



GUIDE TO VETERANS BENEFITS



JOEY STRICKLAND, COL (USA RETIRED)

SECRETARY OF THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



A Message from the Secretary

It is my distinct honor as your Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs to serve Louisiana's nearly 300,000 veterans and their families. At LDVA, every day is Veterans Day, and every day is Memorial Day, because we are serving, caring for and burying veterans with honor and dignity on a daily basis.

This Guide to Veterans Benefits is a resource for you to learn more about what our department does, and it also provides information about other services throughout state and federal government. The guide is an overview, and we are available to give you more specific information at your request.

Gen. Omar Bradley once said, "We are dealing with veterans, not procedures; with their problems, not ours." This quote is on the wall in our office so that we are reminded to put our veterans first. We are honored to serve those who served and strive daily to fulfill our mission.

My staff and I stand ready to assist you, or the veteran in your life. You can reach us by phone, email or on social media. You may also want to visit our website at www.vetaffairs.la.gov to sign up for news from LDVA on events, programs and more. Thank you for supporting Louisiana's veterans!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joey Strickland".

From the Secretary

About LDVA

Mission Statement

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs is to provide comprehensive care and quality service to Louisiana's veterans and their families with regard to health care, education, disability benefits, long-term care and burial honors.

Louisiana Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for most Louisiana state and federal veterans benefits, programs or services, a veteran must first establish general eligibility as outlined in the law.



General eligibility consists of three broad requirements:

- 1) Eligible military service (certain character, type, duration required for each benefit)
- 2) Louisiana state residency (except for state-run veterans cemeteries, in some circumstances)
- 3) Certain percentage of service-connected disability rating

Specific programs and/or benefits may have additional requirements. Veterans with other than honorable discharges may be eligible for some state benefits if they qualify for certain benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Spouses and dependents of deceased veterans who meet LDVA eligibility requirements may also be eligible for certain programs and services.

Outline of LDVA Programs and Services

LDVA supports its mission through a variety of services such as:

Parish veterans service offices serving every parish across the state connecting veterans with all of their earned state and federal benefits

Five welcoming veterans homes that provide long-term residential care for veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents

Five veterans cemeteries providing dignified final resting places for veterans, their spouses and eligible dependent children

LaVetCorps student veteran centers operating on Louisiana college and university campuses to help veterans successfully transition home to their communities

Military Family Assistance Fund can provide financial support to Louisiana veterans, including members of the Louisiana National Guard and Reserves, and their families facing financial hardships (Certain criteria apply.)

Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal is available to all Louisiana veterans who have been honorably discharged, and to the families of those killed in action

Approves GI Bill for eligible education and on-the-job training programs providing tuition, books and housing assistance for veterans

Outreach initiatives including veteran homelessness and suicide prevention, women veteran programming and support for Blue and Gold Star families

To learn more about these and other LDVA programs and services, please visit our website at www.vetaffairs.la.gov or call 225.219.5000.

Parish Veterans Service Offices

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs maintains parish veterans service offices throughout the state ensuring Louisiana veterans and their families receive the assistance they need right in their local community.

Offices are staffed by LDVA veterans assistance counselors (VACs) who are trained and accredited through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans with all aspects of their state and federal benefits.

VACs are usually a veteran's first point of contact for benefits and eligibility questions. All information remains strictly confidential.

For a complete listing of all LDVA parish veterans service offices, please visit www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations.

For a complete listing of federal VA benefits available to veterans, spouses and dependents, please visit www.va.gov/benefits.

DID YOU KNOW?

VA Benefits in the State of Louisiana

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 282,999 Louisiana veterans and their families received \$1,662,875,000 in VA compensation and pension in Fiscal Year 2021.

Find your LDVA veterans assistance counselor to discuss benefits by visiting www.vetaffairs.la.gov or calling 225.219.5000.



Contact Your Local Parish Veterans Service Office

Acadia Parish 337.788.7539	Morehouse Parish 318.283.0841
Allen Parish 337.639.4370	Natchitoches Parish 318.357.3106
Ascension Parish (Gonzales) 225.644.7475	Orleans Parish 504.658.2930
Ascension Parish (Donaldsonville) 225.474.2012	Ouachita Parish 318.362.5137/3002
Assumption Parish 985.369.6335	Plaquemines Parish 504.934.6110
Avoyelles Parish 318.253.9437	Pointe Coupee Parish 225.638.5535
Beauregard Parish 337.463.7305	Rapides Parish 318.487.5743
Bienville Parish 318.263.7419	Red River Parish 318.932.4911
Bossier Parish 318.741.8391/92	Richland Parish 318.728.2472
Caddo Parish 318.676.7540	Sabine Parish 318.256.4131
Calcasieu Parish 337.491.2312	St. Bernard Parish 504.324.7982
Caldwell Parish 318.649.2552	St. Charles Parish 985.783.2221
Cameron Parish 337.491.2312	St. Helena Parish 225.222.6202
Catahoula Parish 318.744.5601	St. James Parish 225.869.3643
Claiborne Parish 318.927.3077	St. John the Baptist Parish 985.479.4080
Concordia Parish 318.757.4952	St. Landry Parish (Opelousas) 337.948.0238
DeSoto Parish 318.872.4325	St. Landry Parish (Eunice) 337.457.5706
East Baton Rouge Parish 225.342.5248	St. Martin Parish 337.332.8316
East Carroll Parish 318.559.4887	St. Mary Parish 337.828.5047
East Feliciana Parish 225.634.5265	St. Tammany Parish (Slidell) 985.645.3500
Evangeline Parish 337.363.3862	St. Tammany Parish (Covington) 985.893.6201
Franklin Parish 318.435.2141	Tangipahoa Parish (Hammond) 985.602.9085
Grant Parish 318.627.3023	Tangipahoa Parish (Kentwood) 985.229.3451
Iberia Parish 337.373.0001	Tensas Parish 318.766.3542
Iberville Parish 225.687.2714	Terrebonne Parish 985.857.3626
Jackson Parish 318.259.2100	Union Parish 318.368.3271
Jefferson Parish (Jefferson) 504.731.4580/81	Vermilion Parish 337.893.2072
Jefferson Parish (Marrero) 504.349.5937/38	Vernon Parish 337.238.6401
Jefferson Davis Parish (Vets Home) 337.824.2829	Washington Parish (Bogalusa) 985.732.6607
Jefferson Davis Parish (Fairgrounds) 337.824.7301	Washington Parish (Franklinton) 985.839.3497
Lafayette Parish 337.262.5628	Webster Parish (Minden) 318.371.3045
Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux) 985.447.0968	Webster Parish (Springhill) 318.539.5338
Lafourche Parish (Mathews) 985.447.0968	West Baton Rouge Parish 225.342.6686
LaSalle Parish 318.992.2259	West Carroll Parish 318.428.2671
Lincoln Parish 318.251.4142	West Feliciana Parish 225.634.5265
Livingston Parish 225.686.3295	Winn Parish 318.628.4584
Madison Parish 318.574.3870	

Education Benefits

State Approving Agency

LDVA's State Approving Agency helps make the GI Bill work. SAA facilitates the efforts in promoting and safeguarding quality education and training programs for veterans or eligible individuals, ensuring greater education and training opportunities for veterans, and protecting the integrity of the GI Bill.

SAA works hand-in-hand with other organizations to make the GI Bill the best possible educational assistance program for our nation's veterans. SAA works with government agencies, Congress, schools and employers to ensure that veterans have access to well-managed, ethical programs they can trust to help them achieve their goals.

To learn more about these and other education benefits, please contact your nearest parish veterans service office, the school certifying official at the learning institution of your choosing or visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

This is an education benefit program for service members and veterans who served on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued after Aug. 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program from training pursued before that date. Eligibility requirements apply.

Forever GI Bill

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act allows GI Bill benefits to continue “forever” for eligible veterans discharged after Jan. 1, 2013. This act affects education benefits for certain dependents as well as Guard and Reserve service members. Please contact your nearest parish veterans service office for more information.

Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Improvement Act of 2020

This includes Sec. 1001: Improvements to Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Program of DVA; Sec. 1002: Expansion of eligibility for FRY Scholarship to Children and Spouses of certain deceased members of the Armed Forces; Sec. 1005: Requirements for in-state tuition; Sec. 1021: Charge to entitlement to educational assistance for individuals who do not transfer credits from certain closed or disapproved programs of education; and Sec. 1102: Continuation of Benefits during COVID-19.

Yellow Ribbon GI Bill Education Enhancement Program

The Yellow Ribbon Program can help you pay for higher out-of-state, private school or graduate school tuition that the Post-9/11 GI Bill doesn't cover. Eligibility requirements apply.

Montgomery GI Bill

VA educational benefits may be used while the service member is on active duty or after the service member's separation from active duty with a fully honorable military discharge. Eligibility requirements apply.

Veteran GI Bill Apprenticeship and OJT Program

This program offers an alternative way to use GI Bill education and training benefits. Eligibility requirements apply.

Licensing and Certification

This may open new doors to employment by getting licensed or certified as a mechanic, medical technician, attorney or other professional position. Often required for work in certain fields, these tests may be eligible for GI Bill reimbursement. Eligibility requirements apply.

Survivors and Dependents Education (Chapter 35)

These benefits provide education and training opportunities to dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition, or who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition. Eligibility requirements apply.

Louisiana Title 29 Dependents' Educational Assistance

Louisiana offers education assistance to children of veterans granted at least a 90% service-connected rating, including Individual Unemployability (excluding temporary ratings). Spouses and children of veterans who have died due to a service-connected condition may also qualify. Veterans must meet residency requirements.

Louisiana In-State Tuition Status

In-state tuition status is granted to veterans and active-duty military who seek to attend any Louisiana public college or university. Eligibility requirements apply.

To learn more about education benefits, please visit www.vetaffairs.la.gov or call 225.219.5000.



Employment Assistance and Business Resources

Employment Assistance



Louisiana State Civil Service

Louisiana State Civil Service awards a five- to 10-point preference in original appointment to veterans who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces under certain circumstances. For more information, or to see current openings, please visit www.civilservice.louisiana.gov or call 866.783.5462.



Louisiana Business and Career Solution Centers

The Louisiana Workforce Commission operates local centers across the state to assist veterans in finding employment and making career choices, including apprenticeship programs. For more information, please visit www.laworks.net or call 800.259.5154.



Federal VA Work Study Program

This program is available to qualifying veterans or their dependents who are utilizing VA education benefits and are currently enrolled as full-time students. For more information, please visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill or call 800.698.2411.

Federal VA Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)

A veteran may receive Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) services to help with job training, education, employment accommodations, resume development and job seeking skills coaching. Other services may be provided to assist veterans and service members in starting their own businesses or independent living services for those who are severely disabled and unable to work in traditional employment. For more information, please visit www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/ or call 800.698.2411.



Federal Civil Service

Federal law grants a five- and 10-point preference to veterans who meet certain criteria when they apply for federal jobs. For more information, please visit www.fedshirevets.gov or call 202.606.7304.

Business Owner Resources



Louisiana Veterans First Business Initiative

The Louisiana Veterans First Business Initiative, championed by Gov. John Bel Edwards, was created to honor the sacrifice that Louisiana veterans have made by recognizing businesses owned by a veteran, active-duty or reserve military or Gold Star spouse. The program will allow for veterans, active-duty or reserve military or Gold Star spouses who have a 51% ownership in a business to apply for and gain certification to recognize and promote their businesses. In addition, a searchable database is provided for anyone seeking to patronize a veteran, active-duty or reserve military or Gold Star spouse business. For more information, please visit www.laveteransfirst.org or call 225.342.3000.



Pathway to Assist Veteran Entrepreneurs (PAVE)

The Pathway to Assist Veteran Entrepreneurs (PAVE) program offers Louisiana veterans the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills that are necessary to effectively start or manage a business. PAVE consists of on-demand online training, a virtual entrepreneurship boot camp and access to ongoing business programs and resources. The virtual training expands on the topics of starting a business, securing financing and developing a sales strategy. For more information, please visit www.opportunitylouisiana.com/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/pathway-to-assist-veteran-entrepreneurs or call 225.342.3000.



Veteran Initiative (LAVETBIZ)

Louisiana's Veteran Initiative (LAVETBIZ) is a certification program that is designed to help eligible Louisiana veteran-owned and service-connected disabled-veteran-owned small businesses gain greater access to purchasing and contracting opportunities that are available at the state government level. For more information, please visit www.opportunitylouisiana.com/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/veteran-initiative or call 225.342.3000.

geauxBIZ

geauxBIZ is a one-stop site for launching a new business in the State of Louisiana. After creating an account, business owners can reserve a business name as well as register a business with the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office, the Louisiana Department of Revenue and the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Additionally, you can also use geauxBIZ to produce a list of possible federal, state and local licenses and permits required for your business. For more information, please visit www.geauxBIZ.com or call 225.925.4704.



State of Louisiana Veterans Benefits



Louisiana has a long tradition of supporting its military, veterans and their families. The state has a number of programs, services and benefits that honor veterans, some of which are listed below.

Tax Benefits

Louisiana veterans enjoy a number of tax benefits including:

Military Retiree Pay Tax Exemption: Military retirement benefits are exempt from Louisiana state taxation.

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

Homestead Exemption: Qualifying veterans can receive additional tax benefits on their homestead exemption. Please visit your local parish Assessor's Office to learn more.

Veteran Designation and Discounts on Louisiana Drivers' Licenses and IDs

Louisiana veterans can now be recognized through a special "VETERAN" designation on their official Louisiana driver's license or ID. Proof of veteran status is required. For more information, please visit www.expresslane.org or your local Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles.

Louisiana veterans may also qualify for special discounts or waivers on fees for drivers' licenses or IDs. For more information, please locate your local LDVA parish veterans service office at www.vetaffairs.la.gov or call 225.219.5000. Waiver may not apply at privatized offices which handle Office of Motor Vehicles business.

"Support Our Veterans" and Other Specialty Louisiana License Plates

The "Support Our Veterans" license plate is available for purchase for a one-time fee of \$25 at all Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicle locations. The "Support Our Troops" license plate is also available for an annual fee of \$25. Proceeds from both plates support the Military Family Assistance Fund. A listing of all military license plates can be found at <https://expresslane.dps.louisiana.gov/SpecialPlatesPublic/SpecialPlatesViewer.aspx>. For more information, please visit www.expresslane.org or your local Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles.

Disabled Veteran Parking at Louisiana Airports



Veterans who have been granted a service-connected rating of at least 50% may be eligible for free parking at Louisiana airports for up to 10 days. Please locate your local LDVA parish veterans service office at www.vetaffairs.la.gov or call 225.219.5000 to complete the required documentation.

Requirements may vary by airport.

Disabled Veteran Parking at Port of New Orleans Cruise Terminal

Veterans who have been granted a service-connected rating of at least 50% are eligible for free cruise terminal parking at the Port of New Orleans for seven days. The disabled veteran must have a military honor license plate or a completed certificate from LDVA certifying his/her service-connected disability of 50% or more. For more information, please locate your local LDVA parish veterans service office at www.vetaffairs.la.gov or call 225.219.5000.

Hunting, Fishing and State Parks

Louisiana and non-resident veterans can enjoy discounts and fee waivers for hunting and fishing licenses as well as entrance to Louisiana state parks. Certain qualifications apply. For more information, please locate your local LDVA parish veterans service office at www.vetaffairs.la.gov or call 225.219.5000.



MFA, Honor Medal and LaVetCorps

Military Family Assistance Fund (MFA)



The Military Family Assistance Fund (MFA) can provide financial support to Louisiana veterans, National Guard and Reserve service members and their families experiencing certain unexpected financial hardships. Specific restrictions and requirements apply.

To apply for MFA funds, please complete the application and submit with all required supporting documentation. An online application is available at www.vetaffairs.la.gov/mfa as well as a printable application.

Donations to the Military Family Assistance Fund are tax deductible. Those interested in making a donation can do so:

- online at <https://www.la.egov.com/dva/mfadonations/>;
- by mail to Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 making the check payable to Military Family Assistance Fund;
- at the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles when making application for or renewing a driver's license; or
- on your state tax return by checking the MFA box.

For more information, please visit www.vetaffairs.la.gov/mfa or call 225.219.5000.

Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal

The Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal was created to honor, recognize and thank Louisiana veterans for their honorable military service. Medals are available to all honorably discharged Louisiana veterans and to the families of those killed in action.

The Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal is available with a blue ribbon for honorable discharge; a purple ribbon for Purple Heart recipients; a black ribbon for Prisoners of War; and a yellow ribbon for those killed in action.

To apply for the Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal, please submit your completed application along with a copy of your DD-214 or discharge papers showing character of service to LDVA. To find the application, please visit www.vetaffairs.la.gov/benefit/louisiana-veterans-honor-medal. An online application is available as well as a printable application. For more information, please visit www.vetaffairs.la.gov or call 225.219.5000.



LaVetCorps



AmeriCorps

veterans and their families.

LaVetCorps is a partnership between the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs and AmeriCorps. Louisiana is a national leader in growing this program that serves its student

Our LaVetCorps navigators work in student veteran centers on public and private college and university campuses across Louisiana to personally help student veterans access the state and federal benefits they have earned. Each navigator is an AmeriCorps service member with a primary objective to help student veterans transition home from service, graduate and become leaders in their communities.

In Louisiana, nearly 10,000 veterans and their dependents bring in more than \$168 million in federal dollars to Louisiana's higher education communities each year through GI Bill funding. Today, more than 800 LDVA employees devote each day to providing comprehensive care and quality service to Louisiana's 283,000 veterans and their families with regard to education, benefits, health care, long-term care and burial honors. Through LaVetCorps, Louisiana's student veterans and their dependents have direct access to these services on campus.

Aside from working with student veterans, navigators also provide training and support to faculty and staff to increase awareness of student veterans' needs and veteran culture. Additionally, navigators organize community service projects benefitting both on and off campus veterans where veterans can serve alongside others in service above self to their community.

For more information, visit www.vetaffairs.la.gov/lavetcorps or call 225.219.5000.



Veterans Homes

Veterans Homes



The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs operates five veterans homes across the state. The homes are located in Jackson, Monroe, Bossier, Reserve and Jennings. Our staff members provide care to honorably discharged veterans, spouses of veterans and Gold Star parents. We offer personalized, rehabilitative and restorative health care in a safe, clean, home-like environment.

We provide:

- short and long-term care
- 24-hour nursing care in a secure environment
- dedicated, tenured staff
- three hot meals and snacks daily with accommodations for special dietary needs
- rehabilitation services including physical, occupational and speech therapy
- psychiatric counseling to help reduce PTSD and make adjustments to congregate living
- medication management
- individualized care planning to increase independence
- Medicare-certified beds for skilled nursing facility care
- cognitive impairment unit for Alzheimer's disease or dementia-related diagnoses
- dynamic activity program with a wide variety of entertainment, games and travel
- on-site barber and beauty salon



There is no monthly fee for veterans with a service-connected disability rating between 70-100%. Veterans approved after admission for Pension with Aid and Attendance* may be eligible to receive the monthly Care and Maintenance fee** from the federal VA for payment to the home. Veterans' spouses and Gold Star parents are eligible for admission with a monthly fee of \$4,500.***

*A veteran is not eligible for Pension with Aid and Attendance unless he/she served in a wartime era.

**The monthly Care and Maintenance fee is set by the federal VA and changes periodically.

***All fees subject to change.

Louisiana Veterans Home

4739 Highway 10
Jackson, LA 70748
225.634.5265
225.634.4057 fax
www.facebook.com/LVH.la.gov/

Northeast Louisiana Veterans Home

6700 Highway 165 North
Monroe, LA 71203
318.362.4206
318.362.4241 fax
www.facebook.com/NELVH.la.gov/

Northwest Louisiana Veterans Home

3130 Arthur Ray Teague Parkway
Bossier City, LA 71112
318.741.2763
318.741.2783 fax
www.facebook.com/NWL VH.la.gov/

Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home

4080 W. Airline Highway
Reserve, LA 70084
985.479.4080
985.479.4090 fax
www.facebook.com/SELVH.la.gov/

Southwest Louisiana Veterans Home

1610 Evangeline Road
Jennings, LA 70546
337.824.2829
337.824.2581 fax
www.facebook.com/SWLVH.la.gov/



Our veterans homes are home to a diverse group of individuals including men and women who have served in conflicts including World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War. Many are decorated from their service and hold Purple Hearts, among other decorations.

For more information including a listing of admission requirements, please visit www.vetaffairs.la.gov/benefit-category/veterans-homes/ or call 225.219.5005.



Veterans Cemeteries

Veterans Cemeteries

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs operates five veterans cemeteries located across the state offering a variety of burial options for veterans, spouses and dependent children. The cemeteries are located in Leesville, Rayville, Keithville, Slidell and Jennings. Each location features beautiful and spacious grounds, a covered shelter for committal services and a Carillon Bell Tower.

The military service requirements for burial in LDVA veterans cemeteries are in accordance with the eligibility standards set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration. Burial benefits may include the following: gravesites for casketed or cremated remains, columbarium wall for cremated remains, headstones or markers, opening and closing of graves and perpetual care.



Burial of an eligible veteran is at no cost to the veteran. A modest fee is charged at the time of interment for spouses and dependent children of eligible veterans.

Each veteran and eligible dependent are entitled to a committal service. These services are not a funeral and are held in an open-air pavilion lasting 15 to 30 minutes. The service consists of a vehicle procession, a committal prayer and military honors, if the deceased is a veteran. No one goes to the gravesite

on the day of the committal. Due to time constraints, we suggest holding a funeral, memorial or celebration of life for your loved one either before or after the committal service.

Our cemetery staff also hold burial honor ceremonies for unclaimed veterans. Working with local coroners and sheriffs, our cemetery and benefits staff partner to identify veterans who have no known relatives. These veterans are given a proper burial and a final resting place of honor with the support of the community and veterans service organizations.

Interested in being a volunteer? There are several events where cemetery staff could use a hand. These days are before, on and after Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Wreaths Across America Day.

For more information about our veterans cemeteries, or volunteer opportunities, visit www.vetaffairs.la.gov/benefit-category/burials-memorials/ or call 225.219.5000.

For more information on military burial honors, see the Resources page of this guidebook.



Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery

3348 University Parkway
Leesville, LA 71446
337.238.6405
337.238.6448 fax
www.facebook.com/CLVC.la.gov/

Northeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery

2413 Highway 425
Rayville, LA 71269
318.728.4346
318.728.5921 fax
www.facebook.com/NELVC.la.gov/

Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery

7970 Mike Clark Road
Keithville, LA 71047
318.925.0612
318.925.5521 fax
www.facebook.com/NWLVC.la.gov/

Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery

34888 Grantham College Road
Slidell, LA 70460
985.646.6458
985.646.6481 fax
www.facebook.com/SELVC.la.gov/

Southwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery

1620 Evangeline Road
Jennings, LA 70546
337.246.7094/95
337.246.7096 fax
www.facebook.com/SWLVC.la.gov/



Veterans Outreach

Gold Star Mothers and Families Program



Our mission is to raise awareness and easily provide access to resources for Gold Star Mothers and Families. We ensure Gold Star family members are aware of changes and availability in benefits, special events and other entitlements such as the Fry Scholarship and Dependent's Educational Assistance Program. The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs holds a Gold Star Mothers and Families Recognition Ceremony annually in September.

Below are resources for Gold Star Families:

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
www.taps.org/

National Resource Directory
<https://nrd.gov/>

VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Survivors
www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/

Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance
www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance/

Louisiana Blue Star Mothers Support Program



The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs fully supports and provides assistance to Blue Star Mothers and their families. We often work together with Blue Star Mothers chapters across the state to conduct ceremonies and provide support. There are numerous chapters of the Blue Star Mothers in Louisiana, and these chapters hold annual events around the state that support Blue Star family members as well as Gold Star Mothers and Families.

Louisiana Blue Star Mothers, Chapter 1: president@bluestarmoms.net

Louisiana Blue Star Mothers, Chapter 6: jmewatson2@yahoo.com

Louisiana Blue Star Mothers, Geaux 7 Chapter: president.la7@bluestarmothers.us

Suicide Prevention



The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention program promotes and supports organizations that work to educate and train participants in becoming better advocates to prevent suicide. Each year we hold our annual Suicide Prevention Summit in the month of September in conjunction with National Suicide Prevention Month. We will continue to work diligently with our partners in order to ensure suicide prevention and best practices remain a priority.

Veterans Crisis Line: 988 or www.veteranscrisisline.net/

Veteran-Informed Safety Intervention & Outreach Network: www.visioncoalition.net/

VA Suicide Prevention: www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/

Veteran Homelessness Prevention

We are dedicated to providing support to all veterans including unsheltered veterans. We work with a myriad of organizations to house and stabilize homeless veterans. There are many organizations that provide homeless veterans with services such as transitional and permanent housing, payment of rent and/or utilities, houseware items, automotive repairs, employment search assistance, resume writing, food assistance, bus passes, life skill training and mail services.

Volunteers of America South Central Louisiana: 225.387.0061, www.voa.org/offices/volunteers-of-america-greater-baton-rouge

Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana: 504.482.2130, www.voasela.org/

Volunteers of America Alexandria and Central Louisiana: 318.442.8026

Volunteers of America Lafayette and Acadiana Regional Office: 337.234.5715

Volunteers of America Lake Charles and Southwest Louisiana: 337.497.0034

Elle Foundation: 318.674.9550, <https://theellefoundationlouisiana.com/>

Hope Center: 504.363.4034, www.hopecenterla.org/

Start Corporation: 985.333.2020, www.startcorp.org/

The WellSpring: 318.651.9314, www.startcorp.org/

Women Veterans Outreach



The women veterans outreach program honors the contributions of Louisiana's 30,000 women veterans. LDVA will continue to hold events that highlight our women veterans including luncheons, ceremonies and conferences. Each spring, our department holds its annual Louisiana Women Veterans Health Care Symposium to educate women veterans on the health care options available to them. We also attend events hosted by women veterans groups and offer support to them as well.

Center for Women Veterans
www.va.gov/womenvet/

Women Veterans Program Manager
Alexandria VA Medical Center
318.466.2729

Women Veterans Program Manager
Overton Brooks VA Medical Center
318.990.5996

Women Veterans Program Manager
Southeast Louisiana Healthcare System (New Orleans VA Medical Center)
800.935.8387, ext. 66215

Women Veterans Groups
Louisiana Women Veterans: louisianawomenveterans@yahoo.com
Women Veterans of the Ark-La-Tex: womenveteransofthearklatex@gmail.com
Women Veterans Network: www.wovenwomenvets.org/

Incarcerated Veterans, Veterans Court, VA Commission and Veteran Service Organizations

Incarcerated Veterans

VA can pay certain benefits to veterans who are incarcerated in a federal, state or local penal institution; however, the amount VA can pay depends on the type of benefit and reason for incarceration. The benefits most commonly affected by imprisonment are VA disability compensation benefits, VA disability pension benefits, VA education benefits and apportionment to spouse or children. Veterans may inform VA to have their benefits resumed upon their release.

Incarcerated veterans do not forfeit their eligibility for medical care; however, current regulations restrict VA from providing hospital and outpatient care to an incarcerated veteran who is an inmate in an institution of another government agency when that agency has a duty to give the care or services. This does not apply to veterans who are released from a prison or jail into a temporary housing program such as a community residential re-entry center or halfway house. VA may provide care once the veteran has been released from the penal institution. Veterans interested in applying for enrollment into the VA health care system should contact the nearest VA health care facility upon their release.

LDVA has trained, accredited veterans assistance counselors available in every parish who can help veterans and their family members with all federal and state benefits questions including service-connected and non-service connected disability benefits, compensation, pension, education, health care and more. Veterans may also contact the federal VA directly for information about VA health care.

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs
Incarcerated Veterans Program
Tara Jones
P.O. Box 94095 · Baton Rouge, LA 70804
225.219.5000 · veteran@la.gov

VAHCS Healthcare
for Re-entry Veterans
Sabrina Bordelon, LCSW
P.O. Box 69004 · Alexandria, LA 71306
318.466.4626 · sabrina.bordelon@va.gov

Veterans Court



Louisiana’s veterans court programs are specialty courts focused on helping veterans in the criminal justice system to obtain the needed resources to once again lead productive lives. The courts offer help accessing rehabilitation, employment, housing, food and other needs while helping veterans resolve their criminal charges.

Veterans are placed with a “battle buddy” who is a veteran from within the community. They act as an accountability partner for each individual throughout the program. The Sheriff’s Office, public defenders and district attorney also work closely with veterans court participants.

The veterans that choose to participate in the program come out with more tools to help them cope, a stronger support system and a second chance to get it right.

Our department supports all veterans courts including those in the 14th (Lake Charles), 21st (Livingston) and 22nd (Covington) Judicial District Courts.

Louisiana Veterans Affairs Commission

The Louisiana Veterans Affairs Commission serves to advise the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs and the Governor on matters relating to the welfare of veterans. Members are nominated by veteran service organizations and must be residents of Louisiana who were honorably discharged from military service.

The current members of the Louisiana Veterans Affairs Commission are:

Richard Adams
At-Large Member

Sulanda V. Lonnnette
At-Large Member

Elvin R. “Ray” Bass
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Mary Mills
American Legion

Michael R. Beissinger
At-Large Member

Richard A. O’Brien
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Rudolph A. “Rudy” Bourg Sr.
AMVETS

Deron G. Santiny
Disabled American Veterans

Paul Hermann Jr.
Disabled American Veterans

Veterans Affairs commissioners can be contacted by calling LDVA headquarters at 225.219.5000.

Louisiana Veteran Service Organizations

There are many veterans service organizations with chapters and posts throughout Louisiana. Below you will find a short listing. For a more complete listing of veterans service organizations, please visit www.vetaffairs.la.gov/resources.

American Legion
225.219.1944
adjutant@lalegion.org
www.lalegion.org

Marine Corps League
337.523.9222
gsuiremcl@outlook.com
www.mclla.org

AMVETS
301.683.4001
amvets@amvets.org
www.amvets.org/louisiana/

Military Order of the Purple Heart
337.278.4974
lacmdrmoph@gmail.com
www.purpleheart.org

Blinded Veterans Association
337.781.2797
gschoelerman@gmail.com
www.bva.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars
225.928.5025
lavfw@aol.com
www.vfwdeptla.org

Catholic War Veterans of the USA
504.738.9339
uscglj@gmail.com
www.cww.org

Vietnam Veterans of America
337.529.7473
courvilleterry@yahoo.com
www.vva.org

Disabled American Veterans
225.219.1046
adjutant@davdol.org
www.davdol.org

Wounded Warrior Project
888.997.2586
www.woundedwarriorproject.org/contact-us
www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Veteran Population

Where Louisiana Veterans Live

According to the federal VA*, there are 282,999 veterans living in Louisiana. The top five most populated parishes are East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, Caddo and St. Tammany. The information below provides a breakdown of not only how many veterans live in each parish, but the dollar amount of compensation and pension those veterans receive on an annual basis.

*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs FY21 Summary of Expenditures by State

Parish	Pop	Comp and Pen	Parish	Pop	Comp and Pen
Acadia	3,105	\$15,536,000	Madison	572	\$3,005,000
Allen	1,202	\$8,742,000	Morehouse	1,534	\$10,198,000
Ascension	6,573	\$36,094,000	Natchitoches	2,026	\$14,671,000
Assumption	1,097	\$4,901,000	Orleans	19,790	\$101,224,000
Avoyelles	2,533	\$18,742,000	Ouachita	10,168	\$61,031,000
Beauregard	3,361	\$36,736,000	Plaquemines	1,740	\$9,484,000
Bienville	981	\$6,325,000	Pointe Coupee	1,005	\$6,404,000
Bossier	12,282	\$102,872,000	Rapides	10,209	\$83,989,000
Caddo	18,256	\$108,175,000	Red River	399	\$2,205,000
Calcasieu	13,921	\$67,329,000	Richland	1,059	\$6,491,000
Caldwell	581	\$3,944,000	Sabine	1,728	\$10,916,000
Cameron	414	\$466,000	St. Bernard	2,040	\$8,682,000
Catahoula	498	\$3,383,000	St. Charles	2,781	\$13,587,000
Claiborne	882	\$4,612,000	St. Helena	554	\$2,220,000
Concordia	1,002	\$6,219,000	St. James	1,036	\$6,319,000
DeSoto	1,817	\$11,371,000	St. John the Baptist	2,554	\$16,370,000
East Baton Rouge	24,368	\$113,549,000	St. Landry	4,367	\$32,638,000
East Carroll	257	\$1,299,000	St. Martin	2,719	\$15,752,000
East Feliciana	1,096	\$8,204,000	St. Mary	2,969	\$11,736,000
Evangeline	1,545	\$9,095,000	St. Tammany	17,616	\$120,973,000
Franklin	1,004	\$6,477,000	Tangipahoa	7,284	\$49,149,000
Grant	1,489	\$11,803,000	Tensas	264	\$1,263,000
Iberia	4,945	\$20,534,000	Terrebonne	6,123	\$27,282,000
Iberville	1,606	\$8,857,000	Union	1,642	\$8,941,000
Jackson	1,124	\$5,959,000	Vermilion	3,195	\$15,256,000
Jefferson	22,851	\$114,470,000	Vernon	8,453	\$68,700,000
Jefferson Davis	1,691	\$12,085,000	Washington	3,024	\$20,181,000
Lafayette	14,331	\$76,824,000	Webster	2,570	\$17,406,000
Lafourche	4,286	\$18,531,000	West Baton Rouge	1,287	\$8,619,000
LaSalle	789	\$5,234,000	West Carroll	538	\$3,386,000
Lincoln	2,472	\$11,470,000	West Feliciana	669	\$2,726,000
Livingston	7,907	\$37,817,000	Winn	818	\$4,412,000

If you have any questions or concerns about your benefits and/or claim, please contact one of our veterans assistance counselors at a parish veterans service office. Locate your nearest office at www.vetaffairs.com/locations/ or call 225.219.5000.

VA

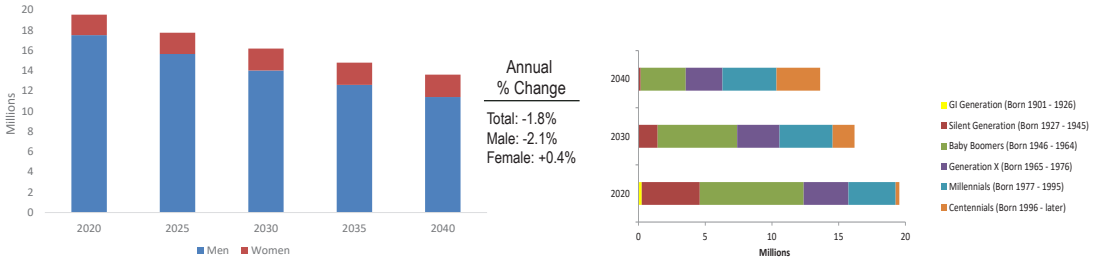


U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veteran Population Projections 2020-2040

The Veteran Population Projection Model 2018 (VetPop2018) provides the latest official Veteran population projections from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VetPop2018 contains projections for each fiscal year from 2018 to 2048.

The total Veteran population is predicted to decline from 19.5 million in 2020 to 13.6 million in 2048

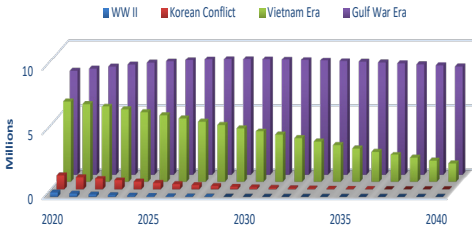


Race and Ethnicity

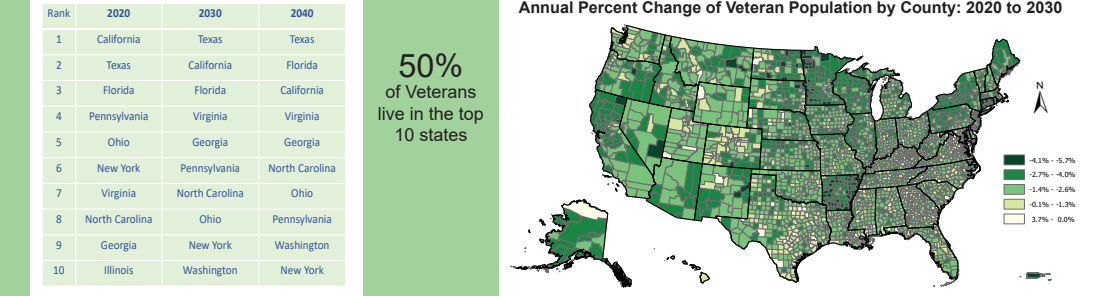


Gulf War Era Veterans are 50% of all war Veterans

2020	
Gulf War Era	8,051,000
WWII	326,000
Korean Conflict	1,096,000
Vietnam Era	6,258,000



Where Veterans Live



Resources



State Resources

Gov. John Bel Edwards
www.gov.la.gov

Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

www.gohsep.la.gov

Louisiana Legislature
www.legis.la.gov

Louisiana State Government
www.louisiana.gov

DD-214

To obtain a copy of a DD-214, most veterans, or their next of kin, can get a free copy by visiting their local parish veterans service office. Find your office by visiting www.vetaffairs.com/locations/ or calling 225.219.5000. You can also request a copy from the National Archives at www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records.



Federal VA Resources

Federal VA Hospitals in Louisiana

Alexandria VA Medical Center
2495 Shreveport Highway, Pineville, LA 71360
318.473.0010

Southeast Louisiana Healthcare System (New Orleans VA Medical Center)
2400 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70119
800.935.8387

Overton Brooks VA Medical Center
510 E. Stoner Ave., Shreveport, LA 71101
318.221.8411

Federal VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Louisiana

Baton Rouge Outpatient Clinic (North Clinic), 225.761.3400
Baton Rouge Outpatient Clinic (South Clinic), 225.768.6419
Bogalusa VA Outpatient Clinic, 985.735.9029
Franklin VA Outpatient Clinic, 337.828.9092
Hammond VA Outpatient Clinic, 985.902.5100
Houma CBOC, 985.851.0188
Jennings Clinic, 337.785.4700
Lafayette CBOC Campus A, Specialty and Primary Care, 337.706.3415
Lafayette CBOC Campus B, Mental Health, 337.706.1940
Lake Charles CBOC, 337.475.9500
Leesville/Fort Polk CBOC, 337.392.3800
Monroe CBOC, 318.343.6100
Natchitoches CBOC, 318.357.3300
New Orleans VA Outpatient Clinic, 800.935.8387
St. John VA Outpatient Clinic, 985.479.6770
Knight Street Clinic, 318.990.4401
Slidell VA Outpatient Clinic, 985.690.2626

Federal VA Vet Centers in Louisiana

Alexandria Vet Center, 318.466.4327
Baton Rouge Vet Center, 225.761.3140
New Orleans Vet Center, 504.507.4977
Shreveport Vet Center, 318.861.1776

Federal VA Center for Minority Veterans (CMV)

202.461.6191
www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/

Federal VA Home Loan Program

Houston Regional Office (serves Louisiana)
Construction and Valuation, CV62.VBAHOU@va.gov
Loan Production, 362LP@va.gov
Native American Direct Loan, NADL@va.gov
www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/

Veterans Crisis Line

988 or 800.273.8255, press 1
text 838255
chat at www.va.gov
call TTY 800.799.4889

Other Resources

Military Burial Honors

Army
Casualty Assistance Section, Ft. Polk, 337.531.6316/1726

Navy
Naval Region SE, 800.326.9631

Air Force
NCOIC Barksdale AFB Honor Guard, 318.456.5246 or 318.564.8146

Marine Corps
Inspector Instructor Offices, 866.826.3628

Coast Guard
New Orleans, 504.253.6361 or 504.628.5270









P.O. Box 94095 · Baton Rouge, LA 70804
602 N. Fifth St. · Baton Rouge, LA 70802

877.GEAUX.VA (877.432.8982)
225.219.5000

veteran@la.gov

www.vetaffairs.la.gov

-  Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs
-  LDVA
-  La. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
-  Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs

This public document is published at a unit cost of 0.9679. 15,000 copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a total cost of \$14,518.90. The total cost of all printings of this document including reprints is \$14,518.90. This document was published by OTS-Production Support Services, 627 N. Fourth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 for the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs to be used as a resource material. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by state agencies established in R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.