

Louisiana State Veteran's Benefits

June 2021

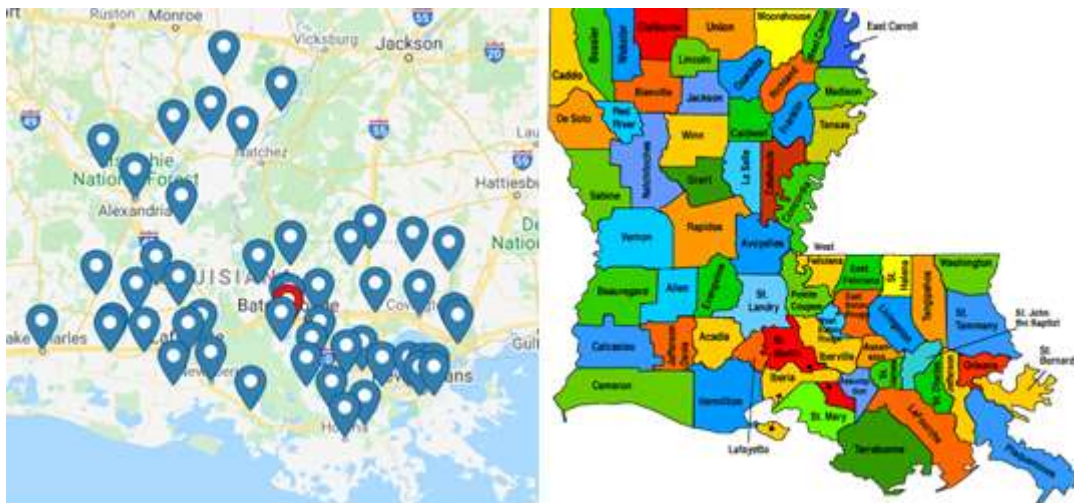


The State of Louisiana as of Dec. 31, 2020 per Defense Manpower Data Center contained a Military community that considered of the following:

- 15,989 active-duty service members
- 6,513 active-duty spouses
- 12,195 active-duty children
- 19,034 National Guard and reserve members
- 7,924 National Guard and reserve spouses
- 13,527 National Guard and reserve children

Additionally, as of 2017 there were 284,074 Louisiana residents who are veterans of the Armed Forces. As veterans they have earned benefits for themselves and potentially for their families, but they must apply to receive these benefits. Louisiana is grateful for their service and wants to ensure they receive all the support they deserve. LDVA is a state agency that provides several types of programs to assist the veterans. General eligibility requirements include military service and Louisiana state residency. Specific programs may have additional requirements. Spouses and dependents of deceased veterans who meet eligibility requirements may also be eligible for certain programs and services.

Louisiana has Veterans Field Benefit Representatives throughout the state who provide coverage in all 63 counties. They are certified in filing claims and can assist with filing claims and appeals, as well as, VA healthcare applications, free of charge. LDVA is there to help make your transition as smooth as possible to civilian life and state residency. You can find the Field Benefit Representative who serves your county by clicking on <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations/?zipcode=> and then clicking on the tab closest to where you reside.



The state of Louisiana provides several veteran benefits in conjunction with or in addition to federal benefits. This Bulletin attachment provides a brief description of those benefits in the following areas:

- Housing
- Financial Assistance
- Employment
- Education
- Recreation
- Driver and Vehicle Licensing
- Burial
- Taxation
- Women Veterans
- Other

HOUSING

Louisiana Veterans Homes

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs operates five Veterans Homes located in Reserve, Monroe, Bossier City, Jackson, and Jennings. Each facility offers a variety of services including:

- Long- and short-term care
- Rehabilitative therapies
- Alzheimer's and intermediate care
- Skilled nursing
- Mental health services
- Centralized pharmacy services
- And more

Veteran, their spouses and Gold Star parents are eligible for admission into the Veteran Homes if they are deemed to meet basic qualifying criteria.

- A list of Admission Requirements is provided at https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/LDVA-VeteranHome_AdmissionRequirements.pdf or you can call toll free 1-877-GEAUX-VA.
- Before applying: Download and print the Medical Information Sheet (<https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/MedicalInfo-HomesApp2017.pdf>) to be filled in by a doctor or nurse. This form must be completed and submitted with your application.
- To apply download the admissions packet <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/041621LDVAAdmissionPacketFinal.pdf> and mail your completed application to your chosen location.

Bossier City



3130 Arthur Ray Teague Pkwy Bossier City, LA 71112

This 156-bed state facility opened its doors to the first resident on April 9, 2007. Located on 17 pristine acres in Bossier City, Louisiana, the facility has a fishing pond with pier, a large chapel, and an activities building complete with a sports and game lounge. The facility has an

outstanding medical team that provides complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and Alzheimer's/Dementia care. Ambulatory and wheelchair transportation is also provided for medical appointments to the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center Go to <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/Strategic-Plan-FY20-FY25-Bossier.pdf> to view the NW LA War Veterans Home's 2020 thru 2025 Strategic Plan.

For information regarding admission to this facility, contact: Rene' Belt, MSW, LCSW Social Services Director Phone: (318) 741-2763 ext. 138 Email: Rene.Belt@vetaffairs.la.gov. For information regarding activities and volunteer opportunities, contact: Lowrane Johns, Activities Director, Phone: (318)741-2763 ext. 127 Email: Lowrane.Johns@vetaffairs.la.gov.

Jackson



4739 Hwy 10, Jackson, LA 70748

This 129 bed facility is located on 82 serene acres and offers a variety of amenities including two fishing ponds, a greenhouse, a nature trail, and a chapel. The staff provides complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, Alzheimer/Dementia care, and transportation services. Go to <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/Strategic-Plan-FY20-FY25-Jackson.pdf> to view the LA Veterans Home's 2020 thru 2025 Strategic Plan.

Point of Contact is Ms. Ashlyn Hilburn, Administrator, Phone: (225) 634-5265, Fax: (225) 634-4057, Email: ashlyn.hilburn@la.gov.

Jennings



1610 Evangeline Rd, Jennings, LA 70546

This 156 bed facility opened on November 14, 2004 and is located on 40 majestic acres in Jennings, Louisiana. Features include a 4½ acre fishing lake with pier, large chapel and an activities building complete with a sports and game lounge and provides complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, Alzheimer/Dementia care, and transportation services. Go to <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/Strategic-Plan-FY20-FY25-Jennings.pdf> to View the SW LA Veterans Home's 2020 thru 2025 Strategic Plan.

Point of contact is Matt Duhon, Administrator, Telephone: (337) 824-2829/2581F E-Mail: matt.duhon@vetaffairs.la.gov “or” Joni Frey, Admissions Coordinator, Phone: (337) 824-2829 ext. 113, Email: joni.frey@la.gov.

Monroe



6700 Hwy 165 North, Monroe, LA 71203

This 156 bed facility opened on December 3, 1996 and is located on a 20 acre pecan orchard adjacent to Bayou DeSaird in the northern area of Monroe, Louisiana. It features a fishing pier, chapel, and huge picnic area. The facility provides complete medical care including an 10 bed Medicare Skilled Nursing Unit, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, a Specialty Alzheimer/Dementia Care Unit, and transportation services for medical appointments. Our Recreation Department schedules numerous daily, in-facility activities as well as several monthly, off-site activities. Go to <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/Strategic-Plan-FY20-FY25-Monroe.pdf> o View the NE LA Veterans Home’s 2020 thru 2025 Strategic Plan.

Point of contact is Ms. Marquita Mihaliak, Administrator, Phone: (318) 362-4206 Fax: (318) 362-4241, E-Mail: <mailto:marquita.mihaliak@vetaffairs.la.gov>.

Reserve



4080 W. Airline Hwy., Reserve, LA 70084

This 156 bed facility opened on June 4, 2007 and is located on 20 acres in Reserve, Louisiana. Only 27 miles from New Orleans, it is conveniently located next to the St. John’s Parish Senior Citizens Center and the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The facility offers a variety of amenities including a fishing lake and a large chapel, in addition to complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, Alzheimer/Dementia care, and transportation services. To view the SE LA Veterans Home’s 2017-2022 Strategic Plan go to <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/Strategic-Plan-FY20-FY25-Reserve.pdf>.

Point of contact is Mr. Brian Fremin, Phone: (985) 479-4080/4206 Fax: (985) 479-4090, E-Mail: <mailto:brian.fremin@vetaffairs.la.gov>.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Income Tax

Up to \$30,000 active-duty pay is tax-free if stationed out-of-state for 120 consecutive days or more. Retired military pay is not taxed.

Combat Pay Exception

Military pay that is exempt from federal taxation, such as combat pay or hazardous duty pay, is also exempt from Louisiana state taxation.

Military Family Assistance Fund (MFA)

MFA was established in 2005 to help members of Louisiana National Guard and Louisiana Military Reserves and their Families address financial hardships they may encounter when they are placed on active-duty status. MFA can pay for a variety of items for those who qualify, such as food, housing, medical expenses, auto repair, and more. MFA is funded by private donations from individuals and corporations. All donations are tax deductible. MFA can pay up to \$10,000 for one claim per active-duty order in a twelve (12) month period.

To qualify for assistance from the MFA Fund, Veterans and activated military applicants must meet certain minimum active-duty service requirements, and have been honorably discharged. Immediate family members of eligible Veterans and activated military personnel may also qualify. Completed applications must include all supporting documents requested on the form.

To apply go online to <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/benefit/military-family-assistance-fund>, For more information, you may call toll free 1-877-432-8982

Property Tax Exemption

The property tax for Veterans rated with 50% or greater disability is frozen at the current rate, this also applies to spouses of deceased disabled Veterans. There are income limits and other qualifications, check with your local assessor's office to see if it is available in your parish. Veterans with 100% unemployability or totally disabled as well as their surviving spouses qualify for a higher deduction.

LA National Guard Death and Disability Benefit

Louisiana National guardsmen suffering a permanent and total disability while on federal or state active duty on or after September 11, 2001, or the beneficiary of record of those killed in action may qualify for a \$250,000 death or \$100,000 disability benefit from the State of Louisiana. Certain restrictions apply. For more information contact Vanessa Melancon, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Benefits, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (225) 219-5008 or vanessa.melancon@la.gov.

VA Pension

Financial support for veterans with limited income when they have 90 days or more of active-duty military service, one day of which was during a wartime period. To qualify, a veteran must be permanently and totally disabled for reasons traceable neither to military service nor to willful

misconduct or must be over 65 years of age. The veteran must have been discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable. To apply visit you nearest LDVA Parish office at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Transfer of Military Skills to Civilian Employment

Individuals with military training and experience can get a corresponding professional license or certification if they had a military occupational specialty that qualified them for that license.

State Employment

Louisiana state and city civil service departments award a five point preference to honorably discharged veterans and ten point preference to honorably discharged service-connected disabled veterans. Spouses of veterans who are rated VA unemployable as well as un-remarried widows of deceased veterans and Gold Star parents are also eligible for this preference. Some restrictions apply for eligibility

Military Service Relief Act

Revised Statutes 29:401-425 relative to military and veterans affairs provide for employers compensation, leave status, retirement credit, life, health and accident insurance coverage, re-employment rights upon release from military service, prohibits against academic penalties, deferral of state income taxes, validation of professional and occupational licenses, and protection of any vacancy in office held by an Elected or Appointed Official, for citizens of Louisiana called to military service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States. The district court in which the state or its political subdivision exercises authority or conducts its business shall have jurisdiction to hear action to enforce the Act.

Veterans Civil Service Preference (Employment Preference)

Article X, of the Louisiana Constitution provides a five-point preference in original appointments to persons honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States who served between the following dates of wartime service:

- April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918
- September 27, 1940, through July 25, 1947
- June 25 1950, through January 31, 1955
- July 1, 1958, through May 7, 1975
- August 2, 1990, though, date to be determine (must have been awarded the Southwest Asia Medal)
- Or in a peacetime campaign or expedition if a campaign badge or expeditionary medal is authorized.

Ten points preference in original appointments are accorded each honorable discharged veteran who served in either war or peacetime and has one or more service connected disabilities established with the

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans preference also extends to layoffs over other employees of equal lengths of service and efficiency ratings.

Licensing and Certification

Open new doors to employment by getting licensed or certified as a mechanic, medical technician, attorney, or other professional position. Often required for work in certain fields, these tests may be eligible for GI Bill reimbursement. Eligibility requirements apply. To apply visit your local Veterans Assistance Counselor (VAC) who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

LAVETBIZ

This is a business initiative established to provide additional opportunities for Louisiana based Veteran and service-connected disabled Veteran-owned small business owners when they seek to work with the State of Louisiana. LAVETBIZ is supported by compliance mandates which are enforced through the Louisiana Division of Administration. To learn more about this initiative refer to <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/benefit/lavetbiz>.

Hero2Hired

Hero2Hired assists unemployed Reserve Component Servicemembers with job placement. For more information, please visit: www.H2H.jobs.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

This program helps Veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for, find, and keep jobs. Certain qualifications apply. For more information, please visit: www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab.

Louisiana Business and Career Solution Centers

The Louisiana Workforce Commission operates local centers across the state to assist Veterans in finding employment and making career choices, including apprenticeship programs. To learn more visit your local VAC who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

TAPS Education Support Services

Surviving military high school graduates and college freshman of deceased military personnel can sign up to receive an Education Care Package for incoming and current college freshmen. These care packages are for survivors headed off to college or enrolled as current college freshman. Every care package includes a variety of items for survivors, including a TAPS Education Resource Report — a personalized document with information on the federal, state, and private education benefits and scholarships the survivor may be eligible for, information about on-campus support available at the survivor's university or college, information on the school certifying official, and other programs for which he or she may qualify for. Also included

in the care package are a variety of fun and useful items to help the student get started at college while honoring his or her loved one.

If you have any questions about eligibility email education@taps.org or call 800-959-8277. To receive a Care Package go to <https://www.taps.org/educationcarepackage>, complete the online form, and click submit.

There are hundreds of millions of dollars in scholarship funds available; each scholarship has its own eligibility and selection criteria. TAPS doesn't influence the selection process for scholarships, but we're honored to help you prepare. Use the TAPS scholarship search tool at <https://www.taps.org/scholarships> to see what scholarships and grants you may be eligible for. Federal Benefits include the following:

- [Marine Gunnery SGT. John D. Fry scholarship \(Fry, CFR Chapter 33\)](#)
- [Survivors and Dependents' Educational Assistance \(DEA, CFR Chapter 35\)](#)

You can also request a free copy of the TAPS Education Support Services Quick Series Guide by emailing info@taps.org.

The TAPS Resource Guide, available is by clicking on both the Apple App Store and Google Play at <https://www.taps.org/edu>, serves as a guide to educational resources for military survivors. Access information and resources on comparing and choosing the perfect school for you. Complete checklists of tips and suggestions to prepare you for your post-secondary education and the admission process. View our archived video library of webinars from our Education Support Coordinators at your convenience. Find education benefits and scholarships available to you through our Intake Form, which connects you to Education Support Coordinators who can help explain benefits and work with you to align resources and education goals.

Louisiana Title 29 Dependents Educational Assistance

Louisiana offers education assistance to surviving spouses of deceased veterans as well as children of 90 percent or greater disabled veterans and children of 100 percent disabled and unemployable veterans. The deceased veteran must have been a resident of Louisiana for at least 12 months immediately preceding entry into service. The living veteran must have lived in the state for at least 24 months prior to the child being admitted into the program. The surviving spouse has 10 years to use the benefit, the child must be between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five to be eligible. To apply visit your local VAC. Go to <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations> to find your nearest LDVA Veterans Parish Service Office.

Louisiana In-State Tuition Status

In-state tuition status is granted to Veterans and active-duty military who seek to attend any Louisiana public college or university. Eligibility requirements apply. To apply visit your local Veterans Assistance Counselor (VAC) who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

National Guard Tuition

Members are exempt from tuition at any state-funded college, university, or vocational/technical school for five years or a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first.

VA Work Study Program

This program is available to qualifying Veterans or their dependents who are utilizing VA education benefits and are currently enrolled as full-time students. For more information on the work study program www.benefits.va.gov/gibill . To apply visit your local Veterans Assistance Counselor (VAC) who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

Military Training Towards Education/Certification Credits

Louisiana recognizes that the skills learned during military training can often apply to the civilian workforce. As such, Act 276 of the 2012 Regular Legislative Session states that individuals with military training and experience will be granted civilian professional licensure and/or certification when the Servicemember has been awarded a military occupational specialty and performance in that specialty that is at a level equal to or exceeding the requirements for said license and/or certification. Provisions apply. Refer to <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/VA-Law-191-Education-College-Credits.pdf> to read the official digest for this statute. To apply visit your local Veterans assistance Counselor (VAC) who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

Survivors and Dependents Education (Chapter 35)

Provides education and training opportunities to dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition. Eligibility requirements apply. To apply visit your local VAC who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

VEAP may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship and/or on-the-job-training, correspondence courses, remedial deficiency and refresher courses. Eligibility requirements apply. To apply visit your local VAC who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

Licensing and Certification

Open new doors to employment by getting licensed or certified as a mechanic, medical technician, attorney, or other professional position. Often required for work in certain fields, these tests may be eligible for GI Bill reimbursement. Eligibility requirements apply. To apply visit your local VAC who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

Veteran GI Bill Apprenticeship and OJT Program

Offers an alternative way to use GI Bill education and training benefits. Eligibility requirements apply. To apply visit your local VAC who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

Montgomery GI Bill

VA educational benefits may be used while the Servicemember is on active duty or after the Servicemember's separation from active duty with a fully honorable military discharge. Eligibility requirements apply. To apply visit your local VAC who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

Yellow Ribbon GI Bill Education Enhancement Program

May assist eligible individuals with payment of their tuition and fees in instances where costs exceed the in-state tuition charges at a public institution or the national maximum payable at private and foreign institutions. Eligibility requirements apply. To apply visit your local VAC who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

Education benefit program for Servicemembers and Veterans who served on active duty after September 10, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date. Eligibility requirements apply. To apply visit your local VAC who can be found at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations>.

Recreation Benefits

Free Hunting/Fishing Licenses for Disabled Veterans

Disabled veterans classified with a service connected permanent disability, rated 50% or higher and who are Louisiana residents can get hunting and fishing licenses free of charge.

Active Duty Military Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Active duty members and their dependents may buy hunting and fishing licenses at the resident rate.

Free and Discounted Admission to State Parks

Disabled veterans, as well as everyone in the same vehicle as them, are exempt from paying the day-use entrance fee to any Louisiana state park. Active duty members plus one additional family member get half off admission to state parks.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing

Free Military Honor plate for disabled veterans

Veterans classified 100% disabled by the USDVA are eligible for a free military honor plate labeled with the universal symbol for accessibility. There are no renewal fees for this plate.

“Support our Veterans” and other specialty Louisiana license plates

The “Support our Veterans” license plate is available for purchase for a one-time fee of \$25 at all Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicle locations. Proceeds support the Military Family Assistance Fund. Other specialty license plates are also available, including the Purple Heart license plate and the Military Honors license plate for disabled veterans.

Fees

License plates are based on one percent of the original selling price of the vehicle. Vehicles with a value of \$10,000 or less are \$10.00 a year. Automobile plates are issued for a 2-year period. The license plate fee for private minimum-use pickup trucks (6000lbs. or less) is \$10.00 per year. Truck plates are issued for a 4-year period. Larger trucks (over 6001 lbs.) are based on the weight. For specific fee information on commercial vehicles, motorcycles, special license plates, license plate transfers, etc., contact your local Office of Motor Vehicles or visit the web-site at www.expresslane.org. Veterans may qualify for special discounts or waivers on fees for Louisiana Driver's Licenses and ID's.

Available Military Community License Plates

At <https://expresslane.dps.louisiana.gov/SpecialPlatesPublic/SpecialPlatesViewer.aspx> is listed Specialty Plates which can be purchased by the military community at locations field office locations that currently have them in stock. L

Active Duty





Awards



Veteran



Reserves



Retired



Korea



Desert Storm





Vietnam



World War II



Drivers License / Real ID

All applicants for initial issuance of a REAL ID driver's license or identification card must provide proof of the following:

- Identity
- Evidence of lawful status in the United States
- Date of birth
- Social security number
- Two (2) proofs of principal residence



VETERAN designation and discounts on Louisiana drivers' licenses and IDs

Veterans can now be recognized through a special VETERAN designation on their official Louisiana drivers' licenses and IDs. Veterans may also qualify for special discounts or waivers on fees for drivers' licenses or IDs. Proof of Veteran status is required. For more about waivers call (225) 925-6146.

Burial

Louisiana Burials

The Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs (LDVA) Veterans Cemetery Program has grown in recent years and continues to expand to serve the needs of Louisiana's Veterans and their families. LDVA Veterans Cemeteries are made possible with grants through the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which provide 100% funding for all aspects of initial planning and construction. LDVA follows eligibility standards as set by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



LDVA Cemeteries offer well maintained grounds, professional, courteous staff, covered shelter for committal service, Avenue of flags displayed on special holidays, and Opportunities for community and Veteran volunteers. Refer to the following for grave locators, interment eligibility, and interment applications:

- A grave locator is also available online at <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>. Additionally, each LDVA Veterans Cemetery features an Administrative Building with a computerized grave locator.
- Application for Interment: LDVA Cemetery Interment Applications can be downloaded at

[http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/PageContent_Documents/Cemeteries/LDVA%20Uniform%20Cemetery%20Interment%202014%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/PageContent_Documents/Cemeteries/LDVA%20Uniform%20Cemetery%20Interment%202014%20(2).pdf)

- Request to Determine Eligibility For Interment: Download the request form at <http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Portals/1/LDVA%20Elibility%20Interment%202014.pdf>

Veterans have a choice of burial in the following State and National cemeteries:

State

- Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, 7970 Mike Clark Road, Keithville, LA 71047
Tel: (318) 925-0612 or Email nlvc@la.gov.
- Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, 3348 University Parkway, Leesville, LA 71446
Tel: (337) 238-6405 or Email clvc@la.gov.
- Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, 34888 Grantham College Road (Adjacent to Camp Villere), Slidell, LA 70460 Tel: (985) 646-6458 Fax: 985-646-6481 Ted Krumm: ted.krumm@la.gov.
- Northeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, 2413 Hwy. 425, Rayville, LA 71269 Timothy Johnson, Director Phone: 318-728-4346 FAX: 318-728-5921
- Southwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, 1620 Evangeline Rd., Jennings LA 70546 dedicated by Governor John Bel Edwards on March 6, 2020.

Each LDVA Veterans Cemetery also features an Administrative Building with a computerized grave locator. A grave locator is also available online at <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>.

National

- Alexandria National Cemetery - Visitation Only (no new interments), 209 E. Shamrock Ave., Pineville, LA 71360. Phone: 601-445-4981 FAX: 601-445-8815
- Baton Rouge National Cemetery - Visitation Only (no new interments), 220 North 19th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Phone: 225-654-1988 FAX: 225-654-1989
- Port Hudson National Cemetery (cremation only), 20978 Port Hickey Road, Zachary, LA 70791 Tel: (225) 654-1988 FAX: 225-654-1989
- Louisiana National Cemetery, 303 W. Mount Pleasant Road, Zachary, LA 70791 Phone: 225-654-1988 FAX: 225-654-1989

For more information about LDVA Veterans Cemeteries, call 1-877-GEAUX-VA (1-877-432-8982).

Military Funeral Honors

Based on available resources, funeral honors may be available and may include the presence of military members, folding and presentation of the flag, firing details, and the sounding of Taps.

Military Funeral Honors are available through the different branches of service upon request and upon availability. Contact the respective branch using the information below:

- Army: Casualty Assistance Section, Ft. Polk Tel: 337-531-6316/1726
- Navy: Naval Region SE Tel: 800-326-9631
- Air Force: NCOIC Barkdale AFB Honor Guard Tel: 318-456-5246 / 318-564-8146
- Marine Corps: Inspector Instructor Offices Tel: 866-826-3628
- Coast Guard: New Orleans, LA Tel: 504-253-6361 / 504-628-5270

Taxation

Sales Tax

- Statewide: 4.45%
- Counties can levy an additional sales tax of no more than 7.0%
- Current average sales tax (with local taxes included): 9.107%
- Common Exceptions at State Level:
 - Unprepared Foods: Exempt
 - Utilities: Exempt
- Gasoline Tax: 38.41 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)
- Diesel Fuel Tax: 44.41 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)
- Cigarette Tax: \$1.08/pack of 20
- Unprepared foods and prescription medicine may be taxed at the local level.

Personal Income Tax

- Personal Income Tax Rate Range: Three brackets from 2% to 6% (on income over \$50,000)
- Standard deduction: None
- Personal Exemption Allowance: \$4,500. Dependent Exemption: \$1,000
- Itemized Deductions Allowed?: Yes, subject to limitations
- Retirement Income
 - Social Security: Exempt
 - IRAs: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - 401Ks/Defined contribution employer retirement plans: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - Private pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - Public Pensions: Federal and state exempt
- Military Pay

- Active Duty Pay: Taxed to the extent included in federal Adjusted Gross Income; exempt up to \$30,000 if serving outside state for 120 consecutive days or more
- Military Retirement Pay: Exempt
- Military Disability Pay: Exempt
- VA Disability Dependency & Indemnity Compensation Benefits: Exempt
- SBP/SSBP/RCSBP/RSFPP: Taxable to the extent included in federal AGI

Income Tax Comments: *Taxpayers 65 and older may exclude \$6,000 of retirement income. Federal income tax deductible.

Property Tax

- Local municipalities average .55% of the property's assessed value.
- Calculation of assessed value: 10% of fair market value
- Relief programs for:
 - Owner-occupied: \$7,500 of assessed value may be excluded.
 - 65 and over/Disabled: Assessed value may be frozen if income is less than \$75,594.
 - Disabled Veterans: May receive an additional \$7,500 reduction in assessed value if 100% service-connected disability.
- Personal Property Tax: Yes. Rates and exemptions vary.

Inheritance & Estate Taxes: None

Department of Revenue website: <https://revenue.louisiana.gov/>

Women Veterans

Center for Women Veterans (CWV)

The Center for Women Veterans' (CWV) mission is to monitor and coordinate VA's administration of health care, benefits, services, and programs for women Veterans. We serve as an advocate for cultural transformation and to raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect to #BringWomenVeteransHome2VA.

Today's VA is focused on the needs of women Veterans and cultural transformation. We aim to provide an environment free from harassment. VA has introduced White Ribbon, a national call to action to eliminate sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence. VA Secretary McDonough is making accountability of those who commit harassment or sexual assault an important part of creating a culture that is free from harassment and sexual assault, without fear of retaliation.

We are women Veterans proud to serve our sister Veterans and those who serve them. Stay in touch, sign up for email, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @VAWomenVets. We share information on benefits and services, events, stories, research and more. Thank you for your service!

Women Veteran VA Benefits

Did you serve or do you know of a woman Veteran who served? Learn more about what earned benefits and services are available to you! VA offers benefits, services, and programs such as:

[Benefits](#), including:

- [Service-Connected Disability Compensation](#)
- [Home loans](#)
- [Readiness and employment services](#)
- [Small business](#) programs with initiatives specifically for [women Veteran-owned small businesses](#)
- [Burial](#) (including [pre-need eligibility](#))
- [Life insurance](#)
- [Transition and economic development](#)
- [Education and training](#)
- [Pension](#) for Veterans and survivors

[Health care](#), including:

- Specialized care for [women Veterans](#)
- [Military Sexual Harassment, Assault or Rape](#) (Military Sexual Trauma)
- [Maternity care](#)

Apply now for [benefits](#) and [health care](#). Do you still have questions? Contact us at 00w@va.gov, call or text the Women Veterans Call Center at [1-855-829-6636](tel:1-855-829-6636) or contact a local [Veteran Service Officer](#).

Did you know: if you need mental health services related to [PTSD](#) or other [mental health](#) conditions linked to your service (including conditions related to an experience of [military sexual harassment](#), assault or rape) you may qualify for VA health benefits right away, even without a VA Character of Discharge review or a discharge upgrade. Also, if you have a less than honorable discharge you may be eligible for a discharge upgrade. Learn more on this at <https://www.va.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions>.

OTHER STATE VETERAN BENEFITS

Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal Program

The Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal was established in 2008 as a way to honor, recognize and thank Louisiana Veterans for their honorable military service. The Medal is available for all Louisiana Veterans who were honorably discharged and to the families of those who were killed

in action. The Medal comes with ribbons to distinguish honorable service, Purple Heart, Prisoner of War, and Killed in Action.

Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal applications can be submitted using the online application at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/benefit/louisiana-veterans-honor-medal> or by downloading the hard copy at <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/Honor-Medals-App-NEW.pdf> For more information, call toll free at 1-877-432-8982.

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For contact information and benefits assistance visit the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs website at <http://vetaffairs.la.gov>. For additional info on federal veteran benefits you can also refer to Military.com's <https://www.military.com/topics/veteran-benefits>, and MyArmyBenefits <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/State/Territory-Benefits> websites. You may also want to check out <https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-card/staterportcard> for current issues affecting veterans residing in Louisiana. If emergency assistance is needed call the 24 Hour Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 and Press 1.

[Source: <http://veterans.ky.gov> & <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/louisiana-state-veterans-benefits.html> | June 2021 ++]