Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs



State and Federal Veteran Benefits Information

Issue 9

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KDVA: Serving Kentucky's Veterans

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) was established 1 October 1998 when the first Commissioner was appointed. The Department is charged with helping veterans and their families obtain all federal, state and local veterans benefits to which they are entitled.

To that end, KDVA serves the veterans of the Commonwealth in three primary areas of support: healthcare, benefits, and cemetery operations. This structure parallels the US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) administrative organization. Details concerning each of these major service areas, as well as many others, are included in this booklet.

KDVA is committed to fulfilling its mission to help veterans, their families and survivors obtain the benefits they have earned as veterans. Because of their dedicated and selfless service to our Commonwealth and nation, Kentucky's veterans deserve no less.

"Serving those who have served the Commonwealth and our great Nation."

KDVA Contact Information

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Commissioner 1111B Louisville Road Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (502) 564-9203 Toll Free: (800) 572-6245

FAX: (502) 564-9240



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Field Operations Branch

321 W. Main St., Suite 390

Louisville, KY 40202

Phone: (502) 595-4447 Toll Free: (800) 928-4012 FAX: (502) 595-4448



Website:

www.veterans.ky.gov



FILING A CLAIM

Whether you wish to file a claim for VA benefits, are seeking to use Kentucky Veterans Benefits, or simply want to learn more about state and federal benefits for veterans, KDVA strongly urges you to seek representation.

Don't go it alone. KDVA can help you.

Your KDVA Veterans Benefits Field Representative will help you complete the required VA forms and advise you on how to support your claim with other information the VA will need.

KDVA Field Offices

KDVA's Veterans Benefits Field Representatives work in 21 offices across the state. They help veterans obtain the state and federal benefits they have earned. Please call the office nearest you for assistance.

Western Kentucky

Hanson Office

(in Western Kentucky Veterans Center) 926 Veterans Drive Hanson, KY 42413 (270) 322-9087 (877) 662-0008 FAX: (270) 322-9497

Hopkinsville Office

5817 Fort Campbell Blvd. Hopkinsville, KY 42240 (270) 889-6105 (800) 928-9622 FAX: (270) 889-6109

Mayfield Office

1253 Paris Rd., Suite A Mayfield, KY 42066 (270) 444– 8465 X 53239 (866) 274-5761 X 53239 FAX: (270) 247-7248

Clarkson Office

CBOC, 619 West Main Street Clarkson, KY 42746 (502) 287-6416 (866) 653-8232 FAX (270) 242-0359

West/Central Kentucky

Fort Knox Office

1109B Spearhead Division Avenue P.O. Box 600 Fort Knox, KY 40121 (502) 799-0418 (866) 817-1360 FAX: (502) 942-6086

Glasgow Office

126 East Public Square (Lower Level) Glasgow, KY 32141 (270) 651-9578 (800) 850-1392 FAX: (270) 651-7839

Central Kentucky

Lexington Office

VAMC Leestown, 1101 Veterans Dr. Bldg 1 Rm 39 Lexington, KY 40507 (859) 246-2886 (877) 361-6844 FAX: (859) 281-4801

Wilmore Office

(in Thomson-Hood Veterans Center) 100 Veterans Drive Wilmore, KY 40390 (859) 858-2814 (800) 928-4838 FAX: (859) 858-4039

Springfield Office

1079 Highway 555 Springfield, KY 40069 (859) 336-0567

(800) 928-0951

FAX: (859) 366-9750

Southeastern Kentucky

Barbourville Office

196 Daniel Boone Drive, Suite 207 Barbourville, KY 40741 (606) 545-5368 (877) 773-7747 FAX: (606) 545-6089

Eastern Kentucky

Hazard Office

(in Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center) 200 Veterans Drive Hazard, KY 41707 (606) 435-6196 (877) 856-0004 FAX: (606) 435-6201

Pikeville Office

Pike County Courthouse 146 Main St. Pikeville, KY 41501 (606) 433-7522 (866) 647-2926 FAX: (606) 433-7523

Northeastern Kentucky

Mount Sterling Office

44 West Main St. Mt. Sterling, KY 40353

(859) 497-6444 (866) 376-0308

FAX: (859) 497-6445

Catlettsburg Office

2800 Louisa Street Catlettsburg, KY 41129

(606) 739-0273 (866) 244-8970

FAX: (606) 739-0328

Northern Kentucky

Williamstown Office

101 N. Main Street, Rm. 19 Williamstown, KY 41097 (859) 824-0940 (800) 747-9963

FAX: (859) 824-0782

Covington Office

320 Garrard Street Covington, KY 41011-1790

(859) 292-6769 (866) 275-6832

FAX: (859) 292-6770

Louisville

321 West Main St. Suite 390 Louisville, KY 40202 (502) 595-4447 (800) 928-4012

FAX: (502) 595-4448

Call Us — We Are Here to Help You



Federal Veterans Benefits

The surest way to obtain current information on US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and claims procedures is to call the nearest VA regional office within the state.

A call to (800) 827-1000 from any location in the United States will connect you to the nearest VA regional office.

Counselors can answer questions about benefits eligibility and application procedures. They make referrals, when necessary, to other VA facilities, such as medical centers and national cemeteries.

VA regional offices process claims for VA benefits and administer those benefits, which include: disability compensation, pension, home loan guaranty, life insurance, education, vocational training, burial allowance, and survivor's compensation, pension and education.

VA medical center eligibility offices are the immediate source for information regarding medical care eligibility, admissions procedure and scheduling. They can provide information on all types of medical care, including dental, drug and alcohol dependency, prosthetics, and readjustment counseling. The Directors of the three active national cemeteries in Kentucky can address VA national cemetery eligibility.

Refer to the phone number lists in this booklet for contact with these agencies.

Who Is Eligible?

Eligibility for most federal and state veterans benefits is based on discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions for a minimum period specified by law. Active service generally means full-time service as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, the Environmental Services Administration or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Completion of at least six years of honorable service in the Selected Reserves (including National Guard) also provides for home-loan benefits for those not otherwise eligible.

Reservists with 20 years of creditable service for retired pay are now eligible for certain benefits and are eligible for burial in national and state cemeteries.

The Department of Defense issues each veteran a Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty form, DD 214, identifying the veteran's service characterization as honorable, general under honorable conditions, under other than honorable conditions, bad conduct or dishonorable.

Honorable and general discharges qualify a veteran for most VA benefits.

Dishonorable and some badconduct discharges issued by general courts-martial may preclude VA benefits. VA determines benefit eligibility for veterans with bad conduct discharges and discharges described by military branches as "other than honorable." After reviewing the facts of each specific case, VA decides whether separation from service was under dishonorable, or other than dishonorable conditions. Veterans in prison and parolees may be eligible for certain VA benefits. VA regional offices can clarify eligibility of prisoners and parolees.

The Department of Defense has certified service in 26 organizations during the periods that include World Wars I and II as active military service. Members of these groups may be eligible for VA benefits if the Defense Department certifies their service and issues a discharge under honorable conditions.

WARTIME SERVICE DEFINED

Certain VA benefits including medical care require wartime service. As specified by law, VA recognizes these war periods:

Mexican Border Period May 9, 1916 - April 5, 1917 for veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders or in adjacent waters.

World War 1 April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918; for veterans who served in Russia April 6, 1917 - April 1, 1920, extended through July 1, 1921, for veterans who had at least one day of service between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918.

World War II December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946.

Korean Conflict June 27, 1950 - January 31, 1955.

Vietnam Era August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975. (Beginning date is February 28, 1961 for those in country prior to August 5, 1964)

Persian Gulf War August 2, 1990 - date to be set by law.

State and Federal Benefits For Veterans

Education (State)

Kentucky law provides the following educational benefits to veterans and/ or family members:

Veterans May Complete High School Without Tuition

Veterans may complete high school without payment of tuition fees when service in the armed forces interrupts normal completion.

High School Diplomas for World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans

Local boards of education must award high school diplomas to honorably discharged veterans of World War II, Korean Conflict or Vietnam War who served in the Armed Forces of the United States before completing high school. Send a completed application

http://veterans.ky.gov/programs.htm and a copy (not the original) of the veteran's discharge papers to **KDVA**, 1111B **Louisville Road**, **Frankfort**, **KY 40601**.

We will verify the service and provide written verification to the school district

and the veteran Call us at (502) 564-9203 or toll free at (800) 572-6245 for more information.

KY Educational Excellence Scholarship Awards

Students who attend high school out of state while a parent or guardian is serving in the United States military and who maintain Kentucky as the home of record are qualified for Kentucky educational excellence scholarship awards. Further, students whose parent or guardian is serving in the United States military and who are enrolled in the University of Kentucky Pharmacy program may qualify for Kentucky educational excellence scholarship awards.

Kentucky Tuition Waiver Program

A waiver of tuition is an education benefit provided by the Commonwealth of Kentucky in recognition of military service for certain categories of Kentucky veterans. The tuition waiver is provided for qualifying children, stepchildren, adopted children, spouses, and unremarried widows & widowers.

An approved tuition waiver means a student may attend any two-year, fouryear, or vocational technical school that is operated and funded by the Kentucky Department of Education.

You <u>may qualify</u> if one of the following is true of the veteran:

- Died on active duty
- Died as a direct result of a serviceconnected disability as determined by VA
- Is 100% service-connected disabled
- Is totally disabled (non-service connected) with wartime service
- Is deceased and served during a wartime

Documentation needed to apply:

KDVA Form TW-1, Tuition Waiver Application (available at http:// veterans.ky.gov/tuitionwaiver.htm

- Birth certificate and/or marriage certificate to prove relationship to veteran
- DD214 or Discharge Certificate to prove eligibility of veteran
- Death certificate (if veteran is deceased)
- Disability Award Letter (either VA or SSA) to prove veteran is totally disabled
- Evidence of Kentucky residency (tax form, driver's license, voter registration, utility bill, etc.)

In 2007, Kentucky expanded eligibility for the Tuition Waiver Program. Please call KDVA at (800) 928-4012 for more information.

Education (Federal)

You may be eligible for educational assistance while you pursue approved training if you participated in either the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) (Chapter 32) or the Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30) while on active duty; or, if you had entitlement under the Vietnam Era GI Bill (Chapter 34). You may obtain additional information concerning eligibility by calling your local VA office.

For those who qualify for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill: Selected Reserve (Chapter 106), TAKE NOTE: benefits will end on the date of separation from the Selected Reserve or 10 years from the date eligibility began, whichever happens first.

Vocational Rehabilitation: For disabled vets, VA will pay tuition and fees, and the cost of books, tools and other program expenses as well as provide a monthly living allowance. Upon completion of the vocational rehabilitation program, VA will assist in finding employment. Apply within 12 years (generally from date of notice of VA disability rating of 20 % or greater) at any VA Office. Veterans with 10% disability may be found eligible if they have a serious employment handicap.

Employment

Kentucky and federal law provide the following employment benefits to veterans and their families:

Public Employment:

Credit For Service in the U.S. Armed Forces

Provides service credit for eligible Kentucky State Police (KSP) who left KSP to enter the armed services and were immediately re-employed by the KSP. Up to six years of service in the armed forces may be recognized.

State Employment Preference Points for Veterans, Spouses, Widows, Widowers, And Parents

Current state law provides five hiring preference points for honorably discharged veterans and for former members of the Kentucky National Guard or Reserve; 10 points for veterans with service-connected disabilities and certain spouses of veterans with serviceconnected disabilities; surviving spouses of certain war veterans and parents who were dependent on a veteran who lost his/her life under honorable conditions while on active duty are entitled to 10 preference points. Preference points are credited towards state employment when testing at the Personnel Cabinet in Frankfort.

Restoration of Public Employees to Position after Military Duty

Federal law requires mandatory restoration of public employees to identical or similar positions held prior to leaving to perform military duty. The law is applicable regardless of whether the employee left voluntarily or involuntarily.

Service Credit for Military Service

Provides for state employees to obtain service credit, seniority and benefits for time spent in the Armed Forces of the United States under certain conditions.

Examinations - Ratings - Eligibility

Lists (For employment by cities, counties, and local units) Authorizes an increase of five percentage points on any local or county civil service examination for employment for veterans who have served during a wartime period.

Credit Under Pension System for Time Spent in Armed Forces

Authorizes time spent in the armed forces to be credited to police or fire department personnel for retirement purposes under certain conditions.

General employment

Restored Employee Discharged for Cause

Requires employee who has been reinstated following military service, not be discharged from his/her position without cause within one year after restoration.

Leave of Absence to Permit Induction in Military Service

Provides mandatory leave of absence for public employees for the purpose of being inducted in the Armed Forces.

For more information about employment for veterans, see our website at http://veterans.ky.gov/employment.htm



License and Fees Exemptions

Hunting, Trapping or Fishing License

Authorizes Kentucky veterans with 50% or more service-connected disability to hunt or fish within the state with a special combination license. A small fee may apply.

Special Military-related License Plates

Kentucky veterans may qualify for special identifying vehicle license plates including:

- Medal of Honor recipients
- Recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or Navy Cross
- Purple Heart recipients
- Former prisoners of war or surviving spouses
- Pearl Harbor attack survivors
- Active and retired members of the Kentucky National Guard
- Disabled veterans
- Active, reserve, retired and veteran members of all US Armed Forces (servicespecific plate with war period-specific decal)

- Women veterans
- Gold Star Mothers

The special military plate may be combined with a personalized license plate for \$30, of which \$5 goes to the Veterans Program Trust Fund.

Gold Star Mothers/Spouse License Plate Program

In April 2006, Kentucky began issuing license plates honoring Gold Star Mothers – parents whose children have died in military service. In 2008, Kentucky expanded that program to people whose spouse died in military service.

Eligible mothers or spouses may apply for a Gold Star Mother/Spouse plate at their County Clerk's office. All Gold Star Mother plates are personalized. For eligibility criteria, check the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. web site at www.goldstarmoms.com. You do not have to be a member of the organization to qualify for a Gold Star Mother license plate, but you do have to meet their membership

criteria.

KEEP IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS!!

Important papers and copies of public documents that you should save and protect for your future use are:

- ➤ DD Form 214--Certificate of Release or Discharge
- Certificate of Discharge
- Certificate of Service--Papers associated with active duty, such as orders to and from active duty, vouchers, warrants, commissions, diplomas, citations, etc.
- Social Security information
- Family Records, such as marriage license, birth certificates, death certificates, divorce decree, guardianship or custody evidence, adoption papers, and any other permanent records.

Certified Copies of Records - No Fees

Kentucky law requires:

No fee or compensation shall be allowed or paid for furnishing certificates of birth or death required in support of any claim against the government for compensation, insurance, back pay, or other allowances or benefits for any person who has at any time served as a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Air Force of the United States.

Copies of any public records required by VA to be used in determining the eligibility of a person to participate in benefits made available by VA will be provided without charge.



Other Kentucky Benefits

Kentucky state law also provides:

Veterans Loan Program

Authorizes KDVA to create a program that offers small loans (up to \$10,000 to veterans at below-market interest rates. The law went into effect July 1, 2006; KDVA must promulgate regulations and get them approved before program can begin. KRS 40.650 available at: http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/040-00/650.pdf

Military Retiree Pension Exclusion

Currently Kentucky tax law allows a military retiree to exclude pension income of up to \$41,110 from adjusted gross income when filing state income tax return. KRS 141.021 available at: www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/141-00/021.pdf

Uniform Veterans Guardianship Act

Provides for appointment and accountability requirements of persons who act as guardians for veterans.

KRS Chapter 388 available at:

www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/388-00/

CHAPTER.htm. (Be sure to scroll down to see all the revisions.)

Other Federal VA Benefits

Limited Dental Treatment:

VA provides this to a very small category of veterans: those who were not provided dental examination and treatment within 90 days of discharge or separation from service. The time limit does not apply to veterans with dental disabilities resulting from combat wounds or service injuries. Apply at any VA office or medical center.

Disability Compensation: VA pays compensation for disabilities incurred in or aggravated by military service. There is no time limit. Apply at any VA office.

Disability Pension: Wartime veterans with low income, with 90 days or more active military service, at least one day of which was during a wartime period, who are permanently and totally disabled, may be eligible for monthly payments at a level set by Congress. Veterans who entered active duty on or after Sept. 8, 1980, or officers who entered active duty on or after Oct. 16, 1981, may have to meet a longer minimum period of active duty.

Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI):

Veterans may convert their Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) to VGLI upon discharge or retirement. VGLI is a five-year nonrenewable term policy. At the end of the five-year term, VGLI may be converted to an individual policy with any participating insurance company, or renewed in the same amount for another five-year term. Veterans must apply for VGLI within 120 days after discharge or up to one year after discharge, if totally disabled.

GI Insurance: Life insurance is available for veterans with service-connected disabilities. Veterans who are totally disabled may apply for a waiver of premiums on these policies. Apply within two years (from date of notice of VA disability rating) to any VA office.



For more information, visit the USDVA website, http://www.va.gov, and click on the "benefits" and "insurance" links

Death Pension: A survivor's benefit payable to spouses and unmarried children (under 18, helpless children, and those between 18 and 23 if attending a VA approved school) when the <u>veteran's</u> death is not due to service. Income and net worth are factors in determining entitlement. Eligibility is based on the veteran's wartime service. In certain cases, an additional monthly payment is made to spouses who are house bound or in need of aid and attendance of another person.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC):

Payment may be available for surviving spouse who is not remarried. Unmarried children under 18, helpless children, and those between 18 and 23 if attending a VA approved school are also eligible. The deceased veteran must have died from: (1) a disease or injury incurred or aggravated while on active duty, or (2) in the line of duty, or (3) a veteran who was continuously rated 100% service connected disabled for ten years or more, or so rated five years from the date of military discharge, may be eligible. A surviving spouse who remarries on or after 12/16/03 and on or after attaining age 57 is entitled to continue to receive DIC.

VA Benefit Guide Available

The VA comprehensive benefits guide is a 100-page handbook that describes all the benefits provided by VA and an overview of programs and services for veterans provided by other federal agencies. This guide explains how to access many of these benefits online. A printed copy of the book can be purchased by calling the Government Printing Office toll free: (866) 512-1800

Health Care

VA Medical Centers & Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (Eastern time unless otherwise noted)

NOTE: Each of the VA Medical Centers has a patient advocate on staff. Contact the patient advocate if you experience difficulty. Most problems can be resolved through the Patient Advocate Office.

Louisville Area

Louisville VA Medical Center (VISN 9)

800 Zorn Avenue Louisville, KY 40206 (502) 287-6200

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30

http://www.louisville.va.gov/

New Albany Community Based Outpatient Clinic

811 Northgate Boulevard New Albany, IN 47150 (502) 287-4100

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00-4:30

Shively VA Healthcare Center

3934 North Dixie Highway Shively, KY 40216 (502) 449-8557

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00-4:30

Women Veterans Clinic

3934 North Dixie Highway Shively, KY 40216 (502) 287-6000

Hours: (Calls) M–F, 8:00-4:30 Appointments: Thursdays 8-4:30

Fort Knox Veterans Primary Care Clinic

851 Ireland Loop Ft. Knox, KY 40121 (502) 624-9396 or 624-9309 (502) 624-0241 Fax Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30

Dupont VA Healthcare Center

Mental Health Services 4010 Dupont Circle

Louisville, KY 40207 (502) 287-6986 Hours: Monday - Friday, walk-n, 8:00-3:30 or by appointment at

8:00-4:30

VA Healthcare Center, Newberg

3430 Newberg Rd. Louisville, KY 40218 (502) 287-6223

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00-4:30

Lexington Area

Lexington VA Medical Center Cooper Drive Campus

1101 Veterans Drive Lexington, KY 40502-2236 (859) 233-4511 http://www.lexington.va.gov

Leestown Campus

2250 Leestown Road Lexington, KY 40511 (859) 233-4511 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30

Women Veterans Clinic

2250 Leestown Road Lexington, KY 40511 (859) 281-4949 Toll-free (888) 824-3577 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30

Morehead CBOC

333 Beacon Hill, Morehead, KY 40352 (888) 824-3577

Hazard VA Outpatient Clinic

210 Blackgold Blvd., Suite 107 Hazard, KY 41701 (606) 436-2350 Fax (606) 436-2336 Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:00-4:00

Southwestern Kentucky 35

Memphis, TN VA Medical Center

1030 Jefferson Avenue Memphis, TN 38104 (901) 523-8990 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30

(Central Time Zone)

Northeastern Kentucky

Huntington, WV VA Medical Center

1540 Spring Valley Drive Huntington, WV 25704 (304) 429-6741 or (800) 827-8244 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30 http://www.huntington.va.gov/

Prestonsburg VA Medical Clinic

5230 KY Route 321, Suite 8 Prestonsburg, KY 41653 (606) 886-1970 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30

Southeastern Kentucky

Mountain Home VA Medical Center

Corner of Lamont and Sydney Streets P.O. Box 4000 Mountain Home, TN 37684 (423) 926-1171 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30 http://www.mountainhome.va.gov/

South-Central Kentucky

Nashville, TN VA Medical Center

1310 24th Avenue, South Nashville, TN 37212 (615) 327-4751 Contact: Mr. Roland Moore, Director Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30 (Central Time Zone)

Gateway Medical Center, Clarksville, TN

Physicians Office Building 1731 Memorial Drive, Suite 110 Clarksville, TN 37043 (931) 221-2171 Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30-4:00

Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30-4:00 (Central Time Zone)

Fort Campbell VA Clinic

Desert Storm Avenue, Bldg 6139 PO Box 499 Fort Campbell, KY 42223 (270) 798-4118 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30 (Central Time Zone)

Somerset VA Clinic

104 Hardin Lane Somerset, KY 42503 (606) 676-0786

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00-4:30

KY Corp Care

1110 Wilkinson Trace Clinic Hartland Medical Plaza Bowling Green, KY 42103 (270) 796-3590 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30 (Central Time Zone)

Northern Kentucky

Cincinnati VA Medical Center (VISN 10)

3200 Vine Street Cincinnati, OH 45220 (513) 861-3100

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30

http://www.cincinnati.va.gov/

Bellevue, KY Community Based Outpatient Clinic

103 Landmark Drive Bellevue, KY 41073 (859) 392-3840

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00-4:30

Florence, KY Community Based Outpatient Clinic

7711 Ewing Blvd. Florence, KY 41042 (859) 282-4480

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30

Western Kentucky (All Central Time Zone)

Marion, IL VA Medical Center (VISN 15)

2401 West Main Street Marion, IL 62959 (618) 997-5311

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00-4:30

Paducah, KY CBOC

2620 Perkins Creek Dr.
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 575-7169, (866)-245-1497
Fax (270) 575-7170

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00-4:30

Evansville, IN Outpatient Clinic

500 East Walnut Street Evansville, IN 47713 (812) 465-6202 Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:00-4:30

Hanson, KY Outpatient Clinic

(located in the Western Kentucky Veterans Center) 926 Veterans Drive Hanson, KY 42413 (270) 322-8019 FAX: (270) 322-8957

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30

Mayfield CBOC

1253 Paris Rd., Suite A, Mayfield, KY 42066 (270) 247-2455

Owensboro CBOC

3400 New Hartford Rd., Owensboro, KY 42301 (270) 684-5034

Patient Representative Office

If you believe that a VA Medical Center has failed to meet your needs or you wish to complain about service, you should contact the patient representative office at that Medical Center.

Lexington VAMC - (859) 223-4511, X-4110

Louisville VAMC - (502) 287-5386 (direct) or (502) 287-4000, X-55386

Cincinnati, OH VAMC - (513) 475-6527 (direct line)

Huntington, WV VAMC - (800) 827-8244 X- 2268 (304) 429-6741

Marion, IL VAMC - (618) 997-5311 X- 54124 or 55615

Memphis, TN VAMC - (901) 577-7321 (direct line)

Nashville, TN VAMC - (800) 228-4973 X-6218

Mt. Home VAMC, Mountain Home, TN - (423) 926-1171, X- 2495 or 3596 Toll-free (877) 573-3529, X-2495 or 3596

State Long-Term Care Facilities

Thomson-Hood Veterans Center is a 285-bed, long-term care facility located in Wilmore, KY. It provides skilled nursing care with one wing of 45 beds designated for residents with Alzheimer's disease.

Western Kentucky Veterans Center

opened 14 March 2002 in Hanson, KY. This 120-bed, full service facility includes 90 semi-private beds and 30 private beds for special care residents, such as those afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.

Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center

opened 21 March 2002 in Hazard, KY. This 120-bed, full service facility includes 90 semi-private beds and 30 private beds for special care residents, such as those afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.

Admission Criteria: Must be a veteran with an other than dishonorable discharge, a resident of Kentucky prior to submitting an application, and satisfy admission criteria to show you are in medical need of long-term care.

Residents are charged a reasonable fee per month based on the veteran's assets and income and in accordance with a published fee schedule.

Who to Contact?

If you or a loved one is a veteran and is interested in the kind of care we can provide, please contact one of the following:

http://veterans.ky.gov/nursinghomes

Thomson-Hood Veterans Center

100 Veterans Drive Wilmore, Kentucky 40390 (859) 858-2814 Toll free (800) 928-4838 TTYS (859) 858-3829

Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center

200 Veterans Drive Hazard, Kentucky 41701 (606) 435-6196 (877) 856-0004 TTYS (606) 435-6203

Western Kentucky Veterans Center

926 Veterans Drive Hanson, Kentucky 42413 (270) 322-9087 (877) 662-0008 TTYS (270) 322-9752

Burial Honors, Veterans Cemeteries

Funeral Honors

The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors.

Federal law requires that upon the family's request, every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps.

The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the veteran's parent service of the armed forces.

The DOD program calls for funeral home directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the veterans' family.

Kentucky state law now requires funeral directors to ask if the deceased served in the military, and to provide family members with information on burial honors.

Veteran's organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors. When military funeral honors at a veterans cemetery are desired, they are arranged prior to the committal service by the funeral home.

Burial in Veterans Cemeteries

Burial includes a gravesite in any of the National or State Veterans Cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

Cremated remains are buried or inurned in veteran cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a veterans cemetery include burial with the veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependent's name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the veteran's headstone. While there is no cost for any veteran's interment, state veterans cemeteries may have a minimal cost for spouses and dependents.

Headstones and Markers

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. Spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery are not eligible for a government-provided headstone or marker.

You can check on the status of an ordered headstone or marker by calling (800) 697-6947.

Presidential Memorial Certificates

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of an honorably discharged deceased veteran.

Eligible recipients include the deceased veteran's next of kin and loved ones. More than one certificate may be provided. Eligible recipients may apply for a PMC in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail. Requests cannot be sent via email. Please be sure to enclose a copy of the veteran's discharge and death certificate.

Please submit copies only, as VA cannot return original documents. For more information call (202) 565-4964.

Burial Flags

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) provides a U.S. flag at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U.S. armed forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service to his or her country. You may get a flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office. Generally, the funeral director will help you.

Burial Allowances

Some veterans may be eligible for VA burial allowances, which are partial reimbursements of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. The reimbursements are generally described as a burial and funeral expense allowance, and/or a plot interment allowance. Not all veterans are eligible for Burial Allowance

State Veterans Cemeteries

Kentucky currently operates two state veterans cemeteries to provide interment for veterans and their eligible dependents to commemorate their service. The next state veterans cemetery is under construction and there are plans for two more state veterans cemeteries in Kentucky to complement the existing three National Cemeteries (Camp Nelson, Jessamine County; Lebanon, Marion County; and Mills Springs, Pulaski County) that still have burial space available.

- **Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West** opened in March 2004 on U.S. Highway 41A near Hopkinsville.
- **Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central** opened in June 2007 on U.S. 31 near Fort Knox.
- **Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North** opened in August 2008 off I-75 in Williamstown.
- Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North
 East will be at a location to be determined.
- Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East will be at a location to be determined.

Eligibility Criteria for Interment in a Veterans Cemetery (state and federal)

- Any member of the Armed Forces who dies on active duty.
- Any person who was a U.S. citizen upon entry in the armed forces of an allied nation in a conflict in which the U.S. had been or was later engaged and who was a U.S. citizen at the time of death.
- Any veteran discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. If the service began after September 7, 1980 (enlisted persons) or October 16, 1981 (officers), the service must have been at least 24 months or the full period of active service to which called.
- Reserve and National Guard members with 20 years qualifying service who are entitled to retire.
- Reserve component members who die from injury or illness incurred while on active duty.
- ROTC members who die from injury or illness connected with attending an authorized camp or cruise.

For assistance regarding veterans cemeteries:

KVC-West Cemetery (Hopkinsville)

5817 Fort Campbell Blvd. Hopkinsville, KY 42240 (270) 889-6106 (800) 928-9622 FAX: (270) 889-6109 http://veterans.ky.gov/cemeteries/ kvcw.htm

KVC-Central Cemetery (Radcliff)

2501 North Dixie Boulevard Radcliff, KY 40160 (502) 351-5115 FAX: (502) 351-5445 http://veterans.ky.gov/cemeteries/kvcc.htm

KVC-North Cemetery (Williamstown)

205 Eibeck Lane
Williamstown, KY 41097
(859) 823-0720
http://veterans.ky.gov/cemeteries/kvcn.htm

Regarding any state cemetery:

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs State Veterans Cemetery Program 1111B Louisville Road Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-9203 (800) 572-6245 FAX: (502) 564-9240

http://veterans.ky.gov/cemeteries.htm

For information regarding National Veterans Cemeteries in Kentucky:

Camp Nelson or Mill Springs National Cemetery (859) 885-5727

Lebanon National Cemetery (502) 893-3852



Homeless Veterans Programs

KDVA strives to ensure that Kentucky's homeless veterans are made aware of the VA benefits for which they are eligible. We work closely with service providers across the state to educate them about homeless veterans' unique needs and the best ways to help homeless veterans .

Homeless Veterans Trust Fund

KDVA recognizes that sometimes timely help with a rent or utilities payment can help a veteran in financial need avoid becoming homeless.

The Homeless Veterans Trust Fund provides financial assistance to veterans to obtain or maintain housing or utilities.

Qualifications for assistance include verification of discharge status, Kentucky residents, and reason for request.

Funds are limited, and Assistance is limited to one in a lifetime. Find out more by calling the Kentucky Homeless Veterans Program at (502) 564-9240 or toll-free at (800) 572-6245.

Homeless Veterans Transition Program

KDVA has partnered with Volunteers of America (VOA) to operate a drug/alcohol treatment/transitional housing program at the Lexington, Kentucky VAMC (Leestown Campus). The 40-bed program began enrolling veterans on April 8, 2005 and by July 2007 had graduated 25 formerly homeless veterans to sober, stable lives in the community.



For assistance with veterans who are homeless:

Kentucky Homeless Veterans Program 1111B Louisville Road Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-9203 (800) 572-6245

FAX: (502) 564-9240

http://veterans.ky.gov/homeless/

Women Veterans Program

The mission of the program is to ensure Kentucky's women veterans have equitable access to federal and state veterans' services and benefits. The program provides assistance to women who served in the United States Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the United States Armed Forces and who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

The Women Veterans Coordinator for the Commonwealth collaborates with federal, state, and local agencies on issues related to women veterans; performs outreach to improve awareness of eligibility for services and benefits; assesses the needs of women veterans with respect to benefits and services; makes recommendations to the commissioner to improve benefits and services; and incorporates women veterans' issues in strategic planning concerning benefits and services.

For assistance with Women Veterans issues:

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Attn: Kentucky Women Veterans Coordinator 321 W. Main St. Suite 390 Louisville, KY 40202 (502) 595-4447 (800) 928-4012

FAX: (502) 595-4448

www.veterans.ky.gov/womenvets.htm

OTHER SERVICES

VA Regional Office - Louisville, KY (800) 827-1000

VA Home Loan Eligibility Center (888) 244-6711

VA Loan Office - Roanoke, VA (800) 933-5499

Educational Assistance (888) 442-4551

VA Insurance Program (800) 669-8477

Social Security Administration (800) 772-1213

HEAR NOW - Hearing Aid Bank (800) 648-4327

Office of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance

(800) 419-1473

Small Business Administration (800) 827-5722

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Military Records & Research Branch (This office can provide a copy of the DD214 for many Kentuckians)

1121 Louisville Road Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-4883 FAX (502) 564-4437

Camp Nelson or Mill Springs National Cemetery

(859) 885-5727

Lebanon National Cemetery

(502) 893-3852

Kentucky Personnel Cabinet

(for employment services testing) (502) 564-7409

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS):

DFAS Indianapolis (Army) (888) 729-2769 DFAS Denver (Air Force) (800) 433-0461 DFAS Cleveland (Retired Pay) (800) 321-1080

TRICARE

(800) 941-4501

http://www.tricareonline.com

Veterans Center - Counseling Lexington, KY - (859) 253-0717 Louisville, KY - (502) 634-1916 Cincinnati, OH - (513) 763-3500

Government Printing Office (866) 512-1800 toll free

For Military IDs

Department of Military Affairs, Frankfort	(502) 607-1372 (502) 607-1660 (502) 607-1907 (502) 607-1339 (502) 607-1331
75th Troop Command	(502) 607-2018 (502) 607-2020 (502) 607-2017
138th FA Bde,	(502) 607-2424
Lexington	(502) 607-2417
HHC 2/123rd AR BN	(502) 607-2214
Bowling Green	(502) 607-2213
Co B 1/149th IN BN	(502) 607-5464
London	(502) 607-5461
201st EN BN	(502) 607-2114
Ashland	(502) 607-2123
Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Ctr Greenville	(502) 607-7990 (502) 607-7925

KDVAGram is a newsletter published quarterly for Kentucky's veterans. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive this publication please send your name and address to:



KY Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Commissioner 1111B Louisville Road Frankfort, KY 40601

...or call us toll free:

(800) 572-6245



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Field Operations Branch 321 W. Main St. Suite 390

Louisville, KY 40202

Phone : (502) 595-4447 Toll Free: (800) 928-4012 FAX : (502) 595-4448



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Commissioner 1111B Louisville Road

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone : (502) 564-9203 Toll Free: (888) 724-7683 FAX : (502) 564-9240

Web address: www.veterans.ky.gov