

# Maximizing Veteran Benefits



Polk County's Veteran Services is here to help current, former and future service members wade through the intricate and sometimes complicated process of obtaining military benefits.

Many of Polk's nearly 54,000 veterans can take advantage of this **free service**, which can include providing information about:

- Compensation
- Non-service connected pension
- Education and training
- Home Loans
- Life Insurance
- Survivor benefits
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Burial Benefits

**A Service-Connected Disability** is a tax free, monetary benefit paid to veterans with disabilities, either physical or mental, that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service.

**Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)** is a tax free, monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military service members who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.

**Non-service Connected Pension** is Veterans Affairs' pension program that provides monthly benefit payments to certain wartime veterans, and their survivors, with financial need. A veteran may generally be eligible if he/she:

- ★ Discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions; **and**
- ★ Served 90 days or more of active military, naval or air service with at least one day during a period of war; **and**
- ★ His/her countable income is below the maximum annual pension rate; **and**
- ★ Meets the net worth limitations; **and**
- ★ Is age 65 or older, **or** is shown by evidence to have a permanent and total non-service- connected disability, **or** is a patient in a nursing home, **or** is receiving Social Security disability benefits.

<sup>1</sup>Veterans who entered active duty after September 7, 1980 must also have served at least 24 months of active duty service. If the total length of service is less than 24 months, the veteran must have completed his/her entire tour of active duty.

**Housebound Aid and Attendance (A&A)** is an increased monthly pension amount.

**Survivors Pension**, which may also be referred to as Death Pension, is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased veteran with wartime service.

**Healthcare Benefits** are the medical benefits at local VA clinics.

**Burial Services** Burial for honorably discharged veterans and their spouses is free in national cemeteries. Burial in other facilities, like a private cemetery or state cemetery, may be eligible for certain reimbursements. Other services may include a grave marker, headstone or medallion, a presidential certificate, and possible reimbursement of some funeral expenses.

**Education and assistance** provided for:

- ★ Gi Bill
- ★ Montgomery GI Bill
- ★ Forever GI Bill
- ★ Post 911 GI Bill (Yellow Ribbon Program)
- ★ Reserve Educational Assistance Program
- ★ Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance


Bartow: Monday - Friday: by appointment

Lakeland: Wednesdays: by appointment  
1370 Ariana St.

2nd & 4th Fridays: walk-ins  
8 am - 3:30 pm

Lake Wales: Wednesdays: walk-ins  
201 W. Central Ave. 8 am - 5 pm

 [www.polk-county.net](http://www.polk-county.net)

 (863) 534-5220

 1290 Golfview Ave. Bartow, FL 33830

