

Diplomas for Veterans: High School Diplomas can be obtained for *WWII veterans* as well as *Korean and Vietnam veterans* who were called-up for active duty service before finishing high school. Qualifying veterans should contact their school superintendent or the *Arkansas Department of Education, 4 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201*. Offices are generally open *Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., (501) 682-4475*. (For more information view <http://arkansased.org>)

Educational Benefits: The **Arkansas Department of Higher Education** has the authority to provide free tuition and fees at any state supported college, university, technical school, or vocational school; to the *spouse and children* of any Arkansan who has been declared to be Prisoner of War or placed in a missing-in-action status since January 1, 1960. The same provisions apply to the *surviving spouse and children* of any Arkansas resident killed in action since 1960. The *Arkansas Department of Education is located at 4 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201*. Offices are generally open *8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., (501) 682-4475*. (More information can be seen at www.adhe.edu/divisions/financialaid/Pages/fa_mds.aspx) (AR Code 6-82-601 et. seq.)

Employment: The **Arkansas Department of Workforce Services** provides employment counseling and referral services tailored to the special needs of veterans. They also maintain an ongoing program of job development designed to create jobs and preferences for all veterans, through the Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER's) and the Disabled Veterans Outreach program (DVOP). (Contact your local DWS office or view www.dws.arkansas.gov)

Hunting and Fishing Licenses: The **Arkansas Game and Fish Commission** provides discounted hunting and fishing licenses to Arkansas residents who are *100% totally and permanently disabled*. Applications and information are available by calling *1-800-364-4263 Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.* Licenses are available from the Commission's Little Rock office or by mail. To purchase a license, provide: (1) Proof of 60 days Arkansas residency, such as a copy of a driver's license or state ID, (2) Acceptable proof of disability from Veterans Affairs, Social Security or Railroad Retirement, (3) Completed application form, and (4) Payment. Holders of disabled fishing licenses, along with one current fishing license holder for assistance, are allowed to fish all waters listed under Family Fishing regulations. (See www.agfc.com/hunting/huntinglicense/disability-license-deer.aspx and www.agfc.com/fishing/license-info-fishing/disability-license-fishing.aspx)

Arkansas State Parks: The **Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism** provides Arkansas resident veterans, who have a *permanent service connected 100% disability rate*, the ability to camp for half price in Arkansas State Parks. Proof of 100% status is required. For veterans, this should be a copy of the Awards letter (dated within the last two years) from the Veterans Administration Regional Office or an Arkansas license plate with the letters DV. The discount offered to senior citizens and disabled citizens does not apply to winter rates or Rent-A-Camp options. *Division of State Parks, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201*. Phone: *1-888-287-2757 (V/TT)* (For more information see www.arkansasstateparks.com/camping-cabins-lodging/camping/)

Income Tax Exemption: Provides an exemption for *active duty* members of the Armed Forces of the first \$9,000 of active service pay. (AR Code 26-51-306 et. seq.) *Retired* members are entitled to \$6,000 exemption. (AR Code 26-51-307 et. seq.) These exemptions *include Reserve and National Guard* components who are residents of the State of Arkansas.

Homestead and Personal Property Tax Exemption: Arkansas' disabled veterans who have been awarded special monthly compensation by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the *loss of, or the loss of use of, one (1) or more limbs, for total blindness in one (1) or both eyes, or for service-connected one hundred percent (100%) total and permanent disability* shall be exempt from payment of all state taxes on the homestead and personal property owned by the disabled veteran. *Surviving spouses*, so long as they remain unmarried, *and dependent children*, during their minority, continue this entitlement. Entitlement is also available if the veteran was killed or died within the scope of his military duties, is missing in action, or died from service connected causes as certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs. If subsequent marriage is terminated, surviving spouse may be reinstated. In all cases, annual re-certification of continued entitlement by the VA is required. (AR Code 26-3-306 et. seq.)(Arkansas Attorney General's Opinion No. 2009-054)

Gross Receipt of Tax Exemption: Gross receipts or proceeds derived from the *sale of a new automobile to a veteran who is blind as a result of a service-connected injury*. Registration will require an entitlement letter from the VA and will be limited to one new vehicle every two (2) years. This exemption defines automobile as a passenger vehicle or pickup truck but does not include trucks with a maximum gross load in excess of three-quarter (3/4) ton and does not include any trailer. (AR Code 26-52-415 et. seq.) Also, gross receipts or gross proceeds derived from the sale of motor vehicles and adaptive equipment to *disabled veterans* who have purchased the motor vehicles or adaptive equipment with the financial assistance of the Department of Veterans Affairs as provided under 38 U.S.C. §§ 1901 - 1905. (AR Code 26-52-401(6) et. seq.)

VA Claims and Appeals Division: The Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs furnishes representation for veterans, widows and dependents by a Service Officer. We are located in *Building 65, Room 119, 2200 Fort Roots Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114*. We are open *Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., (501) 370-3820*. When requesting benefits and services, a copy of the veteran's discharge papers are required to verify eligibility. Our office has DD-214's going back to 1985. Veterans may also check their C-file. If you are unable to locate your DD-214 or equivalent in local or state offices, you can request copies of your Military Personnel Records from www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/.