

Quick Guide to State & Federal Women Veterans Resources

Federal Benefits

VA Center for Women Veterans (CWV)

The Center for Women Veterans was established by Congress in November 1994 by Public Law (P.L.) 103-446.

Monitor and coordinate VA's administration of health care, benefits, services, and programs for women Veterans.

Serve as an advocate for a cultural transformation and raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect
#BringWomenVeteransHome2VA.

<https://www.va.gov/womenvet/>

VA Women Veterans Health Care

Women Veterans Health Care works to make certain that all eligible women Veterans requesting VA care are assured of:

- Comprehensive primary care by a proficient and interested primary care provider
- Privacy, safety, dignity, and sensitivity to gender-specific needs
- The right care in the right place and time
- State-of-the-art health care equipment and technology
- High-quality preventive and clinical care, equal to that provided to male Veterans

<https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/>

VA Education

VA education and training benefits; GI Bill; Post-9/11 GI Bill; VR&E

<https://www.va.gov/education/>

VA Home Loans

VA helps Servicemembers, Veterans, and eligible surviving spouses become homeowners by providing a home loan guaranty benefit and other housing-related programs to help you buy, build, repair, retain, or adapt a home for your own personal occupancy.

VA Home Loans are provided by private lenders, such as banks and mortgage companies. VA guarantees a portion of the loan, enabling the lender to provide you with more favorable terms.

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/>

VA Homeless Veterans

Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness are strongly encouraged to contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at (877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838) for assistance. If Veterans do not have access to a phone or the internet, only then are they to visit their closest VA medical center without calling in

advance. VA also urges Veterans who are not homeless or at risk of homelessness to contact their VA medical center before visiting for any reason. These steps are necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

<https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/index.asp>

VA Burial and Memorial Benefits

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our [National cemeteries](#) with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a [government headstone, marker, or medallion](#), a [burial flag](#), and a [Presidential Memorial Certificate](#), at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for [burial allowances](#). Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/index.asp

State & Local Benefits

Education

The Hazlewood Act is a State of Texas benefit that provides qualified Veterans, spouses, and dependent children with an education benefit of up to 150 hours of tuition exemption, including most fee charges, at public institutions of higher education in Texas. This does NOT include living expenses, books, or supply fees.

<https://www.tvc.texas.gov/education/hazlewood/>

Home and Land Loans

The Texas Veterans Land Board offers land, home and home improvement loans; nine long-term care homes; four Texas State Veterans Cemeteries; the Voices of Veterans Oral History Program and the VLB Call Center.

<https://vlb.texas.gov/index.html>

Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemptions

Tax Code Section 11.22 provides a partial exemption for any property owned by a disabled veteran. The amount of the exemption varies depending on the disabled veteran's disability rating.

Tax Code Section 11.132 provides a partial exemption for a residence homestead donated to a disabled veteran by a charitable organization which may also extend to the surviving spouse of the disabled veteran who has not remarried. The amount of the exemption is based on the disabled veteran's disability rating.

Tax Code Section 11.131 entitles a disabled veteran awarded 100 percent disability compensation due to a service-connected disability and a rating of 100 percent disabled or of individual unemployability to a total property tax exemption on the disabled veteran's residence homestead.

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/exemptions/index.php>

Disabled Veteran License Plates

As of January 1, 2022, anyone parking in a disabled parking space must have a disabled person license plate or a disabled parking placard that features the International Symbol of Access (ISA). Currently, disabled veteran license plates do not feature the ISA.

Texasans with disabled veteran license plates wishing to use disabled parking spaces in 2022 may apply for a disabled parking placard or for a new disabled veteran license plate featuring the ISA. The veteran must meet the eligibility requirements for a disabled parking placard or disabled person license plate featuring the ISA. Not all disabilities that qualify a veteran for disabled veteran license plates will qualify a veteran for a disabled veteran license plate featuring the ISA.

As of January 1, 2022, you may apply for a disabled parking placard and/or disabled veteran license plate at the office of your local county tax assessor-collector:

1. **For a disabled parking placard**, download the [Application for Persons with Disabilities Parking Placard and/or License Plate \(Form VTR-214\)](#).
2. **For a disabled veteran license plate with or without the ISA**, download the [Application for Disabled Veteran License Plates and/or Parking Placard \(Form VTR-615\)](#).
3. Have your doctor or health care provider complete the Disability Statement section of the application or provide an original prescription.
4. Submit the completed application(s) and payment (if applicable) to your county tax office.

Currently issued disabled parking placards will remain valid; however, the new requirements must be met at time of renewal.

<https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/disabled-parking-placards-plates>

Driver License and ID Fee Exemption for Disabled Veterans

A Texas driver license or ID card may be provided free-of-charge to a veteran of the United States Armed Forces if the veteran meets all four requirements:

- was honorably discharged
- has a service-related disability of at least 60 percent
- receives compensation from the United States because of the disability, and
- not subject to sex offender registration requirements

NOTE: The driver license fee exemption does not apply to commercial driver licenses.

Verification of Disability

To qualify for a fee exemption, veterans must present documents to verify their disability

status while at the driver license office. If renewing by mail, the verification documents must be included with the renewal invitation. Verification documents should be copies; do not mail in originals. Once the disability status is established, the veteran will be eligible to use online services for fee-exempt driver license or identification card transactions.

To verify the disability, please present one of the following:

1. A signed letter on disability status issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or
2. Official documents certifying conditions 1, 2, and 3 above.*

*If a veteran receives disability compensation but does not have a letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, verification of the disability must be provided by the veteran's branch of military service.

<https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/veteran-services>

Veteran Toll Discounts

TxTag

Since 2012, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has waived tolls for eligible veterans to support those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

The program serves veterans in vehicles registered with the state of Texas and displaying a qualified specialty license plate. Qualifying Texas license plates are for recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Air Force Cross (Legion of Valor), Distinguished Service Cross (Legion of Valor), Army Distinguished Service Cross (Legion of Valor), Navy Cross (Legion of Valor), and Purple Heart, and disabled veterans who qualify and meet the requirements for a disabled veteran license plate.

Eligible veterans in vehicles with qualifying license plates may drive the following TxDOT toll roads free of charge.

<https://www.txtag.org/txtagstorefront/en/programs/veteranDiscount>

Harris County Toll Road Authority

Your vehicle must display a qualifying license plate in order to be eligible for the HCTRA Veteran Discount Tolling Program. Although an EZ TAG account is not required, it is highly recommended for greater access and convenience. Qualifying vehicles may use the all-electronic (EZ TAG Only) toll lanes and will automatically receive the discounted tolling rate.

Per Texas Transportation Code 372.053, eligibility is limited to vehicles which are:

1. registered with the State of Texas
2. displaying the qualifying specialty license plate for any of the following:
 - Disabled Veterans
 - Purple Heart recipients
 - Medal of Honor recipients
 - Legion of Valor recipients

Vehicles which are not eligible are required to pay the applicable toll.

<https://www.hctra.org/FAQ/VeteranDiscountTolling/0>

Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority

It is the policy of the Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority (FBCTRA) to offer discounted tolls to all Disabled Veterans, Purple Heart, and Legion of Valor recipients who have the qualifying license plates and are registered. FBCTRA operates an all-electronic tolling system. To receive the discount the system must be able to properly identify the vehicle electronically through the use of the following toll tags: HCTRA EZ-Tag, TxDOT TxTag, NTTA TollTag, OTA PikePass, or KTA K-Tag.

<http://www.fbctra.com/veterans/>

Hunting and All-Water Fishing

Disabled Veteran Super Combo Hunting and All-Water Fishing Package - Free Available to a resident or non-resident qualifying as a disabled veteran, as defined by the Veterans Administration, consisting of the loss of the use of a foot or leg, or a disability rating of 50% or more, and who is receiving compensation from the U.S. for the disability. Official proof of disability (issued by the V.A.) or a Texas Driver License with "Disabled Veteran" designation must be shown each year when applying for this license and must state the rate of disability. Official proof can be digital or hard copy. Only [available in person at a license retailer](#)

The Disabled Veteran Super Combo Package includes a hunting and fishing license and five state endorsements. The package includes:

- Resident hunting license
- Resident fishing license
- Archery endorsement
- Freshwater fishing endorsement
- Saltwater fishing endorsement with a red drum tag
- Upland game bird endorsement
- Migratory game bird endorsement

Not Included: The Federal Duck Stamp is NOT included, but is required for waterfowl hunting.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/licenses/combination-hunting-fishing/disabled-veteran-super-combo-hunting-and-all-water-fishing-package>

Texas Parklands Passport

The Disabled Veterans passport allows free entry to Texas state parks for U.S. veterans with a 60 percent or more service-connected disability or loss of lower extremity. One additional person may assist the pass holder at a reduced rate of 50% of the standard entry fee.

Present valid identification (such as a driver's license) and one of the following to get your passport:

- Disabled Veterans of Texas license plate receipt
- Veteran's award letter (which establishes the degree of disability)
- Tax exemption letter for Texas veterans.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/park-information/passes/park-passes/#Veterans>