

# Wyoming Veterans Benefits Booklet



**Information for Wyoming  
Veterans and their Families**

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

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

**Produced by the  
Wyoming Veterans Commission**

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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 many of 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.

Compared to many states, whose state organizations were formed during the Civil War years, the Wyoming Veterans Commission is a relatively new organization. We have 30 plus years of providing services to Veterans, some Civil War states have more than 145 years of work. 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.

<http://www.nasdva.us/>

The Wyoming Veterans Commission is now composed of 12 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

<https://governor.wyo.gov/state-government/boards-commissions>.

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

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; State Approving Authority; 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, 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 “V” designation on the Wyoming driver license.
- Administer the Veterans Commission expendable trust fund
- 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, the Military Records Supervisor, and the Veterans Education Manager. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Governor, Adjutant General and Chairman of the Commission.

The Veterans Services Program Manager supervises seven State Veterans Service Officers with outreach offices in Casper, Cheyenne, Cody, Gillette, and Lander covering 17 counties.

The Commission prides itself in providing ongoing outreach across the 17 counties using remote office hours, partnering with the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services for office space, and partnering with others to provide outstanding customer service for Wyoming Veterans and their families.

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: <http://wvc.wyo.gov>

State Veterans Service Officers: <http://vet.wyo.gov>

Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery: <http://otsvc.wyo.gov>

Wyoming Veterans' Memorial Museum: <http://wvmm.wyo.gov>

Wyoming National Guard Museum: <http://wyngm.wyo.gov>

### **Commissioner Information**

1st District, Laramie County

Travis Deti

1009 Gabriel Dr.

Cheyenne, WY 82009

307-286-5993

[tdeti@msn.com](mailto:tdeti@msn.com)

2nd District, Albany and Carbon Counties

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Laramie, WY 82073

307-760-5493

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3rd District, Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta Counties

David Bassett

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Evanston, WY 82930

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8th District, Converse, Goshen, Niobrara, and Platte Counties

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Ken Persson, Sr.  
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## **Headquarters Staff Information**

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## **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 every Veteran obtain assistance from a service officer in filing their claim; and ensure they have service organization representation throughout the complete claims process.

These services are provided at no cost to Veterans and their families and do not require Veterans service organization membership.

Many Veterans attempt to file their own claim and work through the complex actions with the VA. Many Veterans abandon the process when it becomes more complex and technical than anticipated.

Consider service officers as links in a chain reaching out across Wyoming to assist Veterans with their VA disability and pension claims. The first link in the chain is at the local level with additional links necessary as the claim moves up the ladder to the VA Regional Office, in Cheyenne. Each link in the chain must be strong to ensure Wyoming Veterans receive the necessary support along the way.



Wyoming is fortunate to have service officers at several different levels to assist Wyoming Veterans. This network of local support consists of post/chapter service officers, County Veterans Service Officers, Tribal Veterans Representative, a Veterans benefit coordinator, and State Veterans Service Officers.

Post/chapter service officers are local volunteers at the post and chapter level of The American Legion (TAL), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), who are trained in basic procedures. Other Veterans Service Organizations may have post/chapter service officers in the local area.

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

The Eastern Shoshone tribe hosts a Tribal Veterans Representative to assist tribal members.

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

Wyoming has seven 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. The Veterans Commission also provides limited services in Uinta County in conjunction with the county human services office.

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.

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, 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 signs the documents selecting 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.

The VA's regional office, in Cheyenne, operated by the Veterans Benefit Administration, a major component of the VA, is the starting point for all disability claims for Veterans residing in Wyoming.

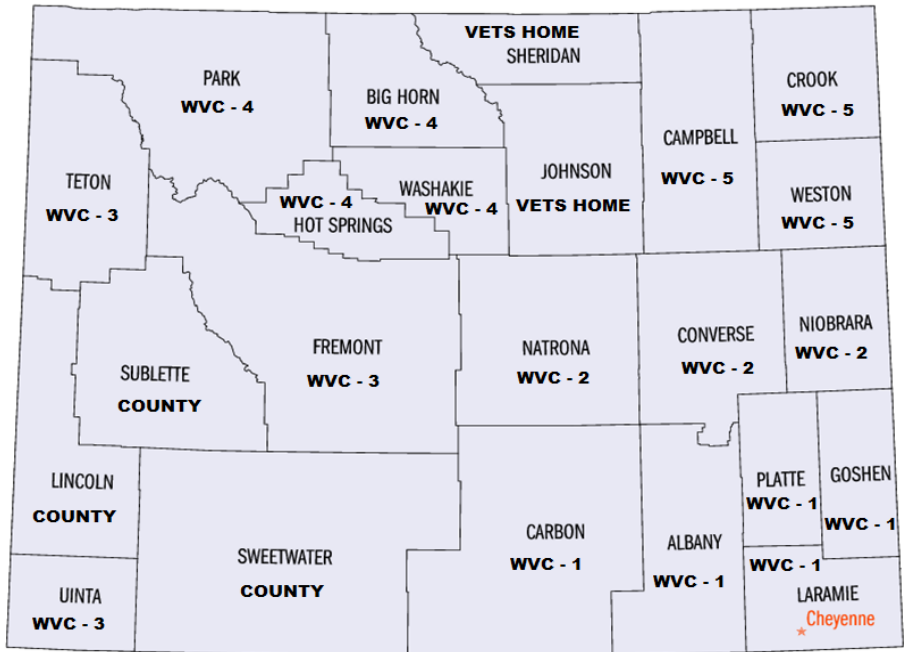
Once the claim is filed with the VA, the Veteran will begin to receive correspondence from the VA. This correspondence can be very technical in nature and we recommend each Veteran consult with their service officer before responding to the letters.

What happens when the VA does not make a decision in the Veteran's favor concerning a VA disability or pension claim? The Veteran has the right to appeal that decision. This is an even more technical process with very specific deadlines and actions. Veterans must remain in very close contact with their service officer should they decide to appeal the VA's decision.

The Wyoming Veterans Commission recommends Veterans start early and get help. 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.

Do you have questions about navigating this system? Call the Wyoming Veteran's 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](mailto:stephanie.davis@wyo.gov)

### Windy Carter

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307-256-1778  
[windy.carter@wyo.gov](mailto:windy.carter@wyo.gov)

### WVC 3

Lori Crump  
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### WVC 2

Dave McDonell  
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Casper, WY 82604  
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### Marshall Griffin

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551 Running W Dr., Suite 100  
Gillette, WY 82718  
307-696-5048

Vets Home  
Lisa Griffith  
700 Veterans' Lane  
Buffalo, WY 82834  
307-620-0884  
[lisa.griffith@wyo.gov](mailto:lisa.griffith@wyo.gov)

Sweetwater County  
Sam Esquibel  
333 Broadway, Suite 231  
Rock Springs, WY 82901  
307-922-5442  
[esquibels@sweet.wy.us](mailto:esquibels@sweet.wy.us)

Sublette County  
Billie Hamby  
619 E. Hennick  
Pinedale, WY 82941  
307-367-4877  
[hambyb@sweet.wy.us](mailto:hambyb@sweet.wy.us)

Lincoln County  
Nancy Stafford  
105 JC Penny Dr.  
Kemmerer, WY 83101  
307-877-3110  
[staffordn@sweet.wy.us](mailto:staffordn@sweet.wy.us)

DAV, Leroy Kenner  
2360 E. Pershing Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
307-433-2752  
[leroy.kenner@va.gov](mailto:leroy.kenner@va.gov)

The American Legion, Dwight Null  
2360 East Pershing Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
307-433-2751  
[dwight.null@va.gov](mailto:dwight.null@va.gov)

VFW, Cheryl Shannon  
2360 East Pershing Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
307-778-7340  
[cheryl.shannon@va.gov](mailto:cheryl.shannon@va.gov)

Eastern Shoshone TVR, Lyle Wadda: 307-349-0015



## **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 VAMC  
2360 East Pershing Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
307-778-7550, ext. 3967

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

This website provides the latest information:

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

## **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 VAMC  
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 <http://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  
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 **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

Vet Centers  
Boulder—303-440-7306  
Casper—307-261-5355  
Cheyenne—307-778-7370  
Fort Collins—970-221-5176

Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255, Press 1

My HealtheVet—307-778-7550 ext. 7119 or [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://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>

The contact information for the Sheridan VAMC is:  
1898 Fort Rd.  
Sheridan, WY 82801  
307-672-3473 or 866-822-6714

The communities with VA clinics managed by the Sheridan VAMC:

Afton, Wyoming  
125 S. Washington  
Afton, WY 83110  
307-886-5266

Casper, Wyoming  
4140 S. Poplar St.  
Casper, WY 82601  
307-235-4143

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. 15<sup>th</sup>, Suite D  
Worland, WY 82401  
307-347-2808

### **Newcastle VA Community Based Outpatient 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>. This website will allow you the flexibility of managing your own dependency claims, etc.

## **Vet Centers**

Vet Centers provide no-cost readjustment counseling and outreach services to all Veterans who served in any combat zone or theater of operation or those who suffered from military sexual trauma. Vet Centers also provide bereavement counseling for families of military members who were killed overseas. Services are also available to their family members for military-related issues. Outreach services from the Vet Centers are available in Casper and Cheyenne. The two Vet Centers provide counseling across Wyoming, Western Nebraska, and Northern Colorado.

A mobile Vet Center operates out of the Casper office. For details regarding the visitation schedule contact the Casper Vet Center.

Cheyenne Vet Center  
3219 East Pershing Blvd.  
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**

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.

Who qualifies? Veterans must be residents of Wyoming three or more years prior to claiming the tax exemption and must have 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.
- 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 fourth 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 offers a number of hunting and fishing licenses to qualified Veterans. Applicants must provide a letter from the VBA Regional Office certifying eligibility. Call 1-800-842-1934 (in-state) or 307-777-4600 (out-of-state) 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 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 the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 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. The Veteran must fish under direct control of the institution.

### **Pioneer Veteran Bird, Small Game, and Fishing License**

For any Wyoming Veteran who is 65 or older and has lived in Wyoming for 30 or more continuous years.

### **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](http://wyoparks.state.wy.us) or you may call or visit Wyo Parks Headquarters at 2301 Central Ave., Cheyenne, 307-777-6323.

### **America the Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass**

Access Pass is a free, lifetime pass available to U.S. Veterans that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability. The pass provides access to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by five federal agencies. Veterans must be able to provide documentation of their disability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans can obtain an Access Pass in person, with proper documentation, from a participating federal recreation site or office.

To learn more about the Access Pass, visit <http://nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm>.



## **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](http://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 Assistance**

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 curriculum continuum includes steps for evaluating business concepts, the foundational knowledge required to develop a business plan and information on SBA resources available to help access start-up capital and additional technical assistance. For more information contact 315-443-6898 or [jvmfeducation@syr.edu](mailto:jvmfeducation@syr.edu).

## **Troops to Teachers**

Troops to Teachers is a Department of Defense program that provides nationwide assistance to military personnel (active, reserve and NG) and Veterans who desire to pursue a career as a public school teacher. Free services provided are:

- Counseling and assistance regarding teacher certification processes
- Information about the different pathways to state certification
- Leads on employment opportunities
- Information on financial assistance

For more information visit <https://proudtoserveagain.com/> or contact the Wyoming Troops to Teachers Program Office: Byron McKinney at [TTNorthwest@j2tinfor.com](mailto:TTNorthwest@j2tinfor.com) or 406-994-4173; or Le Gaub at [TTNorthwest@j2tinfor.com](mailto:TTNorthwest@j2tinfor.com) or 406-994-4436.

## **VA Employment and Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

Sheridan VA's Therapeutic and Supported Employment Services (TSES) office offers support in resume writing, mock interviewing, aid with job applications, job coaching, computer education, and is available to all Veterans motivated to seek competitive

employment. TSES also offers Compensated Work Therapy programs such as Supported Employment and Transitional Work. 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 assess work ability and help place the Veteran in competitive employment in the community. Contact Sheridan VAMC: 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. Local Workforce Centers (<http://www.wyomingatwork.com>) provide career 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). Local 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> 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, email at [jarrod.r.garton.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:jarrod.r.garton.ctr@mail.mil) or visit <http://www.taapmo.com>.

### **Citizen Soldier for Life Program**

The mission of Citizen of Soldier for Life program is to maintain a ready and resilient force capable of accomplishing State and Federal mission by connecting with ARNG Soldiers, Dependents, Veterans, and Retirees with financial and career education plus employment opportunities throughout the Soldiers Life Cycle. CSFL can provide help with resume building, job interview skills, budget help, and individual case management to Veterans and Retirees. For more information please contact Sara Spaulding, Career Readiness Counselor at [sara.a.spaulding.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:sara.a.spaulding.ctr@mail.mil) or 307-772-5098.

### **National Guard Employment Support Program (NGESP)**

The mission is to provide employment resources to National Guard military members 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](mailto:cheryl.m.burd.ctr@mail.mil)

### **Wyoming National Guard Employment Opportunities**

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

### **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 307-777-7389 or visit <http://wyomingworkforce.org/workers/vr/>.



## **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.

### **Medals for Veterans**

The Wyoming Veterans Commission can help Veterans who were denied military awards due to error, omission or because the awards were lost or misplaced. The awards can be presented to the next of kin if the Veteran is deceased. For more information call 1-800-833-5987.

### **Cold War Certificates**

All members of the U.S. Armed Forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the U.S. during the Cold War era which is defined as Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991 are eligible. For more information or to download and application please visit <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Cold%20War%20Recognition%20Certificate%20Program%20Overview>.

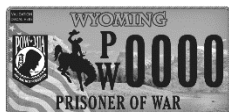
### **Presidential Memorial Certificate**

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>.

## 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

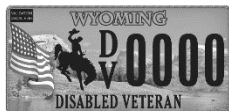
Forces who died while in service or who died as a result of the service shall be eligible to receive the Gold Star License Plate.



### **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

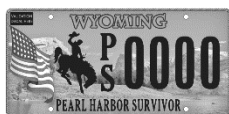
United States Military Purple Heart Award may apply to the department for a Purple Heart Recipient Plate.



### **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

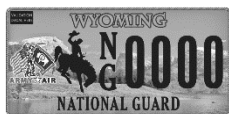
more service-connected disability compensation from the VA. Disabled Veterans are exempt from registration fees for one vehicle, other than a commercial vehicle, motorcycle, multipurpose vehicle, bus or motor home. Veteran may either choose the DV License plate as their free plate; or Veteran may choose 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**

The red "V" in the upper right-hand corner of the license or 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

<http://www.dot.state.wy.us>.



### **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 3 miles west of Buffalo, 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  
<http://health.wyo.gov/vets/index.html>.

### **Long Term Health Care**

While most Veterans would like to avoid going to a nursing home, this may not be possible without a comprehensive infrastructure of support services at the local level. This comprehensive infrastructure, sometimes called a "Continuum of Care," ideally provides a wide range of services to allow each person maximum independence based on his/her level of need. The Continuum of Care recognizes that some individuals can remain independent when in-home assistance is available with meal preparation, transportation, chores, personal care, home health care, and medication management. For those who can't live independently but don't need full-time skilled nursing care, a boarding home or an assisted living facility may be appropriate. At the next level of

need, adult day care may be needed. A nursing home is typically at the most restrictive end of the Continuum of Care.

Learn more about the services the VA can provide at <http://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/Guide/LongTermCare/index.asp>

While the VA provides many services within the Continuum of Care, it is not the only source Veterans can turn to. Many state and local programs also provide long-term services to Veterans. For more information, visit the Wyoming Department of Health's Aging Division web page <http://health.wyo.gov/aging/index.html>.



## **Honoring Deceased Veterans**

### **Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery**

The Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery (OTSVC), located at Evansville, was established in 1983. The Wyoming Military Department supervises and controls this cemetery through the Wyoming Veterans Commission. A Cemetery Advisory Council reviews policies and procedures and makes recommendations to the Cemetery Director regarding the operations of the cemetery.

A Veteran who receives any discharge, other than dishonorable, from the U.S. Armed Forces is eligible for burial. 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. Please contact the cemetery if you have any questions regarding the character of the discharge.

Burial plots will be assigned on a first come first served basis as the need arises. There will be no charge made for any burial plot. The cemetery will provide a vault at no charge for casket interments. All expenses incurred by survivors 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.

All burial services are held in the chapel and patio area. No services are 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.

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>.

### **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 131 national cemeteries, of which 72 are open for new casketed interments and 18 are open to accept only cremated remains. 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.

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>; or  
VA National Call Center (for  
questions).....1-800-827-1000;  
or  
Local National Cemeteries:  
Fort Logan, Colo. (near  
Denver).....303-761-0117  
Fort Lyon, Colo.  
(near Las Animas).....303-761-0117  
Black Hills, S.D.  
(near Sturgis).....605-347-3830  
Fort McPherson, Neb.  
(near Maxwell).....1-308-582-4433

### **Military Funeral Honors**

All veterans who have not received a dishonorable discharge are entitled by Public Law 106-65 – October 5, 1999, Section 578 and Section 1491 of Title 10, USC to Military Funeral Honors at their funeral services. This includes burials, cremations, or memorial services. National Guard and Reservists may also receive honors

if they have served at least one full obligation of military service. Military Funeral Honors are to be given once.

A minimum of two members of the Military Funeral Honors detail for a veteran's funeral shall be members of the armed forces. At least one the members of the armed forces shall be a member of the branch of service which the veteran was a member who shall present the flag to the next of kin or other appropriate individual. If a veteran served in more than one branch of the military, the last branch in which the veteran served will be the parent branch and will present the flag.

The DoD sequence of events for Military Funeral Honors is: Firing Detail, TAPS, Flag Fold and Flag Presentation. This sequence of events has been used for every President to include President George H.W. Bush.

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

Retirees and Veterans Service Organizations may also augment in providing the Military Funeral Honors such as Bugler, Firing Party, or Color Guard. The Veteran Service Organizations may also be Authorized Provider Partnership Program (AP3) certified in partnership with each branch of the military. AP3 certified

Veteran Service Organizations may also receive a \$50 stipend from the military if funding is available.

For questions about the Wyoming State Stipend call 307-777-8152. For questions about the AP3 reimbursement call 307-772-5136.

### **Casualty Assistance**

The U.S. Department of Defense criteria for providing casualty assistance benefits changes frequently. All benefits are determined on a case-by-case basis and depend in part on the decisions made by the Veteran prior to death. For assistance, call the Veterans Administration at 1-800-827-1000.

### **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 [everette.w.spellman.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:everette.w.spellman.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.

### **Burial of Indigent Veterans**

Burial of Indigents is addressed in Wyoming Statute 19-14-101. The board of county commissioners of each county shall provide for the preparation of the body and transmittal to and burial in the Veterans cemetery of any other than a dishonorably discharged Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who served on behalf of the United States in any war or conflict as defined in section 101, title 38, United States Code and who dies leaving insufficient funds to defray the necessary funeral expenses. The amount expended for transporting the body shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00). To view the complete statute visit <http://wyoleg.gov/statutes/compress/title19.pdf>.

Should you encounter this situation, it is recommended you meet with your county coroner/commissioner to discuss eligibility and support.

### **Headstones, Markers, and Medallions**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

For eligible Veterans who died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a medallion to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone.

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. The style chosen must be permitted by the officials in charge of the private cemetery where it will be placed.

When burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative.

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense.

For more information visit [http://www.cem.va.gov/hm\\_hm.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp).

## **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.

**Non-service-Related Death:** VA will pay up to \$780 toward burial and funeral expenses for deaths on or after Oct. 1, 2018 (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 \$780 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). For deaths on or after Dec. 1, 2001, but before Oct. 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 Oct. 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 Oct. 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 and Veteran Records

The Wyoming Military and Veteran 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](mailto:militaryrecords@wyo.gov).

## **National Archives**

To request –

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

Visit: <https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html>

## **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 during the 20th century. For more information call 314-801-0800 or call toll free 866-272-6272.

## **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.

## **Free Recording of Discharge**

Veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time and who have been honorably discharged or relieved from active duty, 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://soswy.state.wy.us/elections/docs/wycountyclerks.pdf>

## **Family Programs**

The program supports ALL Wyoming DoD members, families, retirees, and Veterans. Regionally located, FAC 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 1-800-635-4917.

### **Family Assistance Centers (FAC)**

For more information, call the WY FAC Coordinator 307-772-5109.

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

Northeastern Wyoming 307-630-7647

Northwestern Wyoming 307-286-9992 or 1-866-992-7641, ext.

4043 Southeastern Wyoming 307-286-9991 or 1-866-992-7641,

ext. 5017 Southwestern Wyoming 307-286-9993 or 1-866-992-7641, ext. 4156

### **Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA)**

The program provides assistance to WY ARNG commanders in support of their Family Readiness Groups (FRGs). FRSAs provide training as well as administrative support services to commanders, Family Readiness Liaisons and FRG Volunteers. The FRSA provides tools to assist with family readiness issues and deployment cycle challenges, so families are supported and prepared to thrive. If you are interested in volunteering for a Family Readiness Group or if you require FRSA assistance please call 307-772-5352 or 307-772-5197.

Army Reserve families can seek assistance from the Family Program Assistant. Call 406-324-3776 (Montana office; none in Wyoming).

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

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

F.E. Warren AFB families can seek assistance from the F.E. Warren AFB Airman and Family Readiness Center. Call 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.

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, Wyoming 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, 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 [wyomingfinancialcounselor@gmail.com](mailto:wyomingfinancialcounselor@gmail.com).

### **Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program**

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program provides information, services, referrals and proactive outreach programs assisting service members, families, employers, Veterans, and communities of all branches of service throughout all phases of the deployment cycle for the National Guard and Reserves. The intent is to ensure that they receive information and assistance regarding all of the benefits and entitlements they have earned as a result of deployment.

For more information, please call the WY Air National Guard at 307-772-6224 or the WY Army National Guard at 307-772-5208.

### **Psychological Health**

The program provides support and coordination of mental health access for service members and family needs. They are responsible for providing direct assessment/referral, clinical case management, critical incident event management services, and response to command requests for briefings and military personnel concerns.

For information please call WY Army National Guard 307-772-5279, WY Air National Guard 307-772-6185.

### **Child and Youth Programs**

The program provides resources, training, leadership opportunities, and established local community support to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of youth who are impacted by a family member's service. The C&Y Program assists youth in navigating the challenges of the deployment of a parent or close family member. For more information please contact 307-772-5018.

### **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. Generally, the programs support travel to and from the VA Medical Centers located in these towns. The Cheyenne VAMC transports Veterans from the local area, Wheatland and Laramie. They also transport Veterans from Cheyenne to Rawlins, Casper and Sheridan when there are no drivers scheduled. The Sheridan VAMC transports Veterans to and from Casper and Gillette.

Southwest Wyoming Veterans are supported by a program which travels to and from the Salt Lake City VA Medical Center.

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 VAMC  
307-778-7550, ext. 7577

DAV Transportation Office  
Sheridan VAMC  
307-675-3273

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

### **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 VAMC  
2360 East Pershing Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
307-214-7655

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

## **Wyoming Military Department (WYMD) Programs**

The Wyoming Legislature and Governor's Offices have supported Wyoming Veterans for many generations.

The current programs administered in the WYMD are as follows:

**Military Assistance Trust Fund** – The fund is designed to provide emergency financial assistance to military members or their families who meet the following requirements:

- Any member of the Wyoming National Guard or a reserve unit that is based in Wyoming who has been called to active duty or active state service.
- Any Wyoming resident who is a member of a military reserve unit that is not based in Wyoming, if the member is called to active duty.
- Any other Wyoming resident performing service in the uniformed services as defined in W.S. 19-11-103(a)(ix) for any branch of the military of the United States.
- Members of the immediate family of those personnel identified above.
- The financial hardship results from the military member's active duty status and is the last resort for the applicant.

For more information, call 307-772-5208 or visit

<https://wyomilitary.wyo.gov>.

## **First Responder Retirement Fund**

The fund provides payment of retirement contributions to a public or private retirement or pension system plan for any Wyoming resident whose primary occupation is that of a first responder or is designated by occupation, position, or name to any emergency response plan and who has been ordered in the federal service of the United States under Title 10 of the United States Code.

For more information, call 307-777-8160 or visit

<https://wyomilitary.wyo.gov>.



## **Additional Resources**

### **Traumatic Brain Injury**

What is Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)?

A traumatic brain injury occurs when a person's brain is physically injured, usually by a sudden force. With military members, this is often the result of a concussive blast or explosion. It can also be caused by falls, motor vehicle accidents, assaults, or any sudden blow to the head. Because the damage is internal, there may be no visible head wound.

Although TBI has been called the signature injury of the Global War on Terror, it is not a new condition, and it is not unique to those serving in the military. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 1.4 million TBIs occur every year in the US, with about 6% resulting in long term disability. In prior conflicts, approximately 14% - 20% of surviving casualties had a TBI.

Some people who experience a TBI can recover completely without medical intervention. On the other end of the scale, some people will have permanent and total disability. Any brain injury, whether mild, moderate, or severe, can temporarily or permanently diminish a person's physical abilities, impair cognitive skills, and interfere with emotional and behavioral well-being.

Because of this, anyone who feels there is a possibility they may have a TBI should be seen by a doctor.

Veterans who were subjected to a TBI may be at increased risk for PTSD, depression and other conditions.

Veterans who may have been subjected to a TBI should notify their health care provider. They will be screened for the effects of a TBI and referred as needed.

Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) is to serve active duty military, their beneficiaries, and veterans with traumatic

brain injuries (TBIs) through state of the art clinical care, innovative clinical research initiatives and educational programs. For more information visit <http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/>.

### **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder**

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a mental health problem that can occur after someone goes through a traumatic event like war, assault, or disaster.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) remains the key resource for all Veterans who have PTSD.

The National Center for PTSD - is the center of excellence for research and education on the prevention, understanding, and treatment of PTSD. The center has seven divisions across the country.

The mission of the National Center for PTSD is to advance the clinical care and social welfare of America's Veterans and others who have experienced trauma, or who suffer from PTSD, through research, education, and training in the science, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and stress-related disorders.

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

### **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 repeated, threatening sexual harassment that occurred while the Veteran was in the military. For more information visit

<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/mentalhealth/msthome/index.asp>

### **VA Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Program:**

Sheridan VAHCS Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Services:

- 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.

## **Visual Impairment Services:**

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 available to help with reading, safe ambulation, 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 or [jason.carter@va.gov](mailto:jason.carter@va.gov).

## **Veterans Crisis Line**

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders 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 [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net), 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 available.

## **Homeless Veterans**

Wyoming and the nation have fully realized the complicated matters regarding the homelessness of our nation's Veterans.

Tremendous progress has been made in the past few years and much work remains.

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 hotline offers information and assistance to Veterans and their families; VA Medical Centers; federal, state, and local partners; and community-based agencies,



service providers, and others who work with or simply want to support our nation's Veterans.

Calling this number and referring the contact information of a homeless Wyoming veteran is the easiest way for all of us to get involved in assisting homeless Wyoming Veterans. The 24/7 Hotline is 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838).

VA Homeless Veteran Programs in Wyoming:

Southern Wyoming, 307-778-7550, ext. 7349

Northern Wyoming, 307-672-3473, ask for homeless program.

### **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)**

Grantees receive VA funding to provide essential services to homeless Veterans and/or Veterans who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

SSVF grantees serve Veterans with incomes below 50 percent of the area median income with most of them being below 30 percent. Grantees must follow the housing first approach, which centers on permanently housing homeless Veterans quickly without preconditions and providing supportive services as needed. Additional SSVF requirements are that grantees engage in outreach to find and serve Veterans in need, provide Veterans with on-going case management and assist them in obtaining VA and other public benefits.

Volunteers of America - Northern Rockies was selected as the Wyoming SSVF grantee.

Contact information for SSVF:

Sheridan Office 307-673-0779

Riverton Office 307-463-0436

Casper Office 307-333-1141

Cheyenne Office 307-514-5518

Veteran Hotline for Wyoming 844 4 VOA VET (844-486-2838)

### **Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS)/Homes for all Veterans (HAV)**

Provide a wide range of services designed to promote housing stability and alleviate chronic homelessness, including assistance with obtaining temporary shelter and permanent housing, VA

benefits, health care services, legal and financial planning, and employment services.

To qualify for HAV the Veteran must be a US military Veteran who:

- Is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Is considered very low income based on specific income limits
- Has not been dishonorably discharged, and has served at least one day active duty

For more information contact a HAV Eligibility Specialist at 1-855-838-7428 or 719-323-2600.

### **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

### **HUD/VASH Assistance**

HUD/VASH is a partnership between the VA and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which assists low income qualifying veterans by providing long term rental assistance and case management services. The program offers preference for currently homeless veterans but may be able to work with other veterans depending on extenuating circumstances. Services are limited and provided in the following locations: Casper, Gillette, Rock Springs, Sheridan, Cheyenne, and Laramie.

For Casper, Gillette, Rock Springs, or Sheridan call 307-672-3473 and ask the operator for the HUD/VASH program. For Cheyenne or Laramie call 307-778-7550 and ask the operator for the HUD/VASH program.

### **Jonn Edmund's Veteran House – Cheyenne**

Community Action of Laramie County, a non-profit organization in Cheyenne, has an apartment house which features four apartments that can house two Veterans each. This 90-day program supports veterans to build the skills they need while addressing their reasons for homelessness to achieve self-sufficiency.

For more information, call 307-635-9291, ext. 26, or visit <http://www.calc.net>.



## **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.

To view the statute or for more information, contact the VA certifying official at the institution or visit <https://communitycolleges.wy.edu/veterans-tuition-benefit/>

### **Wyoming National Guard (WY NG) Educational Assistance Plan (EAP)**

WY NG members may receive 100% of tuition and mandatory fees at the University of Wyoming, the seven community colleges, and the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy. Members may receive partial payment of tuition at private colleges and institutions for programs offered within Wyoming.

Air Guard members with a Community College of the Air Force degree may receive partial reimbursement for AU-ABC programs. For more information, call 307-777-8160 or visit <https://wyomilitary.wyo.gov> (State Services, Benefits, Education Links)

### **State Approving Agency**

The State Approving Agency approves education and training programs for the payment of Veterans education benefits, within the state of Wyoming.

For more information, call 307-777-8161 or visit <https://www.wyomilitary.wyo.gov/veterans/> (Benefits, Resources & Military Records Link)

### **Post 9/11 GI Bill**

The Post 9/11 GI Bill provides tremendous benefits to eligible Veterans. Are you considering if you should attend college using your benefits? Veterans should visit the Veterans Representative at their local community college or University of Wyoming for assistance. Veterans should also visit the GI Bill website for eligibility, payment rates, on-line registrations, approved program searches, and benefit inquiries.

For more information, call 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551) or visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

## **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, please contact:

UW Marna M. Kuehne Foundation Veterans Services Center at 307-766-6908 or 307-766-6909, [uw-vets@uwyo.edu](mailto: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.



## **Business Opportunities for Veterans**

### **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 Jordan Belser, SBA Wyoming Veterans Representative at 307-261-6507 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 one-on-one confidential counseling for proposed new start up or existing small business owners. Counseling is available by appointment, or online. Free business plan software is available. For more information, call 307-635-2726 or visit the SCORE website at <http://www.score.org>.

### **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: call 1-800-348-5194 or visit <http://www.wyomingsbdc.org/>.



## **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](mailto:kenton.franklin@wyo.gov).

### **FE Warren AFB Retirees**

The Retiree Activities Office is located at the Family Support Center at 706 Randall Ave. The base hosts an annual Retiree Appreciation Day to honor and assist retirees.

For more information, call 307-773-2309.



## **Veteran and Military Museums in Wyoming**

### **Wyoming Veterans' Memorial Museum**

The Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum preserves and shares the memory and contributions made by Wyoming's veterans. Located on the grounds of the WWII Casper Army Air Base, explore the past through exhibits and programs. The WVMM is located at the Natrona County International Airport in Casper, Wyoming.

Museum Hours: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.  
Museum Address: 3740 Jourgensen Ave., Casper, WY, 82604

For more information, call the Museum at (307) 472-1857 or visit us online at [www.wyomilitary.wyo.gov/veterans/museums/vets-museum/](http://www.wyomilitary.wyo.gov/veterans/museums/vets-museum/)

### **Warren ICBM & Heritage Museum**

The Warren ICBM & Heritage Museum depicts the rich heritage since 1867 to include the Air Force Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) systems. The Warren ICBM & Heritage Museum is not open to the general public due to national security. Please call the museum in advance to ensure accessibility.

The museum is located at 401 Champagne Dr., Building 31, F.E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne, WY. For more information, call 307-773-2980 or visit <http://www.warrenmuseum.com>

## **Wyoming National Guard Museum**

From 1870 to the present, the Wyoming National Guard Museum preserves and shares the history and contributions made by Wyoming's citizen soldiers and airmen. Located in the heart of Cheyenne, the WYNGM explores the Guard's history through exhibits and programs. The Museum also houses the Guard's historical archives.

Museum Hours: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday.

Museum Address: 624 E. Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne, WY, 82001

For more information, call the Museum at (307) 432-0057 or visit us online

at <https://www.wyomilitary.wyo.gov/veterans/museums/guard-museum/>.



## **The Wyoming National Guard Association (WYNGA)**

The WYNGA is a combined association of enlisted and officer members both active and retired, of the Wyoming Army and Air National Guard. It is the primary organization representing the Wyoming National Guard to the National Guard Association of the United States and the Enlisted Association of United States, the Wyoming Congressional delegation and the residents of Wyoming.

WYNGA is a not-for-profit organization governed by an elected board of directors representing Army, Air, enlisted, officer and retirees. The Board of Governors directs the activities of the association.

The primary goal is to advocate for better equipment, training, equal benefits, and support for our Wyoming National Guardsmen and their families. The Wyoming National Guard Association represents the men and women of the Wyoming National Guard who have served in all of the nation's wars and are the military's first responders when Wyoming is confronted by natural and manmade disasters and homeland security threats.



To learn more about the WYNGA, call Janet Cowley, Executive Director at 307-630-9502 or email [janetlcowley@gmail.com](mailto:janetlcowley@gmail.com).



## **State Sponsored Life Insurance**

The State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) program is derived from United States Public Law 93-289, May 1974, Title 37, Section 707 and is offered through the Wyoming National Guard. This program is comprised of a combination of six voluntary group life policies available to the military members of the Wyoming National Guard and, is designed to help meet the needs of our membership.

The WYNGA is a member of the Militia Insurance Trust (MIT) underwritten by New York Life. The Militia Insurance Trust is comprised of 14 National Guard Associations. Every eligible member of the Wyoming National Guard is covered with \$1,000 SSLI at no cost to the member. This \$1,000 benefit is provided through the Militia Insurance Trust Group Life Insurance Plan.

### **Key Benefits of the SSLI:**

1. Over \$1,000,000 in coverage available for the Wyoming National Guardsman through a combination of the SSLI plans.
2. Coverage available for the spouse and children.
3. Rates do not go up just because you separate from the National Guard – you can keep the coverage when you separate.
4. Coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
5. No War Exclusion – you are covered in combat.
6. No Aviation Exclusion – aviators are covered.
7. New Recruits are eligible for \$10,000 SSLI coverage under the MIT Group Life Insurance Plan at no cost for the first year of service in the Wyoming National Guard. Enrollment must occur within 90 days of joining the Wyoming National Guard.

To learn more, visit <http://www.NGSSL.com> for more information including eligibility, benefits, rates, exclusion limitations and renewal provisions. Enrollment forms are available online.

To schedule a unit Benefit Briefing call Janet Cowley, SSLI Briefer, at 307-630-9502 or 1-800-462-7441 or email [janetlcowley@gmail.com](mailto:janetlcowley@gmail.com).

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## **Key Contacts**

Wyoming Veterans Commission: 307-777-8152; <http://wvc.wyo.gov>

Wyoming Veterans Benefits: 1-800-833-5987

Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum: 307-472-1857;  
<http://wvmm.wyo.gov>

Wyoming National Guard Museum: 307-432-0057; <http://wyngm.wyo.gov>

Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery: 307-235-6679;  
<http://otsvc.wyo.gov>

Wyoming Military and Veterans Records: 307-777-8163

Veterans Crisis Line – toll free support 24/7/365: 1-800-273-8255, press 1; text 838255; chat online [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

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

Cheyenne VA Medical Center: 307-778-7550;  
<http://www.cheyenne.va.gov/>

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

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

Rawlins Primary Care Telehealth Clinic: 307-324-5578

Afton Outreach Clinic: 307-886-5266

Casper CBOC: 307-235-4143

Gillette CBOC: 307-685-0676

Cody CBOC: 307-587-4015

Riverton CBOC: 307-857-1211

Rock Springs CBOC: 307-362-6641

Evanston Primary Care Telehealth Clinic: 307-789-3384

Worland Primary Care Telehealth Clinic: 307-347-2808

# Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255

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## **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.

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