

The VSO Mission

The Veteran Services Office (VSO) serves the Veteran, and his or her family, by providing services and assisting in the application for additional benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Such benefits may include disability compensation, non-service connected pensions, information regarding home loan certification, and VA medical enrollment. The VSO also assists with Veterans benefits offered by the State of Florida

By interviewing the Veteran and his or her family, the County VSO determines needs and identifies the type and source of services available.

Furthermore, the VSO will assist the Veteran and their family in obtaining those benefits through case developments.

Who is Eligible for Benefits?

You may be eligible for Veteran Administration Benefits if you are:

- A Veteran
- A Veteran's Dependent
- A Veteran's Surviving Spouse or Child
- A Member of the Army Reserve
- A Member of the National Guard
- An active Duty Service Member

How the VSO Can Help

The Highlands County Veteran Services Office can assist you and your family in securing the following benefits and services:

- Disability Benefits
- Education and Training Benefits
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Employment Benefits
- Home Loans Information
- Burial Benefits
- Dependents and Survivor Benefits
- Life Insurance Information
- Health Care

Education and Training

Education benefits are paid to eligible Veterans, dependents, reservists and service members while in an approved training program. Such programs include:

- Montgomery GI Bill
- Veterans Educational Assistance Program
- Survivors Educational Assistance Program
- Dependents Educational Assistance Program

There are time limits associated with each program and there are other qualifications that must be met. To take advantage of one of these programs, talk with an accredited Service Officer at the VSO today.

Disability Benefits

The Highlands County VSO administers two disability programs, both of which pay benefits to disabled Veterans.

Disability Compensation

This program is designed for those who have become disabled because of their military service.

Non-Service Connected Pension

This is a "financial needs based" program designed for the war time veteran with limited income and assets, and who is no longer able to work, or is 65 years of age or older.

Toll Free Phone Numbers

Health Benefits	877-222-8337
Education Benefits	888-442-4551
VA Life Insurance	800-669-8477
Office of SGLI	800-419-1473
CHAMPVA	800-749-8387
Gulf War	800-749-8387
Headstones	800-749-8387
TDD Line	800-829-4833
Direct Deposit	877-838-2778
VA Regional Office	800-827-1000
VAMC Bay Pines	888-820-0230
VAMC W. Palm Beach	800-972-8262
Okeechobee VA Clinic	863-824-3232
Sebring VA Clinic	863-471-6227
W. Palm Beach Transport	561-422-8262
	Ext: 8312

Burial Benefits

The Highlands County Veteran Services Office offers benefits and services to honor deceased Veterans including:

- Headstones and Markers
- Presidential Memorial Certificates
- Burial Flag
- Reimbursement for Burial Expenses
- Burial in a VA National Cemetery

There is no time limit for claiming reimbursement of burial expenses for a memorial. However, claims must be made within two years of the Veteran's burial in order to qualify and receive other benefits and services.

Dependents and Survivors

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is payable to survivors of:

- Service members who die on Active Duty
- Veterans who die from service-related disabilities
- Certain veterans who were paid 100% disability compensation at the time of death

A Death Pension is payable to *eligible* surviving spouse and children of deceased *wartime* veterans. It is based upon financial need.

Health Benefits

The VA offers certain healthcare options for eligible Veterans including:

- Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy, and prosthetic services
- Domiciliary, nursing home, and community-based residential care
- Sexual trauma counseling
- Specialized care for Women Veterans
- Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless veterans
- Readjustment counseling
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Medical evaluation for military service exposure including Gulf War Gas, Agent Orange, radiation, and other environmental hazards

The Highlands County VSO can assist the Veteran and their family in obtaining these benefits.

Free Transportation

The Disabled American Veterans in association with Bay Pines VA Medical Center provides free transportation to St. Petersburg VAMC, Lee County VA Healthcare, and Bradenton. Requests for rides can be made up to three weeks in advance.

The transportation service is for eligible Veterans who have VAMC scheduled appointments between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

For Van Service scheduling call:
863-471-6227 ext 22697

Highlands County's Veteran Services Office

Your Veteran Benefits



7209 South George Boulevard
Sebring Florida 33875-5847
Phone: 863-402-6623
Fax: 863-402-6796

Please call for an Appointment.
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

County Veterans Services Officer
Denise D. Williams

Assistant Veteran Services Officer
Carol Y. West

Administrative Secretary
Sarah B. Carter