

# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED



The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) assists Veterans, their family members and survivors in connecting to the benefits you earned through your military service.

Veterans Service Offices and a statewide referral service assist Veterans and family members in accessing benefits such as:

- VA Disability Compensation
- VA Pension or Survivors Pension
- Aid & Attendance
- Medical Care
- Higher Education and Vocational Rehabilitation
- Other Federal, State or County Benefits

Documents that may be needed when applying for benefits include:

- DD214 or other separation papers
- Marriage certificate(s) and divorce decree(s)
- Birth records for each dependent child
- Death Certificates
- Service medical records

# WHY GO IT ALONE?

## WE'RE *YOUR* DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

CALL US TODAY!

**800-562-2308**

**WWW.DVA.WA.GOV**

PO Box 41155, Olympia, WA 98504-1155



# WASHINGTON STATE GUIDE FOR FAMILIES OF VETERANS



*"Serving Those Who Served"*

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## **MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS & SURVIVORS:**

CHAMPVA provides coverage to the spouse or widow(er) and dependent children of a Veteran who:

- is rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability, or
- was rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected condition at the time of death, or
- died of a service-connected disability, or
- died on active duty and the dependents are not otherwise eligible for Department of Defense TRICARE benefits.

TRICARE provides medical coverage for military retirees, spouses/widows(ers) and their dependent children.

**VA CAREGIVER PROGRAM:** Local Federal VA Caregiver Support Coordinators are licensed professionals who can support you by matching you with services for which you are eligible, and providing you with valuable information about resources that can help you stay smart, strong and organized as you care for the Veteran you love. Contact your Caregiver Support Coordinator located at the Federal VA Medical Center. <http://www.caregiver.va.gov/>

**COUNSELING:** WDVA provides an outreach/counseling program to Veterans with a qualifying discharge who are experiencing readjustment or PTSD-related problems, and their family members.

**STATE VETERANS HOMES:** Rehabilitative and long-term care is provided to eligible Veterans, widows, spouses and Gold Star Parents in four State Veterans Homes. Call 877-838-7787 for admissions information.

**BURIAL BENEFITS:** For Veterans buried in a private cemetery, this includes at no cost: a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Ask the Funeral Home about Military Honors. Qualifying Veterans, service members, spouses and dependents may be eligible for burial in a VA National Cemetery or the State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake, WA.

**SURVIVORS PENSION:** Pension benefits are available for surviving spouses of deceased Veterans who have not remarried, and unmarried dependents of deceased Veterans if:

- 1) the Veteran served more than 90 days of active duty military service; and
- 2) served at least one day during a period of wartime; and
- 3) had a qualifying discharge.

This benefit is based on income and asset limitations. There may also be additional benefits for those needing aid and attendance or for those who are permanently housebound.

## **DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC):**

DIC benefits may be available for surviving spouses who have not remarried, unmarried dependent children, and low-income parents of deceased service members or Veterans. Eligibility requirements include:

- 1) Veteran must have died from an illness or injury related to his/her active duty service; or
- 2) the Veteran was rated totally disabled for 10 years or more directly preceding death; or
- 3) the Veteran was rated totally disabled for at least 5 years from date of discharge; or
- 4) the Veteran was a former prisoner of war (POW).

**GOLD STAR LICENSE PLATES:** Parents, Spouses, Children, and Siblings may qualify for a Gold Star License Plate. Widows(ers) eligible for DIC, parents, and step parents are may receive one plate and vehicle registration at no cost.

**HOME LOAN GUARANTEES:** Eligibility requirements for a home loan guaranty for family members include:

- 1) an unremarried spouse of a Veteran who died while in service or from a service connected disability, or
- 2) a spouse of a serviceperson missing in action or a prisoner of war for more than 90 days.

**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE:** Benefits may be available to dependents and spouses who have not remarried, based on the Veteran's length and degree of service- related disability, or other qualifying factors for service members.

**EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE:** Preference for public employment is given to surviving spouses of wartime Veterans with a qualifying discharge, and spouses of Veterans with a permanent and total service-connected disability.

**VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND:** County assistance for families of deceased Veterans may be available based on income and other qualifications.

**PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE FOR WIDOW(ERS):** Widows of 100% disabled Veterans may also qualify for grant assistance. Contact the Department of Revenue Grant Administrator at (360) 534-1409 for more information or visit the Department of Revenue Property Tax Division website at: <http://dor.wa.gov/Content/FindTaxesAndRates/PropertyTax/IncentivePrograms.aspx>

# **DON'T GO IT ALONE!**

WDVA provides services and outreach with our partners across the state to assist veterans and their families in obtaining benefits.

## **WDVA CONTRACTED VETERAN SERVICE OFFICES**

AFRICAN-AMERICAN PTSD ASSOCIATION . . 253-589-0766  
AMERICAN LEGION . . . . . 206-583-1300

NAT'L ASSOC. FOR BLACK VETERANS . . . . 253-582-0895  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS . . . . . 206-341-8284  
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA . . . . . 206-341-8294