

Veterans Corner
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Cold War Veterans Property Tax Exemptions

If you served in the military from September 2, 1945 – December 26, 1991, you may be eligible for the Section 458-B of Real Property Law that authorizes limited exemption from real property taxes for Cold War Veterans. This exemption is limited to 10 years from the effective date of January 3, 2008. Local Municipalities have the option to exempt 10% or 15% of its assessed value. Veterans/spouses should check with their local assessor to determine the maximum exemption. www.orps.state.ny.us

Gold Star Parents

On August 1, 2007, Governor Spitzer signed into law The Gold Star Parents Annuity Program. This authorizes up to \$500 per gold star parent of a deceased veteran. For eligibility and an application contact the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs at 518-474-6784.

Dialysis

Veterans do not have to be service connected to receive dialysis from the VA Medical Center in Albany, but they must be enrolled in the VA health care system. For more information call 518-626-6509.

DD214/Discharge Papers

For any VA benefits the veteran or spouse must present a discharge paper (DD214). For burial in a National Cemetery I would recommend that you file it with your funeral director. Don't wait! It takes 2-3 months to receive a copy from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. This is the Veterans responsibility. To file electronically for your DD214 visit <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>

VA Hearing Aids Part I

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I get a hearing aid from the VA?

It is National VA policy that hearing aids are furnished to eligible veterans in accordance with the restrictions defined in a VA Directive 2002-039 released July 5, 2002. Briefly, the Directive explains that eligibility for hearing aids is currently limited to veterans with a documented service connected hearing loss, veterans receiving a disability rating of 10% or more – for a condition other than hearing loss, and some veterans with very special needs. With the exception of veterans with documented service connection for hearing loss, an eligible veteran must be currently

enrolled in and receiving healthcare from a VA Medical Center or a VA Outpatient clinic. Hearing Aids are not customarily provided to non-service connected veterans. However, if there is a medical reason, a VA Physician can refer a non-service connected veteran for a hearing evaluation. If you are not certain about your eligibility status, check the blue pages of your local phone directory for the number of your local Veterans Benefits counselor, or call your nearest VA and ask for the Veterans Service Center. You may also contact the VA Health Benefits Service Center toll free at 1-877-222-VETS.

2. How much do hearing aids cost?

The VA does not sell hearing aids. If you purchase them privately, a hearing aid may cost \$1,000 or more for each aid.

3. How do I get a hearing aid from the VA?

By VA regulation, veterans who are service connected for hearing loss can contact a VA audiology clinic directly. At that time you will be scheduled to have a hearing test to see if you need a hearing aid. Veterans who are not Service connected for a hearing loss are not eligible for hearing aids. A primary care provider will refer other veterans eligible to receive hearing aids to an audiologist. The Audiology Clinic will then schedule you for a hearing test and ear impressions. A return appointment to the Audiology clinic would be scheduled for the hearing aid fitting.

VA to hire Iraq, Afghanistan Vets

VA announced it would hire employment coordinators to focus on attracting, recruiting and hiring Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans throughout the department. VA said it hoped to have the coordinator positions filled as soon as possible. Some 31% of VA's 230,000 employees are veterans, with 7.7% of them service-connected disabled veterans. For more information about VA jobs, access www.va.gov/JOBS/types_careers.asp.