

**Dear Veteran:**

First let me take this opportunity to say thank you for your sacrifice and commitment to serving in our Armed Forces. For your service and dedication, New York State has provided several benefits available only to New York State's Veterans. This brochure describes programs designed to help you find employment and educational opportunities, as well as health and other state benefits. Taking advantage of these services through the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs may help you and your family make the transition from the battlefield to civilian life.

I hope you will find this information useful. As always, if you have any questions or I may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
35th Senate District



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

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*35th Senate District*

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**NEW YORK STATE  
VETERANS' BENEFITS**

*Courtesy Of  
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins*



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## RECENTLY DISCHARGED VETERANS

If you are a veteran who has been recently discharged from service, there are several important measures you need to follow to ensure that you receive all of the benefits that you are entitled to. First, you need to secure your discharge certificate - DD Form 214. If you need help obtaining your DD Form 214, contact the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs at 1-888-838-7697. You also need to:

- Enroll in VA health care within your first 12 months from separation; and
- Visit your nearest New York State Veterans Counselor or County Veteran Service Agency.

It is helpful to bring the following documentation when you visit: DD 214, Medical Records, Bank Account Information, and Dependent Information.

To locate a veterans counselor, please visit [www.veterans.ny.gov/counselor\\_location.html](http://www.veterans.ny.gov/counselor_location.html) or call 1-888-838-7697.

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## VETERAN EMPLOYMENT

The New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs is proud to provide veterans and their eligible spouses with One-Stop Career Centers. These centers will assist you and your eligible spouse in:

- Career counseling;
- Skills assessment;
- Job search assistance;
- Resume preparation;
- Information on civil service positions; and
- Referral to other agencies that provide services to veterans.

For more information on these programs, please visit [veterans.ny.gov/employment.html](http://veterans.ny.gov/employment.html) or call the Department of Labor toll-free at 1-888-4-NYSDOL.

## VETERAN EDUCATION BENEFITS

There are several education assistance opportunities for veterans through the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs. Benefits include:

- Veteran friendly campuses;
- Post 9/11 GI Bill;
- Montgomery GI Bill;
- Veterans' Tuition Awards; and
- Vocational Rehabilitation to assist those with service related disabilities.

To establish eligibility for tuition awards, please contact the Higher Education Service Corporation's (HESC) scholarship unit at 1-888-697-4372.

For more conclusive information regarding what is offered, please visit [veterans.ny.gov/education.html](http://veterans.ny.gov/education.html) or call toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

## VETERAN HEALTH BENEFITS

Veterans' health benefits are administered by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). While the VA provides a medical benefits package to all enrolled veterans, you must apply to receive these benefits.

To be sure you qualify for these benefits, you need to fill out form IO-IOEZ which is provided on-line for your convenience at [www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/](http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/). If you require further assistance, call the VA's toll-free number at 1-877-222-8387, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. You can also visit the VA on the Internet at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for more information.

## VETERAN STATE BENEFITS

There are several additional benefits New York State offers only to veterans and disabled veterans, including reduced costs for hunting and fishing licenses, Disabled Veterans' E-ZPass program, Operation Recognition and others. To learn more about what New York State has to offer to veterans and their families, please visit [veterans.ny.gov/state-benefits.html](http://veterans.ny.gov/state-benefits.html) or call 1-888-838-7697.