

VA BENEFITS 2024★2025



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The quickest way to navigate the claims process is to work with an Accredited Veterans Service Officer – who services are FREE. Paying for services WILL NOT expedite the process.

VISIT US @ MILVETS.NC.GOV



“

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

Joseph Campbell

HOW TO FILE A DISABILITY CLAIM

1

FILE A CLAIM

North Carolina Division of Veteran Affairs Service Officers (VSO) and local County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) provide free VA disability claim assistance. Veterans can also receive free assistance through other Veteran Service Organizations such as: Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, etc. Veterans can also file a claim on line through eBenefits, a joint VA/DoD web portal that provides resources and self-service capabilities (see page 150).

2

SUBMIT EVIDENCE

Veterans must provide evidence of a current disability to support a claim. Submitting evidence concurrently with a claim will help expedite the process. A veteran's disability evaluation is based on evidence so it's essential that the evidence submitted is relevant, accurate, and complete. Service Officers can assist with obtaining evidence to support a claim.

3

VA EXAMINATION

The VA may request an examination depending on the veteran's claim and treatment history. If required, veterans will be scheduled for an exam. After the exam, a report is sent to the VA Rating Authority and is used, along with the additional evidence of record, to make the determination. Attending the exam, if scheduled, is crucial to the claim outcome.

4

VA DECISION

The VA considers all evidence of record and decides whether to grant or deny the benefit. The veteran is notified by mail. The notification includes an explanation of the basis for approval or denial, list of evidence reviewed, and available recourse, if they disagree with the decision. Veteran disability awards are defined and set based on federal law.



ASK your private doctor to include your **VA FILE NUMBER** on all records they submit.



CHECKLIST TO FILE CLAIM

- Bring a copy of your DD 214 and evidence that supports your claim.
Never assume the VA has the necessary information on file.
- Be sure your VA file number is included on every page of your correspondence and documentation.
Respond quickly and completely to the VA's request for further information.
- Keep all scheduled medical appointments.
- Notify the VA immediately if your address or phone number changes. Online through eBenefits, or by phone 1-800-827-1000.
- Know your service dates and Social Security number. If you are a spouse of a deceased veteran, you should know this information, along with any previous marital status of your veteran.
- Be prepared to provide a voided check or Banking Account and Routing Numbers to setup direct deposit for any VA payment.



OPTIONS FOR DENIED CLAIMS OR IF YOU DISAGREE WITH A DECISION

If the VA denies your claim you may appeal the decision. You may also appeal if your claim was approved, but you disagree with any part of the rating. An appeal involves many steps, some of which are optional, some that are required. The appeals process has strict time limits that include:

- Supplemental appeal
- Higher level review
- Hearing (Optional)
- Formal Appeal (Form 9)
- Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA)
- U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC)

Unfortunately, this process can take years to come to a final decision, but once a decision has been made, you will be notified by mail.

NOTE: Before you file an appeal, consider obtaining new & material evidence and request your denied claim be reconsidered. This can save time and effort.

TALK to your local **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER** before you file an appeal.

VETERANS CLAIMS & ADVOCACY FOR VETERANS, THEIR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS

The Federal VA benefit system actually is a legal system. In order to qualify for benefits, veterans must file a claim against the United States proving they are eligible for these benefits through the submission of legal, military, and medical evidence.

NC DMVA employs federally accredited and state certified Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) who are subject matter experts in Federal VA law (Chapter 38 United States Code and Chapter 38 Code of Federal Regulations) and are allowed to practice by taking Power of Attorney for veterans seeking benefits. These VSOs represent veterans, their dependents, and survivors before the Federal VA in their claims and appeals.

With its County Veteran Service Officer and National Service Officer partners, NC DMVA provides claims and counseling advocacy and representation to North Carolina's over 700,000 veterans.

► SIGN UP for eBenefits @ ebenefits.va.gov

Currently, NC DMVA holds Power of Attorney for nearly 150,000 North Carolina veterans. Veteran Service Officers regularly help veterans and their families learn about other benefits that they may be eligible for. VSOs are knowledgeable about the many resources available within the state and can usually assist in finding help and solutions to issues that you may be facing.

GULF WAR REGISTRY HEALTH EXAM FOR VETERANS

VA's Gulf War Registry Health Exam alerts veterans to possible longterm health problems that may be related to environmental exposures during their military service. The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.

This comprehensive health exam includes an exposure and medical history, laboratory tests, and a physical exam. A VA health professional will discuss the results face-to-face with the veteran and in a follow-up letter.

Important points about registry health exams

- Free to eligible veterans and no co-payment
- Not a disability compensation exam or required for VA benefits
- Enrollment in VA's health care system not necessary
- Based on recollection of service, not on their military records
- Veterans can receive additional registry exams, if new problems develop
- Veterans' family members are not eligible for registry exams

Eligibility for Gulf War Registry Health Exam

Veterans who served in the Gulf during Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn are eligible for the Gulf War Registry exam.

You do not need to be enrolled in VA health care to take part.

AGENT ORANGE REGISTRY HEALTH EXAM FOR VETERANS

VA's Agent Orange Registry health exam alerts veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to Agent Orange exposure during their military service. The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.

This comprehensive health exam includes an exposure history, medical history, physical exam, and any tests if needed. A VA health professional will discuss the results face-to-face with the veteran and in a follow-up letter.

Contact your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator about getting an Agent Orange Registry health exam.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COORDINATORS

ASHEVILLE VAMC

1100 Tunnel Road
Asheville, NC 28805
(828) 298-7911 Ext. 4343

FAYETTEVILLE VAMC

2300 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
(910) 488-2120 Ext. 6607

DURHAM VAMC

508 Fulton Street
Durham, NC 27705
(919) 286-0411 Ext. 6006

SALISBURY VAMC

1601 Brenner Ave.
Salisbury, NC 28144
(704) 638-9000 Ext. 14556

2024 VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION RATES FOR VETERANS ONLY

10%	\$171.23
20%	\$338.49
30%	\$524.31
40%	\$755.28
50%	\$1,075.16
60%	\$1,361.88
70%	\$1,716.28
80%	\$1,995.01
90%	\$2,241.91
100%	\$3,737.85

AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY

Veterans and service members who were close to burn pit smoke or exposed for longer periods may be at greater risk for health problems. Health effects from burn pit exposure will vary and depend on a number of factors such as the kind of waste being burned, pre-existing conditions, and wind direction.

Veterans and service members can use the registry questionnaire to report exposures to airborne hazards (such as smoke from burn pits, oil-well fires, for pollution during deployment), as well as other exposures and health concerns.

Registry participation is open to any veteran or service member who was deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations or Egypt any time after August 2, 1990 or Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, or Uzbekistan on or after September 11, 2001.

Regions and countries include: (end bold) Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Djibouti, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, waters of the Persian



Credit: Andrew Burton Alamy

Gulf, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, Syria, Uzbekistan, and Egypt.

Operations and campaigns include: (End Bold) Desert Shield and Desert Storm (ODS/S), Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Enduring Freedom (OEF), and New Dawn (OND).

You do not have to have been exposed to specific airborne hazards or have related health concerns to participate in the registry.

For more information and to register, visit:

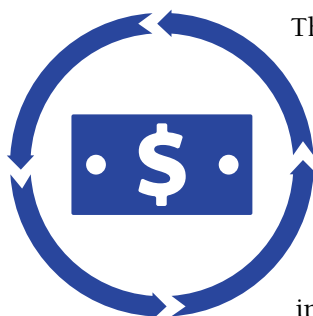
<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/index.asp>

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is the primary monthly monetary benefit payable to surviving dependents of a deceased veteran, and is the monetary benefit to disability compensation for veterans.

This benefit is payable if the veteran died on active duty or in the line of duty and the death was not due to willful misconduct. Or, if death was after service, the death was caused by or attributed to a service-connected disability, or, if service member was rated 100% compensation for certain statute time limits.

The current basic monthly rate of DIC is \$1,562.74 effective 12/1/2022 for an eligible surviving spouse.



The rate is increased for each dependent child, and also if the surviving spouse is housebound or in need of aid and attendance. VA also adds a transitional benefit to the surviving spouse's monthly DIC if there are children under age 18. The amount is based on a family unit, not individual children.

For further rates information visit:

<https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/>

▶ SIGN UP for eBenefits @ ebenefits.va.gov

PRESUMPTIVE HEALTH CONDITIONS

There are three categories in which veterans may qualify for service-connected disability based on a condition to be presumed by military service. These groups are:

- 1 veterans who were diagnosed with a chronic disease such as arthritis, diabetes, or hypertension within one year of being released from active duty;
- 2 veterans diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) anytime after discharge of service and have at least 90 days of continuous service; and
- 3 veterans who served in the conflicts/geographic regions associated with specific exposures and have been diagnosed with specific diseases. For more information on presumptive health conditions, please contact a VSO.

FORMER POW'S Imprisoned for not less than 30 days and a disability of at least 10 percent disabling.

VIETNAM VETERANS [Exposed to Agent Orange] Served in the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.

ATOMIC VETERANS [Exposed to Ionizing Radiation] Participated in atmospheric nuclear testing; occupied or was a POW in Hiroshima or Nagasaki; service before Feb. 1, 1992 at diffusion plant in Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, or Oak Ridge, TN; or service before Jan. 1, 1974 at Amchitka Island, AK.

GULF WAR VETERANS served in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations during the Gulf Wars with conditions that are medically unexplained, including chronic multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms that have existed for six months or more.

CAMP LEJEUNE [Exposure to Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune or Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River, North Carolina]

The VA has established a presumptive service connection for veterans, reservists, and National Guard members exposed to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune or Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River, North Carolina from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987 who later developed one of the following eight diseases:

- Adult leukemia
- Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- Bladder cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Liver cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

Presently, these conditions are the only ones for which there is sufficient scientific and medical evidence to support the creation of presumptions; however, VA will continue to review relevant information as it becomes available.

ONLINE FOR VETERANS:

- Apply for veterans benefits online.
- Check on your compensation or pension claims status.
- Upload documents to support your compensation or pension claim.
- Check Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollment status.
- Use the VetSuccess employment search.
- View DoD TRICARE health insurance.
- Sign up for Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) (Time limits apply)
- Search for and select an accredited veterans service representative or organization.
- Access MyHealtheVet with a single logon.
- Check your VA payment history.
- Utilize the military skills translator and résumé builder.
- Utilize a fast track claims processing system for Vietnam Veterans.
- Order medical equipment such as hearing aid batteries and prosthetic socks.
- Check on your appeal status.
- Generate a VA home loan certificate of eligibility.
- Obtain official military personnel documents such as DD Form 214.
- Register for and update direct deposit information for certain benefits.

DEATH PENSIONS

SURVIVORS PENSION

The Survivors “Death” Pension benefit, is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child (children) of a deceased veteran with wartime service. The deceased veteran must have met certain active duty and war time service requirements as well as was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions.

Survivors Pension is based on your yearly family income, which must be less than the amount set by Congress and net worth may not be excessive to qualify.

While an un-remarried spouse is eligible at any age, a child of a deceased wartime veteran must be: Under 18, OR Under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, OR Permanently incapable of self-support due to a disability before age 18.

Learn more about survivor pension benefits at:

www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepen.asp

BURIAL BENEFITS

Dependents and surviving spouses of an eligible veteran are eligible to be buried in national cemeteries.

When a death occurs and eligibility for interment in a national cemetery is determined, grave space is assigned by the cemetery director in the name of the veteran or family member. One gravesite is permitted for the interment of all eligible family members, unless soil conditions or the number of family decedents necessitate more than one grave. There is no charge for burial in a national cemetery.

See Page 164 for more information on Burial Benefits.



HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

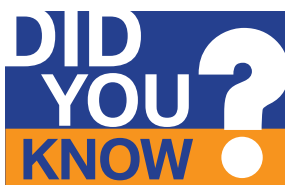
Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state veterans’ cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

eBENEFITS HELP LINE

1-800-983-0937

IF YOU ARE A SERVICE MEMBER:

- Use the eLearning Center for the online transition assistance program and more.
- Transfer Post-9/11 education benefits.
- View DoD TRICARE health insurance.
- View DoD TRICARE reserve select.
- Sign up for service member out-of-pocket medical expenses (CCD).
- View Service members’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI) elections.
- Apply for veterans’ benefits online.
- Conduct a health benefits eligibility check.
- Update service member civilian employment information.
- View service member personnel information.
- Generate a VA home loan certificate of eligibility.



\$11 Million in Children of Wartime Veteran scholarships were paid to North Carolina institutions during the 2020/2021 school year.



COMPENSATION AND PENSION

A monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by an injury or illness incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service connected.

DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Disability compensation is paid monthly and varies with the degree of disability, the impairment to a veteran's earning capacity and the number of dependents. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation. These benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax.

NATIONAL GUARD /SELECT RESERVE

Reservists who serve on active duty establish veteran status and may be eligible for the full range of VA benefits, depending on the length of active military service and a discharge or release from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable. In addition, reservists not activated may qualify for some VA benefits.

National Guard members can establish eligibility for VA benefits if activated for federal service during a period of war or domestic emergency. Activation for other than federal service does not qualify guard members for all VA benefits.

Claims for VA benefits based on federal service filed by National Guard members should include a copy of their military orders, presidential proclamation or executive order that clearly demonstrates the nature of their federal service.

MILITARY RETIRED PAY

Historically, veterans have not been permitted to receive full military pay and VA compensation for benefits at the same time. Veterans who were entitled to both have had to either waive a portion of their retirement equaling the amount of awarded VA compensation or elect not to receive VA compensation at all. Receiving both benefits and retirement pay is commonly known as "concurrent receipt."

In 2004, Congress passed the Concurrent Retired and Disability Pay Act, allowing many veterans to receive 100 percent of the military retirement and VA compensation. Because of the complexity of this issue, visit www.dfas.mil for more information.

VA DISABILITY PENSION BENEFIT FOR WARTIME VETERANS

A non-Service-Connected Disability VA Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans who have limited or no income, and who are age 65 or older, or under 65 and are permanently and totally disabled, a patient in a nursing home or are receiving Social Security disability payments. The amount that's payable depends upon the type and amount of income the veteran and family members receive from other sources.



WHAT IS eBenefits?

eBenefits is a joint VA/DoD web portal that provides resources and self-service capabilities to veterans, service members, and their families to research, access and manage their VA and military benefits and personal information. eBenefits uses secure credentials to allow access to personal information and gives users the ability to perform numerous self-service functions. It is an essential way for veterans, service members, and their families to receive access to and service from VA and DoD.

WHAT CAN I DO IN eBenefits?

Some of the features within eBenefits allow veterans and service members to access official military personnel documents, view the status of their disability compensation claim, transfer entitlement of Post-9/11 GI Bill to eligible dependents (service members only), and register for and update direct deposit information for certain benefits.

HOW DO I ACCESS eBenefits?

eBenefits is located at www.ebenefits.va.gov. Before veterans or service members can access and use eBenefits they must be listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and obtain a DS Logon. They can choose from two levels of registration, DS Logon Level 1 (Basic) and DS Logon Level 2 (Premium).

WHAT IS A DS LOGON?

A DS Logon is a secure identity (username and password) that is used by various DoD and VA websites, including eBenefits. If you are already registered in DEERS, you are eligible for a DS Logon. Once you have a DS Logon, it is valid for the rest of your life.

Veterans who are more seriously disabled may qualify for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits. These benefits are paid in addition to the basic pension rate. Monthly payments are made to qualified veterans to bring their total income to a congressionally established support level (including other retirement and Social Security income).

AID AND ATTENDANCE (A & A)

An A&A benefit is paid in addition to monthly pension. A&A is allowed if the veteran: requires the aid of another person in order to perform his or her daily living activities; is bedridden; is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity; or has corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

HOUSEHOLD BENEFITS

A&A may not be paid without eligibility for pension. Qualifying veterans must have a single permanent disability (rated 100 percent disabled), and need assistance, or have a single permanent disability (100 percent disabled) and another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling.

A veteran cannot receive both A&A and Household Benefits at the same time.

► **SIGN UP** for eBenefits @ ebenefits.va.gov



North Carolina

LOCATIONS

Charlotte Douglas International Airport
Behind Security, Main Atrium, Second Floor

Fort Liberty Soldier Support Center Bldg. 4-2843
Normandy Drive Fort Liberty, NC 28310

Raleigh-Durham International Airport
Before Security, Terminal 2

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune
417 L Street, Camp Lejeune NC 28547

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base
1240 East Andrews St Building 3705 Seymour
Johnson AFB, 27531

Fayetteville Regional Airport
Behind Security, Main Terminal

Albert J. Ellis Airport
Before Security, Main Terminal

Strengthening America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country throughout their service to the nation.

UNITES

Keeping them connected, the USO creates and maintains strong connections between service members and their families, homes and country, no matter where they serve. The USO expresses America's gratitude and commitment to service members and their families through programs focused on connection, strengthening, wellness and resiliency.

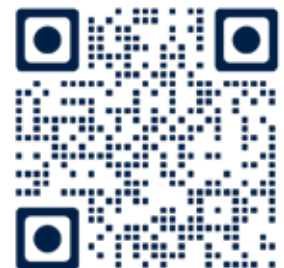
DELIVERS

Always by their side, the USO delivers support to service members stationed abroad who are training in isolated locations or on arduous missions in remote parts of the world. Through expeditionary outreach support – including care packages, snacks, holiday celebration items and internet services provided throughout challenging deployments – we ensure service members stay connected to the people and places they love.

TRANSITIONS

The USO Pathfinder® Transition Program provides professional development services to active duty, Reserve, National Guard and military spouses throughout the duration of the service member or military spouse's career, as well as when they transition out of the military and settle into their new communities.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT USO NC





BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

The following Benefits are available to all veterans with a 0% Service-Connected Disability and Higher:

- **Home Loan Guaranty Certificate of Eligibility.**

Request online through eBenefits or by phone (877) 827-3702.

- **Service Disabled Veterans Life Insurance.** Must file within 2 years from initial notice of service-connected disability. (Insurance only.)

- **Outpatient treatment** for: (1) service-connected conditions, and (2) for all medical conditions if enrolled in VA healthcare program. Co-payment for treatment may apply for non-service connected conditions.

- **Travel allowance** for scheduled appointment for care of service-connected conditions at VA Medical Centers, and out patient clinics. (Eligibility based on the distance traveled 25 miles or more or a veteran's income.)

- **Medical treatment for any condition:**

Enrollment in a VA healthcare program is encouraged but not required for treatment of a service connected condition. (A co-payment will apply for treatment of non-service connected conditions and prescription drugs.)

- **Prosthetic Devices:** for service-connected conditions, to include but not limited to wheelchairs, canes, crutches, hospital beds, nebulizer, oxygen tanks, and electric scooters. The issue of any prosthetic devices requires a VA Doctor's prescription.
- **Medical Treatment in non-VA facilities** for service connected conditions may be authorized by the VA Medical Center. (Certain restrictions apply.)
- **Ten Point Civil Service Preference.** (10 points added to Civil Service test score only after veteran achieves at least 70 on a test.)
- **Annual Clothing Allowance** is available for veterans with a service-connected condition that requires the use of a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (artificial limbs, braces, wheelchairs) or use prescribed medications for a skin condition which tends to wear, tear, or soil clothing. The items used must be prescribed and dispensed at a VA Medical Center.

- **Dental treatment** for: (1) service connected dental condition, or (2) followup dental treatment which has begun while hospitalized at a VA Medical Center, or any former Prisoner of War with 90 consecutive days or more of confinement. Some restrictions may apply.

Home Improvement and Structural Alteration Grant Program is administered by the Prosthetics Department at VA Medical Facilities for medically required improvements and/or structural changes to the veteran's residence.

This Grant requires a VA doctor's prescription. Service-connected veterans can receive up to a \$6,800 grant. Nonservice-connected veterans may receive a grant up to \$2,000. The grant is to be used for allowing entrance or exit improvements for residence, essential lavatory and sanitary facilities, and kitchen and bathroom accessibility to sinks and counters.

This grant is not for complete remodeling of a veteran's bath or kitchen.

► **SIGN UP** for eBenefits @ eBenefits.VA.GOV



A STRONGER COMMUNITY.

ONE VETERAN
AT A TIME

Veterans Bridge Home supports **ALL** Veterans, service members, and military families, regardless of era, length of service, or discharge status.

Our organization supports Service Members, Veterans, and their families by meeting them where they are. Veterans Bridge Home provides opportunities for:



EMPLOYMENT

400+ employment partners



SERVICES

1,000+ community service providers



FRIENDS

40 monthly networking opportunities

CALL 855.425.8838

VISIT 5260 Parkway Plaza Blvd. Suite 110
Charlotte, NC 28217

CONNECT    

[VETERANSBRIDGEHOME.ORG](https://veteransbridgehome.org)



VETERANS BRIDGE HOME



10% SERVICE CONNECTED AND HIGHER, ALL OF THE ABOVE PLUS:

Vocational Rehabilitation which includes full medical and dental care (dental if determined to be essential to finish training), a subsistence allowance in addition to disability payments, payment for all required school-related supplies and direct payment of tuition. Funding fee waived for Homeloan Guarantee loans.

30% SERVICE CONNECTED AND HIGHER, ALL OF THE ABOVE PLUS:

- **Additional compensation for dependents** (spouse, children, adopted children, and dependent parents).
- **Non-Competitive Civil Service appointment:** Job appointment without the requirement of an interview.
- **Affirmative action in employment:** A disabled veteran cannot be passed over to hire a nondisabled veteran or nonveteran unless at least three interviews have been conducted by the employer.
- **Additional allowance for a spouse** who is a patient in a nursing home: (helpless or blind, or so nearly helpless as to require the aid and attendance of another person.)

40% SERVICE-CONNECTED AND HIGHER, ALL OF THE ABOVE PLUS:

- **Automobile Grant:** (A one-time payment up to \$20,114) Veteran must have a service-connected loss of one hand, or one foot, or permanent loss of use of one hand or one foot, or a permanent impairment of vision of both eyes. A veteran must be rated for loss of use before this is granted.
- **Payment of special adaptive automobile equipment:** In addition to the automobile grant. Veteran must be entitled to the automobile grant as outlined above, or have a service-connected ankylosis (immobility) of one knee or one hip. (This requires a VA doctor's prescription for the adaptive equipment and can include; an automatic transmission, air conditioner, hand controls, power brakes, hand brakes, cruise control, ramps or wheelchair lifts, and any other adaptive equipment the doctor may deem necessary.)

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR AN eBenefits ACCOUNT?

There are two types of registration, Basic and Premium. With a Premium Account, you can view personal data about yourself in VA and DoD systems, apply for benefits online, check the status of your claims, update your address records, and more. To get a Premium eBenefits Account, you must verify your identity. Many people will be able to verify their identity online by answering a few security questions. Service members may verify their identity online by using their Common Access Card. Military retirees may verify their identity online using their Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Logon. For those unable to verify their identity online, you will instantly receive a Basic Account. A Basic eBenefits Account lets you customize the site and access information you enter into eBenefits yourself; however, you cannot see your personal information in VA or DoD systems.

For more information on eBenefits visit:

www.eBenefits.va.gov

50% SERVICE-CONNECTED OR HIGHER, ALL OF THE ABOVE PLUS:

- **Medical treatment for any condition at VA Medical Centers:** Enrollment in a VA health care program is encouraged but not required for treatment of a service-connected condition. No copayments for treatment of non-service-connected care or non-service-connected prescription drugs.
- **Medical treatment in non-VA facilities:** for any medical condition may be authorized VA Medical Center.
- **Discounted Hunting Lifetime + Fishing Licenses**
- **Discounted entry into National Parks**



An All-Volunteer North Carolina Grassroots Effort!
 Hosting Wounded Warriors & Disabled Veterans to quality fishing, golf & cycling.
 Utilizing North Carolina's People, Places, Products and Pride
 to show support for our Wounded Warriors/DVets and Veterans-in-need.
 Get involved - You will be in great company!

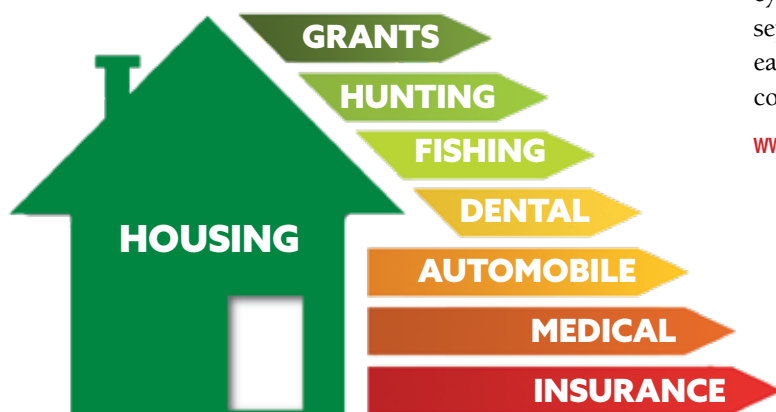


Contact Operation North State today to pledge your support!
 mailbox@operationnorthstate.com
 Facebook: Operation North State
 151 Windemere Ct. Winston Salem, NC 27127
 366-764-5967

60-90% SERVICE-CONNECTED OR HIGHER, ALL OF THE ABOVE PLUS:

Individual unemployability (increased compensation) payable at the 100% rate based on the inability to work due to service-connected disability plus:

- **Dental treatment** if S/C for Dental Claim.
- **Special Housing and/or Automobile Grants** for SC veterans with eligible disabilities
- VA provides **grants to service members and 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. Two grant programs exist: The Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant and the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant.
- **Specially Adapted Housing Grant:** The maximum dollar amount allowable for SAH grants in is \$109,986 for FY 2023.
- **Special Housing Adaptations Grant:** The maximum dollar amount allowable for SHA grant is up to \$22,036 for FY 2023.
- **Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) Grant:** A temporary grant may be available to SAH/SHA eligible veterans and service members who are or will be temporarily residing in a home owned by a family member. The maximum amount available to adapt a family member's home for the SHA grant is up to \$44,299 for FY 2023 and up to \$7,910 for the SHA grant for FY 2023.
- **Automobile Grant:** Service members and veterans may be eligible for a one-time payment of not more than \$24,115.12, toward the purchase of an automobile or other conveyance if you have certain service-connected disabilities. The grant is paid directly to the seller of the automobile and the service member or veteran may only receive the automobile grant once in his/her lifetime. See your local VSO for more information.



100% SERVICE-CONNECTED OR THOSE PAID AT THE 100% RATE (IU)

ALL OF THE ABOVE PLUS

**Temporary 100% disability payments, such as those for surgery, do not qualify a veteran for these benefits.*

- **Waiver of cost of Service Disabled Life Insurance** for those rated permanent and total: and additional \$20,000 of life insurance at cost to veteran. Veteran must have applied for insurance within two years of initial disability rating or within two years of a new disability rating. An increase in a disability rating does not qualify as a new disability.
- **Commissary and Exchange privileges for veteran and dependents:** The veteran must request a letter from the VA specifying veteran is in receipt of 100% disability, and then applies for a military ID card at the nearest ID card issuing facility.
- **Dependents Education Assistance:** The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.
- **Any needed Dental Care**
- **Property Tax Exemption on first \$45,000** of your homestead's value from tax abatement for veterans rated permanent and total, or those in receipt of DIC.
- **Free Disabled Veterans License Plate**, applications can be certified at your State or County Veterans Service Office

COMPENSATION HIGHER THAN THE 100% RATE:

- **Special Compensation:** Veteran must be rated for special compensation due to the loss of limbs, eyesight, aid and attendance, housebound, or two separate medical conditions that are rated 60% each or 100% each. For more information about VA compensation rates, please visit:

www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp01.asp

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ELIGIBILITY FOR NC STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES

QUALIFIED VETERAN

Any former member of the U.S. Armed forces who served on active duty, other than for training, and was terminated under honorable conditions.

A veteran who is entitled to retired pay for non-regular service (i.e. service in the Reserve Components or Army or National Guard) or a veteran who would have been entitled to retired pay for non-regular service, but for the fact that the person was under 60 years of age.

NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENCY

Only those veterans who are legal residence of North Carolina are eligible for interment:

1. at the time of death;
2. for a period of at least 10 years or;
3. at the time of entry into the Armed Forces of the United States.

DEPENDENT(S)

The spouse, widow or widower of a qualified veteran, a minor child who is unmarried and dependent on the qualified veteran at the time of death. A minor child includes a child under the age of 21 years of age or under 23 years of age if pursuing a course of instruction at an educational institution approved by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition, an unmarried adult child of a qualified veteran who became permanently incapable of self-support due to a physical or mental disability before attaining the age of 18 years is also eligible.

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VA BENEFITS 2024-2025

SOME SAY THEY'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

WE PROVE IT.

PROOF BY THE NUMBERS:

\$7 billion: The amount in VA benefits we helped to recover for veterans in the last year.

\$9 million+: Total grant dollars awarded to military families since 2004.

2.1 million+: Service members and their families hosted at VFW events since 2005.

\$4.1 million+: Scholarship dollars awarded to veterans and service members since 2014.

1899-2018: The years during which we have been at the forefront in the battle **FOR VETERANS.**

Join the VFW today.

North Carolina VFW **salutes you!**

Visit us online at www.vfwnc.com

Facebook: Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) : North Carolina

Phone: 919-828-5058

Email: ADJ@vfwnc.com

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

N.C. STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES

The primary mission of the NC DMVA State Veterans Cemetery Program is to provide a final resting place for North Carolina's veterans at no cost, and their legal dependent(s) for a nominal fee. Veterans must be discharged under honorable conditions and meet certain residency requirements.

For More information on the NC DMVA State Veterans Cemetery Program, go to our website at:

<https://www.milvets.nc.gov/benefits-services/nc-veterans-cemetery-program>



BLACK MOUNTAIN

962 Old US 70 Hwy.
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-0684



JACKSONVILLE

110 Montford Point Rd.
Jacksonville, NC 28541
(910) 347-4550



SPRING LAKE

8220 Bragg Blvd.
Ft. Bragg, NC 28310
(910) 436-5630



GOLDSBORO

164 Longs Plant Farm
Goldsboro, NC 27544
(919) 648-0510

CAMP LEJEUNE WATER CONTAMINATION

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



I'm a Veteran who believes I was exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, what can VA do for me?

Since 2012, Veterans who served on active duty in the Armed Forces at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, have been eligible for hospital care and medical services for any of 15 illnesses or conditions identified in the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, as amended (codified at 38 U.S.C. § 1710(e)(1)(F)). Veterans are also eligible to enroll in VA health care for other services they may require.

Veterans, Reservists, and National Guard members who served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and later developed one of the following eight diseases: Adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Parkinson's disease, are eligible for disability compensation benefits.

For more specifics about VA benefits related to Camp Lejeune contaminated water, to include how to file a claim, visit www.VA.gov/CampLejeune or call 1-800-MyVA411.

LEARN MORE

www.VA.gov/CampLejeune

LET'S TALK



Speak to a VA benefits specialist by calling

1-800-MyVA411
(1-800-698-2411)

LET'S MEET



Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment
vets.force.com/VAVERA



What impact does the PACT Act have on Veterans and families who were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune?

On August 10, 2022, the President signed into law the Honoring our PACT Act (Public Law 117-168). Section 804 of this law is the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 ("CLJA"), which allows new lawsuits for individuals exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

Whether Veterans and family members decide to seek relief under the CLJA is entirely their decision and will not influence VA's decision to provide them benefits or health care based upon their exposure; it also will not affect the amount of benefits or health care VA can provide them.

It is important to know, however, that if a Veteran or family member is awarded relief by the court in a lawsuit brought under the CLJA, the award must be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or benefit VA provided to the Veteran, family member, or their legal representative relating to exposure to water at Camp Lejeune. This would reduce the amount of the award Veterans or family members receive from the court, but it would not affect their VA benefits.



I'm seeing a lot of commercials about benefits I may be entitled to based on my time at Camp Lejeune. Are these ads connected to VA?

Lawyers, firms, and others have engaged in extensive advertising offering to represent Veterans in CLJA actions. These entities are not connected with VA benefits or services. Be aware that these entities may charge you a fee for legal representation.



Will seeking relief under the CLJA impact my VA benefits or health care?

Your VA compensation benefits or health care services will not be impacted if you file a lawsuit. If you are awarded relief from a CLJA lawsuit, your VA benefits will not be reduced, and your eligibility for other VA benefits or services will not be affected.



Will my court awarded relief (from filing a lawsuit) be impacted by VA benefits and services I already receive?

Yes, potentially. If you already receive VA benefits or services (disability pay or health care services) for conditions related to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, the court awarded relief will be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or other benefit VA provided to you related to your exposure at Camp Lejeune.



What if I file for VA disability AFTER I receive an award from my lawsuit brought under CLJA, will VA reduce my benefits as a result?

No. Any action you take or award you receive under the CLJA will not influence VA's decision to provide you benefits or health care based upon your exposure or the amount of compensation you receive from VA.

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VA BENEFITS 2024-2025

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BURIAL & CEMETERY BENEFITS at a NATIONAL CEMETERY

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits Administration oversees a burial benefits program designed to assist claimants in meeting the funeral and burial costs of a deceased veteran. The VA does not make funeral arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. You should advise your family of your wishes and where your discharge papers are kept. These papers are very important in establishing your eligibility. You may wish to make pre-need arrangements with a funeral home.



SERVICE-CONNECTED DEATH

If a veteran's death is service-connected, the VA will pay burial allowance of up to \$2,000 for deaths on or after Sept. 11, 2001. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of moving the veteran's body to the national cemetery nearest the veteran's home may also be reimbursed. There is no time limit for applying for a service-connected burial allowance. The person who bore the veteran's burial expense may claim reimbursement from any VA regional office.

NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DEATH

If a veteran's death is not service-connected, there are two types of payments the VA may make: burial and plot expense allowances. The VA will pay a burial and plot allowance if the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and the veteran was in receipt of VA pension or compensation at the time of death. If a veteran died while in a VA facility or as a patient at an approved state nursing home, the VA may also pay this allowance.

BURIAL PLOT ALLOWANCE

When a veteran is buried in a cemetery that is not under the U.S. government jurisdiction, the VA may also pay a plot allowance, provided that the veteran was discharged under a condition other than dishonorable

and met other qualifications similar to that of a non-service-connected death.

FILING A CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

To file for reimbursement of burial expenses, an Application of Burial Allowance form must be submitted to the VA. The person filing the claim must also provide a certified copy of the veteran's death certificate and proof of the veteran's military service (Form DD-214), and itemized bills of the funeral and burial expenses.

BURIAL FLAG

A United States flag is provided, 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. When burial is in a national, state or post cemetery, a burial flag will not automatically be provided. Burial flags must be requested via Military Honors by the funeral or family. When burial is in a private cemetery, the funeral director will generally help the next of kin with this process.

HEADSTONE AND MARKERS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any

deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death. For eligible veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the grave or a medallion to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone. Eligible veterans are entitled to either a government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both.

BRONZE MEDALLIONS FOR HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may also provide a medallion, by request, to be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a veteran. If requested, the medallion is furnished in lieu of a traditional government headstone or marker for veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

BURIAL AT SEA

The VA National Cemetery Administration cannot provide burial at sea. For information, contact the U.S. Navy Mortuary Affairs office toll free at: **(866) 787-0081**

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

The Department of Defense (DoD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. "Honoring Those Who Served" is the title of the DoD program for providing dignified military funeral honors to veterans

who have defended our nation. Visit the North Carolina Veterans Affairs website for further information and instructions about this service.

For more information:

<https://www.milvets.nc.gov/benefits-services/nc-veterans-cemetery-program>

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES

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

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN

When a military retiree dies, their retirement pay stops. This means that the surviving spouse no longer receives income. If a veteran is a military retiree, thought needs to be given as to how to protect the spouse from hardships caused by the loss of the retirement pay.

One option available is the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). The SBP is an insurance plan that will pay the veteran's surviving spouse a monthly payment (annuity) to help make up for the loss of retirement income. The plan is designed to protect survivors against the risks of the veteran's early death, a survivor outliving the benefits, and inflation.

Survivors should report retiree deaths to the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) casualty office at: **(800) 321-1080**.

DEATH PENSIONS

Survivors' (Death) Pension is a needs-based benefit paid to an unmarried surviving spouse, or an unmarried child, who meets certain age or disability requirements, of a deceased wartime veteran.

In order to qualify for a VA Death Pension, the VA calculates income received from most sources by the surviving spouse and any eligible children. It includes earnings, disability and retirement payments, unemployment insurance payments, interest and dividends payments, and net income from farming, business or rental property.

If the income is below a certain level, the dependent or surviving spouse may be eligible for this pension.



BURIAL BENEFITS

Dependents and surviving spouses of an eligible veteran are eligible to be buried in national cemeteries.

When a death occurs and eligibility for interment in a national cemetery is determined, grave space is assigned by the cemetery director in the name of the veteran or family member. One gravesite is permitted for the interment of all eligible family members, unless soil conditions

or the number of family descendants necessitate more than one grave. There is no charge for burial in a national cemetery.

HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

National Veteran Service Organizations



Vietnam
Veterans of
America

STATE PRESIDENT, Elizabeth Cannon
Grimeslands, North Carolina
(252) 702-0305
EbCannon272@gmail.com

www.vva-nc.org



The
American Legion
www.nclegion.org

DEPARTMENT
ADJUTANT
Mark Cauble
Raleigh NC
(919) 832-7506
adjutant@nclegion.org

NATIONAL SERVICE
OFFICER
Justin Nicholson
Winston-Salem, NC
(336) 631-5471



COMMANDANT RIC LEDFORD
Team Red, White & Blue
198 14th Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30318



DEPT. ADJUTANT
Larry Reid
1710 W 10th St.
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 673-6495

American
Veterans

amvets.org

NATIONAL SERVICE
OFFICER
Russell Woodall
Winston-Salem, NC
(336) 251-0823
russell.woodall@va.gov



National Association for Black
Veterans

COMMANDER, Gwendolyn D. Worthy, M.S.
Fayetteville, NC (910) 779-9089
nabvet0041@gmail.com

www.nabvets.org



Veterans of
Foreign Wars
vfwnc.com

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
Helen Nelson
Raleigh, NC (919) (828) 5058
adj@vfwnc.com

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER
Tab Brown, Winston-Salem, NC
(252) 933-2040 tab.brown318@va.gov



Paralyzed
Veterans Of
America

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER
Mark Antonitis
Winston Salem NC
(336) 251 - 0836
MarkA@PVA.org

www.pva.org



Disabled
American Veterans

Raleigh, NC (919) 833-5567
Adjutant@davnconcept.org

NATIONAL AREA SUPERVISOR

Michelle Colpaert
Winston-Salem, NC

(336) 631-5481

Michelle.colpaert@va.gov

davmembersportal.org/nc



TEAM
RWB

Team Red, White & Blue
198 14th Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30318

www.TeamRWB.org



NC DMVA
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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THE DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



WE THE COMRADES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA VFW INVITE YOU TO JOIN US. WE HAVE BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE 1935 AND ARE **22,493 MEMBERS** STRONG IN **142 POSTS** THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

IF YOU LIVE IN NORTH CAROLINA PLEASE CONTACT US:

(NC) 919-828-5058 WEBSITE: VFWNC.COM EMAIL: ADJ@VFWNC.COM
OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW):NC

"NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS"



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Become a member today!



Department of North Carolina

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Raleigh, NC 27612
www.dav.org

Benefits Counseling | Transition Support | Volunteer Programs | Employment Assistance

General Eligibility



WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CHEMICALS, AGENT ORANGE, OR OTHER TOXINS WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY?

Apply for VA health care today at VA.gov/PACT.



WERE YOU EXPOSED TO TOXINS AND OTHER HAZARDS WHILE SERVING OUR COUNTRY?

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

American Legion Post 540
Cary, NC 27511

Americanlegionpost540@gmail.com

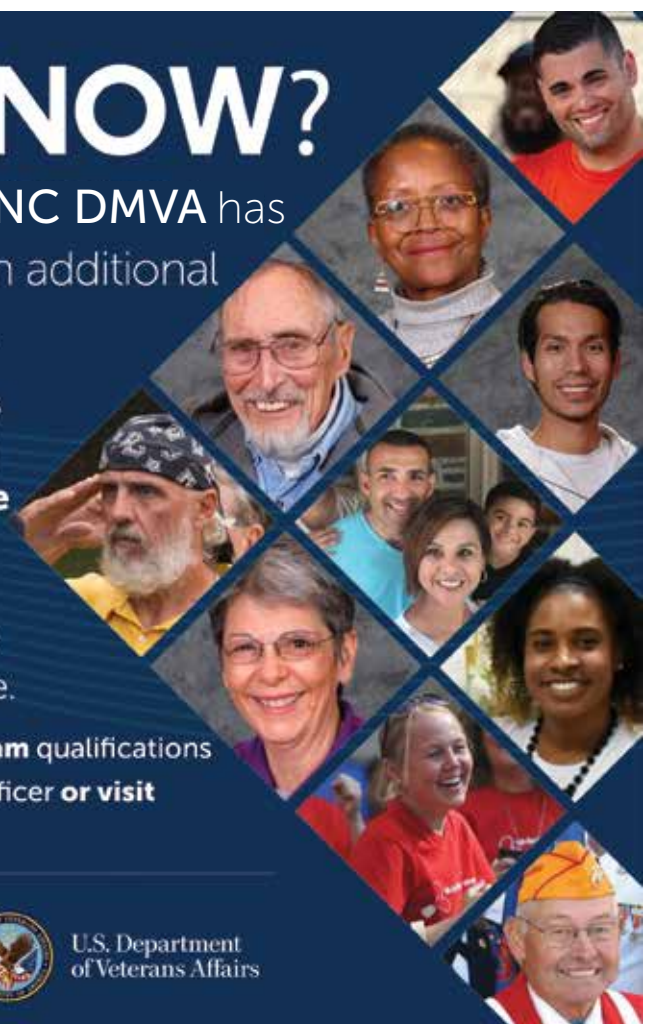
AMERICAN LEGION POST 540 is North Carolina's first ALL female post. Our goal is to help female veterans adjust to civilian life. We focus on support, education, and at times being the conduit between female veterans and the vital resources they need to ensure long, healthy, and fulfilling lives after the military. At American Legion Post 540, we honor the efforts of existing veterans' services and strive to partner in our ventures to serve our veteran community.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thanks to Congressional action, **NC DMVA** has helped bring in over \$20 million in additional benefits to NC Vietnam Veterans.

Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1979 **may now be eligible for disability compensation and other benefits, for themselves and their families**, for disabilities VA believes may be caused by herbicides such as Agent Orange.

To learn more about the **Blue Water Navy Program** qualifications and benefits contact your local Veteran Service Officer or visit benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



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VA BENEFITS 2024-2025



DMVA

N.C. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Dedicated to serving North Carolina
veterans, servicemembers, and their families

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