

Veteran Benefits and Services Information

Available at

Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Offices

ORS 408.505 (Oregon Laws 2011, Chapter 41) requires state agencies to make materials available to veterans that inform them how to contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) and the Oregon Military Department's reintegration team about veteran benefits and services. Oregon law also requires agency directors to report to the appropriate interim legislative committee, on or before October 1 of each even-numbered year, on the effectiveness of these outreach measures.

The most direct way that ODOT's Driver and Motor Vehicle Services division (DMV) achieves this is through direct solicitation. ORS 406.073 directs DMV to share service member and veteran information with ODVA monthly. DMV provides multiple opportunities for a customer to indicate they are a veteran and would like to receive information on their benefits. The name and address of each veteran or service member is shared if they give written authorization on their application for license, identification card, vehicle title, or vehicle registration, for DMV to send the information to ODVA for the purpose of receiving benefit information. This opportunity is found on paper forms and on-line. DMV has sent over 500,000 names and addresses to ODVA since the law became operative in 2014, including over 153,000 since the last report in 2022. This is possibly due to the significant increase in transactions that are available online, and customers' use of those online services, which prominently display the question "Would you like to authorize DMV to send your name and address to ODVA for the purpose of receiving benefit information?"

DMV participates in veteran outreach events several times per year around the state. DMV representatives inform veterans who attend the events about benefits available to them at DMV. Included among the attendees for these events are veterans experiencing homelessness and formerly incarcerated veterans who have reentered the community. Having paused participation in such events as a result of the pandemic, DMV began engaging again starting in the fall of 2022. Examples of our outreach completed, and planned, are as follows:

- **Medford DMV Office:** A standing monthly appointment with the White City Veterans' Administration Center to assist veterans with priority service. The office also collaborates with ACCESS, a local non-profit organization, to provide monthly priority assistance to veterans.
- **Southern Oregon Veterans' Stand-Down and Employment Fair:** This annual event was last held on July 24, 2024.
- **2023 Portland Veterans' Hiring Fair and Stand-Down**

- **2024 Washington County Veterans' Stand-Down:** Mt. Hood/Sunset staff are planning to attend this event, scheduled for November 15, 2024.
- **Mid-Willamette Valley Veterans Stand-Down:** North Salem and DMV HQ staff will attend this annual event on September 11, 2024, in Salem, Oregon.
- **Lane County Veterans' Stand-Down:** Springfield and Eugene staff plan to attend this event on September 27, 2024.

DMV offers additional opportunities for Veterans to specifically engage with our products, and again offering information about ODVA. DMV Field offices provide “Veteran Benefits” magazines supplied by ODVA. DMV orders approximately 500 Veteran Benefits magazines per year. This is a moderate reduction in demand from previous years, which continues a pattern of slow reduction in customers picking up this magazine at our offices. Information on how to order veteran recognition license plates is contained in the Veteran Benefits magazine. DMV also places posters in offices to alert veterans that they can add a veteran designation to their driver license, instruction permit, or identification card. DMV has issued over 117,000 Oregon driver licenses and ID cards with the veteran designation since the beginning of 2015, an additional 16,000 (approximately) since the last report.

Veteran recognition license plates now total about 28,000 active registrations across the various types. (For those that require a surcharge, the revenue benefits the Oregon Veterans Homes.) Veterans with a service-connected disability rating qualify for Disabled Veteran license plates. These benefit the veteran by providing a one-time, low-cost registration fee that never requires renewal. More than 42,000 of these registrations are currently active.

Finally, DMV issues Wounded Warrior Permit Decals to be affixed to Disabled Person Parking decals, for veterans who meet a certain level of service-connected disability. These decals are issued to veterans who qualify under ORS 811.616 and provide additional parking privileges. The program began in 2019, and each year over 1,700 stickers are printed.

DMV is proud and honored to assist Oregon veterans in learning about, and ultimately receiving, the benefits they deserve.