

State of Indiana

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2011 State and Federal Benefit Information



Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs

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Revised
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OFFICE

PO Box 66830
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Phone 1-888-442-4551
Web site www.va.gov/education

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOME LOAN GUARANTEE OFFICE

Phone 1-888-244-6711

Service Organizations

The service organizations listed below are accredited to represent veterans and their dependents in the filing of claims. All but Vietnam Veterans of America are located at 575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

American Legion,
RM 325 317/916-3605

AMVETS,
RM 307 317/916-3612

Disabled American Veterans,
RM 320 317/916-3615

Military Order of the Purple Heart
RM 330 317/916-3623

Paralyzed Veterans,
RM 328 317/916-3626

Veterans of Foreign Wars,
RM 374 317/916-3629

Vietnam Veterans of America 723 W. Centennial,
Muncie, IN 47303 765/288-4015

This brochure is designed to provide general and brief information on Indiana and federal benefits enacted by the Indiana General Assembly and the United States Congress

*Items Identified by Two Asterisks (**)
And Bold Type Are New Since the Last Printing*

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs

The mission of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is to assist Hoosier Veterans, service personnel, their dependents and/or survivors in obtaining every benefit and advantage due them under the laws of the State of Indiana and the United States. The Department works with a network of certified County Veteran Service Officers who are there to assist veterans with information and the preparation of paperwork at no cost. Some of the State benefits that may apply are:

Addresses and Telephone Numbers	Inside Cover
Remission of Fees for Child (ren) of a Disabled Veteran	6
Remission of Fees for Indiana Purple Heart Recipient	8
In-State Tuition Rates for Active Duty	8
Property Tax Deductions/Excise Tax	8
Income Tax Exemption	9
Relief from Attachment	9

LICENSE PLATES

License Plates	10-11
Hoosier Veteran	10
Support Our Troops	10
POW/MIA	10
Disabled Hoosier Veteran	10
Ex-Prisoner of War	11
Purple Heart	11
Commercial Drivers License (CDL) Exemption***	12
Other BMV Considerations for military families***	12

OTHER INDIANA BENEFITS

Reimbursement of Medal of Honor Recipients	12
Delayed High School Diploma	12
Military Family Leave	13
Military Family Relief Fund	13
Jury Duty	13

Combat Zone Exemption of Military Pay	13
Memorial Day Expenses	14
Display of Flag Upon the Death of a Veteran	14
Flag at Half-Staff for Post Member	14
Women Veterans' Coordinator	14
Governor's Memorial Certificate	14
Employment Assistance	15-16
G.I. Bill Education Benefits	17
Vehicle Operator License	17
Peddlers, Vendors or Hawkers License	18
Vital Documents	18
County Veterans' Service Officers	18-21
Indiana Veterans' Home	21
Indiana Veterans' Memorial Cemetery	21
County Burial Allowance	21
Resident Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing License	21
Golden Hoosier Passport	22
Leave of Absence for Training	22

NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVES

Hoosier Veteran Seamless Transition Program	23
Military pay vs. State pay	23
Educational Benefits	23
Remission of Fees for Service-Connected Death	23
Employment Assistance	23
Job Training Priority	23
Exemption for Jury Duty	24
Medical Benefits on State Active Duty	24
Pensions/Funeral Expenses	24
Group Insurance (National Guard Association)	24
Legal Benefits	24
Leave of Absence While on State Active Duty	25

FEDERAL BENEFITS

Alcohol and Drug Dependency Treatment	26
Burial Expense Reimbursement	26
Burial Flag	27
Headstone or Grave Marker	27
Burial in National Cemeteries	27
Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)	28
Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP)	28

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)	28
Death Due to a Non-Service Connected Cause	29
Disability Compensation	29
Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31)	29
Montgomery G.I. Bill (Chapter 30)	30
Education for Dependents (Chapter 35)	30
Montgomery G.I. Bill – Selected Reserves (Chapter 1606)	30
Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)(Chapter 1607)	31
Post-9/11 G.I. Bill (Chapter 33)	31-34
Changes Made by the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act	35
Family Medical Leave Act	36
VA Health Care Eligibility	36
Nursing Home Care	36
Domiciliary Care	37
Job Finding Assistance	37
Life Insurance	37
Loans for Homes/Condo/Mobile Homes	37
Military Records	38
Non-Service Connected Death Benefit	38
Pension	39
Persian Gulf/Agent Orange/Ionizing Radiation Registries	39
Reemployment Rights	39
Reserve Retired Pay	39
Unemployment Compensation	39

MEDICAL CENTERS/CLINICS

Indiana VA Medical Centers (VAMC)	41
Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)	41-42
Surrounding State VAMCs	43
Vet Centers	44

CEMETERIES

National, State and other Veterans' Cemeteries	44
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Remission of Fees for the Child(ren) of a Disabled Veteran (CDV) **

The biological or legally adopted child(ren) of eligible disabled Indiana veterans may be eligible for remission of fees at any state-supported post secondary school or university in the State of Indiana. *All students* must submit a copy of their birth certificate or adoption papers with their application. Applications submitted without the appropriate documentation will be returned to the student.

Note to legally adopted children: This applies at any age as long as the child was adopted by age 24 and the child is a resident of Indiana. The remission of fees/CDV program is a State of Indiana provided program and is not the federal GI Bill education program. CDV students can only use this benefit at a state supported university/college. Each college/university has its own student residency requirements.

The rules are:

1. ***** For disabled veterans who initially entered the military before June 30 2011:** The veteran must have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of wartime, or performed duty equally hazardous that was recognized by the award of a service, campaign or expeditionary medal of the United States (the military discharge must reflect that medal); The veteran must also have been a resident of the State of Indiana for not less than 3 consecutive years during his/her lifetime.

Eligible wartime dates are:

WW I: April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918
WWII: December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946
Korea: June 27, 1950 and Jan 31, 1955
Vietnam: Aug 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975
Gulf War: August 2, 1990 - present

And:

2. The veteran must be declared service-connected disabled or suffered a service connected death as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense (if the Department of Defense, the veteran must supply official documentation),

Or:

3. The veteran received a Purple Heart Medal. (Official documentation of the award is required)

Or:

4. The veteran was a resident of Indiana at the time of entry into the service and was declared a POW or MIA after January 1, 1960. (Only under-graduate study is eligible if attending under this clause)

Or:

5. The student was a veteran-related pupil at the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home (students must submit a copy of their diploma or transcripts from the school with their ROF application).

The Remission of Fees is good for 124 semester hours of education and may be used for undergraduate level work. The amount remitted is 100% of tuition and all mandatory fees. Ref: IC 21-14-4-1.

Please Note: The remission of fees/CDV program is a State of Indiana provided program and is not the federal GI Bill education program. CDV students can only use this benefit at a state supported university/college in Indiana.

***** The eligibility criteria for the children of disabled veterans who initially enter the military *after* June 30, 2011 will change to include the additional criteria:**

1. Will be limited to undergraduate courses only.
2. Will have a total of eight (8) years in the program.
3. Must not have reached their 32nd birthday at the time of their initial application.
4. The disabled wartime-era parent must have joined the service from Indiana or must have resided in Indiana at least five (5) years before the application.
5. Applicants who are not biological children of the veteran must have been adopted by the veteran parent before they were eighteen (18) years of age.
6. Must maintain the following grade point average (GPA):

Freshman academic year: a cumulative GPA that the eligible institution determines satisfactory academic progress;

Sophomore academic year: a cumulative GPA of 2.25 on a 4.0 grading scale, or its equivalent as established by the institution.

Junior or senior academic year: a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 grading scale, or its equivalent as established by the institution.

Students not reaching these goals will be placed on

probation and must reach the requisite GPA by the next semester or its equivalent.

7. Will have their remission of fees prorated based on the VA disability rating as follows:

Children of veterans rated 80% service-connected disabled or higher by the VA will receive 100% fee remission.

Children of veterans rated less than 80% service-connected disabled will receive 20% fee remission plus the disability rating of the veteran.

If the disability rating of the veteran changes after the beginning of the academic semester, quarter or other period, the change in the disability rating shall be applied beginning with the immediately following academic semester, quarter or other period.

Clarification: Children of veterans who entered the military *before* June 30, 2011 are unaffected by these changes.

Remission of Fees for Indiana Purple Heart Recipients

A person who entered active duty from a permanent home address in Indiana, received the Purple Heart and received an honorable discharge, is eligible to pay the resident tuition rate at a state supported college or university and who otherwise possesses the requisite academic qualifications, is entitled to remission of fees for 124 semester credit hours. If the student receives financial aid through any other source, the remission of fees is adjusted accordingly. Ref: IC 21-14-10

In-State Tuition Rates for Active Duty

Active duty military personnel stationed in Indiana and their dependents are eligible for resident tuition rates at any state-supported college or university. Ref: IC 21-14-9

Property Tax Deductions/Excise tax

Property tax deductions are available to disabled Hoosier Veterans under the following conditions:

1. IC 6-1.1-12-14, a \$12,480 dollar deduction is available to a veteran who:
 - a. Served at least 90 days of honorable service (can be peacetime service).

And:

- b. Are totally disabled (not necessarily service-

connected but the disability must be evidenced by a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pension certificate).

Or:

- c. Are at least 62 years old and 10% service-connected disabled.

Note: This deduction is not available if the assessed value of the real property owned by the veteran is in excess of \$143,160.

2. IC 6-1.1-12-13, a \$24,960 tax deduction is available for veterans who:

- a. Served honorably in the Armed Forces during any period of wartime.

And:

- b. Are at least 10% service-connected disabled.

3. A \$37,440 tax deduction is available for any veteran who: (This is a combination of tax code 1 and tax code 2 and in the event the property is valued above \$143,160 the tax code 1 portion is not applicable)

- a. Served honorably during any period of wartime.

And:

- b. Is 100% service connected-disabled

Or:

- c. Is at least 62 years of age with at least a 10% service-connected disability.

Notes:

1. A statutory disability rating for Pulmonary TB is not eligible.
2. Active duty for training with the National Guard or Reserves is eligible only if the disability occurs from an event during the period of active duty and that duty was performed during wartime.
3. The surviving spouse of the veteran is eligible for the veteran's tax deduction. The spouse must apply in his or her own name. Ref: IC 6-1.1-12-14, IC 6-1.1-12-15.
4. If the assessed valuation of the property is less than the deduction, the overage can be applied toward the excise tax on the veteran's license plates at the rate of \$2 per each \$100 of deduction.
5. If the veteran does not own any real property (house) the entire deduction can be used toward their vehicle license plates at the rate of \$2 per each \$100 of deduction. (Tax Code 1 - \$249.60; Tax Code 2 - \$499.20; Tax Code 3 - \$748.80).
6. The approved application must be taken to the county Auditor. The Auditor will also make any of the

determinations shown in items 3, 4 or 5.

Income Tax Exemption

Current members of the active branches of service, National Guard and Reserves are eligible to receive an exemption of \$5,000 on their state income tax return. Veterans who are military retirees over age 60 are eligible for the same exemption. Ref IC 6-3-2-4

Relief from Attachment

A disability benefit awarded to a veteran for a service connected disability under 38 U.S.C. 1101 et seq. is exempt from attachment from a judicial lien, process, or proceeding to collect a debt. This subdivision does not apply to a service connected disability benefit that is subject to child and spousal support enforcement under 42 U.S.C. 659(h)(1)(A)(ii)(V). Ref IC 34-55-10-2(c)(12) (Effective 1 July 2010)

Hoosier Veteran License Plates

Any resident of the State who was honorably separated from the active Armed Forces can purchase a Hoosier Veteran license plate. Simply take your DD-214 or your Discharge Certificate to your local BMV office and request the special plate. Veterans may choose from five 4-digit abbreviations to identify their particular branch of service: ARMY, NAVY, USMC, USAF, and USCG. Plate numbers 1 through 100, including low-numbered motorcycle plates, are approved by the Director, IDVA. \$15 from the sale of each of these plates goes into the Military Family Relief Fund.

Support Our Troops Plates

Since January 1, 2007, this special plate with a yellow ribbon is available for purchase by all Hoosiers, whether or not they are a veteran. Most of the proceeds from each of these plates (\$20) goes into the Military Family Relief Fund.

POW/MIA

The Prisoner Of War - Missing In Action license plate sponsored by Indiana Rolling Thunder. New in 2010, this plate honors all Hoosier veterans who remain missing in action or listed as prisoners of war.

The cost of the Prisoner Of War - Missing In Action license plate includes vehicle registration fees and taxes, a group

fee of \$25, and an administrative fee of \$15. A portion of this money goes to the Military Family Relief Fund.

Disabled Hoosier Veteran Plates

A person may apply for, receive, and display a disabled Hoosier veteran license plate on the person's vehicle for private and personal use if the person, as the result of having served in the armed forces of the United States, has:

- (1) lost sight in both eyes or suffered permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to the extent of being eligible for service-connected compensation for the loss;
- (2) suffered the loss of one (1) or both feet or the permanent loss of use of one (1) or both feet;
- (3) suffered the loss of one (1) or both hands or the permanent loss of use of one (1) or both hands, or
- (4) a United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating for a physical condition that precludes the person from walking without pain or difficulty; or
- (5) been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as being one hundred percent (100%) disabled and is receiving service related compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Applications must be accompanied by a copy of the VA Rating Determination. Older DAV plates that only say DAV and do not have the universal handicap symbol are only valid in Indiana for parking purposes. Plates which do not have the universal handicap symbol may be exchanged free of charge at their local BMV. Applications may be obtained from either the BMV or the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the veteran's eligibility. Ref: IC 9-18-18-1, IC 9-18.18-2.

*****Note: this license plate bears the universal handicap symbol (wheelchair) and can park in designated handicap parking spaces, however, to park free at a parking meter, the driver must be the registered owner of the vehicle.**

Ex-Prisoner of War Plate

A POW license plate is available to all ex-prisoners of war or to the surviving spouse of a deceased POW. Since July 1, 2009, a veteran with a former Prisoner of War license plate is not subject to pay for metered parking and cannot be ticketed for parking for longer than permitted at a metered parking space.

Applications for these plates are available from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the eligibility

of the applicant. Ref: IC 9-18-17-1.

Purple Heart Plates

Any Hoosier Veteran who has received the Purple Heart Medal is authorized to have these special license plates. Applications may be obtained at the BMV or from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The veteran must present official documentation of the award, and the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the veteran's eligibility. Ref: IC 9-18-19-1, IC 9-1819-2, IC 9-18-19-3. *****Note: this is not a handicap plate. The driver must pay at parking meters.**

Commercial Drivers License (CDL) Exemption

Individuals who operate CMVs for military purposes are exempt from the requirement to obtain a CDL. This exception is applicable to active duty military personnel; members of the military reserves; member of the National Guard on active duty, including personnel on full-time National Guard duty, personnel on part-time National Guard training, and National Guard military technicians (civilians who are required to wear military uniforms); and active duty U.S. Coast Guard personnel. This exception is not applicable to U.S. Reserve technicians.

Other Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Benefits for Military Families

see <http://www.in.gov/bmv/2343.htm#1>

1. Drivers License renewals for U.S. military personnel. (more on page 17)
2. Military-provided motorcycle safety courses.
3. Easy plate renewal.
4. Title an imported vehicle.

Medal of Honor Recipients

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to reimburse expenses to Hoosier veterans who are Medal of Honor recipients who travel in Indiana to give speeches. Ref: IC 10-17-1-6 Sec 6(b)9

Delayed High School Diploma

World War I and World War II, Korea and Vietnam Veterans who served between the following dates may apply to the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs for issuance of a high school diploma.

WW I: April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918
WWII: December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946
Korea: June 27, 1950 and Jan 31, 1955
Vietnam: Aug 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975

In addition, the veteran must have:

- attended public or nonpublic high school in Indiana prior to military service, and
- been a student in good standing, and
- not graduated or received a diploma because of leaving high school for military service, and
- been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States

Veterans, or their surviving spouses or eligible family members, may submit application to the Department of Veteran Affairs. Ref: IC 20-20-7-3 Sec. 3

Military Family Leave

The spouse, parent, grandparents or siblings, including biological, adopted-, foster- or step-family of Hoosier veterans ordered to active duty deployments in the Armed Forces or the National Guard and who are employed by an employer who employs over 50 people, are eligible for an unpaid leave of absence of up to 10 days. The leave can be taken in the 30-day period after the service member receives their orders, while they are home on leave during the deployment, or in the 30-day period at the end of their deployment. Ref: IC 22-2-13

Military Family Relief Fund

The families of Hoosier active duty service members as well as National Guard and Reserves on Title 10 orders may apply for emergency grants for food, housing, utilities, medical services, transportation and other essential family support expenses which were caused by the mobilization of the service member for up to 1 year after the end of their orders. Contact local County Veterans' Service Officer or IDVA at 1-800-400-4520. (IC 10-17-12)

Jury Duty

Individuals on active military duty are exempt from serving on a jury in any court of Indiana. Ref: IC 10-16-16-1

Military Pay State Tax Exempt if Deployed to Combat Zone

Military pay earned while under orders to a combat zone is exempt from state tax. The exemption period begins with the date on the orders and ends when the orders end.

Eligibility: Members of the Guard and Reserves.

Ref: IC 6-3-1-3.5b.a (23)

Note: This exemption and the \$5,000 exemption cannot be claimed on the same return. It must be one or the other, but not both.

Memorial Day Expenses

In counties which annually coordinate a Memorial Day ceremony, including the placing of flags in local cemeteries, the county council may contribute an unspecified amount to each veterans' organization in the county or, if a Memorial Day society, county veterans' council or any other Memorial Day association exists, may donate an unspecified amount to that organization instead of to the separate veterans' organizations. Ref: IC 10-18-8-1 (removes the limit of the amount allowed to be donated).

Display of United States Flag Upon the Death of Certain Veterans

Upon the death of a member of the armed forces or the National Guard who is a resident of Indiana and who dies of wounds received in action either outright in action or who dies before reaching a medical treatment facility, the Governor shall, within 24 hours of receiving notice, issue a proclamation ordering the United States flag to be flown at half-staff on the day of the member's funeral or memorial service. Ref: IC 10-18-9

Flag at Half-Staff for the Funeral of a Post Member

Upon application, the Governor will authorize the flags at the Post to be lowered to half-staff upon the death of a member of a veterans' organization. Flag can remain at half-staff from the time of the veteran's death until after the funeral. Application can be downloaded online from www.in.gov/dva/forms.htm and faxed to (317) 232-7721 or mailed to IDVA.

Women Veterans Coordinator

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs has on staff a Women Veterans Coordinator to assist female veterans with claims and applications and to assist with matters

which may be female-unique. Call (317) 232-3919 or e-mail Ashley Roberts at asroberts@dva.in.gov.

Governor's Memorial Certificate

A special certificate, signed by the governor, is available to surviving family members upon the death of an honorably discharged veteran to commemorate their service. This includes National Guard or Reservists who satisfactorily completed at least one period of enlistment. Application available at Indiana funeral homes, county VSO offices or call 1-800-400-4520.

Employment Assistance

With funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development provides services to Hoosier Veterans. Through the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP), and the Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) Program, Workforce Development Offices throughout the State are equipped to assist Hoosier Veterans with their transition from the service to civilian life. The DVOP's specialize in tailored training and job placement opportunities for veterans with service-connected disabilities. LVER's coordinate services provided veterans including counseling, testing, and identifying training and employment opportunities. Contact the nearest Indiana Workforce Development Office and ask for the location of the closest veteran's representative.

- Indiana Department of Workforce Development:
<http://www.in.gov/dwd>
- To make informed employment and education choices visit
<http://www.careeronestop.org/militarytransition/>

Offices having Veterans' representatives include:

Allen County:

Fort Wayne (260) 446-3903, 3939 or 3915

Bartholomew County:

Columbus (812) 314-8576 or 8572

Dearborn County:

Lawrenceburg (812) 537-1117 ext 233

Dekalb County:

Auburn (260) 925-0124 ext 225 or 227

Delaware County:

Muncie (765) 289-1861 ext 2129 or 2130

Elkhart County:

Elkhart (574) 295-0105 ext 227 & 228

Floyd County:
New Albany (812)941-9418, 6429, or 6402

Grant County:
Marion (765)668-8911 ext. 240 or 224

Greene County:
Linton (812)847-4479 ext. 226

Hamilton County:
Fishers (317)841-8194

Henry County:
New Castle (765)529-3010 ext. 2307

Howard County:
Kokomo (765)459-0571 ext. 3060 or 3019

Jefferson County:
Madison (812)265-3734 ext. 207

Johnson County:
Camp Atterbury (812)526-1499 ext. 2345
Franklin (317)736-5531 or (317)834-3907

Knox County:
Vincennes (812)882-8770 ext. 217 or 231

Lake County:
Gary (219)981-1520 ext. 336
Hammond (219) 933-8332 ext. 309 or 307

LaPorte County:
LaPorte (219)362-2175 ext. 226 or 233

Lawrence County:
Bedford (812)279-4400 ext. 227

Madison County:
Auburn (260)925-0124 ext. 225 or 227

Marion County:
Indy West (317)246-5409, 5808, 5460
Indy East (317)358-4500, 4522, 4524, 4519
VARO (317)916-3756

Monroe County:
Bloomington (812)331-6000 ext. 242 or 243

Morgan County:
Mooresville (317)834-3907

Noble County:
Kendallville (260) 599-1000

Porter County:
Portage (219)762-6592 ext. 246 or 237

St. Joe County:
South Bend (574)237-9675 ext. 1038 or 1040

Shelby County:
Shelbyville (317)392-3252 ext. 215 or 206

Tippecanoe County:
Lafayette (765)474-5411 or 446-2733

Vanderburgh County:
Evansville (812)424-4473 ext 238, 233, 239

Vigo County:
Terry Haute (812)234-6602 ext 447 or 472

Wayne County:

In addition to the above, the State Merit System provides for the addition of points for veterans applying for merit positions or promotions within State Government. Ref: IC 4-15-2-18.

GI Bill Education Benefits The State Approving Agency

The State Approving Agency (SAA) is a division within the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs tasked with the responsibility of approving education and training programs for veterans with GI Bill education benefits. In addition to private and public colleges/universities and other education programs, there are more than 400 approved apprenticeship/OJT programs in the State. These apprenticeships/OJT programs are both union and non union and are found in both the public and private sector. Approved OJT programs are mostly found in the law enforcement and firefighter fields. In addition, the SAA approves medical/hospital based programs, flight schools, real estate, licensed barber/beauty schools and state owned certification tests.

Additional apprenticeship-related material can be found at:
Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training:
<http://bat.wdsc.org/>

1. Click on Search Sponsor Database
2. Select State
3. Select County
4. Click on VIEW

You may be eligible to use your GI Bill & Post 9/11 Education Benefits for the following career development activities:

- On-the-Job Training
- Apprenticeships
- Flight School
- Licensure & Testing
- College & Non-College Degree Programs

Employers, Educational Institutions, Veterans and Eligible Members call 1-800-400-4520 to find out how to get your training program approved. A listing of approved programs in the State of Indiana is available on our website under GI Bill Opportunities.

Contact the State Approving Agency at (317) 234-6062 or toll-free at 1-800-400-4520 or at our web site www.in.gov/dva.

For GI Bill Education information please go to pages 26 of the federal benefits portion of this brochure.

Vehicle Operator License **

1. When the operator's license of an individual who is temporarily residing outside Indiana because of service in the armed forces of the United States has expired, the license remains valid for ninety (90) days following the person's discharge from service in the armed forces. To obtain a renewed license, the individual must do the following:
 - a. Apply for renewal of the operator's license during the ninety (90) day period following the individual's discharge.
 - b. Show proof of the individual's discharge from service in the armed forces when applying for the renewal.
Ref. IC 9-24-12-6(e)

2. *****Effective July 1, 2012, if a veteran wishes to have an indication of their veteran status shown on their drivers license or identification card, they should indicate so on the application.**

Peddlers, Vendors, or Hawkers License

State law provides that any wartime veteran who has an honorable discharge shall be granted these licenses by all cities and counties free of charge. See your county auditor.
Ref: IC 25-25

Vital Documents For Veterans Benefits

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indiana State Archives have copies of DD-214's on file for many Hoosier Veterans who entered the service from Indiana. Additionally, many National Guard NGB Forms 22 are available. Copies of these will be provided upon request to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The processing time for such a request is usually one or two weeks. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs or your County Veterans Service Officer can assist you with the paperwork to obtain other documents from the federal government. Ref: IC 10-5-7-1.

County Veterans Service Officers:

Ninety-one counties in the State employ a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO). These CVSO's are veterans who stand ready to help you with your veteran-related needs. The County Veterans Service Offices have all the forms and other information you may need to obtain service from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the State of Indiana. The Service Officers will assist you in finding the information and resources you need to solve your service-related problems. They are your liaison for all veteran issues.

INDIANA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS DIRECTORY

ADAMS	(260) 724-5371
ALLEN	(260) 449-7861
BARTHOLOMEW	(812) 379-1540
BENTON	(765) 884-1764
BLACKFORD	(765) 348-3151
BOONE	(765) 483-4480
BROWN	(812) 988-5600
CARROLL	(765) 564-2502
CASS	(574) 753-7860
CLARK	(812) 285-6345
CLAY	(812) 448-9015
CLINTON	(765) 659-6389
CRAWFORD	(812) 338-3141
DAVISS	(812) 254-8678
DEARBORN	(812) 537-8819
DECATUR	(812) 663-3161
DEKALB	(260) 925-0131
DELAWARE	(765) 747-7810
DUBOIS	(812) 481-7090
ELKHART	(574) 523-2342
FAYETTE	(765) 825-8412
FLOYD	(812) 948-5495
FOUNTAIN	(765) 585-7698
FRANKLIN	(765) 647-5721
FULTON	(574) 223-2217
GIBSON	(812) 385-4522
GRANT	(765) 651-2423
GREENE	(812) 384-2031
HAMILTON	(317) 776-9610
HANCOCK	(317) 462-8767
HARRISON	(812) 738-4249
HENDRICKS	(317) 745-9239

HENRY	(765) 529-4305
HOWARD	(765) 456-2511
HUNTINGTON	(260) 358-4863
JACKSON	(812) 358-6115
JASPER	(219) 866-4901
JAY	(260) 726-6914
JEFFERSON	(812) 265-3600
JENNINGS	(812) 352-9169
JOHNSON	(317) 346-4563
KNOX	(812) 885-2539
KOSCIUSKO	(574) 372-2436
LAGRANGE	(260) 499-6387
LAKE	(219) 755-3285
LAPORTE	(219) 326-6808 ext.216
LAWRENCE	(812) 275-6411
MADISON	(765) 641-9651
MARION	(317) 327-5563
MARSHALL	(574) 935-8543
MARTIN	(812) 295-2172
MIAMI	(765) 472-3901 ext. 217 & 271
MONROE	(812) 349-2568
MONTGOMERY	(765) 362-4660
MORGAN	(317) 916-3629
NEWTON	(219) 808-5171
NOBLE	(260) 818-0033
OHIO	(812) 438-4075
ORANGE	(812) 723-3600 x 116
OWEN	(812) 829-5027 ext. 165
PARKE	(765) 569-4036
PERRY	(812) 547-2506
PIKE	(812) 354-6245
PORTER	(219) 465-3587
POSEY	(812) 838-8372
PULASKI	(574) 946-3571
PUTNAM	(765) 653-5417
RANDOLPH	(765) 584-1463
RIPLEY	(812) 689-7165
RUSH	(765) 932-3075
ST. JOSEPH	(574) 235-9978
SCOTT	(812) 752-9396
SHELBY	(317) 392-6480
SPENCER	(812) 649-6031
STARKE	(574) 772-9132
STEUBEN	(260) 668-1000 ext. 1060
SULLIVAN	(812) 268-5437
SWITZERLAND	(812) 594-9141

TIPPECANOE	(765) 742-1796
TIPTON	(765) 675-2221
UNION	(765) 458-6981
VANDEBURGH	(812) 435-5239
VERMILLION	(765) 492-5346 & 1-800-340-8155 ext. 149 & 151
VIGO	(812) 462-3261
WABASH	(260) 563-0661 ext. 260
WARREN	(765) 764-0108
WARRICK	(812) 897-6177
WASHINGTON	(812) 883-2063
WAYNE	(765) 973-9207
WELLS	(260) 824-6403
WHITE	(574) 583-5937
WHITLEY	(260) 248-3189

The Veterans Home

The Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette provides nursing and domiciliary care for any Hoosier Veteran who was honorably discharged from the armed forces. To qualify you must have been a resident of Indiana for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the application. The Home is open to both veterans and their spouses. Veterans who have not lived in Indiana during the preceding year are eligible if they joined the service from Indiana. Veterans who are Medicaid-eligible will be required to apply for that benefit. For more information write to the Home at: Indiana Veterans Home, 3851 N. River Rd., West Lafayette, IN. 47906-3762 or call (765) 463-1502. Ref: IC 10-17-9

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery (IVMC)

Located adjacent to the Madison State Hospital and Clifty Falls State Park in Madison, Indiana, any veteran eligible to be buried in a national cemetery will be eligible for burial in the IVMC. The spouse of an eligible veteran will also be eligible to be buried there. For an application for burial contact the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. To schedule an interment contact the Cemetery Superintendent at 1415 North Gate Road, Madison, IN 47250, 812-273-9220/FAX 812-273-9221. Ref: IC 10-5-25.

County Burial Allowance

Each County Auditor is authorized to pay up to an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for the burial of a veteran or the veteran's spouse, which may include up to \$100 for the setting of a federal headstone. Veterans must have received

an honorable discharge, and an application must be filed with the county auditor in the county of residence. Ref: IC 10-17-10 and IC 23-14-73.

Resident Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing License

Any Indiana resident who is rated as service-connected disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may purchase a license to hunt and fish in the State of Indiana for a reduced fee. In order to receive this benefit the veteran must complete the Application for Reduced Fee Hunting and Fishing License for Disabled Veterans available from County Veteran Service Officers, or the Department of Natural Resource offices, or the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The form verifies that the veteran is service-connected disabled and authorizes the reduced fee and is verified by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. Ref: IC 14-22-12-1.5.

Golden Hoosier Passport

A Hoosier Golden Passport provides unlimited admission to all Indiana State owned parks, recreation areas, reservoirs, forests, historic sites, museums, memorials and other Department of Natural Resource (DNR) facilities. The pass is good for one calendar year. Persons eligible for a Disabled American Veteran license plate under IC 9-18-18-1 may purchase the Hoosier Golden Passport at DNR facilities around the State. If you have Disabled American Veteran plates on the vehicle simply drive to the gate and the attendant will sell you the Hoosier Golden Passport. If you do not have the plate but believe you are eligible you will be given a form to request the plate, which you must send to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs for verification.

Former Prisoners of War will receive their Hoosier Golden Passport in the mail after their plates are issued. If you do not receive yours in a reasonable time, or have other plates on your vehicle but are entitled to POW plates, contact the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-622-4931.

Leave of Absence for Training

Any state, county, township, municipality or school corporation employee who is a member of the Indiana National Guard or a reserve component or is a retiree of the active military, Guard or reserves, is entitled to receive a leave of absence from duties in addition to their regular vacation period if they are on training duties of the state under the orders of the Governor or, is a member of any

reserve component (including National Guard) under the order of the reserve component authority for any consecutive or nonconsecutive period that does not exceed a total of fifteen (15) days in any calendar year. The entitlement to a leave of absence without loss of time or pay provided in this subsection is not at the discretion of the member's employer. (IC 10-16-7-5)

NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVES

Hoosier Veterans Seamless Transition Program

Eligibility: demobilized members of the National Guard and Reserves, as well as active duty soldiers. This service brings various agencies together at a central location, usually a National Guard armory, to help the veteran with the processing of federal and state claims and applications.

Military Pay vs. State Pay

Executive Order 05-18 allows Hoosiers who are employed by the state and who are called to active duty in the Guard or Reserves to receive the difference between their military pay (either state or federal active duty) and their state salary.

Educational Benefits (National Guard):

100% tuition paid when attending state colleges or universities for first Associates or Bachelors degree.
Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members. Apply through unit education personnel.

Remission of Fees for Service-Connected Death

Public Law 157-2005 (IC 21-14-7) provides that the spouse and eligible children of National Guard members who suffered a service-connected death while serving on state active duty, are exempt from the payment of tuition and mandatory fees at any state educational institution (college).
Eligibility: Dependents of Indiana National Guard members. This benefit is administered by the Indiana National Guard.

Employment Assistance

State employees receive 15 days military leave per year.

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Job Training Priority

A National Guard member who has served on active duty for 30 days or more is entitled to priority for placement in any state or federal employment or training program administered by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) for up to one (1) year after discharge if the member is otherwise eligible for the program. This law also applies to the spouse of the Guard member.

(IC 22-4.1-4-3)

Exemption from Jury Duty

Indiana National Guard members **on active duty orders are exempt from jury duty in any court in Indiana. IC 10-16-16-1.**

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Medical Benefits

National Guard members on State Active Duty are entitled to medical, dental and hospital benefits.

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Pensions/Funeral Expenses

A member of the Indiana National Guard who is wounded or disabled or was disabled in the service of the state shall be placed on the roll of invalid pensioners of the state and shall receive, upon audit and approval, the same pension or reward that a person under similar circumstances would receive from the United States.

In case of a wound, an injury, or a disease that results in death, the surviving spouse, dependent children, or dependent parent of the member of the Indiana National Guard shall receive the pension and reward dating from the time of receiving the injuries on account of which the pension or reward is allowed.

If a member of the Indiana National Guard dies in the active service of the state, the member's reasonable funeral expenses, not exceeding four thousand dollars (\$4,000), shall be paid by the state in the manner as the governor directs.

(IC 10-16-7-19)

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Group Insurance

(Provided by the Indiana National Guard Association)
\$5,000 for \$2/mo; \$10,000 for \$3.66; \$15,000 for \$5.33;
\$20,000 for \$7.00; \$25,000 for \$8.67/mo; \$50,000 for
\$17/mo and family plan of \$5,000/\$10,000 for \$3.66 or
\$6.66 + \$1,000 to \$10,000 for each child depending on age.
Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Legal Benefits

Limited arrest immunity to and from drill; A citation for a traffic violation is not a civil process and is not covered by this immunity. Legal defense is available for line-of-duty acts. IC 10-16-7-8

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Leave of Absence While on State Active Duty

A member of the Indiana National Guard is entitled to receive from the member's employer a leave of absence from the member's respective duties in addition to the member's regular vacation period for the total number of days that the member is on state active duty. The leave of absence may be with or without loss of time or pay at the discretion of the member's employer. (IC 10-16-7-6)

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

FEDERAL BENEFITS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (www.va.gov) is a federal agency with regional offices throughout the U.S. The VA Regional Office processes claims for VA benefits including disability compensation, pension, vocational training for disabled veterans, burial allowances, and survivor's compensation and pension. In Indiana the VA Regional Office is located at 575 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-15871. In-state toll-free 1-800-827-1000. Home Loan Guaranty benefits are processed by the VA Home Loan Guaranty Office, Winston-Salem, NC; toll-free 1-888-244-6711. Education benefits for Indiana veterans are processed by the VA Regional Processing Center, P.O. Box 66830, St. Louis, MO; toll-free 1-888-442-4551. VA Life Insurance Programs are administered by the VA Regional Office and Insurance Center, P.O. Box 8079, Philadelphia, PA 19101; toll-free 1-800-669-8477. Other VA facilities are listed on the last page. Unless noted otherwise, contact the VA Regional Office about benefits listed in this section. Following is only a summary of benefits.

Alcohol and Drug Dependency Treatment

Veterans without service-connected disabilities whose incomes exceed the threshold of free medical Care may be authorized treatment for alcohol and drug dependency only if the veteran agrees to pay the applicable co-payment. After hospitalization for alcohol or drug treatment, veterans may be eligible for outpatient care, or may be authorized to continue treatment or rehabilitation in private facilities, such as halfway houses, at VA expense

Burial Expense Reimbursement

VA will pay a \$300 burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who, at the time of death, were entitled to receive a pension or compensation, or who would have

been entitled to compensation (as evidenced by a VA rating) but for receipt of military retirement pay. Eligibility also is established when death occurs in a VA facility, a State veterans' home, or a nursing home with which VA contracted. For service-connected deaths, there is no time limit for filing of reimbursement claims. In other deaths, claims must be filed within two years. VA will pay up to a \$300 plot or internment allowance when the veteran is not buried in a cemetery under U.S. Government jurisdiction if the veteran is discharged from active duty because of a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or if the veteran was in receipt of compensation or pension, or would have been in receipt of compensation but for receipt of military retired pay, or if the veteran died while hospitalized by VA. As of November 1, 1990, the plot allowance is no longer payable based solely on wartime service. The deceased veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$2000 instead of the \$300 basic allowance and the \$300 plot allowance if the veteran's death is service-connected. VA will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a service-connected veteran to the nearest national cemetery that has available gravesites.

Burial Flags

VA provides an American Flag to drape a veteran's casket, after which it may be given to the next of kin or associate of the deceased. The deceased veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have been either a wartime veteran or one who served after January 31, 1955, or a veteran who served at least one enlistment during peacetime, unless discharged or released sooner for a disability incurred in the line of duty. Also, National Guardsmen and Reservists who have 20 years of service are eligible. The VA Regional Office also may issue a flag for a veteran who is missing in action and is later presumed dead. Flags are available at any VA Regional Office and most local post offices

Headstone or Grave Marker

A headstone or grave marker is available for any deceased veteran of wartime or peacetime service (other than for training) who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. National Guardsmen and Reservists who die while performing active duty for training are eligible. Also, National Guardsmen and Reservists who have 20 years of service are eligible. A headstone or grave marker is provided without charge and shipped to the cemetery designated. Applicants are cautioned to insure the

correctness of all information. The benefit does not apply to members of a veteran's family who are buried in a private cemetery. Applications (DVA Form 40-1330) go to Memorial Programs Service (41A1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 5109 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134-3903 Any VA Regional Office will provide information and other assistance in filling out an application.

Burial in National Cemeteries

Burial is available to any deceased veteran of wartime or peacetime service (other than for training) who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, at all national cemeteries having available grave space except Arlington. National Guardsmen and Reservists who die while performing active duty for training also are eligible. Burial also is available to an eligible veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor children, and, under certain circumstances, unmarried adult children. Applications should be made only at the time of death of the veteran or that of an eligible dependent by contacting the Superintendent of the national cemetery in which burial is desired.

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

CRSC is a special payment for military retirees with combat-related disabilities whose retired pay is reduced by their VA disability pay. The 2008 NDAA extends CRSC eligibility to retirees with a combat-related disability who served fewer than 20 years and retired under Chapter 61, Title 10, United States Code.

Note: Using the formula set in the new law, this CRSC benefit can vary greatly based on the number of years of service and the degree of disability. In some cases, there would be no CRSC benefit. For more information, go to the CRSC Website <http://www.crsc.army.mil>.

Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP)

CRDP is a special payment for military retirees, who have at least 20 years of creditable service, who have been rated 50% or more disabled by the VA and whose retired pay is reduced by their disability pay. This payment is being phased-in, increasing from Jan. 1, 2004 through Dec. 31, 2014, when it will equal the retired pay lost to the offset. The new law eliminates the phase-in period for retirees rated 100% disabled by reason of unemployability by the VA (The phase-in period was already eliminated for those rated 100% disabled). Any retroactive payments due will be paid after Oct. 1, 2008.

Dependency and Indemnity

Compensation (DIC)

Death due to service-connected disability DIC payments are authorized for surviving spouses, unmarried children under 18 (as well as certain disabled children and those between 18 and 23 if attending a VA-approved school) and certain parents of service personnel or veterans who die on or after January 1, 1957, from (a) a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty while on active duty or active duty for training, or (b) an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on inactive duty training, or (c) a disability compensable by VA. Death cannot be the result of willful misconduct.

Death Due To a Non-Service Connected Cause

DIC payments are authorized for surviving spouses, unmarried children under 18 (as well as certain disabled children and those between 18 and 23 if attending a VA-approved school), of certain veterans who were totally service-connected disabled at time of death but whose deaths were not the result of their service-connected disability, if (a) the veteran was continuously rated totally disabled for a period of 10 years or more or (b) if the veteran was rated for less than 10 years, was so rated for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of discharge from military service. If the death occurred after service, the veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable. Payments under this provision are subject to offset by the amount received from judicial proceedings brought on account of the veteran's death.

Disability Compensation

Monetary benefits are paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service in the line of duty. The separation or discharge from service must have been under conditions that were other than dishonorable. The benefits are related to the residual effects of the injury or disease. The amount of the benefit is usually changed by Congress annually and is not subject to federal or state income tax. Federal law prohibits the award of VA disability compensation concurrent with military retirement pay, except to the extent the retirement pay is waived.

Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31)

Vocational Rehabilitation is a program to help eligible veterans obtain or retain suitable employment. It may also assist eligible seriously disabled veterans achieve independence in daily living. The program offers a number of services to help each eligible veteran reach his or her

rehabilitation goal. These services include vocational counseling, educational training, skills training, financial aid, job assistance, and, if needed, medical and dental treatment. Veterans with honorable discharges who incurred a service-connected disability of 20% or more while in service and are found in need of services to restore employability may be entitled to services. Veterans rated 10 % and meeting the criteria for a serious employment handicap may be entitled.

For additional information on the application procedure, eligibility and entitlement, basic termination dates, length of training, subsistence allowances and other information contact the nearest VA Regional Office. Each veteran who applies will be provided a vocational assessment, which will assist in determining individual entitlement.

Educational Training, Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty-Chapter 30)

For honorably discharged veterans who enter active duty in full-time status for the first time after June 30, 1985. Individuals holding active duty status with the National Guard after November 29, 1989, are also entitled. The participant must, with certain exceptions, serve continuously on active duty for three years of a three-year enlistment, or for a lesser benefit, two years of an initial active duty obligation of less than three years. Two continuous years on active duty followed by four years of Selected Reserve Service will also qualify an individual. Participants must make \$1200 nonrefundable contribution. ***** (FM) the non refundable must be made during the service members first enlistment year. (FM) ***** For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

Education, Dependents of Veterans (Chapter 35)

This benefit is for the children, spouses, widows and widowers of veterans whose deaths or permanent total disabilities were service-connected and for spouses and children of service persons missing in action or prisoners of war. Eligible persons, periods of eligibility, counseling, effects of marriage, length of training and type of training, monthly rates, and other information may be obtained from the nearest VA Regional Office. For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

Educational Training, Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve - Chapter 1606)

For members of the Selected Reserve and National Guard. The participant must have a 6-year obligation signed after June 30, 1985, complete active duty for training (IADT), have obtained a high school education or equivalent certificate before completion of IADT, and remain in good standing in a drilling unit. For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at:
http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

Educational Training, Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP - Chapter 1607)

For members of a reserve component who serve on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 under Title 10 U.S. Code for a contingency operation and who serves at least 90 consecutive days or more is eligible for chapter 1607. National Guard members also are eligible if their active duty is under section 502(f), title 32 U.S.C. and they serve for 90 consecutive days when authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense for a national emergency and is supported by federal funds. Individuals are eligible as soon as they reach the 90-day point whether or not they are currently on active duty. Dept. of Defense will fully identify contingency operations that qualify for benefits under chapter 1607.

Disabled members who are injured or have an illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty and are released from active duty before completing 90 consecutive days are also eligible for a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website:
http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website:
http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

Post-9/11 G.I. Bill (Chapter 33)

Service members who served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2001 (or release for a service-connected disability after at least 30 days of continuous service) could be eligible for up to 36 months of educational benefits under the Post-9/11 Education Assistance Act. This includes National Guard and Reserve service members who have been activated under Title 10.

The act, which is effective August 1, 2009 can be used for 15 years after the last period of active duty. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

***** (FM) Post 9/11 Educational Benefits have been modified to include the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2010.**

On January 4, 2011, President Obama signed into law the “Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2010”. A brief summary of the provisions of this legislation is outlined below:

Effective now but not payable until October 1, 2011:

- **Expands the Post-9/11 GI Bill to include Active Service performed by National Guard members under title 32 U.S.C. for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard; or under section 502(f) for the purpose of responding to a national emergency**

Effective August 1, 2011:

- **Simplifies the tuition and fee rates for those attending a public school and creates a national rate for those enrolled in a private or foreign school**

- **No individual state caps**

- 1 **Private school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually**
 - 2 **The Yellow Ribbon Program still exists for costs above the cap**

- **Allows VA to pay kickers on a monthly basis instead of a lump sum at the beginning of the term and also pay kickers to those who are attending school at half-time or less**
- **Allows those who are eligible for both Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to choose the Post-9/11 GI Bill’s monthly housing allowance instead of the Chapter 31 subsistence allowance**
- **Allows reimbursement for more than one “license and certification” test (previously only one test was allowed)**

- **Allows reimbursement of fees paid to take national exams used for admission to an institution of higher learning (e.g., SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT)**
- **Break or interval pay is no longer payable under any VA education benefit program unless under an Executive Order of the President or due to an emergency situation such as a natural disaster or strike.**

Effective October 1, 2011:

- **Allows students to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for non-college degree programs such as: on-the-job training, flight (for other than a private pilot license) at flight schools, apprenticeship training, and correspondence courses**
 - **Flight programs: Pays the lesser of actual net costs for in-state Tuition and Fees assessed by the school or \$10,000, whichever is less “per academic year.”**
 - **Housing allowance is now payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning, the housing allowance is ½ the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents (the full time rate would be \$673.50 for 2011)**
- **Prorates housing allowance by rate of pursuit (rounded to the nearest tenth)**
 - **A ¾ time student would receive 80% of the BAH rate**
- **Allow students on active duty to receive a books and supplies stipend.**
- **yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000 (paid to the student); and a one-time payment of \$500 to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.**
- *** (FM)**

Maximum benefit depends upon the aggregate period of active duty served after 9/11/01

The 2009 Supplemental Appropriations bill (H.R. 2346 - Public Law No: 111-32), which funds U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and includes a provision to expand GI Bill benefits to children of fallen U.S. soldiers.

The new law known as the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill so that children of those who have died on active duty since 9/11 qualify for the education benefit; eliminates the requirement that the deceased parent must have completed a minimum of military service in order for their benefits to be transferred to their children; and eliminates the cap on transferred benefits, which is currently 36 months of benefits in total for all surviving children.

The new Fry scholarship is slightly different than the normal family transfer option under the Post-9/11 GI Bill in that the scholarship will qualify dependents for their own full 36 months of benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill allows more than one person to receive transferred benefits, but no more than 36 total months can be transferred.

All children of fallen soldiers would qualify for the maximum benefit:

- Tuition and fees of up to the maximum in-state tuition and fees at a public institution;
- A monthly housing allowance at the location of the school, based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents; and
- An annual books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000.

Transferability of Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits (DOD Administers Transferability)

- Post 9/11 GI Bill includes the ability to transfer benefits to dependants for veterans meeting DOD's eligibility requirements. Those requirements can be reviewed online at http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2009/0409_gi_bill/. After reviewing the eligibility and transfer process information, eligible veterans may begin the transfer application online at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil.TEB>. If you have questions or experience any difficulties contact your unit's personnel office.

Education Benefit Eligibility Time Limits

- As a general rule, veterans have 10 years after separation from active duty to use their GI Bill benefits. Veterans using the Post 9/11 GI Bill have 15 years after separation from active duty to use their benefits. Eligible veterans who convert Ch. 30, 1606 or 1607 benefits to Post 9/11 GI Bill have 15 years from their last date of active duty service to use their remaining months of entitlement. The choice to convert to the Post 9/11 GI Bill is an irrevocable decision.

Details are available at www.gibill.va.gov

Changes made by the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act

1. Effective 10/1/2008 reservists otherwise eligible for MGIB-SR or REAP may receive accelerated payments for a non-degree program lasting 2 years or less. More information will be provided at a later date.

2. The 2008 NDAA has made the 80% rate available to anyone who was mobilized for at least 2 continuous years of active duty **OR** served multiple mobilizations totaling 3 years or more. All qualifying mobilization periods beginning on or after 9/11/2001 may be used to determine eligibility for the 80% rate.

Payment of the higher rate is not authorized prior to January 28, 2008, the effective date of the law.

3. Eligible REAP participants may now participate in the “buy-up” program. Eligible reservists may pay up to \$600.00 to increase their monthly rate of pay by as much as \$150.00 per month. You must be a member of a Ready Reserve component (Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, or Inactive National Guard) to pay into the “buy-up” program.

4. Members who were called up from the Selected Reserve, completed their REAP qualifying period of active duty service, and then returned to the Selected Reserve for the remainder of their service contract are now eligible for REAP benefits for 10 years upon separation. In addition, members who were called up from the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or the Inactive National Guard (ING), completed their REAP qualifying period of active duty service, and then entered the Selected Reserve to complete their service contract are now eligible for REAP benefits for 10 years upon separation.

5. A member who is involuntarily separated from the Selected Reserve due to a deactivation of his or her unit is now eligible for MGIB-SR for a period of 14 years from

their original date of eligibility. The deactivation must occur between 10/31/2007 and 9/30/2014.

This provision is effective January 28, 2008, the effective date of the law. Reservists who were separated between 10/31/2007 and 1/28/2008 may receive benefits for training beginning on or after January 28, 2008.

6. Under previous regulations reservists who had a break in service of 90 days or less maintained their eligibility to REAP. The new law has expanded that eligibility to anyone having a break in service (regardless of length) as long as they continue to serve in another component of the Ready Reserve (such as IRR or ING) during the break in service.

Family Medical Leave Act

On January 28, 2008 President Bush signed into law a bill that expands the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to include leave for military families. Specifically, employers must provide 26 weeks of FMLA leave during a single 12-month period to permit a "spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin" to care for a "member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness." This portion of the expansion became effective upon the president's signature and is part of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

VA Health Care Eligibility

In October 1996 Congress passed Public Law 104262, the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996. This legislation led the way for the creation of a Uniform Benefits Package -a standard health benefit plan available to all veterans. This Package not only opens up services to veterans, but also simplifies the process by which veterans can receive the services. To receive healthcare under the new program veterans must first be enrolled. Veterans can obtain application forms for enrollment by visiting, calling, or writing to their nearest VA healthcare facility or veteran's benefits office. Please refer to the listing on the back of this brochure for the facility nearest you.

Service members, including National Guard members and Reservists who return from activation contingency operations are eligible for up to 5 years of eligibility for VA health care. This includes treatment for any condition, not necessarily those disabilities or injuries which are related to their active duty service.

Limited dental care is available to recently discharged service members who apply within 180 days of their discharge, if their DD Form 214 indicates they did not

receive the necessary dental care within the 90-day period prior to their discharge.

Nursing Home Care

Skilled nursing care and related medical care in VA or private nursing homes is provided for convalescents or persons who are not acutely ill and not in need of hospital care. Eligibility for admission or transfer to VA nursing home care is the same as for hospitalization. Veterans who have a service-connected disability are given first priority. VA authorized care normally may not be provided in excess of six months except for veterans whose need for nursing home care is for a service-connected disability or for veterans who were hospitalized primarily for treatment of a service-connected disability. Nursing home care for non-service connected veterans whose income exceeds the income limit for hospital care may be authorized only if the veteran agrees to pay the applicable co-payment.

Domiciliary Care

Domiciliary care provides rehabilitative and long-term, health-maintenance care for veterans who require minimal medical care but who do not need the skilled nursing services provided in nursing homes. VA provides domiciliary care to veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of VA pension and to veterans determined to have no adequate means of support.

Job Finding Assistance

The U.S. Department of Labor is the federal agency responsible for providing employment assistance to veterans through local employment offices. The Local Veterans Employment Representatives provide functional supervision of job counseling, testing and employment placement services provided to veterans. Priority in referral to job openings and training programs is given to eligible veterans, with preferential treatment for disabled veterans. In addition, the VA assists veterans who are seeking employment by providing information about on-the job and apprenticeship training opportunities through VA Regional Offices.

Life Insurance

For information about the government life insurance veterans may call the VA Insurance Center toll-free at 1-800 669-8477 between 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM ET to discuss premium payments, insurance dividends, changes of address, policy loans, naming beneficiaries and reporting the death of the insured.

Loans on Homes, Condominiums,

& Mobile Homes

For veterans and eligible unmarried surviving spouses of WWII, Korean War, post-Korean War, Vietnam era, and post Vietnam era, for spouses of service personnel officially listed as missing in action, or captured, for more than 90 days, and for service personnel who have served at least 90 days. The home loan program has been extended to members of the National Guard and Reserves who have served a total of at least 6 years and have received an honorable discharge. However, a higher funding fee will be required. This eligibility is in effect from November 1, 1992, through September 30, 2003. The loan may be used to buy, build, repair, altar, or improve a home. This also includes energy efficient improvements. The loan also may be used to buy a residential unit in certain condominium projects, to finance an existing home, and to buy a mobile home with or without a lot. For additional information on loan maximums, additional entitlement, restoration and substitution of entitlement, financing, interest rates, insured loans, down payments and maturity, closing costs, safeguards, certification, or release of liability, call Loan Servicing at 1-800-729-5772

Military Records

Indiana veterans may contact the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs to see if a copy of their DD214 is on file. In Indianapolis call 317/232-3910 or toll-free at 1-800-400-4520. If the veteran cannot locate discharge and separation papers, a copy can be obtained online at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/>. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on REQUEST MILITARY RECORDS. You must have access to a fax machine to complete the application process. A copy can also be obtained by completing a Standard Form 180 (SF180) or by writing the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Specify that a duplicate separation document or discharge is needed. The veteran's full name should be printed or typed, and the request must contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. Include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number (whichever is appropriate), and the exact or approximate years of service. The SF180 can be obtained from VA offices, County Veterans Service Officers, and most veteran service organizations.

Non-Service-Connected Death Benefit

Surviving spouses and children of deceased veterans of the WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam era, or the Gulf War may be eligible for support as the survivors of a veteran who died from non-service connected causes if they have limited income. The veteran must have had 90 days service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, unless discharged or retired sooner for service-connected disability, and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. If the veteran died in service, not in the line of duty, benefits may be payable if the veteran had completed at least two years of honorable active serv

Pension

Veterans 65 years of age or older may be eligible for VA Improved Pension if they have limited income and have 90 days or more of active service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. Discharge from active duty must have been under conditions other than dishonorable. Veterans under age 65, but determined by Social Security to be totally disabled may be eligible. Wartime veterans in a nursing home for long-term care because of a disability are also eligible. All of the above veterans must meet VA low income criteria to be eligible and have less than \$80,000 net worth. Payments are made to qualified veterans to bring their total income, including other retirement or Social Security income, to an established support level. This pension is not payable to those who have assets that can be used to provide adequate maintenance.

Persian Gulf, Agent Orange, and Ionizing Radiation

Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War or who claim exposure to Agent Orange or atomic radiation are provided with free comprehensive medical examinations, including base-line laboratory tests and other tests determined necessary by an examining physician to determine current health status. Veterans wishing to participate should contact the nearest VA health care facility to request an examination. VA also provides priority treatment to any Vietnam-era veteran whom, while serving in Vietnam, may have been exposed to dioxin or to a toxic substance in an herbicide or defoliant used for military purposes. Priority healthcare services are available for any veteran exposed to ionizing radiation from the detonation of a nuclear device in connection with nuclear tests of the American occupation in Japan during specified dates. Contact the VA Regional Office for expiration dates for treatments. Marital and family counseling is provided to veterans of the Persian Gulf War and their spouses and children. The counseling is provided at VA medical centers and vet centers.

Reemployment Rights

Under the Uniformed Services Employment Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), a person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the Armed Forces, either voluntarily or involuntarily, may be entitled to return to his or her civilian job after discharge or release from active duty if certain requirements are met. This Law covers those who rendered active duty service, initial active duty for training, active duty for training or inactive duty for training. The Law also protects a veteran from discharge without just cause for one year from the date of reemployment, and a Reservist or Guardsmen from discharge without just cause for six months after returning home from initial active duty for training. The Law prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, or other advantage of employment because of one's obligation as a member of a Reserve or Guard unit. A veteran must apply to the pre-service employer within 90 days after separation from active duty. Reserve and Guard members returning from initial active duty for training must apply within 31 days. Questions on the requirements to be met by the veteran or requests for assistance should be directed to the Department of Labor's director for Veterans Employment and Training (DVET) for the state in which the employer is located. Consult telephone directories under U.S. Department of Labor or call 1-800-442-2838 for the appropriate DVET phone number

Reserve Retirement Pay

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act reduced the eligibility age for Reserve retired pay, (which had been age 60) by three months for every 90 days of active duty served within the same fiscal year (1 October – 30 September). The active duty must be performed after the date the law was enacted and the eligibility age cannot be reduced below age 50. An example would be the Guardsman or Reservist who served one year of active duty in support of the GWOT. The eligibility age to begin receiving retired pay would be age 59 instead of age 60.

Unemployment Compensation

Unemployment compensation to veterans provides a weekly income for a limited period of time to help veterans meet basic needs while searching for employment. Generally, benefits are not paid to those receiving certain educational assistance or vocational subsistence allowances from VA. Veterans should apply immediately after leaving service at their nearest local state employment service office and present their DD Form 214 to establish their type of separation from service.

Indiana VA Medical Centers

Richard L. Roudebush VAMC
1481 W. 10th St
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2884
(317) 554-0000
Toll Free 1-888-878-6889

2121 Lake Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805-5199
(260) 426-5431
Toll Free 1-800-360-8387

1700 East 38th St.
Marion, IN 46953-4589
(765) 674-3321
Toll Free 1-800-360-8387

VA Clinics Community Based Outpatient Clinics

Adam Benjamin Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic
9330 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307-8602
(219) 662-5000
Toll Free 1-800-644-1243

Evansville VA Outpatient Clinic
500 East Walnut St
Evansville, IN 47713-2499
(812) 465-6202
Toll Free 1-800-772-8740

Terre Haute VA Outpatient Clinic
110 West Honey Creek Pkwy.
Terre Haute, IN 47802
(812) 232-2890
Toll Free 1-800-427-5882

Lafayette VA Outpatient Clinic
3851 N. River Rd.
West Lafayette, IN 47906
(765) 464-2280
Toll Free 1-800-320-8387

Bloomington VA Outpatient Clinic
455 S. Landmark Ave.
Bloomington, IN. 47403
(812) 336-5723
Toll Free 1-877- 683-0685

Dearborn County Community Based
Outpatient Clinic
1600 Flossie Drive
Greendale, IN 47025
812-539-2313

Muncie/Anderson VA Outpatient Clinic
3500 W. Purdue Ave.
Muncie, IN. 47304
(765) 284-6822

South Bend VA Outpatient Clinic
5735 South Ironwood Rd.
South Bend, IN. 46614
(574) 299-4847
Toll Free 1-866-436-1291

Richmond VA Outpatient Clinic
4351 South A Street
Richmond, Indiana 47374
(765) 973-6915

VA Health Care Center New Albany
811 Northgate Blvd
New Albany, Indiana 47150
(812) 542-0104

Goshen CBOC
2014 Lincolnway East,. Suite 3
Goshen, IN 46526
(574) 534-6108

Vincennes CBOC
1813 Willow Street Suite 6A
Vincennes, IN 47591
Phone: 812-882-0894
Fax: 812-882-5031

Scottsburg VA Healthcare Center
1467 Scott Valley Drive,
Scottsburg, IN 47170-7759
Phone: 812-752-8375

Indy West

3850 Shore Drive, Suite 203
Indianapolis, IN 46254
317-988-2400

Peru CBOC
750 North Broadway
Peru, IN 46970
765-472-8907

Surrounding State's VAMC's

Jesse Brown VAMC IL
820 South Damen Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: (312) 569-8387
Fax: 312-569-6188
North Chicago VAMC
3001 Green Bay Road
North Chicago, IL 60064
Phone: (847) 688-1900 or (800) 393-0865
Fax: (224) 610-3806

Edward Hines Jr. VAMC
5th & Roosevelt Rd. P.O. Box 5000
Hines, IL 60141
Phone: (708) 202-8387
Fax: (708) 202-7998

Marion VAMC
2401 West Main
Marion, IL 62959
Phone: 618-997-5311 or (866) 289-3300

VA Illiana Health Care System
1900 East Main Street
Danville, IL 61832-5198
Phone: (217) 554-3000
Fax: (217) 554-4552

Louisville VAMC
800 Zorn Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
Phone: (502) 287-4000 or (800) 376-8387
Fax: (502) 287-6225

Cincinnati VAMC
3200 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45220
Phone: (513) 861-3100 or (888) 267-7873
Fax: (513) 475-6500

Dayton VAMC

4100 W. 3rd Street
Dayton, OH 45428
Phone: (937) 268-6511 or (800) 368-8262
Fax: (937) 262-2179

St. Louis John Cochran VAMC
915 North Grand Blvd.
Saint Louis, MO 63106
Phone: 314-652-4100/800-228-5459
Fax: 314-289-6557

Vet Centers***

**8330 Naab Road, Suite 103,
Indianapolis, IN 46268
(317) 988-1660
Fax (317) 988-1617**

311 N. Weinbach Ave.
Evansville, IN 47711
(812) 473-5993

8330 Naab Road, Ste 103
Ft. Wayne, IN 46268
(260) 460-1456

Gary Area Vet. Center
6505 Broadway
Merrillville, IN. 46410
(219) 736-5633

National, State and other Veterans' Cemeteries in Indiana

Marion National Cemetery
1700 East 38 Street
Marion, IN 46953
Phone: 765-674-0284
Fax: 765-674-4521

Crown Hill National Cemetery
700 W. 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
Phone: 765-674-0284
Fax: 765-674-4521

New Albany National Cemetery
1943 Ekin Avenue
New Albany, IN 47150
Phone: 812-948-5234
Fax: 502 893 6612

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery

1415 North Gate Road
Madison, IN 47250
Phone: 812-273-9220
FAX: 812-273-9221
E-mail: ivmc@dva.in.gov

Index

A	
Agent Orange Registry (Federal Benefit)	39
Alcohol and Drug Dependency Treatment (Federal Benefit)	26
B	
Burial Allowance, County	21
Burial Expense Reimbursement (Federal Benefit)	26
Burial Flag (Federal Benefit)	27
Burial in National Cemeteries (Federal Benefit)	27
C	
CBOC (Community-Based Outpatient Clinics) (Federal Benefit)	41
Cemeteries	44
Combat Zone, Exemption of Military Pay	13
Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) (Federal Benefit)	28
Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) (Federal Benefit)	28
County Burial Allowance	21
County Veterans' Service Officers	19
D	
Death Due to Non-Service Connected Cause (Federal Benefit)	29
Delayed High School Diploma	12
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) (Federal Benefit)	28
DIC (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation) (Federal Benefit)	28
Disability Compensation (Federal Benefit)	29

Disabled Hoosier Veteran License Plate	10
Domiliary Care (Federal Benefit)	37
Driver's License, Veteran Status	18
E	
Education Benefits, National Guard	23
Education for Dependents, Chapter 35 (Federal Benefit)	30
Employment Assistance	15
Employment Assistance, National Guard	23
Excise Tax	8
Exemption of Military Pay from Income Taxes (Combat Pay)	13
Ex-Prisoner of War License Plate	11
F	
Family Medical Leave Act (Federal Benefit)	36
Federal Benefits	26
Fishing License	21
Flag at Half-Staff Upon Death of Post Member	14
Flag Display Upon the Death of a Veteran	14
G	
G.I. Bill Education Benefits	17
Golden Hoosier Passport	22
Governor's Memorial Certificate	14
H	
Headstone or Grave Marker (Federal Benefit)	27
Health Care Eligibility, VA (Federal Benefit)	36
Hoosier Veteran License Plate	10
Hunting & Fishing License	21
I	
Income Tax Exemption	9
Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Address and Phone	Inside Cover
Indiana Soldiers' & Sailors' Children's Home (ISSCH) Remission of Fees	8
Indiana Veterans' Home	21
Indiana Veterans' Memorial Cemetery	21
Injury/Death Benefits, National Guard	24
In-State Tuition Rates for Active Duty	8
Insurance, Group, National Guard	24

Association	
Ionizing Radiation Registry (Federal Benefit)	39
ISSCH (Indiana Soldiers' & Sailors' Children's Home) Remission of Fees	8
J-K	
Job Training Priority, National Guard	23
Job-Finding Assistance (Federal Benefit)	37
Jury Duty, Exemption	13
L	
Leave of Absence for Training	22
Leave of Absence While on State Active Duty, National Guard	25
Legal Benefits, National Guard	24
License Plates	10
Life Insurance (Federal Benefit)	37
Loans for Homes/Condo/Mobile Homes (Federal Benefit)	37
M	
Medal of Honor Recipient, Reimbursement	12
Medical Benefits on State Active Duty, National Guard)	24
Memorial Day Expenses	14
Military Family Leave	13
Military Family Relief Fund	13
Military Pay vs State Pay, National Guard	23
Military Records (Federal Benefit)	38
Montgomery G.I. Bill, Chapter 30 (Federal Benefit)	30
Montgomery G.I. Bill, Selected Reserves, Chapter 1606 (Federal Benefit)	30
N-O	
National Cemeteries	44
National Guard-Specific Benefits	23
Non-Service Connected Death Benefit (Federal Benefit)	29
Nursing Home Care (Federal Benefit)	36
P-Q	
Peddlers, Vendors or Hawkers License	18

Persian Gulf Registry (Federal Benefit)	39	
Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, Chapter 33 (Federal Benefit)	31	
POW/MIA License Plate	10	
Property Tax Deductions	8	
Purple Heart License Plate	11	
Purple Heart, Remission of Tuition Fees	8	
R		
Reemployment Rights (Federal Benefit)	39	
Relief from Attachment	9	
Remission of Fees (Child of Disabled Veteran)	6	
Remission of Fees (Purple Heart Recipient)	8	
Remission of Fees (Soldiers' & Sailors' Home Student)	7	
Remission of Fees for Service-Connected Death, National Guard	23	
Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), Chapter 1607 (Federal Benefit)	31	
Reserve Retired Pay (Federal Benefit)	39	
S		
Seamless Transition Program for Hoosier Veterans	23	
Service Organizations		Inside Cover
State Active Duty, Medical Benefits	24	
State Veterans' Cemetery	21	
Support Our Troops License Plate	10	
T		
Tax Deduction, Property	8	
U		
Unemployment Compensation (Federal Benefit)	39	
V		
VA Clinics (Community-Based Outpatient Clinics, CBOC)	41	
VA Educational Benefits Address		Inside Cover

and Phone	
VA Home Loan Guarantee Address and Phone	Inside Cover
VA Medical Centers (Indiana)	41
VA Medical Centers (Surrounding States)	43
VA Pension (Federal Benefit)	39
VA Regional Office Address and Phone	Inside Cover
VA Vet Centers	44
Vehicle Operator License	17
Veterans' Service Officers	18
Veteran Status on Driver's License	18
Vital Documents	18
Vocational Rehabilitation, Chapter 31 (Federal Benefit)	29
W-X-Y-Z	
Women Veterans' Coordinator	14

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This brochure is designed to provide general and brief information on Indiana and federal benefits enacted by the Indiana General Assembly and the United States Congress

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