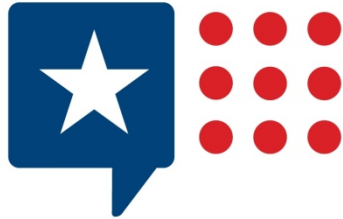


National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1



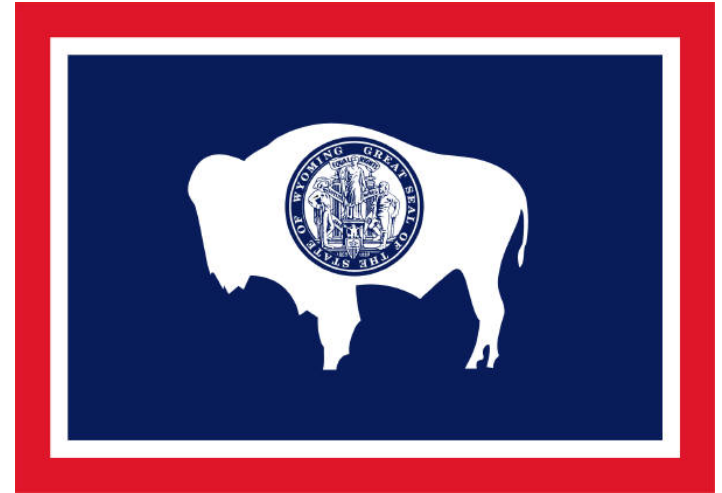
Word of Thanks

This Wyoming Veterans Commission Benefits Booklet was produced under the direction of the Wyoming Veterans Commission and assisted by numerous veterans agencies and organizations.

For updates and corrections, contact the Wyoming Veterans Commission at 307-777-8152.

Published Spring 2021

Wyoming Veterans Benefits Booklet



**Information for Wyoming
Veterans and their Families**

**1-800-833-5987
Wyoming Veterans Hotline**

**Produced by the
Wyoming Veterans Commission**

**For up to date information please visit
<http://wvc.wyo.gov>**

Table of Contents

Wyoming Veterans Commission Background	1
Navigating the VA Disability and Pension Claim Process in Wyoming	5
Service Officer Directory	7
US Department of Veterans Affairs	9
Wyoming Property Tax Exemption	12
Hunting, Fishing, and Parks	14
Veterans Service Organizations	16
Transition, Employment and Business Opportunities	17
Recognition of Veterans	22
Veterans Home of Wyoming	25
National Cemetery Administration	28
Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery	29
Military Funeral Honors	30
Assistance	33
Transportation	37
Additional Resources	39
Education	45
Retirees	46

Key Contacts

Wyoming Veterans Commission: 307-777-8152; wvc.wyo.gov

Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery: 307-235-6679; otsvc.wyo.gov

Wyoming Military and Veterans Records: 307-777-8163

Veterans Crisis Line (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) – 24/7/365:
1-800-273-8255, press 1; text 838255; chat online www.veteranscrisisline.net

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): 1-800-827-1000;
<http://www.va.gov>

Cheyenne National Cemetery: 307-778-7316; www.cem.va.gov

Cheyenne VA Medical Center: 307-778-7550; www.cheyenne.va.gov

Sheridan VA Medical Center: 307-672-3473 or 1-866-822-6714;
www.sheridan.va.gov

Cheyenne VA Mobile Clinics: 1-888-483-9127, ext. 3816

Afton VA Clinic: 1-877-309-8931

Casper VA Clinic: 1-866-338-5168

Cody VA Clinic: 307-587-4015

Evanston VA Clinic: 1-877-733-6128

Gillette VA Clinic: 1-866-621-1887

Newcastle VA Clinic: 307-746-4491

Rawlins VA Clinic: 307-324-5578

Riverton VA Clinic: 1-866-338-2609

Rock Springs VA Clinic: 1-866-381-2830

Worland VA Clinic: 1-877-483-0370

Wyoming 2-1-1 Community Resource Specialists: 2-1-1 or 1-888-425-7138;
<https://wy211.communityos.org>



Dear Wyoming Veterans,

Jennie and I want to thank you for your military service and the many sacrifices you have made for our nation and Wyoming. Make no mistake, your duty, dedication, commitment and courage to our great nation and state has not gone unnoticed and we owe you and your family a debt of gratitude. Again, thank you for your service, I am honored and proud to be your governor.

This booklet details key benefits and services that are available to you as a Wyoming veteran...benefits you have earned! The information within the pamphlet was compiled by the Wyoming Veterans Commission with the assistance of many local, state, federal and private agencies and entities.

In some cases, there may be benefits for the family members who also helped by supporting you as well. So please read through this document carefully.

The Veterans benefits to which you may be eligible are based on the individual circumstances you encountered during your military service. Eligibility is evaluated on a continual basis, so please work with the appropriate agency responsible for a particular benefit to determine if you are eligible.

The first step to learning about veteran's benefits is to apply. Saying that, the application process can be a little difficult. So, we have service offices who are trained and VA accredited available to assist you in this process. Please meet with them and give them the opportunity to make a positive difference in your life. We owe you this assistance as your military service has made a positive difference in our lives and way of life.

Sincerely,

Mark Gordon Governor



Wyoming Veterans Commission Background

The Commission was founded in 1981 for the purpose of receiving federal funding to establish the Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery. The Commission consisted of three Governor appointed members who met annually.

We have 40 years of providing services to veterans. Through many administrations, the Commission has grown modestly in how it serves Wyoming veterans and their families. The Commission, in working with the Veterans Home of Wyoming and our county partners, can now serve veterans in all locations across Wyoming. The Commission is a member of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA).

The Wyoming Veterans Commission is composed of twelve Governor-appointed Commissioners who serve for staggered terms from the various Wyoming Judicial Districts. A new Chair is elected every two years and appoints officers as needed. Commissioners receive no pay for this volunteer work, but are compensated for travel, lodging, meals, and conference fees in accordance with state law.

Veterans or others interested in serving on the Commission should apply through the Governor's Office governor.wyo.gov/state-government/boards-commissions.

The Commission meets quarterly during public meetings held in person or via teleconferences.

The Commission's essential duties are outlined in Wyoming Statute 19-14-107.

The Commission has oversight of the State Veterans Service Officer Program, Military Records, Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum in Casper, Wyoming National Guard Museum in Cheyenne, and Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery in Evansville.

The mission essential tasks of the Commission are:

- Support Veterans Service work at the state and federal level
- Collaborate, coordinate, and liaison with Veterans Service Organizations, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other stakeholders
- Administer the Veteran Burial Team reimbursement program
- Develop, produce, and distribute educational materials related to veterans programs
- Provide oversight of the Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery (Evansville)
- Administer the Service Officer program to assist veterans with their disability and pension claims
- Provide administrative support for the suite of veterans and military license plates and the veteran designation on the Wyoming driver license.
- Administer the Veterans Commission expendable trust fund
- Administer the Governor's Welcome Home Certificate Program
- Provide oversight of the Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum (Casper) and Wyoming National Guard Museum (Cheyenne)

The Commission is managed by a full-time Executive Director, with Executive Assistant, who supervises the Veterans Services Program Manager, the Director of Museums, the Cemetery Director, and the Military Records Supervisor. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Governor, Adjutant General and Chairman of the Commission.

The Commission's Headquarters are located at the Wyoming Military Department's Joint Forces Readiness Center, 5800 Central Avenue, in Cheyenne

The Commission partners with county, state, federal, and private organizations as fellow stakeholders in the work to serve Wyoming veterans and their families.

Physical Address:
5800 Central Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Mailing Address:
5410 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009

The Commission's websites are:

Main site: wvc.wyo.gov

State Veterans Service Officers: vet.wyo.gov

Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery: otsvc.wyo.gov

Wyoming Veterans' Memorial Museum: wvmm.wyo.gov

Wyoming National Guard Museum: wyngm.wyo.gov

Commissioner Information

1st District, Laramie County

Travis Deti

1009 Gabriel Dr.

Cheyenne, WY 82009

307-286-5993; tdeti@msn.com

2nd District, Albany and Carbon Counties

Deanna Hurless

2458 N 9th St., Lot B103

Laramie, WY 82072

307-760-6307; zacktimone@hotmail.com

3rd District, Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta Counties

David Bassett

1567 County Road 173

Evanston, WY 82930

307789-0047

davidbassett@hotmail.com

Michael Tillotson

6621 Highway 238

Afton, WY 83110

307-885-3180

mike.p.tillotson@gmail.com

4th District, Johnson and Sheridan Counties

Jack Tarter

582 N. DeSmet Ave.

Buffalo, WY 82834

307-620-1999; jtarte@vcn.com

5th District, Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie Counties

Vincent Vanata

3419 Sandbak Ave.

Cody, WY 82414

307-250-5639

vincevanata@gmail.com

Justin Pfeiffer

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Worland, WY 82401

307-431-6713

jpfeiffer6713@gmail.com

6th District, Campbell, Crook, and Weston Counties
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 795 Highway 112
 Hulett, WY 82720
 307-752-1675; keithdavidson92@gmail.com

7th District, Natrona County
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 Mills, WY 82644
 907-947-5302; psheehan52@yahoo.com

8th District, Converse, Goshen, Niobrara, and Platte Counties
 Gerald "Jake" Jacobs
 2334 East A St.
 Torrington, WY 82240
 307-338-8235-8902; jakewy70@gmail.com

9th District, Fremont, Sublette, and Teton Counties
 Kenneth Persson
 7676 Highway 789
 Lander, WY 82520
 307-349-2881
ppersson@tcinc.net

Lyle Wadda, Tribal District
 PO Box 432
 Ft. Washakie, WY 82514
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lwadda@hotmail.com

Headquarters Staff Information

Timothy Sheppard, Director
 5410 Bishop Blvd.
 Cheyenne, WY 82009
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vicki.osman@wyo.gov

Kaci Nicks, Records Supervisor
 5410 Bishop Blvd.
 Cheyenne, WY 82009
 307-777-8163
 307-777-8164 (fax)
kaci.nicks@wyo.gov

Darrin Brahaney, Cemetery Dir.
 PO Box 669
 Evansville, WY 82636
 307-235-6673
 307-235-6211 (fax)
darrin.brahaney@wyo.gov

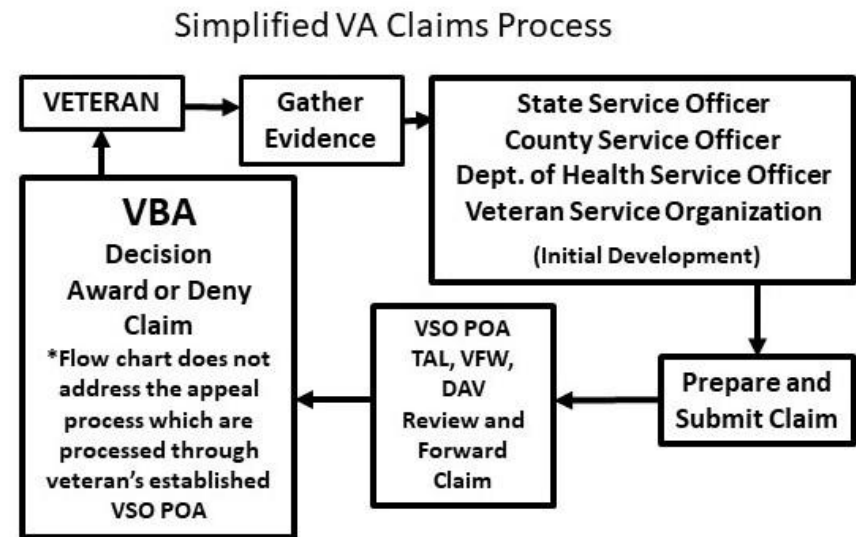
John Woodward, Museum Dir.
 3740 Jourgensen Ave.
 Casper, WY 82604
 307-473-3486
 307-237-5071 (fax)
john.woodward@wyo.gov

Kenton Franklin, Retiree Support
 5410 Bishop Blvd.
 Cheyenne, WY 82009
 307-631-5194
kenton.franklin@wyo.gov

Brian Allen, Rural Transportation
 5410 Bishop Blvd.
 Cheyenne, WY 82009
 307-275-6723
brian.allen@wyo.gov



Navigating the VA disability and pension claim process in Wyoming



Veterans Service Officers inform veterans and family members about state and federal veterans benefits. They also assist veterans and their families with healthcare and VA disability and pension claims.

They coordinate the actions and conversations between the veteran and the VA.

The Wyoming Veterans Commission recommends veterans start early, obtain assistance from a service officer in filing their claim and ensure they have service organization representation throughout the complete claims process. Typically, a veteran will file only one claim in their lifetime, with possible follow up claims if the veteran's condition worsens. Veterans should ensure they take advantage of the service officer system to ensure the best claim support possible.

The Wyoming Veterans Commission retains a full-time Program Manager who advises state veterans service officers regarding VA disability and pension claims. The Program Manager provides liaison to the Veterans Service Organizations department and national service officers and VA Regional Office, in Cheyenne.

Wyoming has eight State Veterans Service Officers who are state employees of the Wyoming Veterans Commission and cover the following areas: Powder River Basin, Big Horn Basin, Central Wyoming, Fremont and Teton County, Laramie Plains and Platte Valley.

County Veterans Service Officers – Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater and Uinta counties have paid staff to assist veterans in these counties as part of the Tri-County Veterans Services.

The Department of Health has a Veterans Benefit Coordinator, courtesy of a private grant, who is a state employee assisting veterans in Johnson and Sheridan County.

The department service officers for TAL and VFW, and the DAV national service officer, who are located in Cheyenne, ensure the veterans who select them for representation have a strong voice when interacting with the VA's regional office. These are the only organizations in Wyoming which can offer complete claims service to the veteran and their family. It is essential that with whomever you start your claim with; it should end up with one of these three organizations as they can assist you with an appeal to the VA's Board of Veterans Appeals, if necessary.

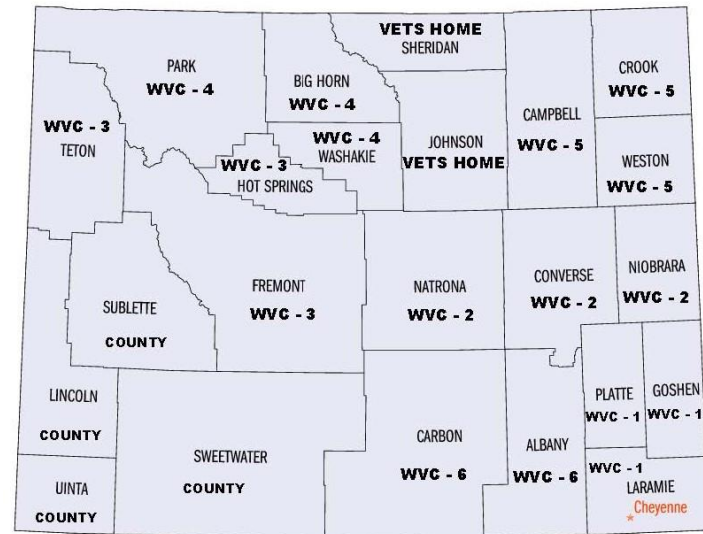
When a veteran selects one of the Veterans Service Organizations to represent them, the organization becomes the "attorney-in-fact". The veteran must abide by this relationship and should make no decision without consulting their appointed service officer first. A veteran may also choose to be represented by a VA accredited attorney, at their own expense, in this process.

Once the claim is filed with the VA, the veteran will begin to receive correspondence from the VA. This correspondence can be very technical in nature and we recommend each veteran consult with their service officer before responding to the letters.

At some point the VA will make a decision on the veterans claim. The veteran has the right to accept or appeal that decision. An appeal is an even more technical process with very specific deadlines and actions. Veterans must remain in very close contact with their department service officer should they decide to appeal the VA's decision.

Do you have questions about navigating this system? Contact a Service Officer or call the Wyoming Veterans Hotline at 1-800-833-5987.

Service Officer Directory



WVC 1
Stephanie Davis
5410 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-274-7747
stephanie.davis@wyo.gov

Crystal Emig
5410 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-256-1778
crystal.emig@wyo.gov

WVC 3
Vacant
324 E. Washington
Riverton, WY 82501
307-438-2101
@wyo.gov

WVC 5
Sandy McFarland
551 Running W Dr., Suite 100
Gillette, WY 82718
307-696-5048
sandy.mcfarland@wyo.gov

Sweetwater County
Sam Esquibel
333 Broadway, Suite 231
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307-922-5442
esquibels@sweet.wy.us

Lincoln and Uinta County
Nancy Stafford
105 JC Penny Dr.
Kemmerer, WY 83101
307-877-3110
staffordn@sweet.wy.us

WVC 2
Dave McDonell
5905 CY Ave.
Casper, WY 82604
307-258-1100
david.mcdonell@wyo.gov

Erica Eastlund
5905 CY Ave.
Casper, WY 82604
307-315-4187
erica.eastlund2@wyo.gov

WVC 4
Brad Cline
1026 Blackburn Ave., Suite 1
Cody, WY 82414
307-250-3890
brad.cline@wyo.gov

Dept. of Health
Lisa Griffith
700 Veterans' Lane
Buffalo, WY 82834
307-620-0884
lisa.griffith@wyo.gov

Sublette County
Billie Hamby
619 E. Hennick
Pinedale, WY 82941
307-367-4877
hambyb@sweet.wy.us

DAV, Henry Myers
2360 E. Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-433-2752
henry.myers@va.gov

The American Legion, Dwight Null
2360 East Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-433-2751
dwight.null@va.gov

VFW, Melissa Gilliam
2360 East Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-778-7340
melissa.gilliam@va.gov



US Department of Veterans Affairs

The Veterans Health Administration is the primary health care component of the VA. The VA maintains a large footprint of facilities and services here in Wyoming.

Returning Service Members

The VA has a wide range of programs and support for returning service members. VA Transition and Care Management Program in Wyoming are as follows:

Cheyenne VAHCS
2360 East Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-274-5707

Sheridan VAHCS
1898 Fort Road
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-675-3809

This website provides the latest information:

www.oefoif.va.gov/caremanagement.asp

Women Veterans Health Care

Women who have served in the Armed Forces are eligible for a variety of veterans benefits. The VA actively encourages women to utilize the benefit due them. Points of contact for the Women Veterans Program in Wyoming are as follows:

Cheyenne VAHCS
2360 E. Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-778-7526

Sheridan VAHCS
1898 Fort Road
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-675-3386

Cheyenne VA Health Care System

The facility has a main campus in Cheyenne as well as outpatient and mobile clinics servicing eight other communities across southern Wyoming, northern Colorado, and western Nebraska.

For information provided at these locations and for directions to the clinics visit www.cheyenne.va.gov

Contact information for Cheyenne VA Health Care System is:
2360 East Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Cheyenne Main Number 307-778-7550 or 888-483-9127
Ft. Collins Main Number 970-224-1550
Loveland Main Number 970-962-4900
Rawlins Main Number 307-324-5578
Sidney Main Number 308-254-6085

Mobile Clinics:
Sterling, Laramie, Wheatland, Torrington Main Number 888-483-9127 ext. 3816

Speed Dial Phone Tree Key
Pharmacy **Press 1**
Appointments **Press 2**
Nurse Triage **Press 3**
Enrollment Eligibility **Press 4**
Billing Questions and Community Care **Press 5**, then **Press 1**
Care in the Community **Press 5**, then **Press 2**
Patient Advocate **Press 0**, then **Press 1**
Veteran or family member in crisis **Press 7**
Operator **Press 0**, then **Press 0**

VA Voluntary Services (Volunteer or Donate) 307-778-7317
Veteran Transportation Service 307-433-3735; 307-432-3804; 970-310-1200

My HealtheVet—307-778-7550 ext. 7119 or www.myhealth.va.gov

Sheridan VA Health Care System

The system has a main campus in Sheridan as well as outpatient and mobile clinics servicing eight other communities across Wyoming
For information provided at these locations and for directions to the clinics visit <http://www.sheridan.va.gov>
Contact information for Sheridan VA Health Care System is:

1898 Fort Rd.
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-672-3473 or 866-822-6714

The communities with VA clinics managed by the Sheridan VAHCS:

Afton, Wyoming 125 S. Washington Afton, WY 83110 307-886-5266	Casper, Wyoming 6000 E. 2 nd St. Casper, WY 82609 307-235-4143
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Gillette, Wyoming
604 Express Dr.
Gillette, WY 82718
307-685-0676

Evanston, Wyoming
1565 South Hwy. 150, E
Evanston, WY 82930
307-789-3384

Cody, Wyoming
1432 Rumsey Ave.
Cody, WY 82414
307-587-4015

Riverton, Wyoming
2300 Rose Ln.
Riverton, WY 82501
307-857-1211

Rock Springs, Wyoming
1401 Gateway Blvd., Suite 1
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307-362-6641

Worland, Wyoming
510 S. 15th, Suite D
Worland, WY 82401
307-347-2808

Newcastle VA Clinic

This clinic in Newcastle is serviced by the VA Black Hills Health Care System. The contact information for the clinic is:

1124 Washington Blvd.
Newcastle, WY 82701
307-746-4491

<http://www.blackhills.va.gov/locations/newcastle.asp>

Veterans Benefits Administration

The VBA organization of the VA administers federal benefits programs. Disability compensation helps Veterans with chronic conditions resulting from their military service. The VBA is located in Wyoming at the Cheyenne Regional Office, which is co-located with the Cheyenne VA Medical Center. A public contact representative is located at the Sheridan VAMC as well. Education benefits and VA

Guaranteed Home Loan program are processed off-site. You can contact the VBA at 1-800-827-1000. Additionally, you can resolve most of your benefits concerns by logging into <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov>.

Vet Centers

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional readjustment counseling to eligible veterans, active duty service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families. Readjustment counseling is offered to make a successful transition from military to civilian life or after a traumatic event experienced in the military. Individual, group, marriage and family counseling is offered in addition to referral and connection to other VA or community benefits and services. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma. Outreach services from the Vet Centers are available in Casper and Cheyenne. A mobile Vet Center operates out of the Casper office. For details regarding the visitation schedule contact the Casper Vet Center.

Cheyenne Vet Center
2617 E. Lincolnway, Suite C
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-778-7370

Casper Vet Center
1030 N. Poplar, Suite B
Casper, WY 82601
307-261-5355

For more information visit <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov>



Property Tax Exemption

Property Tax Exemption

Apply at your County Assessor's Office between January 1 and the fourth Monday in May each year. Once you provide documentation to establish your initial eligibility, you may call the County Assessor's Office during this time period and renew your exemption.

Veterans must be a bona fide resident of the State of Wyoming for at

least three (3) consecutive years prior to claiming the tax exemption and must have active federal service in a branch of the armed forces of the United States, including active federal service in the National Guard or Reserve units associated with a branch of the armed forces of the United States (expressly limited to federal service under Title 10, United States code) resulting in a DD Form 214 or equivalent from their branch of service. Additionally, one of the following must apply:

- Served in the Armed Forces during:
 - World War II (Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946); or
 - Korean War (June 27, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955); or
 - Vietnam War (Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975); or
- Must have served overseas during an armed conflict and received an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or equivalent; or
- Be a disabled veteran with a compensable service-connected disability as certified by VA or a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. VA or DoD agency disability letter required; or
- Be the surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran who resides in Wyoming and did not remarry.

Qualifying veterans are eligible for this benefit in the current tax year if they are discharged after the 4th Monday in May and apply to the County Assessor office during the current tax year. The exemption applies to taxes on a veteran's primary residence lowering the assessed value by \$3,000.

Applying exemption to vehicles

If the exemption is not used on property, it may be applied to a vehicle's licensing fee (not sales tax). More than one vehicle may qualify, but the total exemption shall not exceed \$90. The vehicle(s) must be titled to the veteran before qualifying. Leased vehicles do not qualify.

See Wyoming Statute 39-13-105 for more information at <https://wyoleg.gov/statutes/compress/title39.pdf>



Hunting, Fishing, and Parks

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) offers a number of hunting and fishing licenses to qualified veterans. Applicants must provide a letter from the VBA Regional Office certifying eligibility. Call 307-777-4600 for specific requirements and application information or visit the Cheyenne Headquarters or one of the Department Regional Offices located in Casper, Cody, Green River, Jackson, Lander, Laramie, Pinedale, or Sheridan. Also, feel free to visit the Department's website at <http://gf.state.wy.us>

Hunter Safety for Military Veterans

Any active member, honorably discharged past member, or veteran of the armed forces of the United States is exempt from the requirement to provide or possess a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms. Those who meet these service requirements may mail or visit a Game and Fish Department Office with a copy of documents verifying their service to obtain the necessary validation in the Department's licensing system.

Free Fishing License

Any 50% disabled veteran who is a resident of Wyoming for not less than one year, may submit an application and a letter from the VBA Regional Office certifying the 50% level of service connected disability compensation to receive a free fishing license.

Free Bird, Small Game, and Fishing Licenses

Any 100% disabled veteran who is a resident of Wyoming for not less than one year may submit an application and a letter from the VBA Regional Office certifying the 100% level of service connected disability to receive a free game bird, small game and fishing license.

Free Bird, Small Game and Fishing License - Purple Heart Medal Recipient

WGFD shall issue without charge lifetime game bird, small game and fish licenses to any honorably discharged United States military Purple Heart medal recipient with document proof thereof. The license is valid so long as the licensee remains a Wyoming resident. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department shall accept the following for proof of receiving a U.S. Military Purple Heart Medal: Official DD-214 form, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Identification

Card (VIC) with Purple Heart Medal designation or U.S. Purple Heart Medal Recipient certificate.

Free Hunting and Fishing While on Leave

Any Wyoming resident who is on active duty in the U.S. Military deployed to a combat zone, who is home on leave, and will return to a combat zone, may receive free hunting and fishing license for use while on leave.

Special Limited Fishing Permit for Hospitalized Veterans

In coordination with WGFD, a free license can be issued by any VA Hospital within Wyoming, Wyoming Department of Health, or Wyoming Department of Family Services to a resident of the Veterans' Home. Veteran must fish under direct control of the institution.

Active Duty in Wyoming

Any active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces who has been stationed in Wyoming for 90 days shall qualify as a resident so long as the active duty member remains stationed in Wyoming. Other laws apply. Consult a Game and Fish Department Office to determine eligibility.

Donated Big Game Licenses for Disabled Veterans

Any person may donate a big game license for reissuance, free of charge, to a disabled veteran. The disabled veteran must be selected and sponsored by a nonprofit charitable organization providing hunting opportunities for disabled veterans in order to receive the donated license. Contact a Game and Fish Department Office to obtain information for organizations providing these sponsorships.

Free Lifetime State Park Pass

The Lifetime Veteran's Permit allows free day use and camping for life and is available to any Wyoming resident veteran who is 50% or more service-connected disabled. Applicants must provide proof of residency and VA certification of level of disability. Information about the permit, including the application process and benefits, are available at the Wyo Parks website, wyoparks.state.wy.us or you may call 307-777-6323.

America the Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes

Access Pass is a free, lifetime pass available to U.S. veterans that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability. Veterans can obtain an Access Pass in person, with proper documentation, from a participating federal recreation site or office.

Pass for Veterans will allow free entry into federal parks. Veterans will need to present one of the following forms of identification where entrance fees are collected: Department of Defense Identification Card (CAC Card), Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC), Veteran ID Card or Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card.

Gold Star Family Free Access Voucher allows waived entrance fees for an eligible next of kin (NOK) of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his/her life in a qualifying situation. Before visiting participating sites, a voucher must be downloaded and printed in order to present to the ranger or place on vehicle dashboard at unstaffed sites.

To learn more about the Access Pass, Pass for Veterans and Gold Star Family Free Access Voucher, visit <http://usparkpass.com/senior-military-access-or-other-passes/>



Veterans Service Organizations

Background

There are many Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) at the local, state, and national level. Many offer assistance to veterans with disabilities and their families, in addition to their fraternal aspects. VSOs can assist veterans in obtaining both state and federal benefits, employment opportunities, and financial assistance. Some VSOs are chartered and/or approved and recognized by the VA Secretary for the purpose of preparation, presentation and prosecution of claims under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Wyoming has many VSOs who sponsor veteran services,

including community activities, youth and patriotic programs. These are mainly the American Legion (TAL), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). These organizations employ service officers who provide assistance to veterans and their families. As a veterans advocate, service officers are a vital link in a complex and often confusing VA claims processing system. Services by the VSOs are provided at no cost to the veteran or family member and they are not required to be members of any veterans organization. For more information on nationwide VSOs, visit <http://www.va.gov/vso>

Emergency Assistance

- American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance: apply through local posts or call 307-634-3035.
- The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Unmet Needs Program: call 1-866-789-6333 or go to vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants
- The VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) is the outstretched hand between the VFW and Active, Guard, and Reserve units. MAP offers grants to local VFW posts to sponsor military functions and for family readiness activities. Apply through local posts or call 307-514-5087.
- VFW Financial Assistance is to provide Emergency Financial Assistance for veterans to pay for emergency bills up to \$250. For more information call 307-514-5087.



Transition, Employment and Business Opportunities

Veterans leaving the military have a wide range of assistance available to them to ensure they make the transition to civilian life in an orderly and productive manner.

Boots to Business

Boots to Business is an entrepreneurial education and training program offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as part of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP). The course provides an overview of entrepreneurship and applicable business ownership fundamentals. Active Duty Service

members (including National Guard and Reserve), Veterans of all eras, and spouses are eligible to participate. For more information contact 844-610-VET1 or Boots-to-Business@sba.gov

Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers is a Department of Defense program that assists transitioning service members and veterans in beginning new careers as K-12 school teachers in public, charter and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. The program provides counseling and referral services for participants to help them meet education and licensing requirements to teach and subsequently helps secure a teaching position.

For more information visit <https://proudtoserveagain.com/> or contact Troops to Teachers Program at 1-800-231-6242

VA Compensated Work Therapy Programs (CWT)

Sheridan VA's Compensated Work Therapy Programs offer two program tracks: Supported Employment and Transitional Work for eligible veterans interested in obtaining and sustaining competitive employment. CWT participants will be offered support in resume writing, mock interviewing, aid with job applications, job coaching and computer education. Supported Employment is beneficial for referred veterans who are motivated or are already working in competitive employment. It is a long-term program that offers job carving, job preparation, case management, job coaching, home visits, limited transportation, and support in employee/employer relations for veterans. Transitional Work is for referred veterans who do not have recent job experience and desire competitive employment in the community. It is designed to offer 90-day assignments in various Sheridan VA departments in order to provide new and/or updated vocational skills and help place the veteran in competitive employment in the community. Contact Sheridan VAHCS: 307-672-3473, ext. 3831 for additional information.

Employment Services

The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services provides employment and training services to all veterans and eligible spouses on a priority basis. Priority of Service (POS) is the right of eligible covered persons to take precedence over eligible non-covered persons in obtaining services and training. Your local Workforce

Center will provide guidance, job searches, resume writing, skills assessments, labor market information, unemployment benefits access, partnership referral services and training support to eligible veterans and spouses. Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists provide additional intensive services to meet the employment needs of eligible veterans and spouses with Significant Barriers to Employment (SBE) including special disabled or other disabled veterans, as defined by 38 U.S.C. 4211 (i.e., homeless, recently separated and unemployed for 27 weeks or more within the previous 12 months, low income, recent offender, lacking a high school diploma and veterans aged 18-24). Employment Veterans Representatives (LVER) assist employers with job development and placement of veterans. Contact your closest Workforce Center by going to <http://www.wyomingworkforce.org/contact/employment> for more information.

State and Federal Job Protections for Military and Veterans

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense agency that seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. ESGR does this by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce. For more information contact the Wyoming Committee of ESGR at 307-772-5376.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is a federal law that establishes rights and responsibilities for uniformed service members and their civilian employers. The law is intended to ensure that persons who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, Reserves, National Guard, or other uniformed services: (1) are not disadvantaged in their civilian careers because of their service; (2) are promptly reemployed in their civilian jobs upon their return home from duty; and (3) are not discriminated against in employment based on past, present, or future military service. For more information about the USERRA law visit <http://www.esgr.mil/USERRA>

The Military Service Relief Act (W.S. 19-11-24) is a policy of the State of Wyoming that provides for its citizens who serve their country and state in the uniformed services and who leave their employment, homes, or education shall not be penalized nor economically disadvantaged because of such service. The purpose of this article is to prohibit discrimination against persons because of their uniformed service when they return to civilian life. For more information about the Wyoming Military Service Relief Act visit <https://www.wyoleg.gov/StateStatutes/StatutesConstitution?tab=0>

National Guard Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA)

The TAA program places a VA-trained representative at the Wyoming National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters to act as an advocate for Guard members and their families. The TAA helps to navigate the VA system in obtaining their earned VA health care and VA benefits. The TAA works with all agencies to assist National Guard and Reserve veterans. The TAA also serves as a liaison between the VA and the National Guard Bureau. For more information call your state TAA at 307-772-5163, 307-256-1419, email at russell.d.grayson.ctr@mail.mil or visit <http://www.taapmo.com>

National Guard Employment Support Program (NGESP)

The mission is to provide employment resources to National Guard military members, veterans, and their families. Services provided include, but not limited to, resume and cover letter assistance, hiring resources, professional development and career advice, interview skills and training courses (by request). For more information, call 307-772-5055, or email cheryl.m.burd.ctr@mail.mil

Wyoming National Guard Employment Opportunities

The Wyoming National Guard has many full time employment opportunities available at <http://wymilitary.wyo.gov/employment>

Veterans Preference

Wyoming and federal laws gives eligible Veterans preference in appointment over many other applicants. Veterans preference applies to most new appointments in both the competitive and excepted service. Veterans preference does not guarantee veterans a job and it does not apply to internal agency actions such as promotions, transfers, reassignments, and reinstatements.

To learn more visit these sites:

Feds Hire Vets, the one stop resource for federal veteran employment information: <http://www.fedshirevets.gov>
Wyoming State Statutes 19-14-102, Employment; preference in public departments or public works; qualifications and residence: <http://wyoleg.gov/statutes/compress/title19.pdf>

Wyoming Vocational Rehabilitation

The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, works in partnership with consumers and other stakeholders to provide services and advocacy resulting in employment, independent living and equality for individuals with disabilities. For more information please call 307-777-7386 or visit <http://wyomingworkforce.org/workers/vr/>

State of Wyoming Jobs

Job opportunities for the State of Wyoming can be found by visiting <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/wyoming>

FedEx Freight Careers

FedEx Freight is one of the four divisions of FedEx Corporate, which consists of FedEx Freight, FedEx Express, FedEx Ground, and FedEx Office. FedEx has the world's 2nd largest trucking fleet and operates the largest airline, in terms of freight tons flown. For more information regarding Wyoming careers please contact Tony Matteroli at tony.matteroli@fedex.com.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Careers

At TSA, their core values of integrity, respect and commitment allow veterans to continue honoring their oath of service to the nation and its laws. For more information text "VETS" to 95495, email tsavets@tsa.dhs.gov or visit <https://www.tsa.gov/about/jobs-at-tsa>.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Serving the next generation by assisting veterans and their dependents who are trying to start, grow, or succeed with a small business. For more information, contact the SBA Wyoming District Office at 307-261-6500 or visit <http://www.sba.gov/veterans>

Access to Capital

Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2015 – eliminates fees on SBA Express Loans. Express loans have a maximum loan amount of \$350,000. Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses can qualify for the Military Reservist Economic Disaster Loan.

Procurement and Government Contracting

Opportunities with bid preferences for veterans, minorities, and Service Disabled Veterans owned businesses. The SBA also holds contracting webinars and seminars across the state designed to introduce small business owners to the world of government contracting.

Surety Bonds Programs

Bid bond guarantees required for bidding on contracts or performance bonds. For more information visit <http://www.sba.gov/surety-bonds>

SCORE – Counselors to America’s Small Business

Free counseling to both start up or existing small businesses. SCORE can assist with planning, design, problem identification, marketing, customer service, cash management, personnel matters and all other phases of business. Visit <http://www.score.org> for more information.

Wyoming Small Business Development Centers (WSBDC)

Located throughout the state, free confidential counseling on any business issue for those wishing to start or open a small business. Classes, training programs and workshops available. Visit <http://www.wyomingsbdc.org/> for more information.



Recognition of Veterans

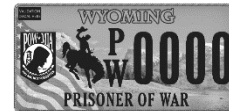
Operation Recognition

This is a program to recognize veterans who left school to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and never received a diploma. For more information call 1-800-833-5987.

Wyoming Military Related License Plates

General Provisions:

1. Vehicle must be titled in the name of the applicant or may be joint ownership with a member of the immediate family.
2. Applications for most military-related license plates shall be made directly to the county treasurer at least 30 days before registration of the vehicle expires. Applications for the Veteran license plate and Gold Star plate shall be made directly to the Wyoming Veterans Commission. Online applications are available at: <https://jweb.dot.state.wy.us/SpecialtyPlates/>
3. All special license plates are issued once in an 8-year period and must be renewed annually not later than the last day of the annual registration month. Renewals are accomplished at the office of the County Treasurer.
4. Upon transfer of ownership of the vehicle to which the plates were issued, the registration expires and the plates must be removed. After acquiring another vehicle, application may be made to transfer the license registration number to the newly acquired vehicle.
5. The county treasurer or Wyoming Veterans Commission will forward the approved application to the Department of Transportation who will indicate the assigned plate number and return a copy of the application and the plates to the county treasurer.
6. Each applicant must be a Wyoming resident.



Prisoner of War (POW) License Plate

(Registration fees are waived for the first POW license plate and there is no plate fee. There is no plate fee for additional plates, but the veteran must pay vehicle registration fees.) Any person who, while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, was incarcerated by an enemy of the United States may use the former prisoners of war special license plate.



Gold Star Family License Plate

(Plate fees paid by the Wyoming Veterans Commission, owner must pay vehicle registration fees.) Any parent, grandparent, spouse, child, or sibling of a member of the United States Armed Forces who died while in service or who died as a result of the service shall be eligible to receive the Gold Star License Plate.



Purple Heart Recipient (PH) License Plate

(No plate fee, must pay vehicle registration fees.) Any person who presents documented proof that he/she is an official recipient of the United States

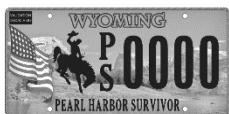
Military Purple Heart Award may apply to the department for a Purple Heart Recipient Plate.



Disabled Veteran (DV) License Plate

One set of license plates shall be issued to disabled veterans who provide an affidavit from the VA stating they receive 50 percent or more

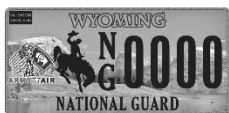
service-connected disability compensation. Disabled veterans are exempt from registration fees for one vehicle, other than a commercial vehicle, motorcycle, multipurpose vehicle, bus or motor home. Veteran may either choose the DV License plate as their free plate; or veteran may choose any other military related plate for which they qualify as their free plate. Veteran must provide VA documentation to the County Treasurer each year. The Veteran may purchase one additional Disabled Veterans plate for either a motorcycle or multi-purpose vehicle.



Pearl Harbor Survivor (PHS) License Plate

(No plate fee, must pay vehicle registration fees.) Must have been a member of the United States Armed Forces on Dec. 7, 1941, and on station

during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Hawaii time, and at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance not to exceed 3 miles and received an honorable discharge.



National Guard (NG) License Plate

(No plate fee, must pay vehicle registration fees.) Any person who presents documentation that he/she is currently serving in an active or retired

status of the Wyoming Army or Air National Guard may apply for a National Guard plate.



Veteran License Plate

(\$50 plate fee, must also pay vehicle registration fees.) To qualify, you must have served at least one period of honorable service which resulted in the issuing of a DD 214. If approved, your license plates will be forwarded to the county treasurer's office you indicate on your application. Send your payment of \$50 made out to WYDOT in the form of a check or money order along with your application to:

Wyoming Veterans Commission

5410 Bishop Blvd.

Cheyenne, WY 82009

Wyoming Driver License Veteran Designation

Veteran status on the license or ID card will allow Wyoming veterans to validate their honorable service with a government-issued identification card. To qualify for the designation, you must have served at least one period of honorable service which resulted in the issuing of a DD 214. A copy of your separation papers and a verification form must be submitted to the Wyoming Veterans Commission at least one week before going to a WYDOT Driver Exam Station. Verification forms are available at Driver Exam Stations or wyomilitary.wyo.gov/veterans/resources



Veterans Home of Wyoming

Situated in the beautiful foothills of the Bighorn Mountains, the Veterans' Home of Wyoming (VHW) proudly stands ready to serve our veterans. The home, built on the grounds of the former Fort McKinney is located three miles west of Buffalo, Wyoming on U.S. Highway 16. The Veterans' Home of Wyoming is part of the Wyoming Department of Health's Aging Division.

VHW provides a secure, independent lifestyle for veterans who voluntarily seek admission. VHW offers what is known as “domiciliary care,” which provides shelter, food and necessary medical care to assist eligible veterans who suffer from a disability, disease, etc. The veteran, although not in need of hospitalization or nursing home care, needs to attain the physical, mental and social well-being through special rehabilitative programs to restore the veteran to their highest level of functioning. Our residents are generally able to maintain their own basic activities of daily living, but generally face challenges that prevent them from earning a living through employment.

VHW offers more than just room and board; we strive to be a community of caring people. There are two-room suites for married couples and private rooms for single residents for a total of 117 beds.

There is plenty of transportation to and from the VHW to get you where you need to go. Some residents have their own cars. All residents are free to come and go as they please.

Eligibility

To be eligible for admission to the Veterans’ Home of Wyoming, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be unable to earn a living by reason of wounds, disease, old age or other infirmities; or have no adequate means of support or are already domiciled in this state.
2. Must be a dependent of a qualified veteran if admission is deemed proper.
3. Valid in-state residence at the time of application, or the intent to permanently reside in the state if less than one year of state residence. The resident must not be in transit; temporary or seasonal residency is not acceptable.
4. Persons who are not veterans or dependents of veterans may be admitted, if less than 90 percent of the home’s capacity is occupied and a veteran’s dependent application is not pending. Individuals must also be unable to earn a living with no adequate means of support and/or domiciled in this state.

In all admission decisions, the facility will give preference to veterans first and their accompanying dependents second. The facility will have final authority for approving or disapproving all applications.

Admissions Process

Veterans interested in joining the VHW community are encouraged to call VHW at 307-684-5511. They can request a pre-admission packet to fill out and return with copies of DD-214, recent history and physical, income verification, proof of Medicare A, B or D, and other documents.

After these materials are returned to VHW, the potential resident is invited to VHW for a trial visit. This step gives both the resident and facility a chance to see if the admission will be a fit on a full-time basis. Following the trial visit, the facility will give permission to admit, ask for further information, or deny the admission.

Monthly Fees for Residents

Residents’ fees are based on an individual’s ability to pay. Services included in the monthly maintenance fee include but are not limited to a furnished private room, meals, laundry services, nursing services, social services, activities, and weekday transportation.

For More Information visit the VHW web page
<https://health.wyo.gov/aging/veteranshome/>

Veterans Home of Wyoming Skilled Nursing Facility

This new skilled nursing facility presently under construction on the grounds of the Veterans Home of Wyoming will feature three state-of-the-art residential cottages with 12 beds each will accommodate Wyoming veterans in a home-like setting with individual rooms. Anticipated completion is May 2022.

Long Term Health Care

Many federal, state and local programs provide long-term services to veterans. For more information, visit the VA web page <http://va.gov/geriatrics/> or the Wyoming Department of Health’s Aging Division web page <http://health.wyo.gov/aging/>



Honoring Deceased Veterans

National Cemetery Administration

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For veterans, benefits also include a burial flag (with case for active duty) and military funeral honors. Family members and other loved ones of deceased veterans may request Presidential Memorial Certificates. VA operates 139 national cemeteries and 118 state/tribal cemeteries. Burial options are limited to those available at a specific cemetery but may include in-ground casket, or interment of cremated remains in a columbarium, in ground or in a scatter garden.

The funeral director or the next of kin makes interment arrangements by contacting the National Cemetery Scheduling Office or, in some cases, the national cemetery in which burial is desired. VA normally does not conduct burials on weekends. Gravesites cannot be reserved; however, VA will honor reservations made under previous programs.

Surviving spouses of veterans who died on or after Jan. 1, 2000, do not lose eligibility for burial in a national cemetery if they remarry. Burial of dependent children is limited to unmarried children under 21 years of age, or under 23 years of age if a full-time student at an approved educational institution. Unmarried adult children who become physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before age 21, or age 23 if a full-time student, also are eligible for burial.

Public Law 111-275 extends burial benefits to certain parents of service members who die as a result of hostile activity or from training-related injuries who are buried in a national cemetery in a gravesite with available space. The biological or adopted parents of a service-member who died in combat or while performing training in preparation for a combat mission, who leaves no surviving spouse or dependent child, may be buried with the deceased service-member if the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines that there is available space. The law applies to service-members who died on or after Oct. 7, 2001, and to parents who died on or after Oct. 13, 2010.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has assembled a kit, Planning Your Legacy VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit, which is designed to help guide veterans, service members, and their families. To download your kit, please visit

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/VASurvivorsKit.pdf>

VA's National Cemetery Scheduling Office or local national cemetery directors verify eligibility for burial. A copy of the veteran's discharge document that specifies the period(s) of active duty and character of discharge is usually sufficient to determine eligibility.

National Cemetery Scheduling Office.....1-800-535-1117; or

<http://www.cem.va.gov>

VA National Call Center (for questions).....1-800-827-1000

Local National Cemeteries:

Cheyenne, WY.....307-778-7316

Fort Logan, CO... ..303-761-0117

Fort Lyon, CO.....303-761-0117

Pikes Peak, CO.....719-261-1025

Black Hills, SD.....605-347-3830

Fort McPherson, NE.....308-582-4433

Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery

The Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery (OTSVC), located in Evansville, was established in 1983. The Wyoming Military Department supervises and controls this Cemetery through the Wyoming Veterans Commission.

A veteran who receives any discharge, other than dishonorable, from the U.S. Armed Forces is eligible for burial. Please contact the cemetery if you have any questions regarding the character of the discharge. The spouse, handicapped or minor child of an eligible veteran may also qualify for burial providing that the qualifying family member is in the same burial plot as that provided for the veteran.

A National Guard or Reserve member is eligible for burial if they have completed their obligated service resulting with the issuance of a DD214 and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge; or

- was entitled to retirement pay at their time of death, or would have been entitled to retirement pay if they weren't under 60

- years of age at the time of death; or
- died while hospitalized or receiving treatment at the expense of the U.S. for an injury or illness that occurred while they were performing active-duty service for training or inactive-duty training under honorable conditions; or
- became disabled or died from a disease or injury caused, or made worse, by their active-duty service during a period of active duty for training; or
- became disabled or died from and injury or certain cardiovascular disorders caused, or made worse, by their active-duty service during a period of inactive-duty training.

Burial plots are assigned on a first come first served basis as the need arises and are provided at no charge. The cemetery will provide a vault at no charge for casket interments. All expenses incurred by next of kin for services and supplies provided by a funeral director of their choice or transportation to the OTSVC must be paid for by the survivors or by private funds. The next of kin must provide the funeral home or cemetery with a legible copy of the veterans DD214 or equivalent for verification.

All burial services are held in the chapel with no services being held at the gravesite. The director may assist the next of kin in making arrangements for military funeral honors. Services will be scheduled for weekdays only and up to thirty days in advance.

Only the flat, granite grave markers and niche covers provided by the U. S. Government are authorized for individual grave markings.

These rules, along with the National Cemetery Administration regulations, will govern the use of this cemetery.

For more information, call 307-235-6673 or visit <http://otsvc.wyo.gov>.

Military Funeral Honors

These honors are provided free of charge to the families of all entitled veterans. Wyoming funeral home directors, family members or Veteran Service Organization will request Military Funeral Honors from the veteran's parent service when the family makes a request for Military Funeral Honors. The following offices may be contacted for

Military Funeral Honors:

- U.S. Air Force, F.E. Warren AFB, 307-773-2686 or 307-631-4407 after hours
- U.S. Air Force, Ellsworth AFB – 605-431-3008
- U.S. Air Force, Malmstrom AFB – 406-731-2831 or 406-750-5182 after hours
- U.S. Air Force Hill AFB – 801-777-3967 or 801-917-0047 after hours
- U.S. Marine Corps - 866-826-3628
- U.S. Navy - 866-394-9249 or 360-315-3273
- U.S. Coast Guard - 316-606-6792
- U.S. Army, Wyoming – 307-772-5136 or 307-365-1734 after hours

Presidential Memorial Certificate

This engraved paper certificate signed by the current U.S. President to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans. For more information call 1-800-833-5987 or apply at <http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp>

Survivor Outreach Services – SOS

SOS is a program designed to demonstrate the Army's commitment to survivors of fallen service members. SOS assists survivors in understanding and accessing benefits and entitlements as well as arranging professional counseling. For more information call the SOS office 307-772-5563, 307-256-9860 or email samuel.g.debono.ctr@mail.mil

Survivor Benefits

Eligible surviving spouses and dependent children can apply for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) a monthly stipend, or surviving spouse pension. A copy of the veteran's DD214 and the veteran's death certificate are required. For more information, call 1-800-833-5987 or contact your supporting veteran service officer.

VA Burial Allowances

VA burial allowances are partial reimbursements of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service related, the reimbursements are generally described as two payments:

- 1 - A burial and funeral expense allowance.
- 2 - A plot or interment allowance.

Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if: you paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, AND you have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer, AND the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- the veteran died because of a service-related disability, or
- the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, or
- the veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay, or
- the veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, or
- the veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, or
- the veteran had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death, or
- the veteran died on or after Oct. 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.

How Much Does VA Pay?

Service-Related Death: VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after Sept. 11, 2001. VA will pay up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to Sept. 10, 2001. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

VA will pay up to \$796 toward burial and funeral expenses for deaths on or after October 1, 2019 (if hospitalized by VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a \$796 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). For deaths on or after December 1, 2001, but

before October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance. For deaths on or after April 1, 1988 but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (for veterans hospitalized by VA at the time of death). An annual increase in burial and plot allowances for deaths occurring after October 1, 2011 began in fiscal year 2013 based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

How Can You Apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. You should attach a copy of the veteran's military discharge document (DD 214 or equivalent), death certificate, funeral and burial bills. They should show that you have paid them in full. A Veterans Service Officer can help you in this process. You may download the form at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>



Assistance

Military Records

The Wyoming Military Records Office can provide the following records:

- Personnel Records for Veterans of the Wyoming Army and Air National Guard to include:
 - NGB Form 22 – *Report of Separation and Record of Service (National Guard equivalent to DD Form 214)*
 - DD Form 214 – *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*
 - DD Form 220 – *Active Duty Report*
 - AF Form 526 – *Retirement Point Summary Sheet for Air Guard*
 - NGB Form 23 - *Retirement Point Summary Sheet for Army Guard*
- DD214s for all veterans who listed Wyoming as their home of record at the time of separation from Active Duty.

For more information call 307-777-8163, fax 307-777-8164 or email militaryrecords@wyo.gov.

National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)

The National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services since the 20th century.

To request –

- DD Form 214/Separation Documents
- Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)
- Replacement Medals
- Medical Records

For more information call 314-801-0800, 866-272-6272 (toll free) or visit: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans>

Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC)

ARPC is the repository for Air Personnel Service Records and DD Form 214s can be requested through their office for Air Guard and Air Reserve Personnel. For more information call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 or visit <https://www.afpc.af.mil>

If Unsure of where to find your Personnel Records

Visit <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/locations> or call 307-777-8163 for guidance.

Free Recording of Discharge

Veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time and who have an other than dishonorable discharge, may have their military discharge or DD214 recorded confidentially, free of charge, at the County Clerk's Office. Veterans should check with their local County Clerk to ensure a DD214 filed prior to July 1, 2003, has been moved to the confidential records section. You can locate your County Clerk Office at <https://sos.wyo.gov/Elections/Docs/WYCountyClerks.pdf>

Family Programs

The Soldier and Family Support Center program supports ALL Wyoming DoD members, families, retirees, and veterans. Regionally located, Family Program team members serve as a one-stop center for military families with emphasis on families with deployed military members. Wyoming Army National Guard families can seek assistance from the Family Program Office at 307-772-5208.

Soldier and Family Readiness Specialists

Soldier and Family Readiness Specialists support the FRG program by providing training as well as administrative support services to Commanders, Family Readiness Liaisons and FRG Volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for a Family Readiness Group or if you require assistance please call 307-772-5017.

Lead Specialist 307-772-5017

Central Wyoming 307-630-6966 or 1-866-992-7641, ext. 4540

Northwestern Wyoming 307-286-9992

Southeastern Wyoming 307-286-9991

Army Reserve families can seek assistance from the Family Program Assistant in Montana, 406-324-3776

Navy and Marine Corps families can seek assistance from the Navy Ombudsman, 307-214-2398

Wyoming Air National Guard families can seek assistance from the Airman and Family Readiness Program, 307-772-6063

FE Warren AFB families can seek assistance from the FE Warren AFB Airman and Family Readiness Center, 307-773-2241

153d Airlift Wing, Wyoming ANG Airman and Family Readiness Program

The Airman & Family Readiness Office supports individuals, families, and military leadership with programs and services to strengthen communities, encourage self-sufficiency, enhance mission readiness and ease adaptation to the Air Force/ANG way of life. The office serves singles, couples and families alike.

The program serves as a one stop shop for Airmen and their families seeking assistance with Deployment Cycle Support, Spouse/Veteran Employment Assistance, Community Outreach Activities, Transition Assistance Program (VOW/TAP), Information & Referral, Life Skills Education, Financial Literacy Education/ Assistance, Relocation Assistance, Wounded Warrior, Exceptional Family Member Program, Child and Youth Programs and Volunteer Opportunities. For more information please contact the WY Air National Guard Airman and Family Readiness Office at 307-772-6063.

Spiritual Support

Spiritual advisors offer confidential counseling on a wide range of topics such as grief counseling, marriage enrichment, suicide

prevention, and spiritual strengthening.

WYMD Chaplain 307-772-5197

Cheyenne VAMC Chaplain 307-778-7377

Sheridan VAMC Chaplain 307-675-3634

FE Warren AFB Chaplain 307-773-3434

Military OneSource

Military OneSource is the largest military support program funded by the Department of Defense and administered out of the office of the Secretary of Defense. As our nation's largest military support program, Military OneSource is an all-encompassing program for one's entire military life. Ranging from all aspects of that military life, non-medical counseling, financial counseling, and educational programs. All phases of families support for families with special needs, young children Zero to Three and veterans up to 365 days out of uniform as well as ALL service members registered with any of the Wounded Warrior programs, for life.

Military OneSource compliments all providers in the state with national resources, such as the largest on line Library in the DoD, identifies programs, providers available through one of three call centers on both sides of the nation and can be reached not only via CONUS but OCONUS as well. Military OneSource is a 24/7/365 program.

Web site: <http://militaryonesource.mil>

24 Hour Call Centers: 1-800-342-9647 or OCONUS at: 903-253-7599

Military OneSource State Consultant: 307-287-9473 or 307-772-5363.

Personal Financial Advisor

The program provides free, confidential personal financial counseling and group presentations to Wyoming Military Department members, veterans and their families. The program includes advice about resolving financial problems, budgeting and spending, retirement planning, as well as information and advice on major purchases (home, auto and college), identity theft, and TSP planning. The Personal Financial Advisor can help with debt issues, credit management, insurance, security clearance concerns related to financial issues, and most other issues that are financial in nature.

For information or to schedule a meeting call 307-772-5362, 970-980-9184, or email wymingfinancialcounselor@gmail.com.

VA Transportation Service

The Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) provides safe and reliable transportation to veterans who require assistance traveling to and from VA health care facilities and authorized non-VA health care appointments. VTS also partners with service providers in local communities to serve veterans' transportation needs. For more information contact the Cheyenne VAHCS at 307-432-3804, the Sheridan VAHCS at 307-675-3280 or visit

<https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vtp/>

DAV Transportation

The Department of Wyoming Disabled American Veterans provides a transportation system of vans for Wyoming veterans which assists them in traveling for medical related appointments to and from VA facilities. The heart of the program is the volunteer driver program which provides the manpower to carry these veterans to their scheduled appointments at the VA Medical Centers and Clinics.

The Wyoming programs are based in Cheyenne and Sheridan. The programs support travel to and from the VA Medical Centers located in these towns. The Cheyenne office arranges transportation for veterans from the local area, Wheatland and Laramie. They can also transport veterans from Cheyenne to Rawlins, Casper and Sheridan when there are no drivers scheduled. The Sheridan office arranges transportation for veterans to and from Casper, Gillette, Riverton, Powell and Lander. Southwest Wyoming veterans are supported by a program which arranges transportation for veterans to the Salt Lake City VA Medical Center from Afton and Rock Springs.

Veterans are encouraged to contact these offices to determine if they are eligible for transportation and if transportation services are available.

DAV Transportation Office
Cheyenne VAHCS
307-778-7577

DAV Transportation Office
Sheridan VAHCS
307-675-3273

DAV Transportation Office for Southwest Wyoming
Salt Lake City VAHCS
1-800-613-4012, ext. 42003

Highly Rural Transportation Program (H RTP)

The Wyoming Veterans Commission received a H RTP Grant to assist eligible veterans in the following Wyoming counties: Carbon, Sweetwater, Lincoln, Sublette, Teton and Park Counties. The H RTP focuses on improving access for veterans by providing innovative transportation services in highly rural areas who have difficulty obtaining VA health care due to their location. We are building partnerships with eligible organizations, companies and individuals to foster a network of providers in rural areas to serve those in need in a demand-responsive transportation model, similar to a Taxi service. The Grant Program offers transportation solutions to eligible veterans to and from VAHCS, VAHCS Network Providers or VA Community Care facilities. Individuals needing assistance with transportation in these areas should contact the H RTP Coordinator 307-275-6723.

Incarcerated Veterans

Compensation and Pension benefits remain in effect until the 61st day of incarceration in a federal, state or local penal institution as the result of conviction of a felony or misdemeanor. Incarcerated veterans may receive a portion of their disability compensation, or have all or part of the compensation benefit apportioned to dependents on the basis of individual need. Pension benefits may also be apportioned to dependents based on individual need. Upon release, the veteran should contact a Veteran Service Officer (1-800-833-5987) or the VA to request resumption of benefits. For more information, visit this web page <http://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-incarcerated.asp>.

The Veterans Justice Outreach Program (VJO)

Nationally the VA is working to ensure justice involved veterans have access to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) services that they may be eligible for. The VJO Program works to assist incarcerated veterans in enrolling for VA healthcare so they may access such services upon their release from jail. The VJO Specialist educates justice-involved veterans about VA services and assists veterans in linking to VHA services, such as primary care, mental health services or homeless programs. The VJO Specialist may also educate the justice-involved veteran's legal representative or probation agent about treatment options available at the local VA Medical Center. Education is also provided about community resources as well as

appropriate contacts for the Veterans Benefit Administration. Note – The VA cannot provide treatment to veterans during periods of incarceration. For more information, please contact the Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator:

Cheyenne VAHCS
2360 East Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-214-7655

Sheridan VAHCS
1898 Fort Road
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-675-3375

Legal Aid of Wyoming

Legal Aid of Wyoming (LAW) is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides high quality civil legal services to eligible individuals. LAW conducts law nights for veterans so they are not left alone trying to figure out how to manage a civil law issue. For more information, call 877-432-9955 or visit <http://www.lawyoming.org/>



Additional Resources

Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence

Traumatic brain injury is a significant health issue which affects service members and veterans during times of both peace and war. The Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence (TBICoE) is a collaboration of the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to promote state-of-the-science care from point-of-injury to reintegration for service members, veterans, and their families to prevent and mitigate consequences of mild to severe traumatic brain injury. For more information visit <http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/>

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, natural disaster, a car accident, or 40 assault. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) remains the key resource for all veterans who have PTSD. For more information visit <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/index.asp>

Military Sexual Trauma

Military sexual trauma (MST) is the term that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs uses to refer to sexual assault or harassment experienced during military service. MST includes any sexual activity that one is involved with against their will. For more information visit <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/index.asp>

VA Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Program:

VA's Spinal Cord and Disorders (SCI/D) System of Care provides a coordinated life-long continuum of service for veterans with a spinal cord injury or disorder. Sheridan VAHCS Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Services include:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Board Certified primary care physicians & nurse practitioners
- Visits for acute illness
- Spasticity management
- Comprehensive annual evaluation
- Social work support

For more information contact the Program manager at 307-675-3809.

Sheridan VAHCS Visual Impairment Services:

Available to all visually impaired veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care System, both legally blind veterans with best corrected vision 20/200 or worse and low vision veterans with best corrected vision 20/70 or worse. Services available include provision of prosthetic equipment to help with reading, safe motion, monitoring of health/medical conditions, performance of common daily tasks that are difficult or impossible due to vision loss. Blind rehabilitation services are available through partnerships with other VA systems or in the home through a visit by a Blind Rehabilitation Specialist. Benefits review is also available to ensure that veterans with vision loss have received all the benefits available to them. For more information contact Jason Carter at 307-675-3961.

Veterans Crisis Line – National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans, service members, National Guard and Reserve and their family members and friends with caring, qualified responders with the Department of Veterans Affairs through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.

Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat>, or send a **text message to 838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is also available.

Wyoming 2-1-1

Wyoming 2-1-1 is a statewide helpline and website which provides free, confidential, health and human services information and referral and provides support for Wyoming's disabled and veteran populations. Dial 2-1-1, 888-425-7138 or visit <https://wy211.communityos.org/> for assistance.

Homeless Veterans

Wyoming and the nation have fully realized the complicated matters regarding the homelessness of our nation's veterans. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) remains the primary resource to assist our homeless veterans.

The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans hotline offers veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness 24/7 access to trained counselors. The 24/7 Hotline is 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838).

VA Homeless Veteran Programs in Wyoming:

Southern Wyoming, 307-920-1752 or visit

<https://www.cheyenne.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp>

Northern Wyoming, 307-672-3473, ask for homeless program or visit

<https://www.sheridan.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp>

Volunteers of America Northern Rockies - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

For veterans experiencing a housing crisis, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) is designed to assist with housing stability. Housing is the first step to reintegration to society and to employment. Eligible veterans receive case management and referrals to Veteran Administration (VA) and community resources. For the purpose of securing or maintaining permanent housing, participants may be eligible to receive short term financial assistance.

The SSVF Program provides eligible veteran families in all of Wyoming and Montana with outreach, case management, assistance obtaining VA benefits, other supportive services and financial assistance.

Veteran Hotline for Wyoming 844.4.VOA.VET (844-486-2838)

Contact information for SSVF offices in Wyoming:

Sheridan 307-673-0779

Riverton Office 307-463-0436

Casper Office 307-333-1141

Cheyenne Office 307-514-5518

Gillette Office 307-363-7287

Volunteers of America Northern Rockies – Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program (HVRP)

Providing employment services for Homeless Veterans to help them obtain gainful, long term and meaningful employment. The program networks with other service providers to ensure that a continuum of care is being met and that any gaps in service are being filled.

Veteran Services Offered:

- Individual Case Management
- Job Search Assistance
- Resume Preparation
- Employer Referrals
- Vocational Training
- Transportation Assistance
- Job Retention Services
- Work Tools & Clothing Assistance
- Post-Employment follow-up and support

Veteran Hotline for Wyoming 844.4.VOA.VET (844-486-2838)

Contact information for HVRP in Wyoming:

Sheridan Office 307-675-2032

Casper Office 307-333-1141

Cheyenne Office 307-514-5518

Volunteers of America Northern Rockies – Freedom Hall

Freedom Hall is an 11-bed transitional living home for homeless veterans in Sheridan. Freedom Hall has two different programs, Bridge Housing and Service Intensive Transitional Housing (SITH). These programs operate 24/7, 365 days a year and are funded through a Grant Per Diem program with the VA. Freedom Hall has a

full kitchen where the men are responsible for preparing their own meals. Freedom Hall has a laundry room, a great room with a dining area and living room, a computer room, and a beautiful exterior that includes a picnic area, creek for fishing, and nature walks.

At Freedom Hall program residents are provided with:

- Housing Search Assistance
- Life Skills training – weekly case management
- Therapeutic living environment where they can continue receiving services from the local VA
- Volunteer opportunities within the community
- Transportation to appointments, interviews and jobs
- Opportunities to pursue higher education and/or vocational training
- Referrals to community resources

Partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, educational institutions, local service providers, local businesses, volunteers from the community and other entities all work to ensure the success of these men.

Contact information for Freedom Hall:

319 College Meadows Dr.

Sheridan, WY 82801

Phone: 307-673-0779

Jonn Edmund’s Veterans Home/Bridge Housing Program

Community Action of Laramie County VA Bridge Housing Program is a collaboration with the US Department of Veteran Affairs, the Cheyenne VA Medical Center and Volunteers of America offering a short-term program (90 days or less) with case management and temporary housing to low-income veterans. For more information, call 307-635-9291 or visit <https://www.calc.net/self-sufficiency/>



Education

Free Tuition for War Veterans and Surviving Dependents

Wyoming provides free tuition for up to a total of 8 semesters of study within an 8-year period at Wyoming community colleges or the University of Wyoming. Surviving spouses and dependent children are also eligible for this benefit if the military member died in combat. This program is administered by the Community College Commission. For more information contact the VA certifying official at the institution or visit <https://communitycolleges.wy.edu/veterans-tuition-benefit/>

VA Education Benefits

Veterans should visit the Veterans Representative at their local community college or University of Wyoming for assistance or visit the VA Education & Training website for eligibility, payment rates, on-line registrations, approved program searches, and benefit inquiries. For more information, call 1-888-442-4551 or visit <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>

University of Wyoming Marna M. Kuehne Foundation Veterans Services Center

The University of Wyoming recognizes that our veteran population is a very diverse group that brings vast experiences and knowledge to our campus. The mission of the Marna M. Kuehne Foundation Veterans Services Center is to recognize these experiences and accomplishments by supporting the interests of military veterans, dependents, and current service personnel as they transition from military service to university life. To do this, the Veterans Services Center provides veterans the resources needed to succeed in their academic, personal, and career goals through education, collaboration, and outreach utilizing all available resources within and outside the University of Wyoming.

If you are interested in attending the University of Wyoming, or if you have questions regarding application, registration, veterans' education benefits, tuition or other education related questions, contact: UW Marna M. Kuehne Foundation Veterans Services Center at 307-766-6908 or 307-766-6909, uw-vets@uwyo.edu , or

visit <http://www.uwyo.edu/vetservices/> . You can visit the Center located on the 3rd floor of the Student Union, Room 300.

Casper College Veterans Services

An on-site Veterans and Military Members Benefit Office is available to help veterans with enrolling in college, navigating financial aid and Federal program requirements, finding college services to assist with learning and connecting veterans with community resources. For more information contact 307-268-2510 or visit <https://www.caspercollege.edu/veterans-services/>

Northern Wyoming Community College District

Gillette and Sheridan Colleges offer comprehensive veteran-specific resources, including helping veterans understand and apply for veteran benefits and on-going support for educational experiences. For more information contact 307-681-6460, 307-675-0777 or visit <https://www.sheridan.edu/services/veteran-services/>



Retirees

Military Retirees

The Wyoming Military Department appoints a Retiree Council whose mission is to provide a connection between the retirement community and the active forces. The council meets twice a year, conducts a retiree conference and publishes a newsletter two times a year. For more information, call the Retiree Support Assistant at 307-631-5194 or email kenton.franklin@wyo.gov.

FE Warren AFB Retirees

The Retiree Activities Office is located at the Family Support Center at 706 Randall Ave. For more information, call 307-773-2309.

