306/VETERANS_RESOURCE_GUIDE.pdf.

For additional information of Veterans' legal resources www.floridavets.org/resources

FLORIDA VETERANS' MEMORIALS

The State of Florida has three official memorials dedicated to veterans located in the capital city, Tallahassee. The sites are maintained by the Florida Department of Management Services.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Florida's World War II Memorial was dedicated on June 6, 2005, by Gov. Jeb Bush. More than 248,000 Florida veterans served in the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to more than 23,000 World War II veterans.

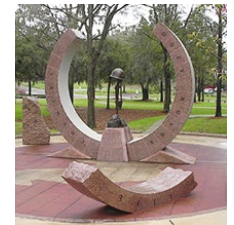
Location: In front of the R. A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Florida's Korean War Memorial was dedicated on Dec. 11, 1999, by Gov. Jeb Bush. More than 294,000 Florida veterans served in the Armed Forces during the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to more than 92,000 Korean War veterans.

Location: Cascades Park, Downtown Tallahassee.



VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

Florida's Vietnam War Memorial was dedicated on Nov. 12, 1985, by Gov. Bob Graham. The memorial, with its twenty-eight by fifteen foot U.S. flag, contains the names of all known Floridians killed in the war. The Sunshine State is currently home to more than 484,000 Vietnam veterans.

Location: Across Monroe Street from the Old Capitol Building, Downtown Tallahassee.



FLORIDA
Governor's
Challenge

Preventing Suicide Among Service
Members, Veterans & Their Families

www.SaveFLVets.org

Veteran Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255, then PRESS 1
Florida Veterans Crisis Line
1-844-MyFLVet (693-5838) or 2-1-1.

FDVA OFFICES & CLAIMS EXAMINER SITES

To contact a FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiner, call (727) 319-7440 and they'll return your call within 24 hours. All services are free to the veteran. You may also contact them via e-mail at VSO@fdva.state.fl.us

For more information on VA Outpatient Clinics, Vet Centers or VA Medical Centers www.va.gov/DIRECTORY/guide/fac_list_by_state.cfm?State=FL

FDVA Executive Office
11351 Ulmerton Rd. #332
Largo, FL 33778-1630
(727) 518-3202

FDVA Benefits & Assistance
9500 Bay Pines Blvd. #214
Bay Pines, FL 33744
(727) 319-7440

FDVA Capitol Office
The Capitol, Suite 2105
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
(850) 487-1533

C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bldg. 22, #117
Bay Pines, FL 33744-5005
(727) 398-6661 x15489

Malcom Randall VA Medical Center
1601 SW Archer Rd. #D-163
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 548-6029

Lake City VA Medical Center
619 S. Marion Ave. #A-163
Lake City, FL 32025-5808
(386) 755-3016 x2070

James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Bldg. 41, 2nd floor, RM 242
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 972-2000 x6589

West Palm Beach VA Medical Center
7305 North Military Trail
Bldg. 10, #113
West Palm Beach, FL 33410
(561) 422-8204

Lake Baldwin Outpatient Clinic
5201 Raymond St., Rm 1801 A & B
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 646-5500 x 29513

Lee County VA Healthcare Center
2489 Diplomat Parkway East
Cape Coral, FL 33909
(239) 652-1800 x21240

William Chappell Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic
551 National Health Care Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 323-7500, x37722-37682

Eglin VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
100 Veterans Way, Rm. 108
Eglin AFB, FL 32542
(850) 609-2740

Middleburg Community Outpatient Clinic
400 College Dr.
Middleburg, FL 32068
(904) 213-2700 Ext. 573006

Hurlburt Field
212 Lukasik Avenue
Building 90210, Rm 143
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544
Phone: (850) 884-6280

Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic
1536 N. Jefferson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 475-5871

Jacksonville University VA Outpatient Clinic
3901 University Blvd. South
Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 732-9801

NAS Jacksonville
Bldg. 39, Langley St (VyStar Credit Union Bldg. 39)
NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212
Phone: (904) 420-5232

Orlando Lakemont Campus
2500 S. Lakemont Avenue
Room 127
Orlando, FL 32814
(407) 646-4105

Orlando (Lake Nona) VA Medical Center
13800 Veterans Way
Room 1N205
Orlando, FL 32827
(407) 631-0021

New Port Richey VA Outpatient Clinic
9912 Little Rd. #D-116
Port Richey, FL 34654
(727) 869-4227

Pensacola Joint Ambulatory Care Clinic
790 Veterans Way
Pensacola, FL 32507
(850) 912-2055

William 'Bill' Kling VA Outpatient Clinic
9800 W. Commercial Blvd.
Sunrise, FL 33351
(954) 625-8727

Boots Thomas VA Outpatient Clinic
2181 Orange Ave. East
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 513-7641/7636

VA OUTPATIENT CLINICS

Boca Raton Community Based Outpatient Clinic
901 Meadows Rd.
Boca Raton, FL 33433
(561) 416-8995

Bradenton Community Based Outpatient Clinic
5520 State Road 64, Suite 101
Bradenton, FL 34208
(941) 721-0649

Brooksville Community Based Outpatient Clinic
14540 Cortez Blvd. #108
Brooksville, FL 34613
(352) 597-8287

Clermont Community Based Outpatient Clinic
805 Oakley Seaver Drive
Clermont, FL 34711
(352) 536-8200

William Chappell Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic
551 National Health Care Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 323-7500

Deerfield Beach Community Based Outpatient Clinic
2100 SW 10th St.
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
(954) 570-5572

Delray Beach Community Based Outpatient Clinic
4800 Linton Blvd.
Building E, #300
Delray Beach, FL 33445
(561) 495-1973

Tampa Annex VA Clinic
13515 Lake Terrace Lane
Room# 1B701
Tampa FL 33637
Phone: 813 998-8000 x8077

The Villages Outpatient Clinic
8900 SE 165th Mulberry Ln.
The Villages, FL 32162
(352) 674-5095

Viera VA Outpatient Clinic
2900 Veterans Way, Rm. 223/224
Viera, FL 32940
(321) 637-3693

Deltona Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1200 Deltona Blvd., Suite 41 to 47
Deltona, FL 32725
(386) 575-5000

Eglin Community Based Outpatient Clinic
100 Veterans Way, Rm. 108
Eglin AFB, FL 32542
(866) 520-7359

Fort Pierce Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1901 South 25th St, Suite 103
Ft. Pierce, FL 34947
(772) 595-5150

Hollywood Community Based Outpatient Clinic
3702 Washington St. #201
Hollywood, FL 33021
(954) 986-1811

Homestead Community Based Outpatient Clinic
950 Krome Ave. #401
Homestead, FL 33030
(305) 248-0874

Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic
1536 N. Jefferson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 475-5871

Key Largo Community Based Outpatient Clinic
105662 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-0164

**Key West Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

1300 Douglas Circle, L-15
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 293-4863

**Kissimmee Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

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

**Kissimmee Community Based
Outreach Clinic**

701 Union Street.
Kissimmee, Florida 34741

Lake Baldwin Outpatient Clinic

5201 Raymond Street
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 646-5500 x 29513

**Lakeland Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

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

**Lecanto Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

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

Lee County VA Healthcare Center

2489 Diplomat Parkway East
Cape Coral, FL 33909
(239) 652-1800

**Marianna Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

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

**Miami Healthcare for
Homeless Veterans**

1492 West Flagler St., Suite 101
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 541-5864

Miami Outpatient

Substance Abuse Clinic
Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center
1201 N.W. 16th St.
Miami, FL 33125
1st Floor
Room 1E107A
(305) 575-7500

**Naples Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

800 Goodlette-Frank Rd. #120
Naples, FL 34102
(239) 659-9188

**New Port Richey
VA Outpatient Clinic**

9912 Little Road
New Port Richey, FL 34654
(727) 869-4100

**Ocala Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

4826 SW 49th Road
Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 369-3320

**Okeechobee Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

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

**Palatka Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

400 N. State Road 19
Suite 48 (Palatka Mall)
Palatka, FL 32177
(386) 329-8800

**Palm Harbor Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

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

Panama City Beach VA Clinic

140 Richard Jackson Blvd., Rm. 140
Panama City Beach, FL 32407
(850) 636-7000 x 37336

**Pembroke Pines Community
Based Outpatient Clinic**

7369 W. Sheridan St., Suite 102
Hollywood, FL 33024
(954) 894-1668

**Pensacola Joint Ambulatory
Care Center**

790 Veterans Way
Pensacola, FL 32507
(850) 912-2000

**Perry Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

1224 N. Peacock Avenue
Perry, FL 32347
(850) 223-8387

**Port Charlotte Community
Based Outpatient Clinic**

4161 Tamiami Trail, Suite 401/602
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 235-2710

**St Lucie Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

126 SW Chamber Court
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 344-9288

St Lucie PTSD Clinic

126 SW Chamber Court
Port St Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 878-7876

**Sarasota Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

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

**Sebring Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

5901 US Highway 27 S
Sebring, FL 33870
(863) 471-6227

**St. Augustine Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

195 Southpark Blvd.
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 829-0814

**St. Petersburg Community
Based Outpatient Clinic**

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

**Stuart Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

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

**William 'Bill' Kling
VA Outpatient Clinic**

9800 W. Commercial Blvd.
Sunrise, FL 33351
(954) 475-5500

Boots Thomas VA Outpatient Clinic

2181 Orange Ave. East
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 878-0191

**Tavares Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

1380 Burleigh Blvd.
Tavares, FL 34748
(352) 253-2900

Viera VA Outpatient Clinic

2900 Veterans Way
Viera, FL 32940
(321) 637-3788

The Villages Outpatient Clinic

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

**Vero Beach Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

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

**Crossroads Annex
(Mental Health Services)**

925 South Semoran Blvd. Suite 114
Winter Park, FL 32792
(866) 998-4365

**Zephyrhills Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

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

VET CENTERS

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

Clearwater Vet Center

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

Clermont Vet Center

1655 E. Highway 50, Suite 102
Clermont, FL 34711
(352) 536-6701

Daytona Beach Vet Center

1620 Mason Ave., Suite C
Daytona Beach, FL 32117
(386) 366-6600

Fort Lauderdale Vet Center

3666 W. Oakland Park Blvd.
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33311
(954) 714-2381

Fort Myers Vet Center

4110 Center Pointe Drive, Unit 204
Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 652-1861

Gainesville Vet Center

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

Palm Beach Vet Center

4996 10th Ave North, Suite 6
Greenacres, FL 33463
(561) 422-1201

Jacksonville Vet Center

3728 Philips Highway, Suite 31
Jacksonville, FL 32207
(904) 399-8351

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

Lakeland Vet Center
1370 Ariana St.
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 284-0841

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

Naples Vet Center
2705 Horseshoe Dr. South, #204
Naples, FL 34104
(239) 403-2377

Pasco County Vet Center
5139 Deer Park Drive
New Port Richey, FL 34653
(727) 372-1854

Ocala Vet Center
3300 SW 34th Avenue, Suite 140
Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 237-1947

Orlando Vet Center
5575 S. Semoran Blvd., Suite 30
Orlando, FL 32822
(407) 857-2800

VA MEDICAL CENTERS

C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bay Pines, FL 33744
(727) 398-6661
(888) 820-0230

Malcom Randall VA Medical Center
1601 SW Archer Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 548-6000
(800) 324-8387

Lake City VA Medical Center
619 South Marion Avenue
Lake City, FL 32025
(386) 755-3016
(800) 308-8387

Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center
1201 N.W. 16th St.
Miami, FL 33125
(305) 575-7000
(888) 276-1785

Bay County Vet Center
3109 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 101
Panama City, FL 32405
(850) 522-6102

Pensacola Vet Center
4504 Twin Oaks Drive
Pensacola, FL 32506
(850) 456-5886

Pompano Beach Vet Center
2300 West Sample Road, Suite 102
Pompano Beach, FL 33073
(954) 984-1669

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

Okaloosa County Vet Center
6 11th Avenue, Suite G-1
Shalimar, FL 32579
(850) 651-1000

St. Petersburg Vet Center
6798 Crosswinds Drive North,
Bldg. A
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
(727) 549-3633

Tallahassee Vet Center
2002 Old St. Augustine Road,
Bldg. A/100
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 942-8810

Tampa Vet Center
3637 W. Waters Avenue, Suite 600
Tampa, FL 33614
(813) 228-2621

James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 972-2000
(888) 811-0107

**Orlando (Lake Nona)
VA Medical Center**
13800 Veterans Way
Orlando, FL 32827
(407) 631-1000
(800) 922-7521

West Palm Beach VA Medical Center
7305 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33410
(561) 422-8262
(800) 972-8262

BENEFITS AND HEALTH CARE CONTACTS

Reference	Phone	Website
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	(800) 827-1000 or TDD (800) 829-4833	www.va.gov • www.vba.va.gov
Veterans Health Care Eligibility/Enrollment	(877) 222-8387	www.va.gov/healthbenefits
St. Petersburg VA Regional Office, Bay Pines	(800) 827-1000	www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg
Florida National Guard	(904) 823-0319	https://state.nationalguard.com/florida
Military Funeral Honors	(800) 342-9647	www.cem.va.gov/military_funeral_honors.asp
Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola	(850) 453-4846	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/barrancas.asp
Bay Pines National Cemetery	(727) 319-6479	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/baypines.asp
Cape Canaveral National Cemetery	(321) 383-2638	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp
Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell	(352) 793-7740	www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/florida.asp
Jacksonville National Cemetery	(904) 766-5222	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/jacksonville.asp
Sarasota National Cemetery	(877) 861-9840	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp
South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth	(561) 649-6489	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp
St. Augustine National Cemetery	(904) 766-5222	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/staugustine.asp
Tallahassee National Cemetery	(850) 402-8941	www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/tallahassee.asp
Returning Veterans	(800) 827-1000	www.oefoif.va.gov
TRICARE	(800) 444-5445	www.tricare.mil
Gulf War Veterans	(800) 749-8387	www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar
Women Veterans	(855) 829-6636	www.va.gov/womenvet
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	(800) 336-4590	https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/
National VA Homeless Hotline	(877) 424-3838	www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp
VA eBenefits Portal	(800) 827-1000	www.ebenefits.va.gov
VA Home Loan Guaranty	(877) 827-3702	www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans
National Veteran Crisis Hotline	(800) 273-8255 Dial 1	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
White House VA Hotline	(855) 948-2311	www.va.gov/ve/whvaHotline.asp
Florida Relay Service - For those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or speech impaired	Dial 7-1-1	www.ftri.org/floridarelay



At Home Base our mission is to heal the invisible wounds for Veterans of all eras, Service Members, and their families through evidence-based, cognitive and behavioral therapies, in addition to complementary alternative medicine, to ensure our Veterans and their Families not only heal from their invisible wounds, but thrive.

Home Base's Intensive Clinical Program (ICP) is designed to treat Veterans and Families who are struggling with the Invisible Wounds of War, including Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, Depression, and Anxiety. The Intensive Clinical Programs offer a holistic and innovative approach to clinical care that includes:

- ★ Comprehensive Evaluation
- ★ Daily Individual Treatment
- ★ Therapy Skills Groups
- ★ Stress Reduction and Resiliency
- ★ Support & Education for a Loved One
- ★ Integrative Therapies such as
- ★ Fitness, Nutrition, Yoga, Art & Tai Chi
- ★ Recreational Activities
- ★ Treatment, lodging, transportation and meals are covered at no cost to the patient.

HOME BASE DIFFERENTIATORS

- Top Psychiatry Program by U.S. News & World Report
- Serving Veterans from all combat eras, regardless of discharge status
- Zero cost to the patient
- Groundbreaking research initiatives in partnership with MGH & Harvard faculty

HOME BASE BY THE NUMBERS

24,658
Total Number Provided Patient Care, Wellness, and Support Services

78,000
Training and Education

102,658
Total Home Base Impact Since 2009



“ Home Base restored my faith in life and given me back the hope I’d lost a long time ago.”

Captain Joel A. Silva, U.S. Army, Retired



Your Pursuit • Our Power

FLORIDA WORKS FOR VETERANS

Veterans Florida powers veterans’ pursuits and helps servicemembers and their families transition to civilian life as Florida’s designated SkillBridge assistance organization. We recognize veterans possess a unique skill set and will achieve their personal and professional goals when taking advantage of our tools and resources.

LAND YOUR CAREER

Our team of veterans guide you through every step of landing a career in Florida by translating your military experience into a compelling resume and connecting you to employers who need your skills.

OWN YOUR BUSINESS

We mentor you through our Entrepreneurship Program to expand your professional network and provide skills to help you own and grow a business. Participants continually receive awards and national coverage for their success.




veteransflorida.org



**THERE IS
NO
GREATER
SACRIFICE**

AARP Florida salutes those who have served and still serve. We support our veterans and their families with information on work and jobs, caregiving resources, community connections and more.

aarp.org/veterans





Life after service can be hard to see.
We'll help put it in focus.

Manuel | Army Vet.

If you or your loved one needs support, call me or one of our trained specialists at the Florida Veterans Support Line. All conversations are confidential and judgement-free.

**Call me.
I've been there.**

 Florida Veterans Support Line
1-844-MyFLVet

VETERANS

Use Your Experience and Leadership Skills to:

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- Inspire tomorrow's leaders
- Be a positive influence to remember



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Empowering Veterans to Lead High Quality Lives with Respect and Dignity

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3810 West Kennedy Blvd.

Tampa, FL 33609



NOTES



NOTES

Don't Tread on Me

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motor vehicle service center in your area.

www.flhsmv.gov/locations/

Proceeds from this license plate sales support Veterans in Need.



FLORIDA VETERANS
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The printing of the 2022 edition of the *Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide* is provided by a generous grant from the Florida Veterans Foundation.

Please visit www.HelpFLVets.org to make a donation in support of their mission of No Florida Veteran Left Behind.