NORMA TORRES

PROUDLY SERVING CALIFORNIA'S 35TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



VETERAN RESOURCES



District Office

3200 Inland Empire Blvd

Ste. 200B

Ontario, CA 91764

Phone: (909) 481-6474

FAX: (909) 941-1362

Hotline: (909) 409-5421

Washington, DC Office

2227 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone: (202) 225-6161

FAX: (202) 225-8671

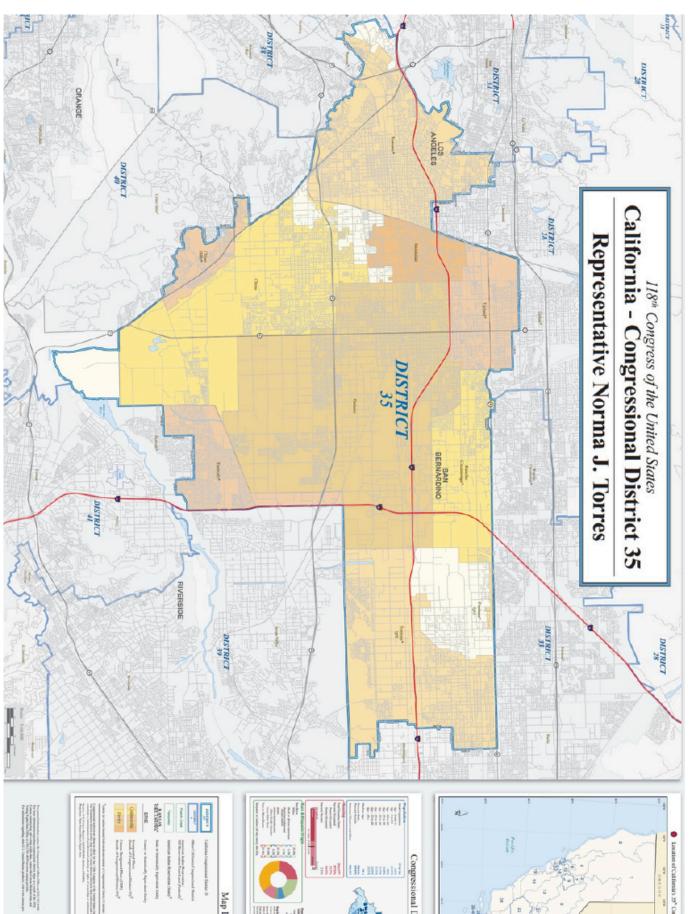
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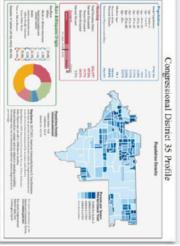






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VETERAN CASEWORK









If a federal agency delays or treats you unfairly our office may be able to assist. While we can't guarantee a specific outcome, we'll work to ensure a fair and timely response. Some of the ways we can help include:

- VA Benefits: Help with navigating the process for claiming VA Benefits including the G.I. Bill and memorial benefits.
- Medical Benefits: Assistance with accessing mental health services, disability services, medical billing, and contacting VA health facilities.
- **Military Record(s):** Help securing copies of DD214s, duty stations and assignments, qualifications, licenses, awards, medals and certificates.
- Help Navigating the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) System: Congressional offices can assist with inquiries regarding processing delays with VA and help constituents understand the status of their applications.
- Assistance with Denials: If a benefit petition is denied, Congressional offices may be able to assist by facilitating communication with the relevant agencies through appeals.
- Any general questions related to military and/or veteran issues.

*Our office **cannot** offer legal advice or act as legal representatives. Furthermore, while we will actively work towards the resolution of your case, we cannot guarantee a favorable outcome.



CASE AUTHORIZATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS



We look forward to engaging on your behalf. To proceed, we require a complete understanding of your issue. Please review this notice in full, note all requirements, and complete the steps below.

- Fill out (completely) and sign the attached casework authorization form (signature must be in writing, not electronic) (Page 10-11)
- Provide as much detailed information as possible in order to effectively explain your issue/case.
- Send back the form in PDF format with ALL indicative information written clearly and legibly.
- Include any relevant documentation you believe may further aid your case.
- Clearly note the federal agency you require an answer from.
 - If this is a **USCIS** case requiring an update, include your A# and receipt number.
 - If this is a passport case, please include your passport locator # (or your DOB and SSN) and a copy of your flight itinerary or proof of travel (e.g. hotel reservation).
 - If this is a VA case, please include your Branch of Service
- Concisely state the desired outcome you seek.

Once complete, return the form to this office at your earliest convenience (e.g., scanned copy via email). Your signed authorization allows us the ability to direct your inquiry to the relevant federal agency.

All personal information is kept in strict confidence.
Should you have any questions feel free to contact our office via phone or email.

NORMA J. TORRES 35th DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

Congress of the United States House of Representatives





I certify, under penalty of perjury, that 1) I provided or authorized all of the information in this privacy release and any document submitted with it; 2) I reviewed and understand all of the information contained in my privacy release and submitted with it; and 3) all of this information is complete, true, and correct. I authorize the federal agency to release information contained in my records as relevant to checking my case status, and to the extent permitted by law, to Congresswoman Norma Torres' Office.

I also acknowledge that Congressional Caseworkers are not attorneys and are, therefore, not authorized to provide legal advice.

Signature:	Date:				
To begin processing your case, please complete all of the following information. <u>Please PRINT neatly in blue or black ink:</u>					
Circle One: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Print Name:	Dr.				
First Address:	Middle	Last			
Street	City	State	Zip		
Email Address:	Phone(s):				
Date of Birth:	Country of Birth (USCIS (Cases Only):			
Federal Agency/Issue with which	you need help:				
Case#/SSN#/A#/Passport#:					
Have you contacted other elected	offices on this issue? Yes / No				
If yes, who:					
How did you learn about our offic Website / E-Mail or News	ee? (Circle One) letter / At Your Service Flyer / S	ocial Media /			
Other					
What would be the best method to E-Mail (Quickest response		g this issue? (Circle One)		

On the back of this paper, please give a brief description of the issue or information desired.

By signing and completing this form, you are agreeing to receive correspondence from Congresswoman Norma J. Torres regarding district events, news, and upcoming legislation. You may opt out at any time.

Briefly explain the issue or the information desired. Please print neatly and include copies of any relevant documentation related to your request.				
documentation related to your request.				
What would the resolution of this case mean to you?				
what would the resolution of this case mean to you.				

District Office 3200 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite 200B Ontario, CA 91764 Telephone: (909) 481-6474 FAX: (909) 941-1362

US VETERAN ID CARD





About the VIC

A Veteran ID Card (VIC) is a **digital** form of photo ID you can use to get discounts offered to Veterans at many restaurants, hotels, stores, and other businesses. As of September 2022, all new Veteran ID Cards are digital. If you already have a physical Veteran ID Card, you can continue using it to get discounts. You can apply for one online.

Am I Eligible for a Veteran ID Card?

You may be eligible if you meet both of these requirements.

Both of these must be true:

- 1. You served on active duty, in the Reserves, or in the National Guard (including the Coast Guard), and
- 2. You received an honorable or general discharge (under honorable conditions)

For More Information Contact:



Contact

Email

vetidcard@va.gov

Website

va.gov/records/getveteran-id-cards/vic/

Information to Apply for a Veteran ID Card:

When you apply, be sure to have these on hand:

- Your Social Security number
- A digital (scanned) copy of your DD214, DD256, DD257, PHS1867, or NGB22 that you can upload
- A copy of a current and valid government-issued ID, such as a driver's license, passport, or stateissued identification card
- A recent digital picture from the shoulders up with a white or plain colored background (similar to a driver's license photo)

DISCHARGE UPDATES



Types of Military Discharges

- 1. Honorable Discharge received for meritorious service, fully eligible for all VA benefits
- 2. **General Discharge (Under Honorable Conditions** satisfactory service with most VA benefits (except for GI Bill)
- 3. Other Than Honorable Discharge An administrative discharge not eligible for most VA benefits unless the VA makes a favorable Character of Discharge (COD) determination
- 4. **Bad Conduct Discharge** A punitive discharge given by a court-martial, not eligible for most VA benefits unless upgraded or determined "honorable for VA purposes"
- 5. **Dishonorable Discharge** issued by a general court-martial and ineligible for VA benefits, very hard to upgrade

Apply for a Discharge Upgrade

1. Identify the Right Board

- a. If the discharge was less than15 years ago, apply to theDischarge Review Board (DRB)
- b. If the discharge was over 15
 years ago or you need a record
 correction, apply to the Board
 for Correction of Military
 Records (BCMR)

2. Choose the Right Form

- a. The DRB requires DD Form 293
- b.The BCMR requires
 DD Form 149

3. Gather Supporting Materials

- a. Strengthen your case with character references, DD214, medical records (especially if related to PTSD, MST, TBI)
- 4. Submit Your Application

VA Discharge Review vs. Upgrade

Even without an upgrade, you can ask the VA for a "Character of Discharge" (COD) to independently evaluate whether your service was "honorable for VA purposes" and receive benefits. You can apply by filing a claim.

Contact Information

Army

BCMR/DRB: army.arbainquiry@army.mil

Air Force

BCMR: saf.mrbc.workflow@us.af.mil DRB: usaf.pentagon.saf mr.mbx.drb.workflow@mail.mil

Coast Guard

BCMR: cgbcmr@hq.dhs.gov DRB: drb@uscg.mil

Navy/Marine Corps

BCNR: BCNRApplication@us.navy.mil DRB: NDRB@navy.mil

FEDERAL HEALTHCARE PLANS



The health programs TRICARE and TRICARE for Life are the two main programs provided to active-duty members and most retired military personnel and their dependents. Tricare is a Medicare supplement while CHAMPVA is a comprehensive healthcare supplement. If you have other forms of health care coverage (like a private insurance plan, Medicare, Medicaid, or TRICARE), you can use VA health care benefits along with these plans.

	VA HEALTH CARE	СНАМРУА	TRICARE
Who it's for	Veterans themselves (with eligibility based on service, disability, income, or other priority groups)	Dependents & Survivors of certain disabled or deceased veterans (not eligible for TRICARE)	Active-duty service members, retirees, National Guard/Reserves, and their families
Administered by	Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	Department of Veterans Affairs (VHA Office of Community Care	Department of Defense (Defense Health Agency)
Eligibility	Veterans with active-duty service who meet certain discharge and service requirements Priority given to service-connected disabilities, income levels, combat Veterans, etc.	Spouse/child of veteran rated permanently & totally disabled from service-connected condition Surviving spouse/child of Veteran who died from service-connected condition Not eligible for TRICARE	Active-duty service members and their families Retirees and their families National Guard/Reserve (with conditions) Survivors (with conditions)
Special Features	Focused on unique veteran needs (PTSD, TBI, prosthetics) Integrated with VA benefits (disability, housing, education)	Designated for survivors and dependents Works like insurance Is secondary to Medicare after age 65	Covers a wide range of military families with multiple plan options

DISABILITY BENEFITS



1 DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible for VA disability compensation if:

- You served in the military (active duty, reserve, or National Guard).
- You have a disability caused or aggravated by your military service.
- You meet the VA's minimum service requirements.

2 GATHER DOCUMENTATION

Collect the following documents to support your claim:

- DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty)
- Medical records (service and civilian)
- Personal statements describing your condition(s)
- Supporting statements (from friends, those you served with, or family members who witnessed the injury or illness)

3 SUBMIT YOUR CLAIM

You can file a VA disability claim in the following ways:

- Online: Visit VA.gov to submit your claim through the eBenefits or VA.gov portal.
- In Person: Go to your local VA Regional Office or an accredited Veteran Service Organization (VSO) for assistance.
- By Mail: Complete VA Form 21-526EZ and mail it to the VA address listed on the form.
- By Fax:
 - If you are in the U.S., fax your application to (844) 531-7818
 - If you are not in the U.S., fax your application to (248) 524-4260

4 GO THROUGH THE VA REVIEW PROCESS

Once submitted, the VA will:

- Acknowledge receipt and assign a claim number.
- Schedule a C&P exam (Compensation and Pension exam) if necessary.
- Review your evidence to determine whether your condition(s) are service-connected.
- Make a decision on your claim. This can take several months.

5 RECIEVE DECISION

After the VA processes your claim:

- Approved: You will receive a rating decision and compensation based on the severity of your condition.
- Denied: You can appeal the decision within one year of receiving the notice.

6 APPEAL IF NECESSARY

f your claim is denied or you disagree with the rating:

- File a Notice of Disagreement (NOD): You have one year to file an appeal.
- Request a Hearing: A decision review officer may hold a hearing to review new evidence.
- Higher-Level Review: You can request a more senior VA officer to review your claim.



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



Whether you are a business or a job seeker, America's Job Center of California is here to support you.

Counseling

Evidence-based therapy for depression, anxiety, PTSD, grief, and more.

Suicide Prevention Programs

Proactive outreach, risk assessments, safety planning, and crisis intervention.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Support

Specialized programs and inpatient or outpatient care for combat and non-combat trauma.

Military Sexual Trauma Services

Confidential care for veterans of all genders who experienced sexual trauma during military service.

Substance Abuse Treatment

Detox, recovery programs, and long-term support for alcohol or drug dependency.

Inpatient and Residential Programs

For veterans needing more intensive mental health care in a structured setting.

TeleMental Health

Convenient access to therapy and psychiatric services from your home.

Caregiver Support

Resources for loved ones assisting veterans dealing with mental illness.

Visit a Local VA Medical Center

Ask for a Mental Health Clinic or Behavioral Health Services.

Phone: 1-877-222-VETS (8387) **Website:** www.va.gov/mental-health



IF YOU ARE IN CRISIS:

CALL: 988 and select 1

TEXT: 838255

WEBSITE: Veteranscrisisline.net

COMMUNITY CARES



The VA Community Care Program allows eligible veterans to receive medical care from non-VA providers in their local communities when certain conditions are met. This helps ensure timely access to high-quality care when VA services are not available or too far away.

Eligibility

 You are enrolled in or eligible for VA health care AND you have approval from your VA health care team before you get care from a community provider (except for urgent or emergency care)

And one of the following is true:

- You need a service that we don't provide at any VA health facility, or
- · You live in a state or territory that doesn't have a full-service VA health facility, or
- You and your VA provider agree that getting care from an in-network community provider is in your best medical interest, or
- We can't provide the service you need in a way that meets our quality standards, or
- You qualified under the 40-mile distance requirement as of June 6, 2018, and you live in Alaska, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, or another location that would still make you eligible under these requirements, or
- We can't provide the care you need within our standards for drive and wait times

Eligibility Examples

- 1. The VA health facility does not provide a specific service
- 2. You don't have access to a full-service VA health facility
- 3. You are grandfathered into a previous program
- 4.The VA health facility is longer than a 30 minute drive or the soonest appointment is over 20 days away
- 5. It is within your best medical interest to seek treatment elsewhere
- 6. Your local VA health facility doesn't provide quality standards

Appointments

Check with a member of your VA care team to find out if you're eligible for community care. Then:

- 1. Coordinate with a VA staff member to schedule an appointment for you, or
- 2. Schedule an appointment with the provider directly by using VA Online Scheduling to request an appointment.

Website

https://www.va.gov/ communitycare/

Phone

(800) 698-2411



VA LOMA LINDA



VA Loma Linda Healthcare System

The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System provides comprehensive medical and mental health services to Veterans in Southern California, including Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The main facility in Loma Linda, along with several community-based outpatient clinics, offers primary care, specialty services, surgical procedures, and advanced diagnostics.



Mental Health Care

VA Loma Linda offers a comprehensive behavioral health program that includes both inpatient and outpatient mental health services, as well as telehealth options. They provide care for a wide range of issues: depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance use / addiction, personality disorders, crises, help with returning service members (OIF/OEF/OND), homelessness, and more.



Contact Information

Address

VA Loma Linda Healthcare System 11201 Benton Street Loma Linda, CA 92357

Phone Number (909) 825-7084

Website

va.gov/loma-linda-health-care



SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS





Military community members become more successful entrepreneurs with the help of the SBA.

VETERAN'S BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS

Military entrepreneurs get business training, counseling, procurement guidance, and referrals to SBA partners at Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC).

BOOTS TO BUSINESS

Boots to Business (B2B) helps military
entrepreneurs explore business
ownership and self-employment,
teaching key concepts and how to access
startup capital through SBA resources.
B2B is offered on military installations and
virtually through the Department of
Defense's Transition Assistance Program.

MILITARY RESERVIST LOAN

If you have an essential employee who is a military reservist called to active duty, SBA provides loans to help eligible small businesses with operating expenses.

VETERAN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (VFPETP)

Federal procurement training for currently involved or interested businesses. This nationwide training is open to veteran-owned and servicedisabled veteran-owned businesses.

FEDERAL CONTRACTING PROGRAMS

The federal government awards an annual portion of its contracting dollars to veteran-owned businesses. These programs help veteran-owned small businesses access these contracts.

CONTACT INFORMATION WEBSITE

SBA.GOV/VETERANS
PHONE NUMBER
(202) 205-6773

EMAIL ADDRESS

VETERANSBUSINESS@SBA.GOV



GREEN AND GOLD CONGRESSIONAL AIDE PROGRAM





For Veterans, Gold Star Families, & Active-Duty Spouses

The Green & Gold Congressional Aide Program provides two-year employment opportunities for Veterans, Gold Star Family Members, and Active-Duty Spouses to work for the U.S. House of Representatives nationwide. Many of our Green & Gold Aides work in district offices around the country serving as Caseworkers, Field Representative or a mixture of both.

Veteran Applicant Requirements

Veterans must meet all of the following requirements:

- Honorably discharged;
- Released from active duty within the last six years;
- Pay grades at or below E-5/O-3/W-2;
- Veterans promoted to the pay grades of E-6/O-4/W-3 within 6-months of separation from active duty are eligible if they must also meet ALL other eligibility requirements.
- Veterans who are in receipt of a 20-year or Temporary Early Retirement (TERA) retirement are not eligible for the program.

For more information



Contact Email

GreenandGold@mail.house.gov

Phone

(202) 226-1965

Website

green and gold progam. house. gov

Gold Star Family Applicant Requirements

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- be the spouse, child/step-child, parent/step-parent, sibling/step-sibling of a veteran who died:
 - In the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces; or
 - Of a service-connected disability.

Active Duty Spouse Applicant Requirements

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Must be the spouse of an Active-Duty service member.
 - Active-duty service members work for the military full-time and are subject to permanent change of station, or permanent change of assignment orders, upon completion of each tour of duty.

Those subject to Title 10 mobilization are not eligible.

CALJOBS









About Employment Development Department (EDD)

The Employment Development Department (EDD) assists veterans and their eligible spouses to maximize their employment and training opportunities. Veterans are entitled to receive priority services in job referrals and referrals to training as well as other employment related services. Veterans with disabilities receive the highest priority in all employment services.

CalJobs Priority of Service

For veterans only, the EDD places a 24-hour hold on job orders entered in CalJOBSSM, EDD's online labor exchange system. The EDD or partner staff screens and refers veterans who request a referral on a suppressed job listing during the 24-hour hold. The process consists of a resume search and only those eligible veteran resumes that meet the employer's minimum qualifications are forwarded to the employer.

America's Job Center of California (AJCC)

Upon entering an America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM, (AJCC), a veterans' services navigator (VSN) will conduct a Needs Based Determination (NBD) to identify the employment needs of the veteran. The NBD will identify potential barriers to employment and determine what services the veteran requires to improve their employability. Employment services can be self service, group services, and one-on-one services, depending on the veteran's needs.

West Valley Workforce Development Department

9650 9th Street Suite A Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730



Phone (909) 941-6500 **Email** Carl.Reed@edd.ca.gov Website

sbcounty.gov

Riverside County Workforce Development Department

1325 Spruce Street Suite 110 Riverside, CA 92507



Phone (951) 955-3100

Email Bradford.Smith@EDD.ca.gov

Website rivcoworkforce.org

Los Angeles County Workforce Development Department

1460 E. Holt Ave., Suite #130 Entrance #3, Pomona, CA, 91761



Phone (888) 226-6300 **Email** Selina.lee@edd.ca.gov

> Website lacounty.gov

Workforce

VA HOME LOANS



A VA Home Loan is a benefit available to eligible Veterans, active-duty service members, qualifying National Guard or Reserve members, and in some cases surviving spouses. The program is designed to make homeownership more affordable by having the VA guarantee a portion of the loan, enabling the lender to provide Veterans with more favorable terms.

Main pillars of the VA home loan benefit

- No downpayment required
- (*Note: Lenders may require downpayments for some borrowers using the VA home loan guaranty, but VA does not require a downpayment)
- Competitively low interest rates
- Limited closing costs
- No need for Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI)
- The VA home loan is a lifetime benefit: you can use the guaranty multiple times

Contact Veteran Housing Assistance

Website

https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/



Purchase Loans and Cash-Out Refinance

VA-guaranteed loans are available for homes for Veteran occupancy or a spouse and/or dependent (for active-duty service members). To be eligible, Veterans must have satisfactory credit, sufficient income to meet the expected monthly obligations, and a valid Certificate of Eligibility (COE).

Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan (IRRRL)

The IRRRL is a "VA to VA" loan, meaning it can only be done if Veterans have an existing VA guaranteed loan on the property. The IRRRL is generally performed to lower the interest and reduce the monthly payment on the existing VA guaranteed loan.

Specially Adapted Housing Grant (SAH)

The VA offers housing grants for Veterans and service members with certain service-connected disabilities so they can buy or change a home to meet their needs and live more independently. Changing a home might involve installing ramps or widening doorways.

THE G.I. BILL





About the G.I. Bill

Administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the G.I. Bill helps cover the cost of tuition, housing, books, and training—so veterans can pursue college, vocational training, apprenticeships, and more.

Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)

For veterans who served after September 10, 2001.

Offers: 100% tuition coverage at public colleges and universities, up to \$27,120.05/year for private or foreign schools (as of 2025), monthly housing allowance (based on BAH rates), book stipend (up to \$1,000/year), transfer of unused benefits to spouse or children (if eligible)

Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty (MGIB-AD, Chapter 30)

For those who served before the Post-9/11 era or chose MGIB. Offers: Monthly payment directly to the veteran, use for college, vocational training, or certification Typically requires a \$1,200 contribution during service

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E, Chapter 31)

For veterans with a service-connected disability rating of at least 10% Offers: Counseling and support, job training, resume development, and education assistance May include tuition, fees, and a monthly subsistence allowance



Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR, Chapter 1606)

For members of the Reserve and National Guard: Monthly payments for education and training Eligibility depends on length of service and drill status

Contact Information

Website:

https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/

Phone:

(800) 698-2411

YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM



About the Program

The Yellow Ribbon Program is a VA education benefit designed to help veterans (and eligible dependents) pay for higher education costs that aren't fully covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The GI Bill only covers up to the in-state public school tuition rate. If you attend a private or out-of-state school, your tuition may go over that limit. The Yellow Ribbon Program then fills the gap: your school voluntarily contributes a portion of the extra costs and the VA matches that amount.

Eligibility

To qualify for Yellow Ribbon, you must be eligible at the 100% level of the Post-9/11 GI Bill:

You qualify if you:

- Served at least 36 months of active duty after September 10, 2001, or
- Were honorably discharged from active duty for a serviceconnected disability after 30 continuous days, or
- Are a dependent using benefits transferred by a veteran who meets the above criteria.
- You must also be enrolled at a participating institution.

How to Apply

- 1.Apply for Post-9/11 G.I. Bill Benefits
- 2. Turn in your Certificate of Eligibility to your school (nay be the certifying official, financial aid office, military liaison, or other office)
- 3. Wait for your decision (decisions are often first-come, first-served basis)
- 4. Follow up on how much funding you will receive (The school will add up tuition and mandatory fees and subtract aid)



Contact Information

Phone

(800) 698-2411

Website

https://www.va.gov/education/about-gibill-benefits/post-9-11/yellow-ribbonprogram/



MEMORIAL BENEFITS





These are benefits meant to honor deceased Veterans, help with burial costs, and provide certain memorial items. The goal is to ensure respectful treatment, recognition, and support for families of those who served.

Possible Benefits

- Burial in a VA National Cemetery
- Burial Allowance / Funeral Cost Reimbursements
- Plot or Interment Allowance
- Transportation Costs
- Memorial Items (headstones, markers, burial flags, urns)

Not all Veterans, regardless of eligibility, are entitled to the same benefits. Contacts your local VA for more information.



Contact Information Website

va.gov/burials-memorials

Phone Number

(800) 827-1000

or contact your regional VA office

Eligibility

To qualify for benefits:

- The deceased Veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable
- · At least one of the following must be true:
 - The death was service-connected.
 - The Veteran was receiving VA compensation at time of death.
 - The Veteran had a claim pending that would grant benefits.
 - The Veteran died while receiving VA care or in a VA-contracted facility.
- There may be a time limit for filing claims (within 2 years of burial)
- The surviving estate is eligible to file for benefits

MINORITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS





Native American Direct Loan (NADL) Program Specifically for Native American veterans, this program helps with financing the purchase, construction, or improvement of homes on Federal Trust Lands. It also offers refinancing options for NADL loans to help lower interest rates.

Website: https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/loan-types/native-american-direct-loan/



Minority Veterans of America (MVA)

A national nonprofit focused on fostering equity and belonging among underrepresented veterans, including veterans of color, women, LGBTQ+, and religious minorities. Offers programs like mentorship, leadership development, transitions support, community events, and safe housing options (Q'mmunity House) to help veterans thrive.

Website: https://minorityvets.org/



Minority Veterans Program / Minority Veterans Program Coordinators (MVPCs)

Programs under this initiative aim to raise awareness about VA benefits and help reduce access gaps for minority veterans. Each VA regional office has an MVPC who serves as a direct advocate to guide veterans through benefit options

Website: https://www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/mvpc/index.asp

WOMEN'S SUPPORT PROGRAMS



As a woman with military service, you may qualify for a wide range of benefits offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. For more information, visit <u>benefits.va.gov/.</u>

Center for Women Veterans (CWV)

VA's Center for Women Veterans monitors and coordinates VA's administration of benefit services and programs for women Veterans. The Center advocates for a cultural transformation that recognizes the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military, and also raises awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect.

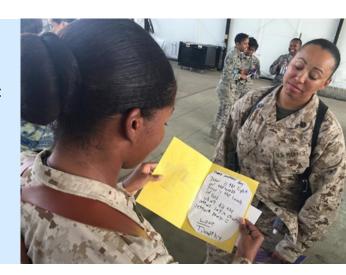


VA Health Care for Women Veterans

At each VA medical center nationwide, a Women Veterans Program Manager (WVPM) is designated to advise and advocate for women Veterans. The WVPM can help coordinate all the services you may need, from primary care to specialized care for chronic conditions or reproductive health. Woman Veterans who are interested in receiving care at VA should contact the nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the WVPM.

Women Veteran Coordinators

There are Women Veteran Coordinator (WVCs) located in every regional office who function as the primary contact for women Veterans. WVCs provide specific information and comprehensive assistance to women Veterans, their dependents, and beneficiaries concerning VA benefits and related non-VA benefits. They may assist you in the claims intake, development, and processing of military sexual and personal trauma claims.



AMERICAN LEGION





The American Legion

The American Legion is the nation's largest veterans service organization, advocating for veterans, service members, and military families while fighting to end veteran suicide. If you have served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and were honorably discharged or you are still serving active military duty honorably, you are eligible for membership with The American Legion.

CA Post 0078

PO Box 128
Claremont, CA 91711
Phone: (909) 833-1884
Email:
post78keithpowell@gmail.com

CA Post 0431

1183 Emerson St Upland, CA 91784 Phone: (909) 630-4659 Email: tedfife@aol.com

CA Post 0299

13759 Central Ave

Chino, CA 91710
Phone: (909) 628-2080
Email:
chinoamericanlegion@gmail.com

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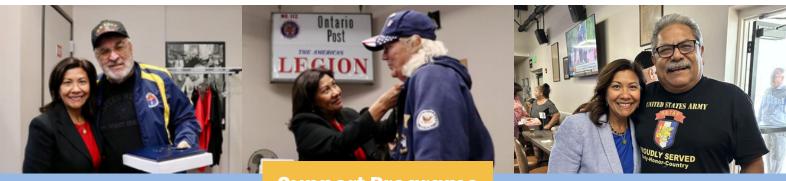
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THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR OF THE UNITED STATES



The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is a nonprofit veterans service organization that advocates for and supports those who have served in overseas conflicts.





Founded in 1899, the VFW provides a strong voice for veterans in Washington, D.C., while offering direct assistance to veterans and their families across the country.

Eligibility

You may qualify for VFW membership if you meet all three of the following criteria:

- 1. Are a U.S. citizen
- 2. Were discharged with honorable service in the U.S. Armed Forces
- 3. Did service in a foreign conflict or hostile territory (qualifying campaigns include Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Korea, WWII, and many others)

Example Offerings

Scholarships & Education Support: Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests for youth **Unmet Needs Program:** Financial assistance grants (not loans) for military families facing hardship due to deployment or injury

Legislative Advocacy: The VFW works on Capitol Hill to protect veterans' rights, ensure proper funding for VA programs, and improve military and veterans' benefits.

Contact Information

Website:

vfw.ora

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(833) 839-8387