

## **Arizona Veterans' Benefits-** (As of 28 September 2011)

### ***Cemetery***

**Burial** - Any veteran who has an other than dishonorable discharge is eligible for burial in the Southern Arizona Veteran Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista. Spouses and certain dependents are also eligible for burial. There is no charge for interment for veterans and a one time nominal fee of \$300 for eligible spouses and dependents. Veterans may choose:

1. A columbaria niche (which includes an inscribed granite niche marker) or
2. A full-casket, in-ground burial (which includes an inscribed upright grave marker and a single or double concrete crypt liner). **(A.R.S. 41-603)**

**Indigent Veterans** - The board of supervisors shall appoint any honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the military establishment of the United States who is a resident of the county to oversee the final disposition of indigent veterans and their spouses whose final arrangements are coordinated through the county. The person appointed shall ensure that arrangements made by the county conform to the proper practices for veterans and that, if burial occurs, the burial is made in a veterans' cemetery or a portion of a cemetery that is designated for the burial of veterans and spouses of veterans. **(A.R.S. 11-311)**

**Headstones** - When the county buries an indigent veteran, the county clerk will make an application to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a suitable headstone and make arrangements for it to be placed at the head of the grave.

### ***Education***

**In State Tuition** - Beginning in the fall semester of 2011, a person who is honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States shall be granted immediate classification as an in-state student on honorable discharge from the armed forces and, while in continuous attendance toward the degree for which currently enrolled, does not lose in-state student classification if the person has met the following requirements:

1. Registered to vote in this state.
2. Demonstrated objective evidence of intent to be a resident of Arizona which, for the purposes of this section, includes at least one of the following:
  - (a) An Arizona driver license.

- (b) Arizona motor vehicle registration.
- (c) Employment history in Arizona.
- (d) Transfer of major banking services to Arizona.
- (e) Change of permanent address on all pertinent records.
- (f) Other materials of whatever kind or source relevant to domicile or residency status. **(A.R.S. 15-1802)**

**Tuition and Fees Deferred Payment** - A veteran or eligible dependent who has applied for educational benefits under the G.I. Bill state-supported community colleges, colleges and universities may defer payment of tuition, fees and required books for a period of 120 days with no interest charges. If, at the end of such period, the person has not received from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs the initial benefit monies for tuition and fees, an extension may be granted until such time benefits are received. **(A.R.S. 41-611)**

**In-State Residency** - A member of the armed forces of the United States, their spouse or dependent child stationed in Arizona pursuant to military orders is entitled to classification as an in-state student. **(A.R.S. 15-1802)**

**Child or Spouse Tuition Waiver** - A child or spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces who was a resident of Arizona or stationed in Arizona and who was killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries suffered in the line of duty while traveling to or from duty is provided an Arizona university or community college tuition waiver scholarship. In order to qualify, the child or spouse must meet the admissions requirements to the university or community college, the child must be no more than 30 years old and the spouse must not be remarried. The tuition waiver scholarship is limited to the spouse or for any one child to no more than 64 credit hours at Arizona community colleges and a total number of credits required for a baccalaureate degree at Arizona universities for that student's initial declared course of study. **(A.R.S. 15-1808)**

**National Guard Tuition Waiver-Purple Heart** - A member of the Arizona national guard who received a purple heart citation on or after September 11, 2001 or a former member of the Arizona national guard who was medically discharged from the Arizona national guard due to an injury or disability suffered during status under title 10, United States Code, in weekend training status, in annual training status or in response to a state of emergency declared by the governor is eligible for a tuition waiver scholarship at Arizona's state universities or community colleges. **(A.R.S. 15-1808)**

**Purple Heart Tuition Waiver**- A person who is a member or former member of the United States Armed Forces who received a Purple Heart Medal,

who was an Arizona resident or was stationed in Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the reception of the Purple Heart Medal and whose disability rating as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is 50% or more, and who otherwise meeting the qualifications for admission, shall receive a tuition waiver scholarship at any university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents or at any of Arizona's community colleges which comes under the jurisdiction of a Community College District. A person convicted of a felony is not eligible for such a tuition waiver. **(A.R.S. 15-1808)**

## ***Military Family Relief Fund***

The Military Family Relief Fund has been established by the Arizona Legislature. The monies in the fund shall be used to provide financial assistance to families of deployed Arizona service members. The service member of an applying family must have been deceased, wounded or injured or become seriously ill after September 11, 2001; been deployed from a military base in this state or entered active United States military service from this state after September 11, 2001, and claimed Arizona as the service member's home of record or been a member of the Arizona National Guard **at the time of deployment**. If discharged from military service, the service member must have been discharged under honorable conditions. **(A.R.S. 41-608.04)**

Through December 31, 2018, the military family relief fund advisory committee may:

1. Use monies in the military family relief fund to provide financial assistance to an applying family if the service member of the family was deployed to a combat zone after September 11, 2001.
2. Award up to twenty thousand dollars to an applying family if every member of the committee agrees to recommend approval of the grant at a meeting of the entire committee.

## ***Employment***

**Age Limit** - An honorably discharged veteran shall be eligible for employment preference, rights, and privileges under any merit system in the state in the state or any political subdivision thereof, regardless of age, if otherwise qualified subject only to the requirement that they are below the regular retirement age at the time of entering the employment, if a retirement age is prescribed. **(A.R.S. 38-491)**

**Civil Service** - Veterans who pass an examination for employment by the state, county or city will have 5 points added to their certification score. The veteran must have served for more than six (6) months and be separated under honorable conditions. Honorably separated veterans entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability will have 10 points added to their certification

score. Certain spouses or surviving spouses shall be given a 5 point preference if the veteran died of a service-connected disability: or as a member of the armed forces serving on active duty is (a) missing in action, (b) captured, or (c) forcibly detained or interned by a foreign power; or has total and permanent service-connected disability, or who died while such disability was in force. **(A.R.S. 38-492)**

**Arizona State Retirement System** - Changes to A.R.S. 38-745 extends the right of an Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) member who is called to active military service to purchase credited service if disability or death occurs during that service. Clarifies that the right extends to callups by officials other than the President. ASRS is a state agency that provides retirement benefits, long-term disability benefits and other benefits to employees of the state, counties, municipalities, universities, community colleges, school districts and other political entities. **(A.R.S. 38-745)**

**Fire Department** - Members of any fire company inducted into the military establishment of the United States for military training are authorized reinstatement to their previous rating after discharge from military service. The period of military service shall be included in computing the length of service of the fireman to determine eligibility for retirement. **(A.R.S. 9-971)**

**Police and Fire Department** - The period of military service shall be included in computing the length of service of the employee to determine eligibility for retirement. **(A.R.S. §§ 9-970 and 9-971)**

**Reserve Status/war Emergency** - Appointive officers or employees of the state or a political subdivision will be reinstated to their former position upon completion of military service to which they were inducted or ordered during time of war or called to service because of their status as an active or inactive member of the Reserves. **(A.R.S. 38-298)**

**Credit for Military Service for State Retirement Benefits** - A participant of the state system or plan may receive credited past service or future service for active military service if the participant was honorably discharge from service. The period of military service for which the participant receives credited service can not be on account with any other retirement system. Contact the nearest state personnel office for additional information and eligibility. **(A.R.S. §§ 38-745, 38-820, 38-858)**

## **Fees**

**Vehicle License Tax and Registration Fees** – Arizona residents who are members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including a national guard or reserve unit, and are deployed in support of a worldwide contingency operation of the U.S. Armed Forces, their spouse or legally designated representative may

register or renew the registration of a motor vehicle for one year without payment of registration fees and the vehicle license tax. This exemption can be taken one time from the time of deployment until one year after the member is discharged from the military. **(A.R.S. 28-5811)**

No license tax or registration shall be collected from a veteran for a personally owned vehicle if such veteran is certified by the VA to be 100-percent service-connected disabled and drawing compensation on that basis. A veteran residing in Arizona is exempt from a vehicle license tax on a vehicle acquired by the veteran through financial aid from the VA. Such exemption can be claimed on only one vehicle or its replacement during each 12-month period. **(A.R.S. 28-5802)**

**Hunting and Fishing Licenses** - Complimentary licenses may be granted to veteran's 70 years or older who have been residents of this state for 25 years. Complimentary licenses will also be issued to veterans verified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be one hundred percent service-connected disabled and who have been a resident for one year or more. **(A.R.S. 17-336)**

**Military hunting and fishing licenses** - A member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty and stationed in this state for a period of thirty days immediately preceding the date of application for a license may purchase a resident license permitting the taking of wildlife. **(A.R.S. 17-337)**

**Arizona State Parks** - Arizona State Parks offers Complimentary "Disabled Veterans Annual Day Use Pass," providing Arizona's 100% permanently disabled veterans with access to all twenty-seven State Parks. (Not including a tour of Kartchner Caverns.) The Disabled Veterans Annual Day Pass covers the park entrance fee, and is available to veterans who reside in the state of Arizona, are certified by the Veteran's Administration as one hundred percent disabled, and draw compensation on that basis.

**Professional and Occupational Licenses** - Every funeral director, embalmer, or apprentice embalmer who serves in the armed forces during a time of war is exempt from paying renewal license fees for the duration of the war and six months thereafter or for a period of six months following discharge from the armed forces. **(A.R.S. 32-1332)**

Certain licenses or certificates (licenses) may be issued without an examination to a person married to an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces, accompanying their spouse to an official permanent change of state to a military installation in Arizona, who is licensed in another state if the following apply:

- a) the person is currently licensed by another state's regulating agency and is in current and good standing;
- b) the person has been licensed for at least a year. Requires the person to practice under the direct supervision of an Arizona licensee if the person has been licensed for less than five years;

- c) the regulatory agency of the other state verifies that the person met minimum education requirements and applicable work experience and clinical supervision requirements, at the time they were licensed;
- d) the person previously passed an examination that was required for the license;
- e) the person has not had a license revoked or voluntarily surrendered a license while under investigation for unprofessional conduct;
- f) the person has not had discipline imposed by any other regulatory agency. If another jurisdiction has taken disciplinary action, the Arizona regulating entity is required to determine if the cause for the action was corrected and the matter resolved. Specifies that if the matter was not resolved, the regulating agency is prohibited from issuing or denying a license until the matter is resolved;
- g) the person does not have a complaint, allegation or investigation pending before another state's regulating entity that relates to unprofessional conduct. Requires the Arizona regulating entity to suspend the application process and prohibits the entity from issuing or denying a license until the matter is resolved; and
- h) the person pays all applicable fees prescribed by the Arizona regulating entity. **(A.R.S. 32-4302)**

**Concealed Weapons Permits Extension** - On issuance, a Concealed Weapons Permit is valid for five years, except a permit that is held by a member of the United States armed forces, including a member of the Arizona national guard or a member of the reserves of any military establishment of the United States, who is on federal active duty and who is deployed overseas shall be extended until ninety days after the end of the member's overseas deployment. **(A.R.S. 13-3112)**

## ***Special License Plates***

**Medal of Honor** - Any resident of Arizona who is a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor may apply for a distinctive number plate at no additional cost. **(A.R.S. 28-2452)**

**Ex Prisoner of War** - Any resident of Arizona who is a former prisoner of war may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial fee of \$15.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee with an annual renewal fee of \$5.00. **(A.R.S. 28-2453)**

**Purple Heart** - Any resident of Arizona who is a recipient of the Purple Heart may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial fee of \$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee with an annual renewal fee of \$5.00. **(A.R.S. 28-2454)**

**Pearl Harbor Survivors** - Any resident of Arizona who was a member of the

Armed Forces of the United States, received an honorable discharge, and was stationed at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu (or offshore not exceeding 3 miles), on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 A.M. to 9:45 A.M., is eligible for a Pearl Harbor distinctive number plate. An initial fee of \$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee with an annual renewal fee of \$5.00. **(A.R.S. 28-2455)**

**National Guard** - Any resident of Arizona who is or has been a member of the Arizona Air National Guard or Army National Guard may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial and renewal fee of \$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee. **(A.R.S. 28-2415)**

**Veteran** - Any resident of Arizona who was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and received an honorable discharge may apply for a distinctive number plate. An initial and renewal fee of \$25.00 is charged in addition to the registration fee. **(A.R.S. 28-2414)**

NOTE: Dependents may also be eligible for license plates. Disabled and personalized plates are \$50.00.

**Freedom Plates** - \$17.00 of \$25.00 fee goes to the Veteran's Donation Fund. **(A.R.S. 28-2428)**

## ***Taxes***

**Income Tax** - Compensation received for active service as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States for any month during any part of which members served in a combat zone is exempt from state tax. Compensation received during a taxable year in which a service member dies in a combat zone is exempt. **(A.R.S. 43-568)**

**State income tax exemption** for active duty military income for members of the U. S. Armed Services, including members of the Reserves and Arizona National Guard. Effective 1 January 2007. **(A.R.S. 43-1022)**

Federal (Civil Service or Military Retirement) payments up to \$2,500.00 per year are exempt. **(A.R.S.43-1022)**

**Property Tax** - The property of widows, widowers, and disabled persons are allowed in the amount of:

1. Three thousand dollars if the person's total assessment does not exceed ten thousand dollars.
2. No exemption if the person's total assessment exceeds ten thousands dollars. To qualify for this exemption, the total income from all sources of the claimant and the claimant's spouse and the income from all sources of all of the claimant's children who resided with the claimant in the claimant's residence in the year

immediately preceding the year for which the claimant applies for the exemption shall not exceed:

1. Thirteen thousand two hundred dollars if none of the claimant's children under eighteen years of age resided with the claimant in the claimant's residence.
2. Eighteen thousand eight hundred forty dollars if one or more of the claimant's children residing with the claimant in the claimant's residence was either:
  - (a) Under eighteen years of age.
  - (b) Totally and permanently, physically or mentally disabled, as certified by competent medical authority as provided by law.

NOTE: The exemption is applied to real estate first, then to a mobile home or an automobile. **(A.R.S. 42-11111)**

## ***Veterans Homes***

The Arizona State Veteran Home, Phoenix is located in Phoenix at 4141 N. 3rd Street. It is a 200 bed, skilled care nursing facility operated and maintained by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. The Veteran Home offers different levels of nursing care and encourages residents to function at their highest level. The Arizona State Veteran Home, Tucson will be opening in fall 2011. **(A.R.S. 41-603.01)**

## ***Other***

**Recording of Discharges** - Any county recorder, free of charge shall record military discharge papers. Location of each County Recorder's Office may be found in the blue pages of your area telephone directory. **(A.R.S. 11-465)**

**Public Record Certification** - Public officials shall issue without charge, certified copies of public records for use in making a claim for pension, compensation, allotment allowance, insurance, or other benefits from the United States. **(A.R.S. 39-122)**

**Transportation** - Common carriers may give free or reduced rates to residents of homes for soldiers, and, with the consent of the Arizona Corporation Commission, to former soldiers and sailors for the purpose of attending any convention. **(A.R.S. 40-335)**