



Overview of Veterans' Benefits, Services and Programs

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www.veterans.state.ny.us

Find Your Way

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About Us

The New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs was created in 1945 as part of the Executive Department with the task of assisting World War II service men and women with readjustment from the military to civilian life.

Our Mission

To provide quality service, advocacy and counseling for New York State Veterans and their Families to ensure they receive benefits granted by law for their service to New York and the Nation.

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Our Role



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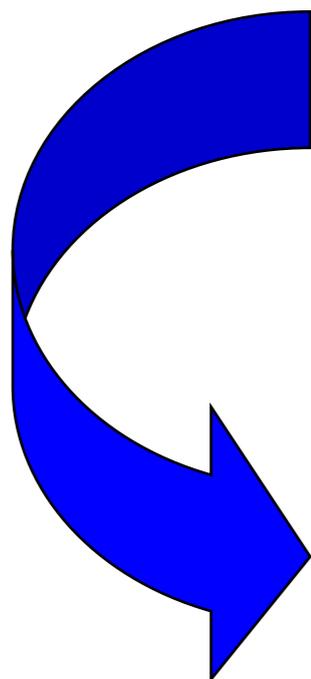
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Who we Serve

As of 2008 there were **23,442,489** Veterans Nationwide

New York State has the **4th largest population** of Veterans



California	2,078,267
Florida	1,715,114
Texas	1,705,311
New York	1,026,289
Pennsylvania	1,025,770
Ohio	935,440

Source VA VetPop, 9/2008

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Veterans In New York State

Of the 1,026,289 Veterans that call New York Home...

753,833 are Wartime Veterans

135,858 are World War II Veterans

129,446 are Korean War Veterans

311,583 are Vietnam War Veterans

164,916 are Gulf War Veterans (includes Iraq & Afghanistan)

272,456 are Non-Wartime Veterans

65,556 are Women Veterans

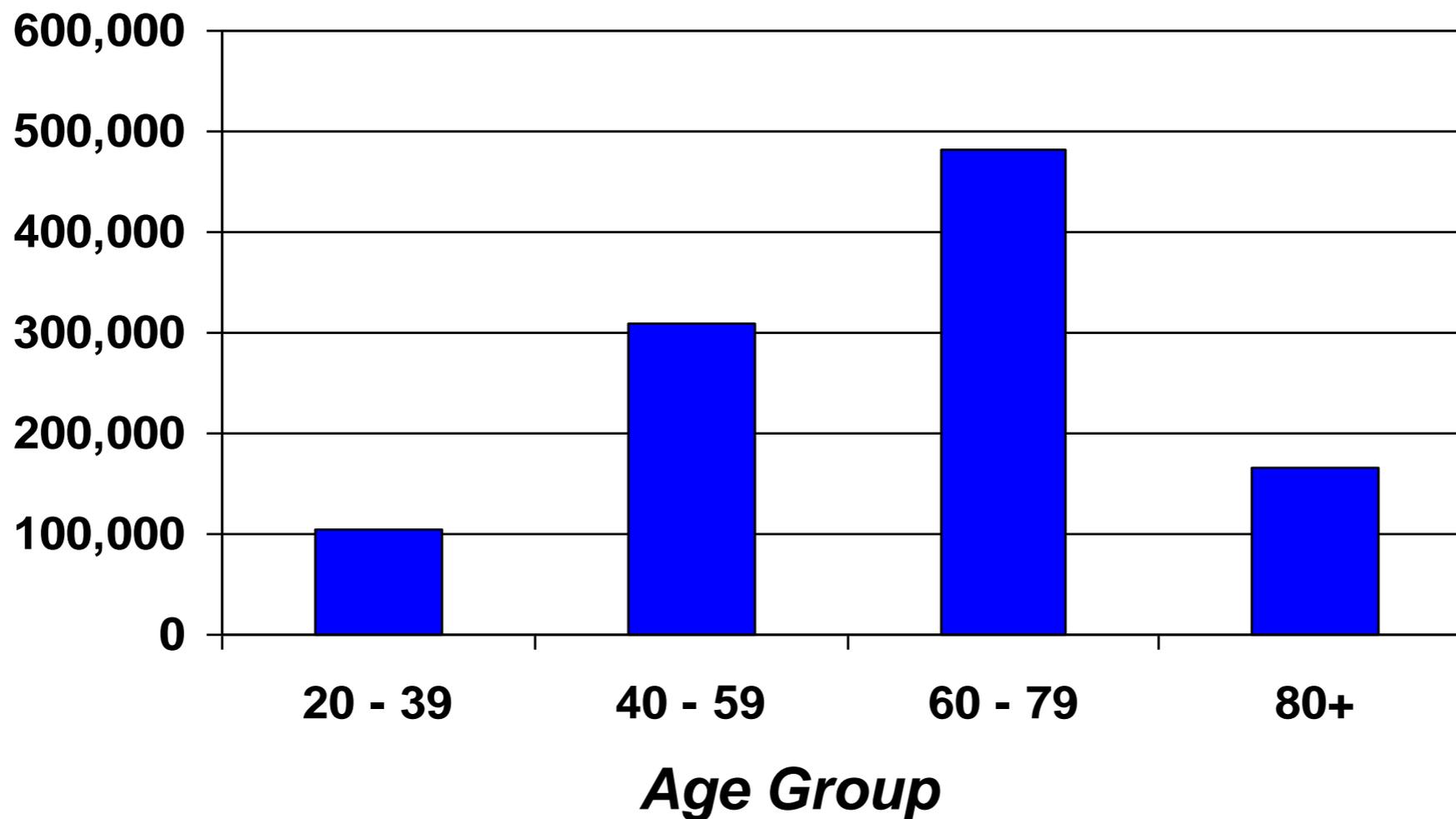
Nearly **40,000** Active Duty Service Members

Source: Vetpop@va.gov (US Dept of Veterans' Affairs 9/30/08)

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Veterans In New York State





Veterans Benefits

Eligibility:

Based upon discharge from active military service (Title 10 U.S.C.) under other than dishonorable conditions.

- Active Service: Full time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard.
- *Active* service includes any period of *active duty for training* during which a person is disabled or dies from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, and
- Any period of *inactive* duty training during which a person is disabled or dies from an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty,



Wartime Service

Eligibility:

A War Period Veteran Served:

WWI – 4/6/1917 - 11/11/1918

WWII – 12/4/1941 - 12/31/1946

Korea – 6/27/1950 - 1/31/1955

Vietnam – 8/5/1964 - 5/7/1975 or “in country” 2/28/1961 - 8/4/1964

Gulf War – 8/2/1990 - present



New York State Veterans Benefits

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State Veterans Benefits

Financial

- ✓ Blind Annuity Program
- ✓ Gold Star Parent Annuity Program
- ✓ Veterans Property Tax Exemption
- ✓ Homes for Veterans Program
- ✓ Supplemental Burial Allowance

Education

- ✓ High School Diplomas
- ✓ Veteran Tuition Awards
- ✓ Military Recognition Scholarships
- ✓ Regents Awards for Children of Veterans

Quality of Life

- ✓ Hunting & Fishing Licenses
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Veterans' Homes



NYS Benefits

Financial

Blind Annuity Program

Benefit is for legally blind NYS wartime veterans or their surviving un-remarried spouse. The program authorizes an annuity payment of up to \$1,173.84 per veteran.

- Veteran is who has been determined legally blind (20/200 vision in the better eye with best correction) *or* 20 Degree limitation of field of vision
- Wartime Veteran
- Resident of New York State
- Un-remarried surviving spouse

Contact: NYS DVA at 518-474-6114 or www.veterans.ny.gov

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NYS Benefits

Financial

Gold Star Parent Annuity Program

Authorizes an annuity payment of up to \$500 per Gold Star Parent of deceased veteran.

- A Gold Star Parent as defined in Title 10 USC 1126
- Gold Star parent must be a resident of New York State and have an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Payments will be authorized and disbursed in semi-annual installments in March and September

Contact: NYS DVA at 518-474-6114 or www.veterans.ny.gov



NYS Benefits

Education

High School Diplomas

Operation Recognition allows certain veterans to earn high school diplomas if they left school without graduating.

- NYS Veterans who were engaged in qualified service between:
December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 or
June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955 or
May 1, 1961 to April 30, 1975
 - Candidates do not need to show evidence of attendance at a school in NYS – only need to affirm in writing that they do not possess a high school diploma
- Take discharge documentation to any high school that issues a local high school diploma
 - Next of kin – if eligibility is established

Contact the Higher Education Services Corp (HESC) at www.hesc.com or call 518-474-8940.



NYS Benefits

NYS Veterans' Homes

Five skilled nursing facilities located in Oxford, Jamaica, Stony Brook, Batavia, and Montrose, for veterans and their dependents.

Eligibility:

- ✓ Applicant must require skilled nursing care **and**,
- ✓ have entered active duty from the State of New York or be a New York State resident for one year prior to application for admission, **and**
- ✓ Veteran must also have had an honorable discharge from the US Armed Forces, **and**
- ✓ Veteran must have had at least thirty (30) days of active service
- ✓ A spouse of an otherwise qualified veteran, unless legally separated, may be admitted to the home if the spouse was married to an eligible veteran for 1 year prior to application and requires skilled nursing care

For application & full requirements for admission: www.nysvets.org



Federal Benefits

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Federal Benefits

Financial

- ✓ VA Pension
- ✓ Disability Compensation
- ✓ Special Monthly Compensation (SMC)
- ✓ Parents' Dependency & Indemnity Compensation
- ✓ Automobile & Special Adaptive Equipment
- ✓ Home Modification Programs
- ✓ Home Loan Guaranty
- ✓ Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)
- ✓ Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)
- ✓ Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI)
- ✓ Veteran's Dependent Parent Benefit
- ✓ Death Pension
- ✓ Burial and Plot-Interment Allowances
- ✓ Burial Flags

(www.vba.va.gov)

Education

- ✓ Montgomery GI Bill – Chapter 30
- ✓ Vocational Rehabilitation – Chapter 31
- ✓ Montgomery GI Bill – Chapter 1606
- ✓ Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) – Chapter 1607
- ✓ Post Vietnam Veterans' Education Assistance Program (VEAP) – Chapter 32
- ✓ Post 9/11 GI Bill – Chapter 33
- ✓ Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance – Chapter 35

(www.gibill.va.gov)



Federal Benefits

Health Care

- ✓ For eligible Veteran only - Spouse/Widow not covered
- ✓ Must be enrolled in VA Health Care system and receive care at a VA facility
- ✓ Covers all costs for physician visits, specialists, and prescriptions dispensed by VA pharmacy



Federal Benefits

Health Care

- ✓ Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services
- ✓ Domiciliary, nursing home, and community-based residential care
- ✓ Sexual trauma counseling
- ✓ Specialized health care for women veterans
- ✓ Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless Veterans
- ✓ Readjustment counseling
- ✓ Alcohol and drug dependency treatment

www.va.gov/healtheligibility

Pension

Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans who have limited or no income, and who are age 65 or older, or, if under 65, who are permanently and totally disabled.

Eligible if:

- ✓ Discharged from service under conditions other than dishonorable
- ✓ Served at least 90 days of active military service 1 day of which was during a war time period
- ✓ Countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law
- ✓ Are age 65 or older, OR, are permanently and totally disabled (not due to own willful misconduct)



Federal Benefits

Pension

2009 Pension Rates

Veteran

Aid and Attendance:

\$1,644/month	\$19,736/year no dependants
\$1,949/month	\$23,396/year 1 dependant

Spouse

Aid and Attendance without Dependants:

\$1,056/month	\$12,681/year
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Dollar for Dollar offset less annual deductible for medical expenses

Aid & Attendance

Veterans who are more seriously disabled may qualify for [Aid and Attendance or Housebound](#) benefits. These are benefits that are paid in addition to the basic pension rate.

A Veteran may be eligible for A&A when:

- ✓ Requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices
- ✓ Veteran is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment
- ✓ Is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity
- ✓ Is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less

Housebound

Housebound is paid in addition to monthly pension. Like A&A, Housebound benefits may not be paid without eligibility to pension.

A Veteran may be eligible for Housebound benefits when:

- ✓ The Veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling AND, due to such disability, he/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises, OR,
- ✓ The Veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling AND, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling

A veteran cannot receive both Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits at the same time.

Burial

Burial benefits include:

- ✓ A gravesite in any of VA's National Cemeteries with available space
- ✓ The opening and closing of a grave
- ✓ Grave liner
- ✓ A government headstone or marker
- ✓ A burial flag
- ✓ Presidential Memorial Certificate



Resources

NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs – www.veterans.ny.gov

US Department of Veterans Affairs – www.va.gov

Health Care Benefits – www.va.gov/healtheligibility or 1-877-222-8387

Mental Health – www.mentalhealth.va.gov

VA Office of Geriatrics – www.visn2.va.gov/gec or 518-626-6037

Education Benefits – www.gibill.va.gov or 1-888-442-4551

Homeless Veterans – 1-877-222-8387



Questions?

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