





# Mission

Our mission is to connect New York's Veterans, Service Members, and their families to the full range of economic, medical, and social benefits and services earned through military service. We provide the highest-quality support, assistance, and advocacy to those who served in the U.S. military by helping them obtain state and federal benefits earned by their service to New York State and the United States of America



## Who are we?

- Advocates providing free services for all Veterans, Service Members, and their families
- Specialists in preparing, presenting, and prosecuting claims and appeals for Veterans' benefits
- Representatives in more than 50 field offices statewide
- Every VSO (VBA) with NYS DVS is a Veteran



## Who are we?

**\*\*\*NOT THE VA!\*\*\***

U.S. Dep't of Veterans Affairs (VA) = Federal agency, evaluates and judges claims and appeals for federal Veterans' benefits

NYS Division of Veterans' Services (DVS) = State agency, represents Veterans, Service Members, and their families in claims and appeals for federal *and* state Veterans' benefits.



## Three arms of the VA

### **Veterans Health Administration (VHA)**

Focuses on providing healthcare services to veterans, including medical, surgical, and mental health care, as well as rehabilitative and preventative services.

### **Benefits Administration (VBA)**

Responsible for administering a wide range of benefits to eligible veterans, including disability compensation, pensions, education assistance (like the GI Bill), home loan guarantees, and life insurance.

### **National Cemetery Administration (NCA)**

Administers the VA's national cemeteries, providing burial benefits and maintaining burial spaces for veterans and eligible family members.



## Who Is A Veteran?

“[A] person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.”

38 U.S.C. §101(2)

VA Benefits and Discharge Status	Honorable	General	Other Than Honorable (OTH)	Bad Conduct (BCD)
GI Bill	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>NO</u>
Service-Connected Disability Compensation	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"
VA Pension (non-service-connected)	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"
Health Care	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"	<u>NO</u>
Death Pension Or DIC	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"
HUD-VASH voucher	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"	<u>NO</u>

State Benefits and Discharge Status	Honorable	General	Other Than Honorable (OTH)	Bad Conduct (BCD)
State Pension Buyback	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>NO</u>
State Veterans Home Admission	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>NO</u>
Property Tax Exemption	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"
Veterans Tuition Award	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"
Blind Annuity	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"
Extra Credits On Civil Service Examinations	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"	Yes, with a COD that is "Honorable for VA purposes"



## Why Should You Care?

- Healthcare coverage
- Tax-free federal dollars
- Education benefits
- Employment preferences
- Housing assistance
- Property Tax Exemptions



# Disability Compensation Rates

Disability rating	Monthly payment (in U.S. \$)
10%	175.51
20%	346.95

Dependent status	30% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	40% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	50% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	60% disability rating (in U.S. \$)
<b>Veteran alone</b> (no dependents)	537.42	774.16	1,102.04	1,395.93
Dependent status	70% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	80% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	90% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	100% disability rating (in U.S. \$)
<b>Veteran alone</b> (no dependents)	1,759.19	2,044.89	2,297.96	3,831.30



# Disability Compensation

## *"Building a Three-Legged Stool"*

- In Service event
- - A chronic, current diagnosed condition
- Link between in service event and the current condition



## Disability Compensation

“Your current disabling condition was at least as likely as not caused or worsened by your military service.”

“Service Connected”



## Disability Compensation

- Presumptive Claim (Agent Orange, Gulf War, ALS, etc.)
- Direct Service connection (Injury occurred and documented on Active Duty)
- Secondary Conditions (Service-connected condition causes something else)
- Aggravation Claim (Aggravated beyond natural progression)
- 1151 (medical malpractice by VA; NOT a Tort)



## VA Pension NSC Pension

- Wartime Service + Low Income and Net Worth (MAPR/Assets)
- You're at least 65 years old, **or**
- You have a permanent and total disability, **or**
- You're a patient in a nursing home for long-term care because of a disability, **or**
- You're getting Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income

*Income and net worth below thresholds set by Congress*



## NY State Benefits

- The New York State Restoration of Honor Act
- Blind annuity
- Veterans Emergency Housing Program



# The New York State Restoration of Honor Act

- Authorizes NYS DVS to restore State Veterans Benefits to Veterans who have an other-than-honorable (OTH), a General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GUH), or Uncharacterized (UC) character of service due to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Gender Expression.
- Does not change a Veteran's official federally issued character of discharge.
- Considers only the Veteran's time in service, not conduct after service.



# Blind Annuity

- For legally blind (20/200 vision in the better eye with best correction, or has 20- degree limitation of field of vision) wartime Veterans, or surviving un-remarried spouses of legally blind wartime Veterans, who live in New York State.
- Blindness need not be a service-connected disability.
- 90 days active duty for other than training purposes or is service connected



# Veterans Emergency Housing Program

- Up to \$2,000 annually
- Assists New York State's Veterans who are confronting emergency housing needs and lacking the funds to cover these immediate costs.
- Must be a Veteran living in New York State and facing an immediate housing hardship.
- Must also have a personal net worth equal to or below the net worth limit established by the VA to assess eligibility for a NSC pension.



# How to request services

## Long Island, Staten Island, Brooklyn and Queens:

**Jasmine Coleman - p. 718-526-1000, x22217**

## Manhattan, Bronx, Westchester:

**Amber Stevenson - p: (718) 584-9000, x6361**

NYS DVS Staten Island office:

**Rapcelies Almonte**

Staten Island Borough Hall  
10 Richmond Terr, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Room 313  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
**Mobile (929) 775 - 3386**



## A Final Thought

“Sad is the nation that has no heroes.  
Sadder still is the nation that has heroes and  
forgets  
about them.”

Let us never forget.



Department of  
Veterans' Services

# Keep in Touch

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- Website: [veterans.ny.gov](#)

