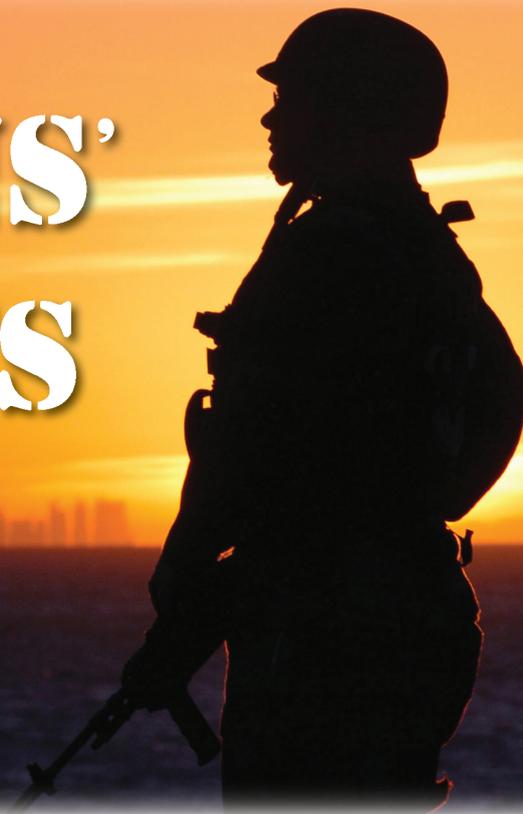


Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs



VETERANS' BENEFITS



RESOURCE GUIDE



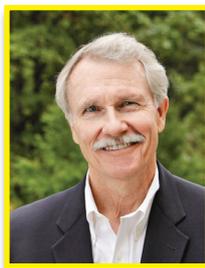
JOHN KITZHABER
GOVERNOR



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Dear Veteran,

I would like to personally thank you for your service to our great country. You are part of a force of nearly 340,000 Oregonians who have the privilege of calling themselves a veteran. As the Governor of Oregon and as the son of a servicemember, I applaud your selfless dedication.



I would like to make sure that you are aware of the benefits you are entitled to as a former member of the military – these benefits can help ensure that your transition to civilian life is seamless and that you secure the successful future you deserve.

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) is available to assist you in navigating these benefits. Whether you are looking to find work or you plan to go to school, or if you need help accessing healthcare or obtaining a home loan, ODVA can ensure that you are on the right path and that you take full advantage of the benefits you have earned.

As a service member, you stood up for your country; now it is our turn to stand by you and your fellow veterans. I encourage you to explore the resources available to you at ODVA and I thank you wholeheartedly for your service and commitment to the United States and the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John A. Kitzhaber".

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

Dear Veteran,

I would like to join the Governor and my fellow Oregonians in thanking you for your service to our state and nation. This precious time spent away from friends and family was in defense of our most precious American possession, freedom. As a result of your voluntary service, you will be known for the rest of your life as an American military veteran. This entitles you to a number of valuable benefits and I urge you to take advantage of them.



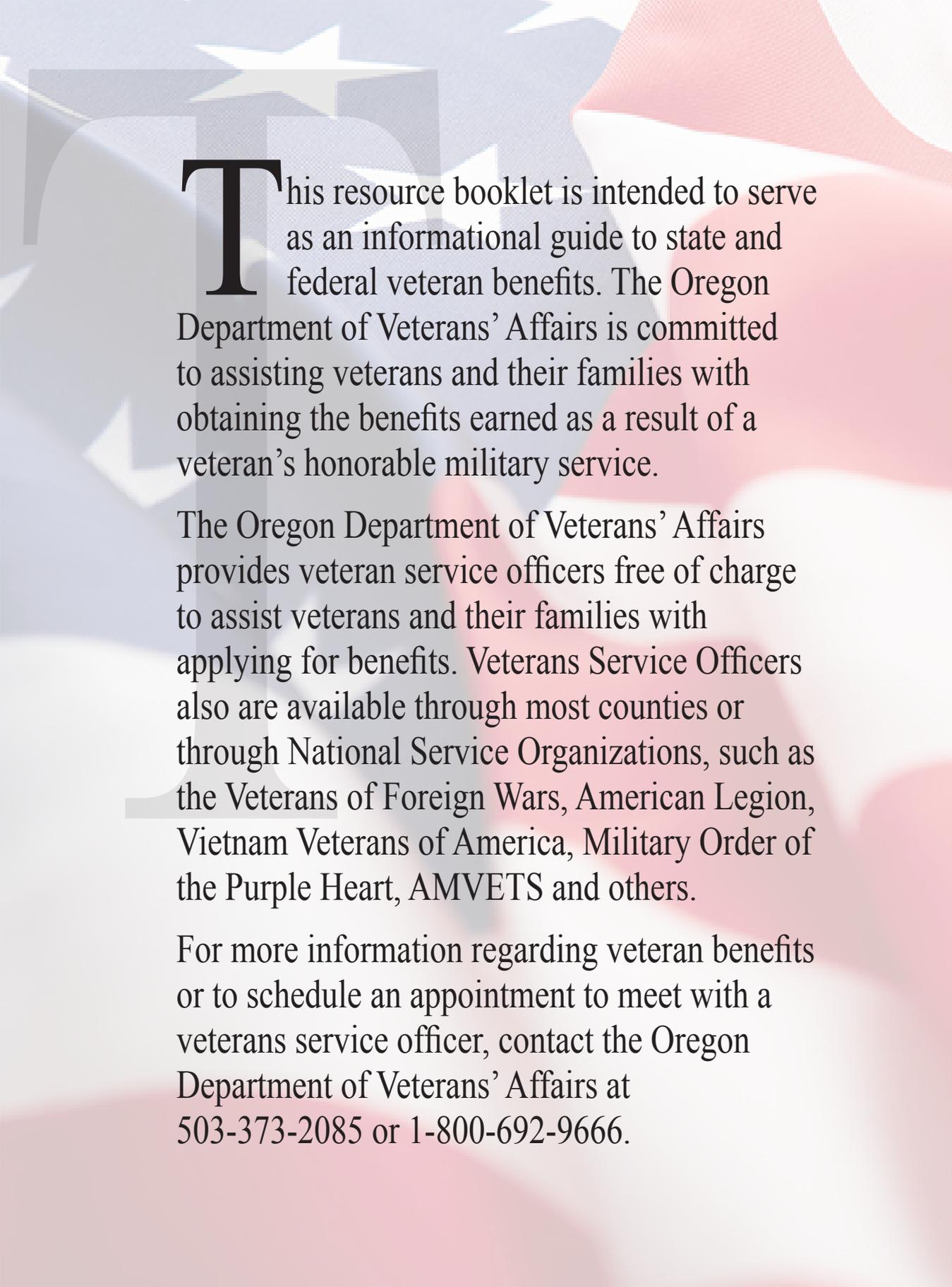
Please review this booklet carefully. You will find it invaluable to you in exploring your veteran benefits, such as home loans, educational assistance, re-employment rights and much more. Remember, as a veteran these are earned entitlements and in some cases must be used within certain time limits.

As the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, I take great pride in the talented and dedicated employees of our Department. They are waiting to serve you. Please feel free to contact us at anytime. Remember, at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, *"Everyday is Veterans Day."*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Willis".

Jim Willis
Director



This resource booklet is intended to serve as an informational guide to state and federal veteran benefits. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is committed to assisting veterans and their families with obtaining the benefits earned as a result of a veteran's honorable military service.

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs provides veteran service officers free of charge to assist veterans and their families with applying for benefits. Veterans Service Officers also are available through most counties or through National Service Organizations, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, AMVETS and others.

For more information regarding veteran benefits or to schedule an appointment to meet with a veterans service officer, contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs at 503-373-2085 or 1-800-692-9666.

VETERANS' BENEFITS RESOURCE GUIDE

If you have any questions about the contents or resources contained in this guide, please do not hesitate to contact the:

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
700 Summer Street NE, Salem, OR 97301
Toll Free within Oregon 1-800-692-9666 or 503-373-2085
Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
www.oregon.gov/ODVA

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VERY IMPORTANT - As a veteran, you have earned for yourself, and potentially for your family, benefits as a result of your service to this country. This guide contains brief overviews of some of the benefits for which you may qualify. Remember, you must apply for your benefits to receive them. Some benefits have time limitations during which they must be used. Please visit your local county veterans service office, a veterans' organization national service officer or call the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to find out more about your veterans' benefits. Be sure to bring a copy of your DD Form 214 to your appointment with your veterans service officer.

SAFEGUARD YOUR DD Form 214 - This document is key to accessing your veterans' benefits. Oregon county clerks will record a veteran's discharge document free of charge.

VETERANS' HOME LOANS

STATE OF OREGON

ORVET STATE VETERANS' HOME LOANS

For more than 60 years, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has made home loans to veterans at favorable interest rates. More than 330,000 home loans have been made to veterans in Oregon.

The ODVA's State Veterans' Home Loan program offers favorable interest rates and enables honorably-discharged veterans to purchase a single-family, owner-occupied home.

Eligibility for the program can be established prior to applying for an ORVET home loan. In November 2010, Oregon voters approved ballot Measure 70, expanding veteran eligibility for the ORVET Home Loan as well as eliminating the constitutional 30-year eligibility restriction.

The ORVET Home Loan is now a lifetime benefit for eligible veterans.

For program qualifications, call the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs toll-free within Oregon, 1-888-673-8387, or from outside of Oregon, 503-373-2051.

For more information,
www.oregon.gov/ODVA/HOMELOANS

or contact us by email at
orvetshomeloans@odva.state.or.us

FEDERAL

HOME LOAN GUARANTEES

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home loan guarantees are made to servicemembers, veterans, reservists and unmarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes.

VA guaranteed home loans offer several important advantages over most conventional loans including a guarantee that protects the lender against loss due to nonpayment by the borrower. A VA Certificate of Eligibility is required.

For more Loan Guaranty Home Loan Program information, call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) toll free, 1-888-349-7541 or online at www.homeloans.va.gov

EDUCATION

STATE OF OREGON

STATE EDUCATIONAL AID

This program pays up to \$150 per month for full time study or training and \$100 per month for part-time study or training. Payments are made directly to qualifying veterans for:

- College/University
- Vocational School
- Home Study

Benefits will be paid for as many months as the veteran spent on active duty service up to a maximum of 36 months.

A veteran's military discharge must be under honorable conditions.

For eligibility and application information, contact Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans' Services, 1-800-828-8801 (Toll Free within Oregon) or 503-373-2085 www.oregon.gov/ODVA/BENEFITS/oregon-educationbenefit.shtml

TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM

The Oregon Legislature passed a law that provides a full-tuition waiver for a bachelor's or master's degree at an Oregon University System institution for children or spouses of servicemembers who died while on active duty, became 100 percent disabled in connection with military service, or died as a result of a disability sustained on active duty after September 11, 2001.

Information on the tuition waiver as well as the application form can be found at www.ous.edu under Veteran Benefits.

FEDERAL

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Provides monthly education assistance benefits for honorably discharged veterans and their dependants who meet certain requirements who intend to enroll in:

- College/University
- Technical and Vocational School
- Vocational Rehabilitation for disabled veterans

These benefits must be used within 10 or 15 years of separation from service and within 12 years from the date of establishing a service-connected disability depending on the benefit selected.

For information, visit the USDVA website at www.gibill.va.gov

or call

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, or contact the Enrollment/Registration office at the school that you plan to attend.

EMPLOYMENT

STATE OF OREGON

UNEMPLOYMENT

Veterans returning from service may be eligible for State of Oregon unemployment insurance benefits. A copy of your DD Form 214 is needed to apply for benefits. Local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVERs) and the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs) work to assist veterans with their employment needs.

Oregon Employment Department
Main Office 1-800-237-3710 (*Toll Free*)
or 503-947-1394
www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/VETS

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
Veterans' Services 1-800-692-9666
(*Toll Free within Oregon*) or 503-373-2085

EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE POINTS

Honorably discharged veterans receive preference points when applying for public employment. These preference points can be used more than once.

For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/odva/hirevetsfirst.shtml or contact the Oregon Employment Department at the number above.

FEDERAL

RE-EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

Enforced under federal statutes, veterans can return to their employment with accrued status upon release from service.

U.S. Department of Labor
1-800-237-3710 Ext. 71490
or 503-947-1490
www.dol.gov/vets/

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides a number of services to assist veterans who own or are considering starting small businesses. Services include loan guarantee programs, venture capital assistance, and government contracting assistance. Contact your SBA District Office.

For a location nearest you call
(Toll Free) 1-800-827-5722
www.sba.gov

or call the Office of
Veterans Business Development
at 202-205-6773 or at:

www.sba.gov/about-offices-content/1/2985

VETERANS TRANSITION FRANCHISE INITIATIVE

Commonly known as "VetFran," the program allows veterans to acquire a franchise with a down payment of 10 percent or less of the initial franchise cost.

For information contact the
Center for Veterans Enterprise
at 1-866-584-2344 (*Toll Free*)
www.vetbiz.gov

MEDICAL CARE

STATE OF OREGON

BENEFIT ASSISTANCE

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs works to assist veterans with applying for medical care through the federal VA healthcare system.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
Veterans' Services
1-800-692-9666 (*Toll Free within Oregon*)
or 503-373-2085
www.oregon.gov/ODVA/BENEFITS

OREGON VETERANS' HOME

Opened in 1997, the Oregon Veterans' Home is a 151-bed Medicare/Medicaid certified, long-term care facility.

The Home provides skilled nursing, Alzheimer's and other dementia care, and inpatient and outpatient rehabilitative care to veterans, spouses of veterans, and parents all of whose children died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Home is located in The Dalles, and overlooks the scenic Columbia River.

Oregon Veterans' Home
1-800-846-8460
or
541-296-7190
www.oregon.gov/ODVA/VETSHOME

FEDERAL

VA MEDICAL CARE

The VA healthcare system provides medical care to veterans through a network of medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, outreach clinics, rehabilitative centers and Vet Centers. Services available include:

- Hospital care
- Outpatient care
- Pharmacy services
- Rehabilitative care
- Alcohol and drug-dependence treatment
- Gulf War Registry programs
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment

Priority is given to disabled veterans.

Visit the VA website at
www.va.gov/health

The Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA) provides reimbursement for most medical expenses for the spouse and children of certain veterans.

www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva

DENTAL TREATMENT

The U.S.D.V.A. provides dental care for certain qualified veterans. Certain time limitations apply. To find out if you qualify, contact the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Benefits at 1-877-222-8387 or
www.va.gov/dental

OTHER VETERANS' BENEFITS

STATE OF OREGON

AUTO LICENSE REGISTRATION - One-time registration fee for motor vehicle registration for service-connected disabled veterans in receipt of compensation. Contact the Department of Motor Vehicles, General Information: 503-945-5000; Portland Metro Area, (503) 299-9999.

CLAIMS ASSISTANCE - The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) assists veterans, their dependents and survivors with applying for their federal and state veterans' benefits. The ODVA provides one-on-one assistance in obtaining records needed for such claims, including visits to claimants who are house-bound or live in nursing homes, and who are incarcerated. Contact ODVA Veterans' Services Office in Salem, 1-800-692-9666 (toll free in Oregon) or 503-373-2085 or ODVA Veterans' Service Office in Portland at 503-412-4777.

CONSERVATORSHIP - ODVA provides Estate Management for certain veterans and their dependents. Call the Veterans' Services Office, 1-800-692-9666 (toll free within Oregon) or 503-373-2085.

DOCUMENTS - Free recording and certified copies of public records for veteran-related purposes, including birth, marriage, death, and divorce decrees. Contact your local County Recorders Office.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - As funding allows, ODVA offers temporary financial assistance to meet emergency needs of Oregon veterans and their immediate families. For information, or to apply for this assistance, contact ODVA at 503-373-2264 or 1-800-692-9666 ext. 2264 (toll free within Oregon).

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES - Free permanent hunting and angling licenses are available for veterans with service-connected disabilities of 25 percent or more. Contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-720-6339 for information.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION - The exemption is a portion of the value from property tax for veterans with disabilities of 40 percent or more. The exemption is also available to a war veteran's surviving spouse who has not remarried. Contact your local County Tax Assessors Office or the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, 1-888-828-8801 ext. 2199 (toll free within Oregon) or 503-373-2199.

STATE PARKS USE - Veterans with a service-connected disability have free year-round camping and day-use privileges at RV and tent sites in Oregon State Parks. Contact the Oregon State Parks Information Center at 1-800-551-6949.

OTHER VETERANS' BENEFITS

STATE OF OREGON



“VETERAN” ODL DESIGNATION - Veterans may now request to add a “veteran” designation to their Oregon Drivers License. In order to qualify, veterans must request that the DMV add the designation at the time of issuance, provide proof of honorable discharge by providing a copy of their DD-214 and meet all the other Oregon requirements for a driving privilege including payment of the original, renewal or replacement fee. Contact DMV’s main office for more information at 503-945-5000.

VETERAN LICENSE PLATES - The Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles offers a variety of license plates relating to military service. A portion of the fees from the “VETERAN” plate helps support the Oregon Veterans’ Home, a 151-bed, Medicare/ Medicaid certified, skilled-nursing care facility, located in The Dalles. To obtain a “VETERAN” license plate take your DD-214 to your local DMV Office and complete the appropriate form.



VETS NEWS - The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs publishes a bi-monthly newsletter - *VETS NEWS* - for veterans and others interested in news affecting veterans and their dependents. To subscribe to this free newsletter contact ODVA Public Information, 1-800-828-8801 ext. 2385 (toll free within Oregon) or 503-373-2385. The *VETS NEWS* can be viewed online as well at www.oregon.gov/ODVA/INFO/VetsNews.shtml

WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE - The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs sponsors a veterans conference for all women who served in the military. The purpose of the conference is to provide outreach and information to Oregon’s women veteran population to ensure they are aware of the benefits they have earned as a result of their military service. For more information contact ODVA Public Information, 1-800-828-8801 ext. 2385 (toll free within Oregon) or 503-373-2385.



OTHER VETERANS' BENEFITS

FEDERAL

NOTE: The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) assists veterans, their dependents and survivors with applying for federal and state veterans' benefits including those listed below. The Department also assists with obtaining records needed to apply for these benefits. To make an appointment to file a federal VA claim or obtain benefits, contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans' Services

1-800-692-9666 (*Toll Free within Oregon*) or 503-373-2085

AUTOMOBILE ADAPTATION ASSISTANCE - Veterans and servicemembers may qualify if they have service-connected loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands or feet, or permanent impairment of vision of both eyes. Contact VA's Compensation and Pension Service at 1-800-827-1000

BURIAL BENEFITS - Veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable are eligible for burial in a national cemetery, a burial flag, a headstone or grave marker and a burial allowance under certain circumstances. Dependent spouse/children are eligible for national cemetery burial, if the veteran is buried there. Visit www.cem.va.gov for more information.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE - Any veteran who is entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability for which he or she uses prosthetic or orthopedic appliances may receive an annual clothing allowance.

COMPENSATION - Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. This includes but is not limited to:

- Prisoners of War
- Radiation Exposure
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Agent Orange and other Herbicides
- Gulf War Veterans
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Contact your local county veterans service officer for more information or to file a claim.

DEATH PENSION - This is a needs-based benefit paid to an unmarried surviving spouse or an unmarried child of a deceased wartime veteran if they are eligible. The VA's website contains additional information at www.vba.va.gov/survivors.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC) - This is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a veteran in certain circumstances. More information can be found at www.vba.va.gov/survivors.

OTHER VETERANS' BENEFITS

FEDERAL

GOLDEN ACCESS PASSPORT AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL ACCESS PASS - The Golden Age and Golden Access Passports have been discontinued and have been replaced by the America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass - Access Pass.

This lifetime access pass is for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with documented permanent disabilities. The pass provides access to and use of Federal recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee into National wildlife refuges. It also allows the pass owner discounts for camping, swimming and parking fees.

Previous passes will still be accepted according to the provisions of the pass. Visitors are encouraged to contact the site they plan to visit and inquire about pass acceptance before visiting.

For more information, visit www.nps.gov/fees.passes.htm.

LIFE INSURANCE - Honorably discharged veterans with service-connected disabilities may qualify for insurance. The insurance programs were developed to provide benefits for veterans who may not be able to get insurance from private companies. The VA website provides more information at www.insurance.va.gov.

PENSION - Veterans with low incomes who are non-service connected permanently and totally disabled or 65 years or older may be eligible for monetary support if they have 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. For more information, visit www.va.gov.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE (PMC) - A Presidential Memorial Certificate is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans. A copy of the deceased veteran's military discharge document (DD214) along with a copy of the death certificate must be provided when requesting a PMC. Visit the VA website at www.cem.va.gov/CEM/pmc.asp for more information.

SPECIAL HOME ADAPTATION GRANT- Veterans who have specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a grant for the purpose of modifying an existing home to meet their adaptive needs. There is more information at the VA website www.homeloans.va.gov/sah.

WOMEN VETERANS - Women veterans are eligible for the same VA benefits as male veterans. However, additional gender-specific services and benefits are available for women veterans. The VA website has more information at www.va.gov/womenvet.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

For more than 60 years, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has served Oregon's veterans, their dependents and survivors. The Department is honored to be able to serve those who have given so much of themselves in service to this country.

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, with the support of our citizens, recognizes and honors Oregon's veterans and their families by providing the highest quality programs, service and benefits.

Contact the Department at the numbers listed below for more information or questions about how we can help ensure that you are getting the benefits to which you are entitled and have earned as a result of your military service.

At the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, "EVERYDAY is Veterans Day!"

Veterans' Home Loans 1-888-673-8387

503-373-2051

Veterans' Benefits 1-800-692-9666

503-373-2085

Oregon Veterans' Home 1-800-846-8460

- Skilled nursing care
- Rehabilitative care

Public Information Services 1-800-828-8801

503-373-2386

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

700 Summer Street NE

Salem, OR 97301-1285

Visit our website at www.oregon.gov/ODVA

IMPORTANT INFORMATION/RESOURCES



**OREGON NATIONAL GUARD
POST DEPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE**
1-888-688-2264
www.orng-vet.org

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-560-5535
Oregon Military Dept. 1-800-452-7500 / 503-584-3980
VA www.va.gov
ODVA 1-800-828-8801
VA Hospital Portland 1-800-949-1044
VA Hospital Walla Walla 1-888-687-8863
VA Hospital Boise 208-422-1000
VA Hospital Roseburg 541-440-1000
Military One Source 1-800-342-9647 / www.militaryonesource.com
ESGR 1-800-452-7500 / 503-584-2837
Family Readiness Program 1-877-881-5181 / 503-584-3543
CTAP Employment Assistance 1-888-688-2264 / 503-584-2393
TriCare (TriWest) 1-888-tri-west (874-9378)

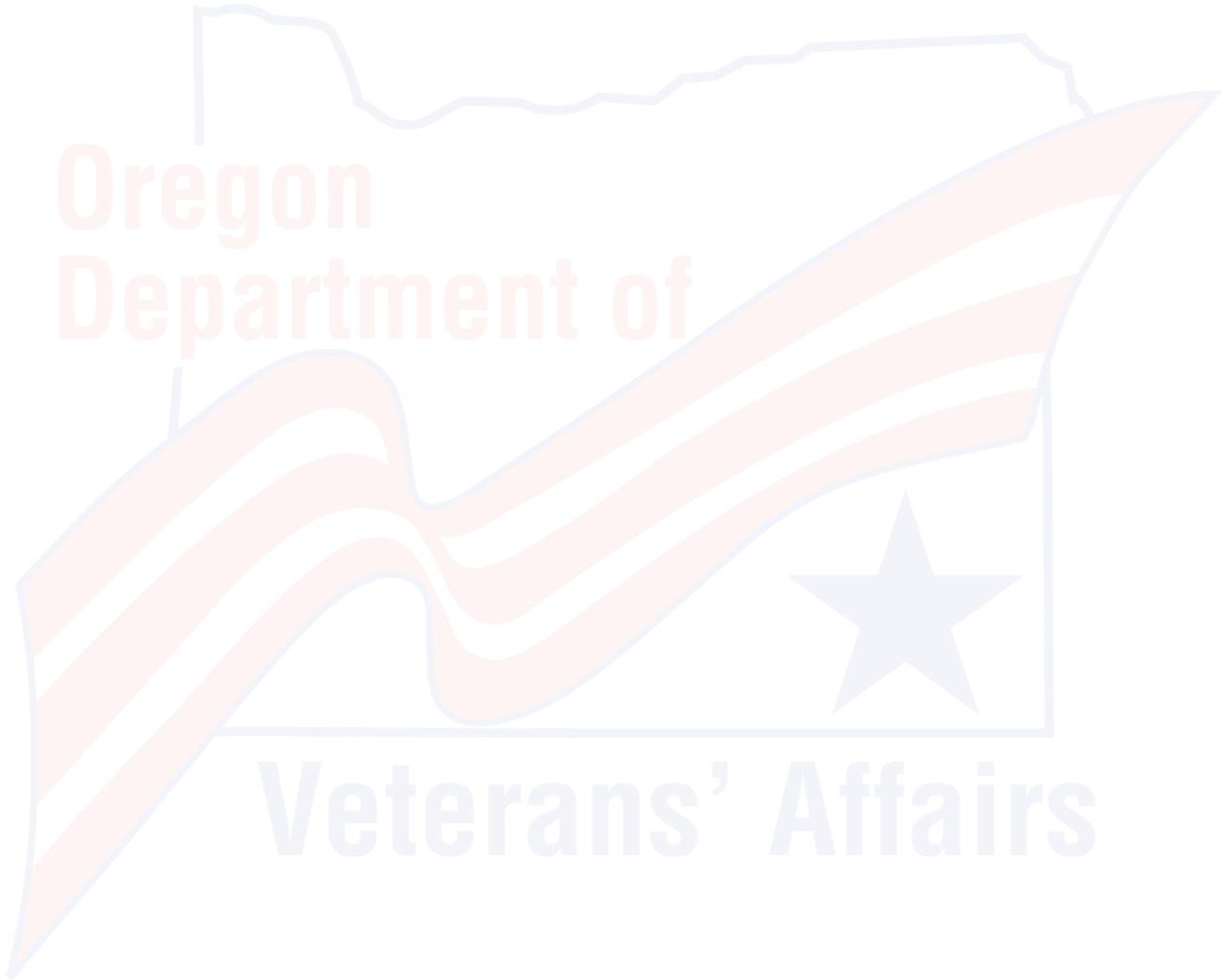
VET CENTERS

BEND,	639 Franklin Av. Bend OR 97701	541-647-5276
EUGENE,	1255 Pearl St. Suite 200 Eugene OR 97401	541-465-6918
GRANTS PASS,	211 SE 10th St. Grants Pass OR 97526	541-479-6912
PORTLAND,	1505 NE 122nd AvPortland OR 97220	503-688-5361
SALEM,	2645 Portland Rd NE Suite 250 Salem OR 97301	503-362-9911

Community-Based Outreach Clinics (CBOCS)

BEND, Morningside Medical Bldg. 2115 Wyatt Ct Suite 201	1-800-949-1004 Ext. 51494
BROOKINGS, Brookings CBOC 555 5th St	541-412-1152
EUGENE, Eugene CBOC 100 River Ave.	541-607-0897
HILLSBORO, Hillsboro CBOC 1925 Amber Glen Pky Suite #300	503-220-8262
KLAMATH FALLS, Klamath Falls CBOC 2819 Dahlia St.	541-273-6206 Ext. 181762
LA GRANDE, La Grande CBOC 202 12th St.	541-963-0627
NEWPORT, Newport CBOC 1010 SW Coast Hwy	541-265-4182
NORTH BEND, North Bend CBOC 2191 Marion Ave.	541-756-8002
PORTLAND, East Portland CBOC 10535 NE Glisan St Gateway Medical Bldg 2nd Floor	503-273-5142
SALEM, Salem Mental Health Outpatient Clinic 1660 Oak St SE Suite 100	503-220-8262 Ext. 52551
THE DALLES, The Dalles CBOC 704 Veterans Drive	541-296-3937
WARRENTON, North Coast Primary Medical and Mental Health Clinic 91400 Rilea Neocoxie Rd Bldg 7315 Warrenton OR 97146 ...	1-800-949-1004 Ext. 152593
WEST LINN, West Linn CBOC 1750 SW Blankenship Rd Suite 300 West Linn OR 97068	503-210-4900

- NOTES -



- NOTES -





