VETERANS BENEFITS, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS; FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AND LOCAL RESOURCES

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

RESOURCE GUIDE

FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Under the Department of Veterans Affairs are five major programs: the Veterans Service and Benefits Program, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, the Veterans Cemetery and Memorial Program, Outreach and Advocacy Program, and the Maryland Veterans Trust.

CHANGING Maryland for the Better

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
George W. Owings, III, Secretary

Contact Us: mdveteransinfo@maryland.gov or 410-260-3838
Website: veterans.maryland.gov
Facebook: MDVeterans
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MARYLAND THANKS OUR VETERANS AND FAMILIES FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR STATE AND NATION

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
NUMBERS TO KNOW

The Veterans Crisis Line
For 24 hour crisis intervention call
800-273-8255 and press 1
Callers can also send a text message to 838255

Help for Homeless Veterans Hotline
If you need immediate housing assistance or if you are coordinating housing for a veteran call
877-424-3838 (877-4-AID-VET)

FROM THE GOVERNOR

With sincere gratitude, our administration would like to thank you for your dedicated military service. It is because of your commitment to this great nation that the freedoms we hold so dear are preserved.

As Governor, I am honored to serve this great state and its citizens and will continue to support initiatives that will make you proud to call Maryland your home.

"To our brave men and women who have served, thank you and welcome home."

Whether you are preparing to transition from active duty service or you are a military retiree, I encourage you to take a look at the information in this guide. It is a valuable tool to learn about the veteran programs Maryland has to offer.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs.

Larry Hogan, Governor
The State of Maryland

Governor Hogan with Korean War Veterans, Memorial Day 2015

FROM THE SECRETARY

On behalf of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs staff, welcome home and thank you for your service. In the past year, I've traveled the entire State to meet with and speak to many of our over 425,000 veterans and family members in Maryland. It is a pleasure to serve as Secretary of this Department.

Secretary Owings with Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Director Sharon Mattia and members of Encounter Christian Center, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Volunteers, April 2015

The 2016 Resource Guide for Veterans and Families now includes more comprehensive information on benefits than ever before.
Please take time to read through the guide, visit our website, and contact us to learn more about veteran benefits in Maryland.
The Department continues to collaborate with federal, state, and local partners to ensure our delivery of services are seamless and we look forward to elevating these partnerships to better serve our veterans and families in the future. Our Department is honored to serve as a United States of America Vietnam War Commemorative Partner and to our Vietnam Era Veterans I extend a special welcome home.
We are making strides to innovate our outreach to younger returning veterans and look forward to meeting you in the communities in which you live, work, and are raising families. To all of our Maryland Veterans, if you have questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to reach out to our staff.

George W. Owings, III
Secretary

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ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

Understanding how veteran is defined is important when determining eligibility for programs, however some programs vary in their definition. This is the general definition. The complete definition can be found in Title 38 U.S.C. section 101.

"VETERAN" DEFINED

-A person who served on full time active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, other than active duty for training, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

-An individual who died while serving on active duty, or was disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while performing active duty for training or inactive duty training.

-Certain members of a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces.

-Certain members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (formerly the Coast and Geodetic Survey) and the regular or reserve Corps of the Public Health Service.

MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORD REQUESTS

Copies of discharge documents are required to verify eligibility for most benefits and services specific to military veterans. Discharge documents are required for admission to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland's Veteran Cemeteries Program, VA Claims, and a number of other services provided to veterans and their families.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, Baltimore Service Center, maintains an archive of DD214's for veterans who requested that a copy be sent to their State Department of Veterans Affairs at time of release from active duty beginning October 14, 1979 to present. To inquire if a copy of your DD214 is on file, please call 410-230-4444 ext. 6450.

World War II Veterans, who were Maryland residents at the time of entry into service may also call to see if a copy of their discharge is on file at the Baltimore War Memorial Building.

Veterans and next of kin can also request copies of records from the National Archives. For more information, visit www.archives.gov or call 1-866-272-6272, to access a Telecommunications Relay Service, dial 711

VA BENEFITS

Statistics show that veterans represented by accredited service organizations receive significantly greater disability benefits than their non-represented counterparts.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Service and Benefits Program provides assistance to the men and women who served in the Uniformed Services of the United States, their dependents, and survivors, in obtaining benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, State of Maryland and other programs for veterans and their families.

Located in communities throughout Maryland, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Benefits Specialists assist veterans and their eligible dependents in acquiring benefits. For assistance, contact the full time office most convenient to you. Appointments for satellite offices may be scheduled through the program office nearest the satellite location.

For veterans and dependents who receive our services, staff will track processing claims and assist with additional development requests made by the Veterans Benefits Administration. Once the claims process has been completed, staff will review the Veterans Benefits Administration decision and, if successful, review all applicable ancillary benefits.

During your initial visit with MDVA staff, they will:

- review military separation discharge documents and DD214's
- review the individual circumstances of service and your medical records
- review the VA system: the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, and the National Cemeteries Administration
- review the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs programs
- generate a disability compensation/pension claim based on medical evidence if warranted
- assist with developing, preparing and submission of the claim to the VA

"I felt like we were really a team with MY best interests in mind...I strongly encourage all veterans to take advantage of the benefits they've earned and the hospitality of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs."

-Navy SEAL Veteran, Vietnam

Track your claim with eBenefits

eBenefits is an online portal for veterans, service members, and their families to access and manage their benefits and personal information.
From eBenefits:
-Check the status of your claim
-Download your DD 214
-Transfer education benefits
-Update direct deposit information, and much more…

VISIT:
https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Service Program Office Locations

Baltimore: Regional Office
31 Hopkins Plaza, Room 3020
Baltimore, MD 21201
800-446-4926, ext. 6450

Bel Air
State Office Building
2 South Bond Street, 4th Floor
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-836-4900

Camp Springs
Harriet Hunter Building, 6420 Allentown Road
Camp Springs, MD 20748
301-248-0463

Carroll County Veterans Services Program
125 Stoner Avenue
Westminster, MD 21157
410-386-3800

Charlotte Hall
29431 Charlotte Hall Road., Room 211
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
240-577-7083

Cumberland
12501 Willowbrook Road., Room 2-014
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-759-5251/5252

Easton
11 South Harrison Street
Easton, MD 21601 (physical address)
P.O. Box 1148
Easton, MD 21601 (mailing address)
410-690-7181

Frederick
Multi-Service Center
100 West Patrick Street Rm 2120
Frederick, MD 21701
301-600-2155

Hagerstown
District Court
33 W. Washington Street, Room 201
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-791-0356

Laurel
Howard County Multi-Service Center
9900 Washington Blvd., Suite I
Laurel, MD 20723
410-313-0229

Rockville
Montgomery College, Counseling and Advising
Building, Room CB103
51 Mannakee Street
Rockville, MD 20850
240-567-5405

Salisbury
201 Baptist Street
Salisbury, MD 21801
410-713-3482

What if my claim for benefits is denied?

If the VA denies your claim for benefits,
or if you disagree with the rating,
contact the Veterans Benefits Specialist who
assisted with the claim to discuss available options.

Other Veteran Service Organizations Offering Assistance with Claim Representation

American Legion 410-230-4420
AMVETS (American Veterans) 410-230-4430
Disabled American Veterans 410-230-4440
Military Order of the Purple Heart 410-230-4460
Veterans of Foreign Wars 410-230-4480
Paralyzed Veterans of America 410-230-4470

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Satellite Office Locations

Call the Baltimore Regional Office
800-446-4926, ext. 6450 to schedule an appointment at these locations:
Baltimore VA Medical Center 10 North Greene Street, Baltimore
Ft. Meade VA Community Outpatient Clinic 2479 5th St., Ft. Meade
VA Loch Raven Community Living and Rehabilitation Center 3901 The Alameda, Baltimore

Call the Bel Air Full Time Office
410-836-4900 to schedule an appointment at these locations:
Aberdeen Proving Ground 4305 Susquehanna Avenue, Aberdeen
Perry Point VA Medical Center, Perry Point

Call the Cumberland Full Time Office
301-759-5251/5252 to schedule an appointment at this location:
American Legion Home 423 Memorial Drive, Oakland

Call the Easton Full Time Office
410-690-7181 to schedule an appointment at these locations:
County Office Building 501 Court Lane, Room 101, Cambridge
Queen Anne's County Senior Citizen's Center 4802 Main Street, Grasonville

Call the Salisbury Full Time Office
410-713-3482 to schedule an appointment at these locations:
Ocean Pines Library 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin
Snow Hill Library, 307 N. Washington Street, Pocomoke

COMPENSATION AND PENSION

Disability Compensation is a tax free monetary benefit paid to veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service.
Compensation may also be paid for post service disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service.

Veterans Pension is a tax free monetary benefit payable to low income wartime veterans.
Generally, a veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a wartime period to qualify for a VA Pension.
If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period.
In addition to meeting the minimum service requirements, the veteran must be age 65 or older, or totally and permanently disabled, or a patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, or receiving Social Security Disability Insurance or receiving Supplemental Security Income.

AID AND ATTENDANCE (A&A)

Veterans and survivors who are eligible for a VA pension and require the assistance of another person, or are housebound, may be eligible for an additional monetary benefit paid in addition to monthly pension.

The increased monthly pension amount may be added to a monthly pension amount if one of the following conditions are met, the veteran requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, the veteran is bedridden, the veteran is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, or the veterans eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

HOUSEBOUND

This increased monthly pension amount may be added to a monthly pension amount when the veteran is substantially confined to their immediate premises because of permanent disability.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, or of veterans whose death results from a service connected injury or disease, or of veterans whose death resulted from a non-service connected injury or disease and who were totally disabled from their service connected disabilities for certain time limits. Surviving spouses, surviving children and parents may be eligible.

DEATH PENSION

Survivors' (Death) Pension is a needs based benefit paid to the unmarried surviving spouse, or unmarried child, who meets certain age or disability requirements, of a deceased wartime veteran. The VA calculated income received from most sources is used to determine eligibility for Death Pension.

PRESUMPTIVE HEALTH CONDITIONS

The VA presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service. If a condition is diagnosed in a veteran in one of these groups, VA presumes the circumstances of their service caused the condition and compensation for disability can be awarded.

Veterans diagnosed with chronic diseases, such as arthritis, diabetes, and hypertension, and who are within one year of release from active duty are encouraged to apply for compensation.

Veterans diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) at any time after discharge from service and who have at least 90 days of continuous service, as well as veterans in the following groups are encouraged to apply for disability compensation: former POW's, Vietnam Veterans, Atomic Veterans, Gulf War Veterans and service members who were stationed at Camp Lejeune. VA will consider compensation claims based on exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987.

GULF WAR REGISTRY HEALTH EXAM

VA's Gulf War Registry Health Exam alerts Veterans to possible long-term 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. Contact your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator about getting a Gulf War Registry health exam. Learn more by visiting: http://veterans.maryland.gov/gulf-war-and-agent-orange-registry-health-exams/

AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY

Veterans who are eligible for the Gulf War Registry may also join the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, which includes additional data related to airborne hazards.

Registration participation is open to veterans or service members who served in: OEF/OIF/OND or in Djibouti, Africa, after September 11, 2001, or Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm or the Southwest Asia theater of operations after August 2, 1990.

The Southwest Asia theater of operations includes the following locations: Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, waters of the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, and the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

For more information and to register visit: veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry

AGENT ORANGE REGISTRY HEALTH EXAM

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. Learn more by visiting: http://veterans.maryland.gov/gulf-war-and-agent-orange-registry-health-exams/

Questions about these or any other VA benefits?
Call the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Service Program
at 800-446-4926 ext. 6450

BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

The following benefits are available to all veterans with a 0% Service Connected Disability and higher:

-VA medical treatment for any service connected condition
-VA Fee Basis card for treatment of service connected conditions at non-VA facilities (must be applied to and approved by the nearest VA medical facility)
-Service Disabled Veterans VA Life Insurance (with some restrictions)
-Federal Civil Service Preference and State and County preference for veterans only, subject to government approval
-Annual clothing allowance (prosthetic /wheelchair/skin conditions)
-Temporary total disability (100%) evaluation for VA approved hospitalization (with restrictions)
-Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) for loss of or loss of use of service connected lower/upper extremities, and other associated conditions

10% to 20% Service Connected in addition to the above:

-VA medical treatment for any condition (except dental) to include eye glasses and hearing aids based upon VA determined need
-Vocational Rehabilitation (with exceptions)
-VA home loan funding fee exemption
-Combat Related Special Compensation for military retires (CRSC)
-VA home improvement and structural alteration (HISA) grant (apply to your VA physician)
-Automobile grant (one time) and adaptive equipment (multiple times), must qualify under certain special monthly compensation provisions

30% Service Connected in addition to the above:

-Dependent allowance for spouse, children and dependent parents
-Aid and Attendance allowance for disabled spouse

50% Service Connected in addition to the above:

-No VA medical co-payments
-Golden Access Pass for federal parks
-Concurrent retired disability pay for military retirees

60% Service Connected in addition to the above:

-Increased compensation (total 100%) based upon unemployability

70% to 90% Service Connected in addition to the above:

-Increased compensation (total 100% evaluation) based upon unemployability with at least one service connected disability rated at 40%
-May be entitled to the full cost of nursing home care

100% Service Connected Schedular Rating or Total Disability Based Upon Unemployability in addition to the above:

-VA dental care
-VA sponsored education for dependents, Chapter 35, (must be permanent and total rated or service connected death)
-VA life insurance waiver of premiums (must be unable to work due to any disability or disabilities for a minimum six months prior to age 65)
-Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA) for dependents, must be permanently and total rated or service connected cause of death
-VA specially adapted housing and home adaptation grants (must qualify under strict special monthly compensation provisions)
-Maryland State Parks, Universal Disability Pass (must be permanent and total disabled)
-Complimentary lifetime hunting license
-Military commissary privileges and ID cards
-Property tax exemption, must be permanently and total rated or service connected cause of death

Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)
dors.maryland.gov

TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS

Acoustic Trauma in Military Service

Military service personnel are often exposed to many forms of acoustic (noise) trauma which may impair hearing.

Examples include:

-combat or simulated conditions (incoming/outgoing mortar and rocket fire, landmines, grenade blasts, artillery, machine gun and other weapon fire)
-aviators, flight line personnel, plan/helicopter/jet aircraft mechanics
-ship personnel in engine rooms, gun fire from ships, deep sea divers, radio/sonar operators
-other military duties requiring excess noise exposure

TINNITUS: A subjective ringing or buzzing in the ear or ears. A veteran must have written diagnosis on the hearing loss evaluation which states 'veteran has history of bilateral tinnitus and hearing loss which is more likely than not due to (specify the type of acoustic trauma in service).'

HEARING LOSS: A determination of impaired hearing must be conducted by a state licensed audiologist (VA or private) and must include a controlled speech discrimination test (Maryland CNC) and a pure tone audiometry test.

If medical records of treatment and/or evaluation for tinnitus and hearing loss exist for the time prior to, during, and after military service, bring the records, along with military discharge paperwork when meeting with a veterans benefits specialist.

Do you have questions about your VA benefits?

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has 11 Service Offices with Veterans Benefits Specialists ready to assist you.

Contact your closest full time office today.

Baltimore: Regional Office
800-446-4926, ext. 6450

Bel Air
410-836-4900

Camp Springs
301-248-0463

Carroll County Veterans Services Program
410-386-3800

Charlotte Hall
240-577-7083

Cumberland
301-759-5251/5252

Easton
410-690-7181

Frederick
301-600-2155

Hagerstown
301-791-0356

Laurel
410-313-0229

Rockville
240-567-5405

Salisbury
410-713-3482

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

CEMETERY BENEFITS

I recently had the privilege of burying my mother at the Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery and working with your staff there. We were met with genuine caring, compassion and love. They made a very difficult event much less difficult by their utmost professionalism.
-Son of a Veteran, on his mother's interment at Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery

The State of Maryland and the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs are honored to offer our veterans and their eligible dependents a final resting place at one of five state veterans cemeteries located throughout Maryland. ***The Cemetery Program*** is the largest of its kind in the nation, and has interred almost 100,000 veterans and dependents.

ELIGIBILITY

The Department follows criteria established by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration to determine eligibility for burial at a Maryland Veterans Cemetery. In addition to the National Cemetery Administration's requirements for veteran's eligibility, the Department also has a residency requirement of the veteran. See below for documentation requirements.

Documentation needed to determine eligibility:

Military service: A copy of an official military discharge document is usually sufficient to determine eligibility for burial. Discharge documentation is usually not needed for scheduling when a veteran or eligible dependent is already interred in a Maryland Veterans Cemetery.

Residency requirement (for the veteran): A discharge document indicating Maryland as the home of record, draft board records showing legal residence at time of entrance into military service, two years of tax assessments on property owned by veteran, nursing home, hospital or institutional records showing that upon admission the veteran's legal residence was in Maryland, two years of continuous Maryland tax records, Maryland school transcripts – 12 years or more continuous enrollment, up to date Maryland voting record, valid Maryland driver's license, Maryland utility bills, letter on an elected official's letter head verifying two years Maryland residency, recognized fraternal, civic or veterans organization official letterhead providing a record of 2 years residency, any other substantial evidence that may establish the 2 year residency requirement.

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
State Veterans Cemeteries

Cheltenham State Veterans Cemetery consists of 112-acres and was formerly used for agricultural purposes. Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery is conducting more than 825 burials each year and is the final resting place for over 23,300 Maryland veterans and their dependents. The cemetery opened for burial in July 1978 and is expected to provide a total of over 50,000 burial sites.

11301 Crain Highway
Cheltenham, MD 20623
301-372-6398

Crownsville State Veterans Cemetery consists of a 103-acre site, was originally used for farming, and is surrounded by a peaceful Severn River community. Near the center of the cemetery is a one-acre family cemetery dating back to 1875. The cemetery is retained by the heirs and assigns of the Carter family in perpetuity. The Crownsville Veterans Cemetery opened in 1980 and has interred more than 21,920 Maryland veterans and their dependents. When fully developed, the site is expected to provide more than 48,000 burial plots.

1122 Sunrise Beach Road
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-987-6320

Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery at Hurlock opened in December 1976 and has utilized approximately 6,940 of the 14,000 available burial sites. Donated by the citizens of Dorchester County, the site was formerly a 35-acre wheat field.

6827 East New Market Ellwood Road
Hurlock, MD 21643
410-943-3420

Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery is conducting more than 1,300 burials per year. Currently, this cemetery is the second busiest State Veterans Cemetery in the nation. Since December 1983, when the facility opened, more than 39,420 veterans and their dependents have selected this cemetery as a final resting place. Five phases of cemetery development are expected to provide approximately 46,000 burial sites at this location.

11501 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, MD 21117
410-363-6090

Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery is a 27-acre site located within the Rocky Gap State Park. Opened in June 1981, The Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery is one of the most picturesque cemeteries given the backdrop of mountains. Over 4,480 veterans and their eligible dependents are interred at the cemetery. Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery has approximately 6,000 available burial sites. Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Sergeant Robert W. Hartsock, is interred at this cemetery.

14205 Pleasant Valley Road, NE
Flintstone, MD 21530
301-777-2185

HOURS OF OPERATION AND VISITING

Interment services are conducted every 45 minutes, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:30 pm.

For visitors to our cemeteries the gates open every day of the year at 8:00 a.m. The gates close at 4:45 p.m. to allow visitors to exit the cemetery. The cemetery remains open until 8:00 p.m. on Memorial Day (the date of State observance).

BURIAL SCHEDULING

To schedule a burial in a Maryland State Veterans Cemetery, the veteran's family or survivors should furnish to the funeral director a copy of the veteran's military discharge documents and proof of his or her Maryland residency. The funeral director will contact the cemetery to receive a burial eligibility determination and to schedule a date and time for the burial services.

The funeral director or other person making interment arrangements for an eligible person should communicate immediately with the Superintendent of the nearest State Veterans Cemetery. They should furnish all pertinent data, including military service information, the claim number of any U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs claim, Social Security number and other information establishing legal residence within the State.

In each Maryland State Veterans Cemetery, a shelter is provided for committal services for reasons of public safety. All services in State Veterans Cemeteries are no longer than 20 minutes. If desired, the family may accompany the remains of a loved one to the assigned burial site and view the interment from the roadside where their safety can be assured.

CASKETS

The remains of a veteran or a member of their immediate family shall arrive at the cemetery and be interred in a casket that is acceptable for viewing in a funeral home establishment. Once the casket has entered the State Veterans Cemetery, it may not be opened or stored in a cemetery building pending final determination of eligibility. All viewings of the veteran's or family member's remains are to be conducted at a funeral home or other establishment outside the State Veterans Cemetery.

GRAVE MARKERS

A permanent grave marker with an appropriate inscription will be furnished for each veteran or eligible dependent by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Each grave site in a State Veterans Cemetery is marked with a single granite marker which contains, when appropriate, the inscription of information about the veteran and other eligible family members interred.

The standard grave marker in a State Veterans Cemetery is the flat granite type.

The Superintendent of the Veterans Cemetery will file an application for a marker on the day of the eligible veteran's or family member's interment. Headstones are generally received from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs within 6 months after the date of burial.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

The Maryland National Guard Honor Guard offers Military Funeral Honors to veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and were separated with a discharge other than Dishonorable. The Honor Guard operates out of 4 locations throughout the state providing professional and dignified services to departed Maryland veterans.

If military honors are desired, the survivors of the veteran should address their request to the funeral director. The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs including its employees or representatives cannot assume responsibility for providing military honors.

For more information, visit the Maryland National Guard Honor Guard website.
To speak with someone regarding Military Funeral Honors contact the Maryland National Guard Honor Guard at 410-576-6133.

BURIAL COSTS

An eligible veteran receives a burial plot, a grave liner, headstone and interment services at no expense. Other expenses incurred in the preparation or transportation of the remains, including funeral costs, is borne by the veteran's next-of-kin, legal representative or estate.

A veteran's dependent will be buried in the plot assigned to the veteran after payment of the following fees:

CASKETED REMAINS:
An opening charge of $762 for all eligible dependents of the veteran; this cost is inclusive for casketed interments for dependent spouse(s) or children and the actual cost to the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs for a grave liner, if the family elects to use a state-provided liner. For dis-interments or re-interments of casketed remains, an opening/closing cost of $762 will be charged for veterans, dependent spouse(s) or children.

CREMATED REMAINS:
An opening and closing charge of $762 for all eligible dependents of the veteran; this cost is inclusive for cremated remains for dependent spouse(s) or children. For disinterments or re-interments of cremated remains, an opening/closing cost of $762 will be charged for veterans, dependent spouse(s) or children.

PLACEMENT OF FLORAL TRIBUTES

The placement of floral items and flags on graves, other than on the day of interment, is subject to the following conditions:

- Fresh cut flowers may be placed on graves at any time in metal containers. Glass containers are not permitted.
- Flowers and temporary containers will be removed from graves as soon as bouquets become unsightly. During the growing season, when grass requires cutting, both fresh flowers and those that have become unsightly will be removed from graves prior to grounds maintenance.
- Artificial flowers and wreaths may only be placed on graves from November 1 through March 31.
- Wreaths and seasonal displays are only permitted from December 1 through January 31. Any seasonal displays remaining on graves as of February 1st will be removed and discarded. It is recommended that family members and friends retrieve valuable floral arrangements before that date to avoid disappointment.
- With the exception of Christmas, potted plants and holiday wreaths may be placed on graves 10 days before and 10 days after Easter Sunday and Memorial Day (the date of State observance). Potted plants and wreaths are not permitted on graves at any other time.
  - Permanent plantings, statues, vigil lights, glass objects, commemorative and religious items are not permitted on graves. All unauthorized items will be removed and discarded by cemetery personnel.
  - Floral items and seasonal or other decorations may not be secured or placed on trees, shrubs or other appurtenances within the cemetery.

Over 89,000 interments have been conducted in Maryland State Veterans Cemeteries. The Department cannot adequately police all grave sites to deter theft and cannot be responsible for stolen or missing floral items. It is recommended that family members or friends avoid placing expensive, elaborate, floral tributes that may invite theft on grave sites. Small United States flags will be placed on graves by Department personnel at least one day preceding Memorial Day (the date of State Observance) and will be removed the day following the holiday, weather permitting. Flags are not permitted on graves at any other time.

The MDVA Cemetery Program accepts only the following forms of payment for opening/closing and liners: funeral home/mortuary business check, cashier's check, or money order. All cashier's checks, funeral home/mortuary checks, and money orders should be made payable to Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs prior to interment.

MEMORIALS

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs manages three Veteran Memorials, the Maryland World War II Memorial, the Maryland Korean War Memorial and the Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Department also shares joint responsibility with the City of Baltimore for the War Memorial Building. For more information on the memorial program call 410-354-3550.

Maryland World War II Memorial

Route 450 at Naval Academy Bridge

1920 Ritchie Highway

Annapolis, MD 21401

Located just north of Annapolis, Maryland on State Route 450 at the Naval Academy bridge, the Maryland World War II Memorial is situated in a beautiful park-like setting at what is commonly known as the Ritchie Overlook.

This lasting tribute recognizes the contributions of the men and women who fought for the principles of freedom both abroad and at home, as well as educates present and future generations about World War II and its impact as the world's greatest military effort to date.

Maryland's World War II Memorial is unique. Visitors walk through history when visiting the four-sided open-air amphitheater surrounded by a 100-foot diameter ring of 48, 9-foot tall, gray granite pillars. These pillars represent the 48 states at the time of the war. The names of 6,628 Maryland residents who lost their lives are etched in granite, providing a lasting tribute to their ultimate contributions. Twenty granite stones accented with stainless steel plaques describe wartime milestones and key events, in addition to contributions made by those 288,000 Maryland men and women who served in the military and those who served at home in the fields and in industry.

Two 14-foot diameter granite globes depict the location of key battles in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. A seven-sided stainless steel obelisk, representing Maryland's status as the country's seventh state, is accented by a star which is Illuminated each night.

The memorial is the culmination of a six-year process which began with the installation of a twenty-five member Commission during the administration of Governor William Donald Schaefer. It was comprised largely of veterans who served their country and their communities, many as professionals from numerous fields and as public servants. This dedicated group, along with advisors from private industry and the State, worked tirelessly to bring Maryland's World War II Memorial to fruition.

A world-wide design competition conducted by a seven-member selection panel culminated in March 1997 with the unanimous selection of a design submitted by New York-based architect Secudino Fernandez. In August 1997, Maryland's Board of Public Works awarded a $1.7 million contract to Priceless Industries of Dundalk, Maryland to serve as general contractor for the Memorial. October 1997 marked the official groundbreaking for the Memorial. It is with great pride and a sense of achievement that all those associated with the planning, funding, and construction that the Maryland's World War II Memorial was dedicated. The Memorial was dedicated July 23, 1998.

Vietnam War Memorial

Middle Branch Park

2825 South Hanover Street

Baltimore, MD 21225

The Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission was formed as a result of unanimous approval of Joint Resolution 22 of the Acts of 1983 which provided that a Commission would be formed to design and erect a Memorial for those Maryland citizens who lost their lives, were missing and for those who served in Vietnam. The Memorial was dedicated May 28, 1989.

Considerable effort was made to find a suitable location for the memorial. Eventually, a site in the Middle Branch Park in Baltimore was chosen unanimously by the Commission. The Middle Branch Park provides a contemplative setting overlooking the Patapsco River and has ease of access through local transportation facilities.

The Memorial is a ring of stone with a granite wall upon which is inscribed the 1046 names of those who lost their lives in Vietnam. The names of those 35 men who remain missing are also inscribed on the stone.

The Memorial features two 45-foot flag poles flying both the flag of the United States and our Maryland State flag with the POW-MIA flag flying under it. Immediately outside the Memorial ring are 16 "spires" which represent the Vietnam years from 1959 to 1975. The three and one-half acre Memorial site is enhanced further by groves of trees and greenery.

At the entrance of two walkways leading to the Memorial are flower beds which hold blooming plants to add color. Every effort was made in the planning of the Memorial to ensure that visitors would have a feeling of reverence for those whose service to our nation is honored.

The Memorial became a reality due to the efforts of many Marylanders. A group of Vietnam veterans identifying themselves as "The Last Patrol" conducted walks throughout the State. One walk began in Oakland (Garrett County) and concluded – 365 miles later – in Ocean City (Worcester County). A second walk was made from the extreme tip of St. Mary's County to Annapolis. These walks attracted significant attention and support for the Memorial.

Prior to the start of construction, a major effort was launched to identify those whose names were to be placed on the Memorial. Over 700 next of kin were contacted. The list of names to be inscribed grew from 1009 names to the 1046 now listed alphabetically on the Memorial. Construction of the Memorial began in October, 1988.

In addition to the financial contributions of corporations, and citizens, the Maryland General Assembly provided funds equaling $2,250,000 for the construction of the Memorial, thus making the Memorial a contribution from all citizens of Maryland as a tribute to all Maryland residents who served in Vietnam.

Korean War Memorial

Canton Water Park
2903 Boston Street
Baltimore, MD 21224

The Korean War Memorial contains the names of the 531 Maryland citizens who died in hostile action during the Korean War along with the names of those Maryland residents still listed as missing in action in that conflict.

The centerpiece of the memorial is a 2 ½ foot high ring of granite, measuring approximately 50 feet in diameter. The northern half of the ring is engraved with the names of soldiers who gave their lives during the conflict.
The southern half of the ring consists of a series of panels depicting the history of the war. The center of the ring features a 26 foot diameter map of Korea embedded in granite.

A walk, which bisects the ring, is anchored by a flag pole at each end: one flying the American flag; the other flying the Maryland State flag. The Memorial was dedicated May 27, 1990.

War Memorial Building

101 North Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Located in Baltimore City, the War Memorial and Memorial Plaza face City Hall. Maryland residents who died during WWI are inscribed on the wall, with inscriptions of all Maryland Counties and Baltimore City.

Dedicated in 1925, the Building serves as a memorial to all Maryland Veterans, the War Memorial Building was designed by Baltimore Architect, Lawrence Hall Fowler. The building is available for meetings of veteran groups, patriotic societies and civic gatherings. Maintenance costs are shared by the State and City of Baltimore. For more information call 410-396-8013 or email war.memorial@baltimorecity.gov

Gold Star Families Monument

Route 450 at Naval Academy Bridge
1920 Ritchie Highway
Annapolis, MD 21401

The purpose of the Gold Star Families Monument is to honor Gold Star Families, preserve the memory of the fallen, and stand as a stark reminder that freedom is not free. The stunning black granite monument features two sides. One side bears the words Gold Star Families Memorial Monument. The other side tells a story through four granite panels, homeland, family, patriot and sacrifice. At the center of this tribute is the most distinct feature of the monument, the cut out which represents the loved one who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom.

Washington Confederate Cemetery

600 South Potomac Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740

The Washington Confederate Cemetery is the final resting place of Confederates who died in the Maryland campaigns of the Civil War. It is located in the western front portion of Rose Hill Cemetery and is the burial ground of nearly 2,500 Confederate Soldiers. The cemetery is closed to new burials.

HEALTHCARE

All veterans are encouraged to enroll for care with the VA healthcare system. Care is offered at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and community based outpatient clinics. A myriad of inpatient and outpatient services, including specialized services for women veterans, are available. Depending upon eligibility and residency, Maryland veterans engage in services at one of several medical centers, including Martinsburg, WV, Washington D.C., and Baltimore, MD. In addition, a number of community based outpatient clinics are located across the state.

To receive VA health care, Veterans must first be enrolled with the VA health care system. Veterans can apply for VA health care in one of three ways, in person, electronically, or by mail. When enrolling in person, veterans are asked to complete the VA Form 10-10EZ– Application for Health Benefits. Veterans are encouraged to take a copy of their DD214 when visiting a VA facility to enroll in person.

For information on U.S. VA health care enrollment and eligibility contact:

Central Maryland/Eastern Shore: VA Maryland Health Care System (Baltimore, Perry Point, Loch Raven), Eligibility and Enrollment, 1-800-463-6295, ext. 7324

Western Maryland: Martinsburg VA Medical Center, Eligibility and Enrollment, 304-263-0811 ext. 3758 or 800-817-3807

Montgomery County & Prince Georges County/Southern Maryland: Washington D.C. VA Medical Center, Eligibility and Enrollment, 202-745-8000, ext.4

Returning Service Members: OIF/OEF/OND Veteran Specific Care

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Seamless Transition effort is a nationally designated system of care created to meet the specific needs of veterans returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation New Dawn (OND).

Contact the Maryland Team at 410-605-7000, ext. 4028
Contact the Martinsburg Team at 304-263-0811, ext. 5950
Contact the Washington DC Team at 202-745-8000, ext. 56282

VA CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS

Women are the fastest growing group within the Veteran population. The VA is providing services to specifically address women's health.

At each VA Medical Center, a Women Veterans Program Manager is designated to assist women veterans. The Program Manager coordinates services, from primary care to medical services to mental health and sexual abuse counseling.

Women Veterans who are interested in receiving care at VA should contact their nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager.

The VA operates a designated call center to receive and respond to questions from Veterans, their families and caregivers about the many VA services and resources available to women Veterans.

1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636)

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE FOR VA HEALTHCARE?

A person who served in the active duty military and who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for healthcare benefits.

Reservists and National Guard members also may qualify for VA healthcare if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.

Other factors which determine eligibility include length of service, VA service connected disabilities, and income level.

For more information on VA health care eligibility and enrollment, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits

VA MEDICAL CENTERS

Baltimore VA Medical Center
10 North Greene Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-605-7000

Perry Point VA Medical Center
VA Medical Center
Perry Point, MD 21902
410-642-2411

Loch Raven VA Community Living and Rehabilitation Center
3900 Loch Raven Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21218
410-605-7000

Martinsburg VA Medical Center
510 Butler Avenue
Martinsburg, WV 25405
304-263-0811, ext.5225
or 800-817-3807

Washington DC VA Medical Center
50 Irving Street NW
Washington, DC 20422
202-745-8000

VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM

If you are already enrolled in VA health care, the Veterans Choice Program allows you to receive health care within your community. Using this program does not impact your existing VA health care or any other VA benefit.

Veterans seeking to use the Veterans Choice Program can call 866-606-8198 to find out more about the program, confirm their eligibility and schedule an appointment.

ONLINE HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT

My Health***e***Vet is the VA's online personal health record. It was designed for veterans, active duty service members, their dependents and caregivers. My Health***e***Vet helps you partner with your health care team. It provides you opportunities and tools to make informed decisions and manage your health care.

To begin using My HealtheVet, visit www.myhealth.va.gov

VA COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINICS

Cambridge
830 Chesapeake Drive
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-228-6243

Charlotte Hall
29431 Charlotte Hall Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-884-7102

Cumberland*
200 Glenn Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
800-817-3807

Fort Detrick*
1433 Porter Street
Frederick, MD 21702
800-817-3807

Fort Meade
2479 5th Street
Ft. Meade, MD 20755
410-305-5300

Glen Burnie
808 Landmark Drive, St 128
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
410-590-4140

Hagerstown*
1101 Opal Court
Hub Plaza Bldg.
Hagerstown, MD 21742
800-817-3807

Loch Raven
3901 The Alameda
Loch Raven, MD 21218
410-605-7650

Pocomoke City
1701 Market Street, Unit 211
Pocomoke, MD 21851
410-957-6718/866-441-0287

Southern Prince George's County
5801 Allentown Road
Camp Springs, MD 20746
301-423-3700

*Contact numbers for clinics noted by an asterisk connect to the Martinsburg VA Medical Center. The number provided for those clinics is for the Martinsburg VA. Please have the name of your physician available at time of call to be connected to the correct clinic.

VA SERVICES FOR COMBAT VETERANS

VET CENTERS

Veterans, or family members, who served in any combat zone and received a military campaign ribbon (Vietnam, Southwest Asia, OEF, OIF, etc.) are eligible for Vet Center services. Parents, siblings, spouses, and children of active duty service members who die while on active duty are eligible for bereavement counseling services. Readjustment counseling is provided to include a wide range of services to eligible veterans and their families in the effort to support a successful transition from military to civilian life. Services include:

- Individual, family, and group counseling
- Bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death
- Military sexual trauma counseling and referral

Aberdeen
223 W. Bel Air Avenue
Aberdeen, MD 21001
410-272-6771

Annapolis
100 Annapolis St. St 102
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-605-7826

Cambridge Outstation
830 Chesapeake Drive
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-228-6243

Dundalk
1553 Merritt Blvd.
Dundalk, MD 21222
410-282-6144

Pikesville
1777 Reisterstown Rd. St. 199
Baltimore, MD 21208
410-764-9400

Elkton
103 Chesapeake Blvd, St. A
Elkton, MD 21921
410-392-4485

Prince George's County
7905 Malcolm Rd, Suite 101
Clinton, MD 20735
301-856-7173

Salisbury
926 Snowhill Road, Bldg. 3
Salisbury, MD 21804
410-912-7263

Sliver Spring Vet Center
2900 Linden Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-589-1073

Washington DC
1250 Taylor Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
202-7265212

VET CENTER COMBAT CALL CENTER

24/7 confidential line where combat veterans can discuss any issue affecting their readjustment to civilian life.

1-877-WAR-VETS

TRAUMA AND PTSD

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can occur after someone goes through a traumatic event like combat, assault, or disaster. Most people have some stress reactions after a trauma. If the reactions don't go away over time or disrupt your life, visit your local Vet Center to talk with someone. Learn more about PTSD at: www.ptsd.va.gov

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) may happen from a blow or jolt to the head or an object penetrating the brain. When the brain is injured, the person can experience a change in consciousness that can range from becoming disoriented and confused to slipping into a coma. The person might also have a loss of memory for the time immediately before or after the event that caused the injury.

TBI can cause a number of difficulties for the person who is injured. This can include physical changes, changes in behavior, or problems with thinking. After an injury, a number of symptoms occur including headaches, dizziness/problems walking, fatigue, irritability, memory problems and problems paying attention. These changes are often related to how severe the brain injury was at the time of injury.

If you experienced head trauma while serving in the military, contact the VA to schedule a health examination. Learn more about TBI at: www.polytrauma.va.gov

MARYLAND's commitment to VETERANS

1-877-770-4801

24 hours a day/7 days a week

veterans.dhmh.maryland.gov

Statewide & Confidential

- **Behavioral Health Service Coordination**
- **Transportation (to/from behavioral health appointments)**
- **Information and Referrals For:**

  Employment
  Healthcare
  Wellness Services
  Housing
  Financial and Benefits

MARYLAND Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Maryland's Commitment to Veterans Regional Resource Coordinators also facilitate mental health first aid provider training, call 877-770-4801 to learn more.

"I'm an Air Force Veteran that developed complications from head injuries and PTSD from trauma. I lost my job of almost 10 years due to mental health complications. After losing my home as well, I was alone with no one and nowhere to turn to; things seemed hopeless. The VA connected me to Maryland's Commitment to Veterans (MCV). MCV went beyond just caring, they helped me through the crisis. The compassion with which it was delivered was the biggest relief; it meant so much to know they were there."

-Air Force Veteran

VA COACHING INTO CARE

Do you have a friend or loved one who is struggling and who you feel could use some help? Coaching Into Care provides a coaching service to help you figure out how to motivate a veteran to seek services. Coaching is free and is provided by licensed clinical social workers and psychologists. The goal is to help the veteran and family members find the right services in their community. Calls are confidential. Visit: www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/ or call 888-823-7458, M-F, 8am to 8pm, EST

VA CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Did you know the VA has a number of services designed to support your role as a family caregiver? The VA's Caregiver Support Line provides assistance and answers questions about what services you may be eligible for. Licensed professionals can help you access services, connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you or just listen. Visit: www.caregiver.va.gov/support/
or call the Caregiver Support Line at 855-260-3274

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

Our vision is to continually develop and deliver a safe, dignified and compassionate health care system and provide a nurturing and engaging home environment for Maryland's veterans and eligible spouses.

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
29449 Charlotte Hall Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-884-8171, dial 1 and use the following extensions:

Admissions: 409
Volunteer: 664
Community Outreach: 664
Visiting Hours: 10:00 to 8:00, 7 days a week

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home was funded by a partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs through the VA State Home Program.

There is an abundance of history that surrounds the grounds at Charlotte Hall. Ye Coole Springs, a fresh water spring, said by Native Americans to have medicinal qualities, and can be traced back to 1698, is thought to be the site of the first hospital in the New World. In 1774, Queen Charlotte founded Charlotte Hall School and until it closed in 1976, was one of the oldest educational institutions in the United States.

The State of Maryland purchased the property from the Charlotte Hall School in 1977 and began the planning phase of Maryland's first and only veterans home. ***Our mission is "Serving Those Who Served".***

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home meets the needs of those veterans who are looking for assisted living, skilled or long term care, memory care or a rehabilitation program. Located on 125 acres of beautifully maintained plush green landscaping, Maryland's Veterans Home provides a continuum of care from its 168 bed assisted living unit to a higher level of care in its 286 bed nursing home.

In 2012, a 16 bed women's nursing care unit was opened to accommodate the growing female veteran and spouse population. An electronic medical records system was implemented in 2014 and on site pharmacy in 2015. Both of these services ensure patient care, safety and accountability.

"I shall be forever indebted to the staff of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for their tender, loving care of my husband during his sojourn there… they knew how to bring out the best in him."

-Spouse of a Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Veteran Resident

How is Charlotte Hall Veterans Home different from other nursing home or assisted living facilities?

The VA provides a daily per diem toward the cost of care for each veteran.

The daily per diem rates as of October 1, 2016 are:

$106.10 per day for Nursing Home Care =

$3,183.00 per month savings

$45.79 per day for Assisted Living Care =

$1,373.70 per month savings

VP1-70% or greater service connected veteran may be entitled to the full cost of nursing home care =

$7,900 per month or greater savings

On-site veteran benefits specialist to assist eligible residents with acquiring VA benefits

ASSISTED LIVING PROGRAM

Charlotte Hall's Assisted Living Program is designed to meet the needs of veterans requiring minimal assistance with everyday activities, and is intended to help maintain their independence. In addition to their room and board, assisted living residents receive primary medical care, transportation to and from the VA Medical Center in Washington, DC (for those who wish to utilize the VA medical system), and a separate activities program tailored to a more active lifestyle.

NURSING HOME CARE PROGRAM

Charlotte Hall Nursing Home residents receive the additional care appropriate for those with medical and behavioral issues beyond that which can be provided in assisted living, including memory care. Unlike most nursing home facilities, an attending physician is available onsite weekly and is available 24 hours a day for emergencies. The facility also employs a medical director to provide medical oversight.

Residents have access to the US Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic on site and transportation to the VA Medical Center in Washington, DC at no additional cost.

In addition to long term and primary medical care, the Home makes available diagnostic and medical services such as psychiatry, dentistry, podiatry, optometry, laboratory and radiology that are furnished to residents by outside providers. The Home offers full range of on-site rehabilitation services including speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy. The rehab gym is filled with state of the art equipment and staff who strive to help residents achieve their optimum level of function and return to an independent life as quickly as possible.

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is Medicare and Medicaid Certified

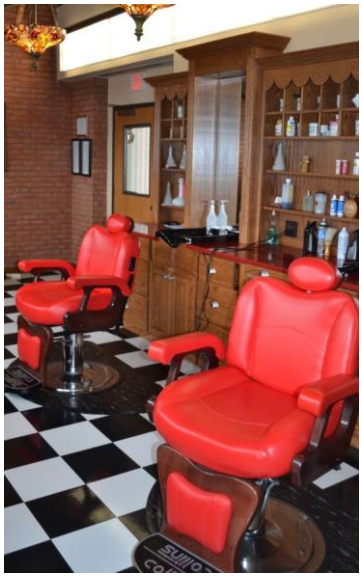
PRELIMINARY ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Honorably discharged Maryland State Veterans, and their legal non-veteran spouse, may be eligible for admission. You must be at least 62 years of age or older to apply, with the exception of veterans deemed disabled by the Social Security Administration or the Veterans Administration. Veterans are not required to be ambulatory or capable of sustaining intensive multidisciplinary daily therapy to be admitted. For health, safety or welfare reasons Charlotte Hall Veterans Home may decline to accept an applicant.

For additional admission requirements and/or an application, contact the Admissions Office:
301-884-8171, ext. 409
Admissions@charhall.org

AMENITIES OFFERED

Barber/beauty shop
Outdoor pavilions
Transportation to/from the DC VA
Meal service
Housekeeping
Resident council
Computers/tablets
Walking trail
Gazebos
Free local telephone
Free HD cable service
Activities
Lounges
Library
Game room
Certified music & memory program



Maryland Department of Aging

The Department of Aging protects the rights and quality of life of older persons in Maryland. To meet the needs of senior citizens, the Department administers programs throughout the State, primarily through local "area agencies" on aging. Area agencies administer State and Federal funds for local senior citizen programs. Programs include advocacy services, health education, housing, information and referral, in home services, and nutrition.

To learn more about the Department of Aging visit:
http://aging.maryland.gov/pages/default.aspx

MARYLAND ACCESS POINT

Maryland Access Point staff are available to help individuals seeking long term support services explore options to meet current needs or create a plan for the future.
The program also provides an online, searchable resource directory to serve the public.

To learn more about Maryland Access Point visit:
http://aging.maryland.gov/accesspoint/Pages/default.aspx

To speak with Maryland Access Point staff call:
1-844-MAP-LINK (1-844-627-5465, TTY #711)

Maryland Division of Rehabilitative Services

The Division of Rehabilitative Services offers programs and services that help people with disabilities go to work. The Division helps by providing services such as career assessment and counseling, assistive technology, job training, higher education and job placement. It is composed of the public vocational rehabilitation program and Disability Determination Services. The public vocational rehabilitation program consists of: the Office of Field Services, the Office for Blindness and Vision Services, and the Workforce & Technology Center.

To learn more about this Division, visit:
http://dors.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx

Maryland Department of Human Resources

The Department of Human Resources is the State's human services provider. The Department helps vulnerable Marylanders buy healthy foods, pay energy bills, and obtain medical assistance.

To speak with Human Resources staff call:
800-332-6347

VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program

This program offers outreach, exams, treatment, referrals, and case management to homeless veterans.

To speak with VA staff call:
1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838)

To learn more about this program visit:
https://www.va.gov/homeless/hchv.asp

Do you need healthcare but are ineligible for VA Health Care?

Learn more about medical assistance and the Maryland Health Connection by visiting:
https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/

To speak with the Service Center call:
855-642-8572 or TTY 855-642-8573

EMPLOYMENT

As a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, you are a valued member of Maryland's civilian workforce with the skills, training, and character to meet the toughest challenges faced by today's employers. The U.S. Department of Labor provides grant funds to the State of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to provide employment and training services to eligible residents and workers.

American Job Centers offer a variety of services to assist veterans, transitioning military personnel, and other qualified individuals. Veterans and other eligible persons may also receive one on one assistance. Priority of Service is given to qualified veterans when making referrals to job training programs and related services.

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program staff provide specialized intensive employment assistance to eligible veterans who have special employment and training needs. Program staff assist individuals to overcome barriers which prevent them from gaining meaningful employment.

They apply a case management approach and access a broad network of providers and resources to assist eligible veterans with their employment goals.

To learn more about services for veterans, transitioning service members and spouses, visit:
http://dllr.maryland.gov/employment/veteranservices.shtml

Contact your closest American Job Center to learn more about employment and training assistance and to be screened for eligibility for intensive services.

CAREER FAIRS AND HIRING EVENTS

The Department of Labor maintains an updated list of upcoming job fairs across Maryland.

Visit the following page often for upcoming events:

http://dllr.maryland.gov/employment/jobfairs.shtml

CAREER INFORMATION AND JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Maryland Workforce Exchange

Find job seeker solutions, labor market information, job openings, and veteran services here:
https://mwejobs.maryland.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx

JOIN THE RANKS WITH MARYLAND STATE GOVERNMENT

Are you eligible for Veterans Credit?

An appointing authority shall apply a credit of 10 points on any selection test for:

1. an eligible veteran;
2. The spouse of an eligible veteran who has a service connected disability; or
3. The surviving spouse of a deceased eligible veteran.

An appointing authority shall apply a credit of two additional points on any selection test for a former prisoner of war.

An appointing authority shall apply a credit of five points on a selection test for an individual disability, as defined by the Federal ADA Act.

VISIT https://www.jobapscloud.com/md/ TO SEARCH JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH STATE GOVERNMENT

MARYLAND AMERICAN JOB CENTERS

One Stop Career Centers

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Glen Burnie American Job Center
7480 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard, Suite 100
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
Phone: 410-424-3240

Arnold American Job Center
1460 Ritchie Highway, Suite 207
Arnold, MD 21012
Phone: 410-793-5635

Fort Meade Outreach Center (For Military and Spouses)
Building 4432
Fort Meade, MD 20755
Phone: 410-674-5240

ALLEGANY COUNTY

Allegany County American Job Center
138 Baltimore Street, Suite 102
Cumberland, MD 21502
Phone: 301-777-1221

BALTIMORE CITY

Eastside American Job Center
3001 E. Madison Street
Baltimore, MD 21205
Phone: 410-396-9030

Northwest American Job Center (Re-entry Center)
Mondawmin Mall
2401 Liberty Heights Avenue, Suite 302
Baltimore, MD 21215
Phone: 410-396-7873

BALTIMORE COUNTY

Baltimore County Workforce Development Center at Eastpoint
7930 Eastern Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21224
Phone: 410-288-9050

Liberty - Baltimore County Workforce Development Center
3637 Offutt Road
Randallstown, MD 21133
Phone: 410-887-8912

Baltimore County Workforce Development Center at Hunt Valley
11101 McCormick Road, Suite 102
Hunt Valley, MD 21031
Phone: 410-887-7940

CALVERT COUNTY

Southern MD JobSource
Louis L. Goldstein Multi-Purpose Center
200 Duke Street, Room 1400
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Phone: 443-550-6750

CAROLINE COUNTY

Caroline County American Job Center
300 Market Street, Suite 201
P.O. Box 400
Denton, MD 21629
Phone: 410-819-4549

CARROLL COUNTY

Business & Employment Resource Center
224 N. Center Street
Westminster, MD 21157
Phone: 410-386-2820

CECIL COUNTY

Susquehanna Workforce Center - Elkton
1275 West Pulaski Hwy
Elkton, MD 21921
Phone: 410-996-0550

CHARLES COUNTY

Southern MD JobSource
175 Post Office Road
Waldorf, MD 20602
Phone: 301-645-8712

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Dorchester County American Job Center
627A Race Street
Cambridge, MD 21613
Phone: 410-901-4250

FREDERICK COUNTY

Frederick County Workforce Services
Frederick County Business and Employment Center
5340 Spectrum Drive, Suite A
Frederick, MD 21703
Phone: 301-600-2255

GARRETT COUNTY

Western Maryland Consortium
Garrett County Office
215 South Third Street
P.O. Box 516
Oakland, MD 21550
Phone: 301-334-8136

HARFORD COUNTY

Susquehanna Workforce Center – Bel Air
Mary Risteau Building
2 South Bond Street, Suite 204
Bel Air, MD 21014
Phone: 410-836-4603

Susquehanna Workforce Center – University Center
1201 Technology Drive, Room 107
Aberdeen, MD 21001
Phone: 410-272-5400

HOWARD COUNTY

Columbia Workforce Center
7161 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite D
Columbia, MD 21046
Phone: 410-290-2600

KENT COUNTY

Kent County American Job Center
118A Lynchburg Street
Chestertown, MD 21620
Phone: 410-778-3525

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

WorkSource Montgomery American Job Center
Westfield Shopping Center
South Office Building
11002 Veirs Mill Road
Wheaton, MD 20902
Phone: 301-929-4350

WorkSource Germantown American Job Center
12900 Middlebrook Road
Germantown, MD 20874
Phone: 240-777-2050

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Prince George's American Job Center
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 120
Largo, MD 20774
Phone: 301-618-8425

Laurel Regional Workforce Center
312 Marshall Avenue, 6th Floor
Laurel, MD 20707
Phone: 301-362-9708

Professional Outplacement Assistance Center (POAC)
312 Marshall Avenue, 6th Floor
Laurel, MD 20707
Phone: 301-362-1646

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

Queen Anne's County American Job Center
125 Comet Drive
Centreville, MD 21617
Phone: 410-758-8044

SOMERSET, WICOMICO, WORCESTER COUNTIES

One Stop Job Market
31901 Tri-County Way, Suite 111
Salisbury, MD 21804
Phone: 410-341-8533

SAINT MARY'S COUNTY

Southern MD JobSource
21795-F N. Shangri-La Drive
Lexington Park, MD 20653
Phone: 301-844-6404

TALBOT COUNTY

Talbot County American Job Center
301 Bay Street, Suite 301
Easton, MD 21601
Phone: 410-822-3030

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington County American Job Center
14 N. Potomac Street, Suite 100
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone: 301-393-8200

Contact your local American Job Center to confirm office hours

State of Maryland DLLR
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013

The Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 helps veterans *acquire professional credentials, earn college credits, and helps military spouses continue their careers as they transfer to the State.* Service members, veterans and their spouses who are licensed in another state will see expedited licensing procedures, including the issuance of temporary licenses, if they relocate to Maryland and meet requirements for reciprocity.

Who is eligible? An individual who recently received an other than dishonorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces or who is on active duty as a member of a reserve or national guard component of the U.S. Armed Forces, members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are assigned to a duty station located in Maryland, a spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is assigned to a duty station located in Maryland, a spouse of a recently discharged veteran or member of the U.S. Armed Forces, or a surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Spouses.

When to apply?

Veterans

A veteran must apply for a license within one year of the date the individual was discharged from active duty military service.

Current Service Members

Current service members may apply when assigned to a duty station located in the State.

Military Spouses

A military spouse may apply when the person's spouse is assigned to a duty station located in the State.

Surviving Military Spouses

A surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces must apply for a license within one year of the date the service member died. A surviving spouse of a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces must apply within one year of the date the veteran received an honorable discharge or was otherwise separated from military service.

Occupational and Professional Licensing

The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing and the Commissioner of Financial Regulation are now able to expedite certain occupational and professional licenses.

For more information contact:

Occupational and Professional Licensing

410-230-6221

Commissioner of Financial Regulation

410-230-6068

Emergency Medical Services Licensing

For more information on licensure/certification as an EMD, EMT, CRT or as a paramedic.

For more information contact:

410-706-3666 or 800-762-7157

Health Care Occupational Licensing

For more information on expedited healthcare occupations licenses.

For more information contact:

410-764-4700

Teacher Credentialing

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) credentials educators who are required to hold a certificate to teach in certain Maryland Public Schools, Non Public Special Education Schools and other state agencies.

MILITARY SKILLS TRANSLATION

Translating military skill sets to the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a civilian career can be difficult.

MY NEXT MOVE, a partner of the American Job Center network offers career search resources for transitioning service members.

For more information visit:

https://www.mynextmove.org/vets/

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ACT

The Veterans Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA) allows veterans' preference eligible and other veterans who have been separated from the U.S. Armed Forces under honorable conditions to apply and be considered for certain federal vacancies.

Learn more about the Act here:
https://www.fedshirevets.gov/

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT CENTER

A U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs site, the Veterans Employment Center provides job seekers with information on building a resume, mapping military skills, searching for career opportunities, and more.

Learn more about the Center here:
https://www.vets.gov/employment/

HIRING OUR HEROES

Hiring Our Heroes is a nationwide U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation initiative to assist veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment opportunities. Build a resume, get career advice, apply for jobs, find a hiring event, learn about the Corporate Fellowship Program, and discover resources for wounded, ill, and injured service members, plus much more...

Learn more about Hiring Our Heroes here:
https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes

Find your new direction...

THINKING OF STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

RESOURCES FOR VETERAN ENTREPRENEURS

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMNISTRATION
OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
If you are a veteran or service disabled veteran, the Small Business Administration has resources to help you start and grow your small business.

For more information visit:
https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/ovbd

THE MD DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE helps by providing resources to new business owners.

For more information visit:
https://open.maryland.gov/business-resources/starting-a-business/

THE MD DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT helps by providing financing to small businesses in certain areas of the State.

For more information visit: www.dhcd.maryland.gov/business

PROJECT OPPORTUNITY is a free entrepreneurship training program which has been designed solely for veterans who want to start their own business. The program is a 10 week (30 hour) intensive course designed to prepare participants to research and complete a business plan.

For more information visit:
https://www.project-opportunity.com/

ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP FOR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES (INSTITUTE FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY) offers to post 9/11 veterans with service connected disabilities experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management.

For more information on this and other programs offered for veterans and women veterans visit:
ebv.vets.syr.edu/veterans/

Are you a veteran owned small business owner?
Are you seeking to verify your business as Veteran Owned or Service Disabled Veteran Owned?

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has designed a number of tools as well as created the Verification Assistance Program with assistance counselors who are available to provide free guidance to veterans seeking verification.

Learn more about the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and how the VA can help with verification here: www.va.gov/osdbu

To speak with the Office's Help Desk, call:
866-584-2344

Military Personnel and Veteran Owned Small Business No Interest Loan Program

The Maryland Department of Commerce in consultation with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs provides no interest loans to small businesses which fall within one of the following categories:

-A small business owned by a military reservist or National Guard member called to active duty
-A small business that employs a military reservist or National Guard member called to active duty
-A veteran small business owner or a veteran seeking to start a small business
-A small business that employs a service disabled veterans

No interest loans range from $1,000 to $50,000. For more information about the program visit: http://commerce.maryland.gov/fund/programs-for-businesses/mpvsblp

Maryland's online procurement system, eMaryland Marketplace is a business tool that provides business owners with easy access to State procurement information. Find solicitations and submit bids electronically. **Learn more here:** https://emaryland.buyspeed.com/bso/

EDUCATION

Maryland Higher Education Commission

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) serves as the official State Approving Agency (SAA), an approving authority for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Agency has approved and supervises over 400 post-secondary institutions that are legally operating in Maryland, including public and private colleges, universities, community colleges, training academies, high schools, private career schools, flight training centers and employers offering on-the-job training and apprenticeships.
The mission of the SAA is to promote and safeguard quality education and training programs for all veterans and other eligible persons. The SAA strives to increase the awareness of every veteran, service member, and/or eligible dependent of the full range of both educational and training opportunities available in the State of Maryland.
In order for a veteran, reservist or dependent to use their VA education benefits (GI Bill), the program must be approved by a State Approving Agency.
For more information and resources for GI Bill recipients, visit: http://www.mhec.maryland.gov/

To speak with State Approving Agency Staff, call:
410-767-3301 or 800-974-0203

Public Institutions in Higher Education: In State Tuition for Military Veterans

Veterans, National Guard members and active duty service members residing or domiciled in Maryland are eligible to pay in state tuition at Maryland's public institutions.

Maryland House Bill 935 (HB0935)
mandates honorably discharged veterans, active duty service members, spouses of active duty service members, financially dependent children of active duty service members, and members of the National Guard will pay in state tuition for courses at public institutions of higher education in Maryland.

VA Education Benefits– GI Bill

A number of benefits are available to advance the education and skills of veterans and service members. Spouses and family members may also be eligible for VA Education Benefits.

Montgomery GI Bill®

The Montgomery GI Bill is available to individuals who enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty is for active duty service members who enroll and pay $100 per month for 12 months and are then entitled to receive a monthly education benefit once they have completed a minimum service obligation. The Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve is for reservists with a six year obligation in the Selected Reserve who are actively drilling.

Post 9/11 GI Bill®

If you have at least 90 days of aggregate active duty service after September 10, 2001, and are still on active duty, or if you are an honorably discharged veteran or were discharged with a service connected disability after 30 days, you may be eligible for this VA education program. If you have eligibility for the Post 9/11 GI Bill and any other GI Bill program you must make an irrevocable election of the Post 9/11 GI Bill before you can receive any benefits. There are many types of training and assistance available, including on-the-job training, licensing and certification reimbursement. Beneficiaries may also be entitled to a monthly housing allowance, annual books and supplies stipend.

VA GI BILL COMPARISON TOOL

Use this tool to learn about education programs and compare estimated benefits by school. **To learn more visit:** www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool

Education and training benefits for certain Reservists and Veterans and their survivors and dependents:

Reserve Educational Assistance Program

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 ended this program on November 25, 2015. Some individuals will remain eligible for the program's benefits until November 25, 2019, while others are no longer eligible for benefits. The Post 9/11 GI Bill has replaced in many ways the program. This change affects beneficiaries differently. You may be eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits depending on the dates of your periods of service.

Veterans Educational Assistance Program

This program is available if a veteran elected to make contributions from military pay to participate in this education benefits program. The government matches your contributions on a 2 for 1 basis. Assistance can be used for a variety of training and vocational programs. You have 10 years from your release from active duty to use this benefit.

There are two main GI Bill® programs which offer education assistance to survivors and dependents of veterans:

Fry Scholarship (private)

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship provides Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to the children and surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty while on active duty after September 10,2001. Eligible beneficiaries attending school may receive up to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level.

Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program

This program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service connected condition or of veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service related condition.

For more information on these and other VA administered education benefits and programs visit: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/

To speak with a VA staff person about the Gil Bill, call the Education Call Center:

888-GIBILL-1, 7:00am to 6:00pm, CST, Mon-Fri

MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts (VAIC) Scholarship Program

This Scholarship Program is designed to provide financial assistance to the United States Armed Forces Personnel who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts, and their sons, daughters, or spouses who are current high school seniors, and full time or part time, degree seeking undergraduate students enrolled in an eligible Maryland post-secondary institution.

Applicants for the scholarship must submit an application with supporting documents before each yearly deadline. The award amount may not exceed 50% of the annual tuition and mandatory fees and room and board of a resident undergraduate at the four year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University College and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a full time resident undergraduate. Award amounts are tentative and may be adjusted based on verification of veterans education benefits received under Chapter 33/Post 9/11 GI Bill. **For more information visit:** http://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_vaic.aspx

Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program

This Scholarship Program is designed to provide financial assistance to sons and daughters of members of the U.S. Armed Forces who died as a result of military service or who has a service connected 100% permanent disability as a result of military service, a veteran with a service connected disability of 25% or greater as a result of military service and has exhausted or is no longer eligible for federal veterans education benefits, POW/MIA's of the Vietnam Conflict and their sons and daughters, sons and daughters and surviving spouses (who have not remarried) of victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks who died as a result of the attacks, sons, daughters and surviving spouses (who have not remarried) of State of local public safety employees or volunteers who died in the line of duty or who sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the public safety employee or volunteer 100% disabled, or State or local public safety employees or volunteers who became 100% disabled in the line of duty. Current high school seniors, full time and part time, degree seeking undergraduate and graduate students may apply. **For more information visit:** http://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_conroy.aspx

One Door System

Maryland's public institutions have made a commitment to establish a "one door" system to enable student veterans to connect with education and support needs by way of a dedicated veterans' office or a designated staff person. In addition to serving as the focal point on VA education benefits and other veteran issues, this person or office will identify and coordinate liaisons for services in key offices on campus (financial aid, admissions, advising, employment, behavioral health, and/or housing). Many institutions have implemented student veteran orientations and student veteran groups. For more details, ask to speak with the Veterans Affairs Coordinator at your institution.

Advance your military skills or learn a new trade through apprenticeship…

Full time employment, on the job training, career progression, earn while you learn,

learn more here:

http://dllr.maryland.gov/employment/appr/

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans 1-877-4AID-VET

1-877-424-3838

VA National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs manages a homeless veterans hotline to ensure that homeless veterans and those veterans at risk of homelessness have free, 24/7 access to training counselors. The hotline assists veterans, family members, VA Medical Centers, government partners, community agencies, service providers and others in the community.

VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program

The VA awards grants to nonprofit organizations to assist low income veteran families with rapid re-housing and eviction prevention. For grant year 2016, the following organizations in Maryland are assisting veteran families in the corresponding counties:

Alliance, Inc
Serving: Garrett, Allegany, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel, Howard, Harford, Cecil, Carroll, Washington, Frederick, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, and Dorchester
410-282-5900, ext.3333

Diakonia, Inc.
Serving: Worcester, Wicomico, Somerset
410-213-0923

Friendship Place
Serving: Frederick, Prince George's, Montgomery
202-658-9599

Housing Counseling Services
Serving: Prince George's and Montgomery
202-667-7006

New Vision House of Hope, Inc.
Serving: Baltimore City
410-466-8558

Operation Renewed Hope
Serving: Prince George's and Montgomery
703-887-8117

Project PLASE, Inc.
Serving: Baltimore City and Baltimore County
410-837-1400, ext. 148

St. James A.M.E. Zion Church-Zion House
Serving: Queen Anne's, Kent, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester
443-736-3638 or 410-742-4950

Three Oaks Shelter, Inc.
Serving: Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's County
301-863-9535

United States Veterans Initiative (USVETS)
Serving: Prince George's and Montgomery
202-683-8357

VA Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)

The CRRC provides services to assist homeless veterans and their family members. The Center coordinates with local partners to provide services including assistance with housing, employment, health care, benefits, and more. Showers, laundry, and meals are on site. Locations serving Maryland Veterans:

1500 Franklin St., NE, Washington, DC, 20018
Phone: 202-636-7660/Hours: 24/7

Baltimore VA Annex, 209 W. Fayette St., Baltimore, MD
Phone: 410-637-3246/Hours: 8:00 to 4:30, Mon-Fri

VA Grant and Per Diem Program

The VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program provides funds to community agencies providing services to homeless veterans. The purpose is to promote the development and provision of supportive housing and/or supportive services with the goal of helping homeless veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater independence. For more information contact the Community Resource and Referral Center at either Washington D.C. or Baltimore (see page 33 for location and phone number). Or, if you are a veteran in Western Maryland contact 304-263-0811 ext. 3840.

VA HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program is a joint effort between HUD and VA to move veterans and their families out of homelessness and into permanent housing. HUD provides housing assistance through its Housing Choice Voucher Program that allows homeless veterans to rent privately owned housing. The VA offers eligible homeless veterans clinical and supportive services via the VA healthcare system.

The VA determines clinical eligibility for the program and the Public Housing Authority determines if the veteran meets HUD's regulations for the program. Eligible veterans must be able to complete activities of daily living and live independently in the community with case management and supportive services. For more information contact the Community Resource and Referral Center at either Washington D.C. or Baltimore (see page 33 for location and phone number). Or, if you are a veteran in Western Maryland contact 304-263-0811 ext. 2075

Local Homeless Provider Contact List

The Continuum of Care Program promotes community wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. Each County in Maryland and Baltimore City has a point of contact for homeless persons within the local Continuum of Care. If you are experiencing homelessness, contact a local provider who can assist you.

Annapolis/Anne Arundel County
410-269-4749
Baltimore City
410-396-7543
Baltimore County
410-887-2886
Carroll County
410-386-6621
Cecil County
410--996-5112
Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's County
410-535-5400 ext. 330
Cumberland/Allegany County
301-777-8286
Frederick City and County
301-600-1506
Garrett County
301-334-9431 ext. 121
Hagerstown/Washington County
301-797-4161
Harford County
410-638-3045
Howard County
410-531-6677
Mid Shore
410-770-4801
Montgomery County
240-777-4125
Prince George's County
888-731-0999
Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester County
443-523-1815

National Center for Homeless Veterans 1-877-4AID-VET

Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255, press 1 or text to 838255

for confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

Maryland Homefront: The Veterans and Military Family Mortgage Program

Maryland Homefront, the Veterans and Military Family Mortgage Program offers a special interest rate that is 0.25% lower than the regular Maryland Mortgage Program rates for 30 year fixed rate mortgages.

All qualified borrowers under this initiative are also eligible to receive $5,000 for down payment and closing cost assistance through the Maryland Mortgage Program's Down Payment Assistance Program plus any applicable Partner Match funds. Borrowers using the Maryland Homefront Program can also get a Maryland HomeCredit, a mortgage credit certificate which enables the homebuyer to claim 25% of their annual mortgage interest as a credit on their federal taxes every year for the life of their loan. The Department will waive its $450 fee (the lender can still charge up to $350). Note that this program is not applicable to refinances. To get started, talk to a lender, check your eligibility, complete a homebuyer education class and learn about down payment assistance.

Learn more here:
http://mmp.maryland.gov/Pages/Homefront.aspx

VA HOME LOANS

The VA provides the home loan guaranty benefit and other housing related programs to help buy, build, repair, retain, or adapt a home for personal occupancy.

VA home loans are provided by private lenders, such as a bank or mortgage company. The VA guarantees a portion of the loan, allowing the lender to offer more favorable terms.

For information on the home loan program, eligibility, and how to apply visit:
https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/

Certificate of Eligibility for Home Loan

After establishing that you are eligible for the VA home loan benefit, a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) is needed. This certificate verifies to a lender that you are eligible for a VA backed loan.

For information on required evidence and how to obtain the Certificate of Eligibility, visit:
https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/about/feature?feature=cert-of-eligibility-home-loan

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home meets the needs of those veterans who are looking for assisted living, skilled or long term care, memory care or a rehabilitation program.

Located on 125 acres of beautifully maintained plush green landscaping, Maryland's Veterans Home provides continuum of care from its 168 bed assisted living unit to a higher level of care in its 286 bed nursing home.

In 2012, a 16 bed women's nursing care unit was opened to accommodate the growing female veteran and spouse population.

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
29449 Charlotte Hall Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-884-8171/charhall.org

For more information, see Pages 22-24

MDHOUSINGSEARCH.ORG

A free resource for finding and listing rental housing anywhere in Maryland.
Property providers post apartments and houses for rent and renters can search for housing in Maryland.
Toll Free:
877-428-8844

STATE SERVICES

Property Tax Exemption

A property tax exemption is available to the following individuals, for their primary residence located in the State of Maryland:

-Veterans who are 100% disabled for service connected causes, permanently and total rated in nature. The exemption passes to the veteran's spouse upon their death
-Surviving spouses of active duty military personnel who died in the line of duty
-Surviving spouse of a veteran rated 100% disabled for service connected causes, permanently and total rated in nature.

For more information call the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation at: 410-767-1191

Find the exemption application at:
http://dat.maryland.gov/SDAT%20Forms/Disabled-Veteran.pdf

Military Retirement Income Tax Exemption

Military retirees are exempt from Maryland income tax on the first $5000, with an increase to the first $15000 (once they become over the age of 55), of their retirement income. The retirement income must have been received as a result of any of the following military service:

-Induction into the U.S. Armed Forces for training and service under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 or a subsequent Act of similar nature
-Membership in a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces
-Membership in an active component of the U.S. Armed Forces
-Membership in the Maryland National Guard

The benefit also applies to persons separated from active duty employment with the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Maryland Pension Exclusion

If you are 65 or older, totally disabled, or your spouse is totally disabled, you may qualify for Maryland's maximum pension exclusion of $27,100 based on instruction 13 of the Maryland resident tax booklet. If you're eligible, you may be able to subtract some of your taxable pension and retirement annuity income from your federal adjusted gross income. This subtraction applies only if:

-You were 65 or older or totally disabled, or your spouse was totally disabled, on the last day of the tax year; and
-You included on your federal return income received as a pension, annuity or endowment from an "employee retirement system." A traditional IRA, a Roth IRA, a simplified employee plan (SEP), a Keogh Plan or an ineligible deferred compensation plan does not qualify

To speak with the Maryland Taxpayer Service call:
410-260-7980 (Central Maryland) or
1-800-MD-TAXES (all other areas of Maryland)

Vessel Excise Tax

Active Duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces residing in Maryland are exempt from the 5% vessel excise tax for one year. This exemption applies only to vessels currently registered elsewhere and brought into Maryland because of a permanent duty station change. New purchases are not exempt. **For more information visit the Department of Natural Resources at:**
dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Pages/registration

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax– Returning Military Members Exemption

As a new resident of Maryland, you must title your vehicle within 60 days of moving to the State. Proof of military status must be submitted to be eligible for an excise tax credit.
Active duty military personnel who are residents of Maryland seeking to register an out of state vehicle may not be required to pay the full Maryland excise tax if they apply for a transfer of title and tags to Maryland within one year of becoming a Maryland resident or within a year of returning from deployment. **For more information visit:**
www.mva.maryland.gov/vehicles/registration/military.htm

VETERANS RECOGNITION LICENSE PLATES

Military Plates

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration has over 100 military related license plates available for veterans and service members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Eligible vehicles include passenger cards, multi purpose vehicles, motorcycles, and truck (10,000lbs or less). To obtain a specialty plate submit the Application for Military Related License Plates (form #VR-120) and the applicable fee, as well as one of the following: discharge papers (DD214), medal certification, or written proof from the National Personnel Records Center.

For more information visit:
www.mva.maryland.gov/vehicles/licenseplates/military-license-plates.htm

Combat Related License Plates

Combat related license plates are issued in recognition of an individual's military achievements. They can only be issued to a veteran or active member of the military who furnishes documentation proving receipt of the military award or honor recognized on the plates. Individuals can apply for the plates in person at any of the Motor Vehicle Administration's full service branch offices. You can also mail your application to the Administration's Specialty Tag unit in the Glen Burnie Office, or go to an Administration's licensed tag and title service where they will assist you in applying.

For more information on application documents needed for combat related license plates visit:
www.mva.maryland.gov/vehicles/licenseplates/combat-related.htm

Disabled License Plates

The Motor Vehicle Administration will accept a letter from the Veterans Administration stating that you have a total (100%) disability and will issue a disability license plate. A veteran may choose any plate, including a veteran plate, and it will display the universal wheelchair symbol.

Gold Star Plates

Two Gold Star Plates are available for the loved ones of those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and lost his or her life. If you are the surviving spouse, parent, child or sibling of a service member killed during service, you may apply for a Gold Star Lapel Button or Gold Star Next of Kin Plate.

For more information visit:
www.mva.maryland.gov/vehicles/licenseplates/gold-star.htm

VETERAN DESIGNATION ON MD DRIVERS LICENSE

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration offers a veteran designation on the driver's license or identification card for qualifying veterans. The word veteran will be designated on the license or identification card indicating that you are a United States Veteran. Acceptable proof of veterans status includes the DD214 Military Discharge Certificate, Honorable Discharge Certificate, Letter from the U.S. Military Personnel Records Center, Letter from the MD Department of Veterans Affairs Service Program, or the U.S. Uniformed Services Retiree Identification Card. **For more information visit:**
http://www.mva.maryland.gov/drivers/apply/military.htm#adding_the_veteran

MARYLAND VETERANS TRUST FUND

Created by legislation in 2009 and amended in 2013, the Maryland Veterans Trust is now a 501(c)(3) fund. The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs is able to receive donations and then make grants and loans to veterans and their family members who are experiencing temporary financial difficulties or challenges. Private organizations who assist veterans can also apply to receive loans or grants.

Applications are received and then reviewed by the Maryland Trust Fund Review Committee, which consists of Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Directors and representatives from the Maryland Veterans Commission and the Maryland Home Commission.

For more information on how to donate to the Trust Fund or how to apply for a grant or loan, contact the Trust Administrator at 410-230-4444, x.6460 or 800-446-4926, x.6460.

On the Maryland Veterans Trust:

"Thank you for your generosity and kindness in our time of need. Your help saved our home, and us from being homeless."

-Navy Veteran and Spouse, Southern Maryland residents

FREE COPY OF VITAL RECORDS

For purposes of filing a claim before the Federal Government, one copy of marriage licenses, and birth or death certificates, may be acquired free of charge from the appropriate source. A veteran or a veterans surviving spouse can obtain one copy of marriage licenses, or birth and death certificates, from the Clerk of the Circuit Court and marriage licenses and divorce certificates from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Vital Statistics Division.

There is no fee for a copy of a certificate of a current or former member of the U.S. Armed Forces that is requested by the member, or for a copy of a certificate of a current or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces or of a surviving spouse or child of the member, if the copy will be used in connection with a claim for a dependent or beneficiary of the member. Proof of service in the U.S. Armed Forces must be provided. Fees are not waived on certificates ordered through the VitalCheck network.

For more information call:
410-764-3038 or 800-832-3277

Have questions about benefits?
Contact the MD Department of Veterans Affairs Service Program at 800-446-4926, ext. 6450
See pages 5-7 for more information.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

State Park Admission

Active duty military may enter free of charge by showing military I.D. Veterans may now enter for day use free as well. The waiver is applicable to the veteran only. Families may wish to purchase the Maryland State Park and Trail Passport for $75 (residents, $100 for non residents). The pass is good for everyone in the vehicle.

Hunting

Maryland residents serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and stationed in Maryland must purchase a Resident Hunting License before hunting, unless they are on official leave and possess a copy of their official leave orders. Maryland residents serving in the United States Armed Forces, while hunting during official leave in Maryland, do not need to purchase a hunting license, deer stamps, or DNR Managed Hunt Permit, however they must purchase a Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp, a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, and a Furbearer Permit.

Any non resident serving in the U.S. Armed Forces whose duty station is in Maryland must purchase a Resident Hunting License before hunting. Any non resident serving in the U.S. Armed Forces who is on leave in Maryland, but not stationed in Maryland, must purchase a Nonresident Hunting License before hunting.

A complimentary lifetime hunting license is available to Maryland residents certified as a former prisoner of war or a 100% service disabled U.S. Armed Forces Veteran. VA documentation is required. The lifetime license is available only at Department of Natural Resources Service Centers and includes the bow stamp, muzzleloader stamp, and furbearer stamp.

Wounded Warrior and Veteran Outreach Program

The Maryland Park Service offers recreational opportunities for wounded warriors, veterans and their families to enjoy. The program is designed to provide Maryland's servicemen and women with unique opportunities to work, learn, volunteer and relax in the rich habitats of Maryland.

For more information visit:
dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/armed_forces.aspx

LEGAL SERVICES

Maryland Legal Aid: Joining Forces Project

The Joining Forces Project is a free, statewide hotline for low income individuals who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Callers receive immediate access to legal assistance and brief advice on a wide range of civil legal issues. Get help by calling 443-863-4040, Tuesday 3p to 7p and Thursday, 9:30a to 1:30p

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service

The Lawyers Service provides pro bono legal representation to Marylanders with limited income on civil legal matters. Intake hours are Monday-Thursday, 9a to 12p. Call 410-547-6537 or 800-510-0050 for assistance. Apply for services online anytime at: mvlslaw.org/get-legal-help

The Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic

The Veterans Advocacy Clinic represents veterans before courts and administrative agencies in diverse civil and veterans benefits matters. Visit their website to complete an application: www.ubalt.edu/veterans-application

FOR MORE LEGAL RESOURCES VISIT:
veterans.maryland.gov/legal-services

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Office of the Secretary: 410-260-3838
Service and Benefits Program: 800-446-4926, X6450
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home: 301-884-8171
Cemetery and Memorial Program: 410-923-6981
Outreach and Advocacy Program: 410-260-3842
Maryland Veterans Trust: 410-230-4444, ext. 6460

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Healthcare Eligibility and Enrollment:

Central Maryland/Eastern Shore: 800-463-6295, X7324
Western Maryland: 304-263-0811, X3758
Southern Maryland/Montgomery/Prince Georges: 202-745-8000, ext. 4

Medical Centers:

Baltimore: 410-605-7000
Perry Point: 410-642-2411
Loch Raven: 410-605-7000
Martinsburg, W.VA.: 304-263-0811
Washington, DC: 202-745-8000

Hotlines:

The Veterans Crisis Line: 800-273-8255, press 1
Call Center for Homeless Veterans: 877-424-3838
Call Center for Women Veterans: 855-829-6636
Vet Center Combat Call Center: 877-WAR-VETS
VA Coaching Into Care: 888-823-7458
VA Caregiver Support: 855-260-3274
Maryland's Commitment to Veterans: 877-770-4801
Maryland Access Point: 844-627-5465

Maryland Department of Human Resources:

800-332-6347

Maryland Health Connection:

855-642-8572

VA Community Resource and Referral Center:

Washington, DC: 202-636-7660
Baltimore: 410-637-3246

This resource guide is published by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. Please note that phone numbers and websites are subject to change at the discretion of the organizations contained herein. As of publishing, July 2018, information contained is current.

More information on these services can be found online at

veterans.maryland.gov

Special thanks to the organizations and agencies who contributed content to this resource guide.