

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

RESOURCES

As a district commander, you may encounter situations during your commandership where a veteran will approach you in reference to financial assistance. You should always refer them to the appropriate agencies within the veteran's community such as Red Cross, Veterans Trust Fund, Soldier/Sailor Relief Commission, etc. If, however, these options have been exhausted, department headquarters provides the following options based on eligibility and available resources.

The American Legion Department of Michigan Veteran Services Regional Office

Our staff is dedicated to providing the very best veterans' advocacy to Michigan Veterans and their families. They can assist with Claims Preparation, Presentation and appeal counsel in Veterans' benefits services. Assist you and your Dependents in getting the Benefits that you have earned by your service to your country.

American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Mr. Gary Easterling, Director

Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building Room 1210

477 Michigan Avenue Detroit, MI 48226

Office Phone (313) 964-6640 Fax (313) 964-5697

e-mail - al.vbadet@va.gov

Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule

Find a County Veteran Service Office for Michigan veteran trust fund questions at

<http://www.michiganveterans.com/Home/Benefit-Counselors>

American Legion National "Temporary Financial Assistance" Program: Application must be for wartime veterans who have minor children in the home. Application can be obtained from department headquarters by contacting Kim Siedelberg at 517.371.4720, ext. 13 or Department VAR Director Gary Easterling 313.964.6640.

Department Welfare Fund: To assist with emergency needs such as food, rent, or utilities. Wartime veterans who were honorably discharged, or widow of said veteran, can apply for a maximum amount of \$225 per calendar year. Applications can be obtained by contacting Department VAR Director Gary Easterling 313.964.6640 or Department Reconnect Committee Chairman Gary Tanner 313.550.4289.

National Emergency Fund: A national American Legion program that handles financial assistance for individuals or posts if the assistance need is due to "declared" national disasters such as floods, tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes or related adverse weather events. Individual grants are up to \$1500 and post grants are up to \$5,000. Contact Department Adjutant Ron Runyan 517.371.4720.

Heroes to Hometowns: A program designed to assist severely injured veterans from the War on Terrorism. Veterans must be returning to his/her local community upon discharge from a military hospital due to combat wounds. Contact Eddie Brown 734.246.5462.

Military Family Relief Fund: A Department of Military and Veterans Affairs program located in Lansing designated for activated soldiers of the Michigan National Guard and Reserve components. Contact Military Family Relief Fund toll-free 1.866.271.4404.

As stated earlier, all applicants should seek assistance with their community agencies prior to applying to the above.

American Legion Department of Michigan VSO Schedule as of January 2024

Barry	Breas, Patty	Barry County Office 231 S. Broadway St., Hastings, MI 49058	1, 2, 4 M
Berrien	Breas, Patty	Berrien County Office, 701 Main St., St. Joseph, MI 49085	3, W
Calhoun	Kaiser, Thomas	American Legion Post #257 7475 B Drive North Battlecreek, MI 49014	TH
Charlevoix	Babcock, Phillip	Charlevoix County OVA 301 State Street Charlevoix, MI 49720	2, 4 W
Chippewa	Wiles, Richard	Sault Ste. Marie CBOC, 509 Osborn Blvd, Ste 306, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783	M
Clare	Cuddington, Elizebeth	American Legion Post 558 400 E. Ludington Dr. Farwell, MI 48622	T
Clinton	Kaiser, Thomas	American Legion Post 412, 5480 Clark Rd, Bath, MI 48808	3 W
Delta	Grady, Shay	AL Post 301, 10584 N. Main St, Rapid River, MI 49878	W
Delta	Thill, Stacy	Delta County Veterans Office, 2840 College Ave, Ste 2, Escanaba, MI 49854	Th
Emmet	Babcock, Phillip	American Legion Post #194 455 Bay St. Petoskey, MI 49770	T
Ingham	Kaiser, Thomas	American Legion Post 491 422 Woodworth St. Leslie, MI 49251	2 T
Ingham	Lewis, Rebecca	American Legion State Headquarters 212 N. Verlinden Lansing, MI 48915	2, 4, M, T-F
Ingham	Kaiser, Thomas	VFW National Home, Eaton Rapids, MI., 48827	M
Ionia	Lewis, Rebecca	The Right Door for Hope, Recover, Wellness 375 Appletree Dr. Ionia, MI 48846	1, 3, M
Jackson	Kaiser, Thomas	Jackson County OVA 1715 Lansing Ave. Room 252 Jackson, MI 49202	T, 2, 4 W
Kalkaska	Babcock, Phillip	Kalkaska County OVA 303 S. Coral St, Kalkaska, MI 49646	1, 3 Th
Kent	Breas, Patty	American Legion Post 305 9548 Cherry Valley Ave SE, Caledonia, MI 49316	2, 4 F
Kent	Breas, Patty	Grand Rapids Vet Center 2050 Breton Rd SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546	T
Kent	Breas, Patty	Wyoming CBOC 5838 Metro Way SW Wyoming, MI 49519	Th
Kent	Breas, Patty	62A District Court, 2650 De Hoop Ave SW, Wyoming, MI 49509	3, M
Kent	Breas, Patty	West MI Veteran Assistance Program 620 Century Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503	1, 3 F
Mackinac	Wiles, Richard	Mackinac County OVA, 100 S. Marley St., St. Ignace, MI 49781	T, F
Manistee	Babcock, Phillip	Manistee County Office 400 River Street Manistee, MI 49660	2, 4 Th
Marquette	Grady, Shay	AL Post 349, 1835 Co. Hwy EED. Little Lake, MI 49833	1, 3 Th
Marquette	Grady, Shay	AL Post 44, 700 W. Bluff St., Marquette, MI 49855	M, T, F
Marquette	Grady, Shay	VFW Post 5670, 54 N. Mitchell Rd, Gwinn, MI 49841	2, 4 Th
Mason	Babcock, Phillip	American Legion Post 76 318 N. James Street Ludington, MI 49431	1, 3 W
Mecosta	Babcock, Phillip	Mecosta County Office 14330 Northland Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307	F
Midland	Cuddington, Elizebeth	American Legion Post 443, 2080 N. Meridian Rd, Sanford, MI 48657	2, 4 Th
Muskegon	Thurber, Courtney	AL Post 297, 3590 Conklin St, Ravenna, MI 49451	W
Muskegon	Thurber, Courtney	Muskegon VA Outpatient Clinic, 5000 Hakes Dr, Muskegon, MI 49441	Th

American Legion Department of Michigan VSO Schedule as of July 2024

Otsego	Wiles, Richard	Otsego County OVA, 225 W. Main St, Room 104, Gaylord, MI 49735	W, TH
Ottawa	Thurber, Courtney	American Legion Post 28, 700 S. Harbor Dr, Grand Haven, MI 49417	M, T
Ottawa	Breas, Patty	Ottawa County OVA 12251 James St, Suite 300 Holland, MI 49424	1, 2, 4, W
Presque Isle	Fisher, Stephanie	Presque Isle County Office 151 E. Huron - 3rd Floor Rogers City MI 49779	W
Roscommon	Cuddington, Elizebeth	American Legion Post #245 3564 S. Reserve Road Prudenville, MI 48651	W
Saginaw	Simpkins, Tommy	Saginaw VAMC 1500 Weiss Street Saginaw, MI 48602	M, T, W
Schoolcraft	Thill, Stacy	Schoolcraft County OVA, 300 Walnut St. #206B, Manistique, MI 49854	T, W
Shiawassee	Kaiser, Thomas	American Legion Post 248 1240 W. Grand River Laingsburg, MI 48848	1 W
Shiawassee	Kaiser, Thomas	Shiawassee Co. OVA 1042 N. Shiawassee St. Corunna, MI 48817	F
Washtenaw	Kinder, Daryl	Ann Arbor VAMC 2215 Fuller Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105	M - F
Wayne	Barkell, Angela	American Legion 477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231 Detroit, MI 48226	M - F
Wayne	Cantwell, Tripp	American Legion 477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231 Detroit, MI 48226	M - F
Wayne	Easterling, Gary	American Legion 477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231 Detroit, MI 48226	M - F
Wayne	Jaafar, Kathy	American Legion 477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231 Detroit, MI 48226	M - F
Wayne	LaBeau, Erna	American Legion 477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231 Detroit, MI 48226	M - F
Wayne	Litzenberg, Benjamin	American Legion 477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231 Detroit, MI 48226	M - F
Wayne	Misenko, Devon	American Legion 477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231 Detroit, MI 48226	M - F
Wayne	Schantz, Matthew	American Legion 477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231 Detroit, MI 48226	M - F
Wayne	Stewart, Deborah	American Legion 477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231 Detroit, MI 48226	M - F
Wayne	Misenko, Lisa	Downriver Community Conference Building 15100 Northline Road Southgate, MI 48195	T, W, Th
Wayne	Misenko, Lisa	Radcliff Center, 1751 Radcliff St, Garden City, MI 48135	M, F
Wexford	Babcock, Phillip	Michigan Works Bldg 401 North Lake St., Suite 700 Cadillac, MI 49601	M

VA Medical Centers

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System

2215 Fuller Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 769-7100

Battle Creek VA Medical Center

5500 Armstrong Rd.
Battle Creek, MI 49015
(616) 966-5600

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center

4646 John R Street
Detroit, MI 48201
(313)576-1000

Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center

325 East "H" Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(906) 774-3300

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center

1500 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 497-2500

VA National Cemeteries in Michigan

Fort Custer National Cemetery

15501 Dickman Rd.
Augusta, MI 49012
Phone: 269-731-4164
FAX: 269-731-2428

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly, MI 48442
Phone: 866-348-8603

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

Community Based Outpatient Clinics

Alpena

180 N. State Ave.
Alpena, MI 49707
(989) 356-8720

Bad Axe

1142 S. Van Dyke Rd.
Bad Axe, MI 48413
(989) 269-7445

Benton Harbor

115 E. Main St.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 934-9123

Cadillac

1909 North Mitchell St.
Cadillac, MI 49601
(231) 775-4401

Clare

11775 N. Isabella Rd.
Clare, MI 48617
(989) 386-8113

Flint

G-2360 South Linden Rd.
Flint, MI 48532
(810) 720-2913

Gaylord

806 South Otsego
Gaylord, MI 49735
(989) 732-7525

Grand Rapids/Wyoming

5838 Metro Way
Wyoming, MI 49519
(616) 249-5300

Hancock

787 Market St.
Hancock, MI 49930
(906) 482-7762

Ironwood

629 W. Cloverland Dr., Suite 1
Ironwood, MI 49938
(906) 932-0032

Jackson

4328 Page Ave.
Jackson, MI 49254
(517) 764-3609

Lansing

2025 S. Washington Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910
(517) 267-3925

Mackinaw City

14540 Mackinaw Hwy.
Mackinaw City, MI 49701
(989) 321-4530

Manistique

813 East Lakeshore Dr.
Manistique, MI 49854
(906) 341-3420

Marquette

1414 W. Fair Ave., Suite 285
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 226-4618

Menominee

1101 11th Avenue, Suite 2
Menominee, MI 49858
(906) 863-1286

Muskegon

5000 Hakes Dr.
Muskegon, MI 49441
(231) 798-4445

Oscoda

5671 Skeel Avenue, Suite 4
Oscoda, MI 48750
(989) 747-0026

Pontiac

44200 Woodward Ave.
Pontiac, MI 48340
(248) 409-0585

Sault Ste. Marie

16523 S. Watertower Dr.
Kincheloe, MI 49788
(906) 495-3030

Traverse City

3271 Racquet Club
Traverse City, MI 49684
(231) 932-9720

Yale

7470 Brockway Road
Yale, MI 48097
(810) 387-3211

VA National Cemeteries in Michigan

Cemetery	Address	Contact	<u>Burial Space</u>
<u>Fort Custer National Cemetery</u>	15501 Dickman Rd. Augusta, MI 49012	Phone: 269-731-4164 FAX: 269-731-2428	Open
<u>Great Lakes National Cemetery</u>	4200 Belford Road Holly, MI 48442	Phone: 866-348-8603	Open

Visit the VA Cemetery Administration at their website

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

Patriot Fund

The Patriot Fund was created to provide Emergency Temporary Financial Assistance to Veterans, Active Duty Service Members and their families in time of need. This fund will be available to Michigan veterans of all eras, and is specifically intended to help veterans who do not qualify for other existing Financial Relief programs. This fund has proven to be vital in providing life impacting relief for Michigan Veterans and their families! The Patriot fund is one of the few, if not the only fund available to non-wartime veterans in our state.

The Patriot Fund has prevented hundreds of evictions, utility shut offs, medical and transportation assistance to our Michigan Veterans. It has also provided our VA HUD-VASH Coordinators at our VA Medical Centers a way to facilitate the security deposit and first month's rent when placing homeless veterans into permanent sustainable housing. This allows for immediate assistance while waiting for their VA HUD-VASH Voucher to kick in. The Patriot fund was there when a Korean War Veteran, drafted and sent to Korea just outside of the recognized VA Eligibility dates, needed a new furnace in the middle of one of our coldest winters. The Patriot fund has been there supporting Michigan National Guard families who have not yet been deployed and who do not have dependent children in the home.

Over the life of the Patriot Fund, the Reconnect Committee and the American Legion Dept. of Michigan have helped well over a thousand veterans and their families in the form of \$500.00 to \$750.00 Life changing grants! This year alone, the Patriot Fund has accounted for more than 70% of the Emergency Temporary Financial Assistance grants processed by the Reconnect Committee and as such is almost depleted. We need the help of our entire Legion Family more than ever to rebuild this vital one of a kind Veteran Assistance Fund here in Michigan. The American Legion has earned the reputation as the "Go To" veterans organization here in Michigan and receives requests and referrals directly from the National Guard, the VA's Veteran Assistance / HUD-VASH Coordinators, the American Red Cross, the Low Income County Housing Assistance Offices and even national organizations such as Operation Homefront.

The application procedure and administration of this fund is similar to the current Department Emergency Financial Assistance program. It will be managed under the supervision of the Reconnect Committee with Department oversight and approval.

An initial donation of \$10,000.00 was collected in cooperation with ACO Hardware the week of May 18th through May 25th 2009. With your help, we are hoping to turn this into a self-sustaining endowment fund, and as such we are hoping that each Legion,

Auxiliary and SAL member will consider donating at least \$1.00 this year to help us accomplish this. With all of the economic uncertainty here in Michigan the need for this fund has become vitally important and with the impending draw down in Afghanistan, the need will only grow.

All contributions should be sent to Department Headquarters attention: Finance.
Please make checks payable to: The American Legion Department of Michigan
Memo Line: The Patriot Fund

Please put the word out to your Post, District and Zone officers and members about this fund. We will also be putting ads in the upcoming Legionnaire editions as well as on the Department Webpage.

Thank you for your support and for your interest in this fund.

Gary Tanner
Department Reconnect Chairman

**GUIDELINES TO THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF
MICHIGAN VA&R TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

These funds will be distributed by the VA&R Division of the Department with final approval of the State Adjutant.

MUST BE A WAR TIME VETERAN TO RECEIVE THIS FUNDING.

The amount of each Temporary Financial Assistance will be in the amount of **\$225.00**

This fund is to be used for SHORT TERM problems only.

Such as needing Food, Clothing, Gas, (NO CAR PAYMENTS – PHONE BILLS – CABLE – DISH T.V. NOR ANY OTHER UNNECESSARY NEEDS OR RENT PAYMENTS AND UTILITY SHUT OFFS UNLESS THE APPLICANT HAS OTHER AGENCIES ASSISTING AS \$225.00 USUALLY, WON'T COVER SHUT – OFFS OR RENT).

Applicants need to have seen other sources for assistance and have been turned down for some reasons prior to seeking our assistance.

All applicants will have to see one of our DVSO to be interviewed and to complete the application. Once this is completed the DVSO will approve/disapprove the request and fax everything to the Lansing Headquarters office for the State Adjutant for his approval/disapproval, then a check will be sent to the applicant.

All documents need to be submitted or the application will not be considered.

Please note that these funds are for a **SHORT TERM** issue! If you think this will happen again then this application should not be used.

Documents Needed:

DD-214 - Marriage License - Birth Certificates (All Children)

Document Revised 6-5-2012

VA&R Division Detroit



**AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY AID FUND
APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE**

Must be Completed by Department DVSO

YOU MUST BE A WAR TIME VETERANS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE

Date _____

This fund is to be used for **SHORT TERM** problems only

Veteran's Name: _____ Social Security _____

Address _____ Service # _____

City _____ State _____ Date of Entry _____ - _____

Phone _____ Date of Discharge _____ - _____

Occupation _____ Branch of Service _____

Disability _____ Type of Discharge - _____

Are you In Receipt of VA Benefits? _____ Are You a War Time Veteran? _____

Date of Birth _____

Spouse's Name _____ Childs Name _____ Age _____

Does Spouse Live With You? _____ Childs Name _____ Age _____

Occupation _____ Childs Name _____ Age _____

Is She Currently Employed? _____

Is She A Veteran? _____ Do All Children Live with You? _____

Is She Receiving VA Benefits? _____ Disability _____

Have You Sought Other Assistance? _____

Where ? _____

Documents Needed:

DD-214 - Marriage License - Birth Certificates (All Children)



**AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY AID FUND
APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE**

Reason For Emergency Aid Fund Assistance?

Amount Requested: Amount Approved: Up To and Cannot Exceed \$225.00
\$ _____ \$ _____

Signature of Person to Whom Check is Payable:

Signature of Department Service Officer

Signature of Department Adjutant

Date _____

Date _____

THE AMERICAN LEGION
AMERICANISM AND CHILDREN & YOUTH

TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Helping children since 1925

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for Temporary Financial Assistance is *limited to minor children of veterans*. The parent must have served at least one day of active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during one of the following periods:

- December 7, 1941- December 31, 1946
- June 25, 1950- January 31, 1955
- February 28, 1961- May 7, 1975
- August 24, 1982- July 31, 1984
- December 20, 1990- January 31, 1990
- August 2, 1990- Cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. Government.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION IS NOT REQUIRED.

Minor children include and unmarried child, stepchild, and adopted child 17 years or younger. Children 18-20 years old will be considered if a current disability requires special schooling or indefinite in-home care, or they are enrolled in an approved high school.

No child is considered eligible for TFA until a complete investigation is conducted, a legitimate family need is determined, and all other available resources have been utilized or exhausted.

TFA applications must originate and be investigated at the local level. When all other p[ossible resources have been exhausted, contact your local American Legion Post, Department Headquarters, and/or Department Children & Youth Chairmen.

Since 1919, The American Legion has remained committed to the health and welfare of our nation's veterans and families. Born out of this desire to serve, the National Commission on Children & Youth established a form of direct aid to a veteran's children in 1925- Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA). This landmark program continues to be unique in the field of social work today.

How TFA Helps Children

TFA is specifically designed to assist minor children of eligible veterans through cash grants. In order to maintain a stable home environment for the child or children, grants are awarded to help families meet the costs of shelter, utilities, food, and medical expenses.

Maintenance Grants

Maintenance grants may be used to assist with the basic need expenses such as:

- Shelter
- Food
- Utilities
- Clothing

Maintenance grants cannot be awarded for previously incurred debt, except to:

1. Prevent disconnection of utilities
2. Prevent eviction or foreclosure

Medical Grants

Medical grants for a child may be used to assist with healthcare expenses such as:

- Medical Care
- Surgery
- Medications
- Dental Care
- Hospitalization
- Dietary Needs

Medical grants require a written statement from a physician outlining the problem, treatment, and estimated costs. This type of grant must be approved before services are rendered. Medical grants cannot be awarded for previous medical expenses or care.

Application Process

All TFA applications originate at the local or Post level. A local investigator personally visits with the family to determine the needs of the children. A completed application, with supporting documents and proof of military service, is forwarded to the Department Children & Youth Chairman or Department Adjutant. The designated Department representative reviews each case, makes a recommendation, and forwards the approved application to the National Headquarters.

The Americanism and Children & Youth Division reviews all approved cases, and forwards a recommendation to the National Adjutant. Upon approval by the National Adjutant, a check is drawn and forwarded to the Department Adjutant for delivery to the Post or family. In most cases, checks will be two-party checks payable to the veteran and creditor.

Temporary Financial Assistance is a program of:

The American Legion

National Commission on Children & Youth

P.O. Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206

(313)623-1323

The American Legion Endowment Fund

Funds for the operation of the TFA program are provided from a share of earnings of The American Legion Endowment Fund.

In 1925, World War I had been over for six years, but for veterans and their widows and children, the years had been a continuing struggle to adjust to the war's aftermath. The members of The American Legion, aware of the grave responsibility entrusted to them by those who had served, knew the time had come to take action.

More than 900,000 Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members, and other American citizens joined the campaign, raising nearly \$5 million and establishing The American Legion Endowment Fund.

Since those early days, over \$29 million has been distributed to disabled veterans and children of those who served our great nation and made the ultimate sacrifice.

To help us continue this proud tradition of service with a tax-deductible contribution, or to request more information about The American Legion Endowment Fund, contact:

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation
c/o The American Legion National Headquarters
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

www.legion.org

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS VERY CAREFULLY

NOT FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS COULD DELAY PROCESSING

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER GRANTS: Grants from this fund provide emergency assistance to The American Legion or Sons of The American Legion *current* members in areas devastated by a declared natural disaster, to include floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and related adverse weather events. You must have been displaced or evacuated from primary residence and had out-of-pocket expenses to provide for food, clothing and shelter. *These funds are not designed for insurance compensation or to cover monetary losses from a business, structures on your property (barns, tool sheds), equipment or vehicles.* Individual members may apply for assistance. Only one grant per household (up to \$1,500.00) will be approved.

POST GRANTS: Same criteria apply. Post Grants (up to \$5,000.00) must derive from a declared natural disaster. Substantiating information must provide that The American Legion Post will cease to perform the duties and activities in the community due to losses sustained. A written report from a Post, District or Department officer outlining losses and the impact on community should be provided with the Grant Application. The NEF is not a replacement for insurance. It is the responsibility of each Post to have necessary insurance to sustain operations in the event of damage.

REQUIRED APPLICATION INFORMATION: Department and National Headquarters must have sufficient, documented information to justify the need. The application must be filled out **completely and accurately**. If needed, attach additional sheet(s) for supporting data (photos, receipts for temporary lodging and food, work estimates, etc.). NOTE: Grant requests must be submitted through the proper channels and reach National Headquarters within 90 days of the date of the disaster.

DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES: Applicant will forward original and all supporting documentation to Department Headquarters for processing. Keep a copy of all everything for your records. All grant requests must be reviewed and signed by the Department Commander or Department Adjutant before being sent to National Headquarters. **Make sure you have included ALL proper documentation and photos of hardship to help justify the grant request.**

RECOMMENDATION/SIGNATURE OF NEF GRANT APPLICATION: After reviewed by Department, if additional information is needed, the Department will either call or return the application to the individual member or local Post for resubmission. If the application is properly completed, a recommendation will be made and signed by either the Department Commander or Adjutant with the recommended amount, then forwarded to the National Emergency Fund Coordinator for action. When approved by the National Adjutant, a check will be issued and forwarded to Department Headquarters for issuance to the applicant.

If any of the above criteria has not been met, the application will be rejected and returned to Department Headquarters for amendment or further clarification. If the application is disapproved, it will be returned to Department Headquarters who will notify the applicant.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE COMPLETION OF THIS APPLICATION,
CONTACT YOUR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS FOR HELP.**



**The American Legion
National Emergency Fund
Application For (Check Only One):**

- Individual Member Grant (Circle One) Legion SAL
- Post Grant -- Must be Completed by Authorized Post Officer

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS ON COVER PAGE PRIOR TO COMPLETING FORM

DATE OF DISASTER: _____ **TYPE OF DISASTER:** _____
(MUST Be Within Past 90 Days) *(Must Be Declared Natural County, State Or Federal Disaster)*

LOCATION OF DISASTER: _____
CITY COUNTY STATE

Name _____ American Legion Membership ID # _____
(Last) (First) (MI) *(Must Be Current At Date Of Disaster And Application)*

Post # _____ Dept. _____ Post Office Held _____
(For Post Grants Only)

How Long Were You Evacuated / Displaced? _____
(Note: Must Have Been Evacuated Or Displaced To Apply For Funds. See Instructions.)

Damaged / Evacuated Address _____
Physical Address (Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Current / Temp. Address: _____

Current Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____ email Address _____

Damages / Description Of Loss *(Include Supporting Documentation: i.e., Photographs, Repair Estimates, Written Statements, etc.):*

List Out-Of-Pocket Expenses Due To Evacuation / Displacement (Must Only Cover Food, Clothing, Shelter, Gas, etc. See Instructions):

Repair / Replacement Estimate: \$ _____ Other Sources Of Reimbursement: _____
(Insurance, Donations, State/Federal Aid, Other Disaster Funds)
Amount: \$ _____

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

FOR DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS USE:

DEPARTMENT: Approve or Disapprove Recommended Amount: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NEF ADMINISTRATOR: Approve or Disapprove Recommended Amount: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NATIONAL ADJUTANT: Approve or Disapprove Amount: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Comments: _____

Admission Procedures for Michigan Veterans Homes

How to apply:

To apply for admission to either of Michigan's veterans' homes, submit your completed application to the home of your choice, and at a minimum the following documentation (**prior to admission**):

- Military discharge document or a copy of the DD-214 form;
- Copies of Medicare and/or any health insurance coverage cards;
- A recent (within 90 days) history & physical for the applicant, including a copy of recent physical exam, hospitalization, current medication list, a psychosocial evaluation and progress notes.
- A copy of a chest x-ray report taken within the previous 30 days;
- If married (and filed taxes), a copy of up to the past 3 years of federal income tax forms;
- Verification of income and assets, including copies of current bank account statements (Checking & Savings), copies of Social Security benefit award letter, any pension benefit award letters or checks, current annuity, stock and/or bond statements, Life insurance, etc.
- Copies of Irrevocable Trust (if applicable)
- Copies of guardianship, power of attorney, conservatorship, or patient advocate forms that exist. Note: While not mandatory, we encourage you to look over and consider submitting the enclosed Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care form.

What you can expect:

After the application is received, the Admissions team will review it for completeness, eligibility and level of care needed and notify the applicant (or other contact) by phone of his or her admission status. At that time, the applicant will be either approved or denied. If approved then you will be offered an admission date or placed on a waiting list.

You may request a copy of the application from the admissions office of the applicant's desired home.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Admissions
3000 Monroe Ave. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505-3397
844-711-7986 or 616-364-5389
Fax: 616-364-5373

D.J Jacobetti Home for Veterans Admissions
425 Fisher St.
Marquette, MI 49855
800-433-6760 or 906-226-3576, ext. 311
Fax: 906-226-2380

Financial questions may be directed to the Benefits Coordinator:

Grand Rapids Home - John Lockett 616-364-5382, or lockettj@michigan.gov
D.J. Jacobetti Home - Sean Depuydt 906-226-3576 ext 350 or depuydts@michigan.gov

Introduction

To provide special recognition for the service of military veterans of WWII, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam era, Public Act 181 of 2001, as amended, authorizes the board of a Michigan school district to award high school diplomas to WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans. The State of Michigan recognizes the important contribution and sacrifice these generations of men and women made in our nation's defense. On behalf of the State of Michigan, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs encourages school districts to present these diplomas to WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans or their families.

Procedure

The veteran must meet all the following requirements:

1. before graduation from high school, the veteran enlisted in or was drafted into the armed forces of the United States between December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 (WWII); between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955 (Korean conflict); or between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1965 (Vietnam era).
2. at the time of enlistment or draft, the veteran was enrolled in a high school of the district to which this application is made.
3. the veteran did not subsequently graduate from high school.
4. the veteran served under honorable conditions during WWII, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam era.

The application form may be completed by the veteran or on his behalf by a spouse, brother or sister, child or grandchild.

The application requires a copy of the veteran's discharge from military service indicating honorable service between the dates of December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 (WWII); between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955 (Korean conflict); or between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. The applicant's signature certifies the remaining information.

The school district may verify the dates of the veteran's school enrollment from their own records.

Replacement of a Discharge from Military Service

A veteran or next of kin may request a copy of the veteran's discharge from military service from the National Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. The National Records Center recommends submitting an electronic request at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>. A written request may be submitted using Standard Form 180 "Request Pertaining to Military Records." You may print the form at <http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf>.

Requests require the signature of the veteran or next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. Please include the veteran's full name, date of birth, branch of military service, service number and approximate dates of military service.

A veteran who received Michigan's WWII bonus (Public Act 12 of 1947, MCL 35.921), Korean bonus (Public Act 8 of 1955, MCL 35.972) or Vietnam bonus (Public Act 370 of 1974, MCL 35.1021-.1038) may request by letter a copy of the discharge from military service from the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, P.O. Box 30104, Lansing, MI 48909. Please note, delayed applications for the WWII, Korean and/or Vietnam bonuses cannot be accepted. Requests require the signature of the veteran or next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. The next of kin must include a copy of the veteran's death certificate. Please include the veteran's full name, date of birth, branch of military service, service number and approximate dates of military service.

Authority & Additional Information

Public Act 181 of 2001, as amended, authorizes individual school boards to award these diplomas. You may review Public Act 181 of 2001 on the internet at <http://www.legislature.mi.gov> by clicking Public Acts in the left hand margin.

Application for High School Diploma for Michigan WWII, Korean and Vietnam Era Veterans Public Act 181 of 2001 as amended

This application is used to establish the eligibility of an honorably discharged WWII, Korean or Vietnam era veteran for receipt of a high school diploma from the State of Michigan. Veteran must have attended high school in Michigan and must have served in the military between December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 (WWII); June 23, 1950 and January 31, 1955 (Korean conflict); or February 29, 1961 and May 7, 1975 (Vietnam era).

Return the completed application to the veteran's school district for processing.

VETERAN'S OR APPLICANT'S NAME AND PERSONAL INFORMATION: (Please print legibly.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	1. First Name _____	2. Middle Initial _____	3. Last Name _____	
4. Mailing Address _____		5. City _____		6. State _____
7. Zip _____		8. Relationship to Veteran		
<input type="checkbox"/> Self <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Brother <input type="checkbox"/> Sister <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild		9. Daytime Phone (Please include area code.) (_____) _____ - _____ Email Address: _____		

VETERAN'S MILITARY SERVICE INFORMATION: (Please attach copy of discharge/separation.)

10. Name as Shown on Discharge/Separation		
_____	_____	_____
First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
11. Branch of Service _____		12. Service Number _____
13. Date of Birth		14. <input type="checkbox"/> Living <input type="checkbox"/> Date of Death
_____/_____/_____		_____/_____/_____
Day Month Year		Day Month Year
15. Periods of WWII, Korean or Vietnam Active Duty Military Service:		Dated Entered Date Separated
_____		_____/_____/_____
Month Day Year		Month Day Year

VETERAN'S DIPLOMA INFORMATION AND CERTIFICATION

16. Name of High School Attended in Michigan _____	17. City in Which High School Was Located _____	18. Years Attended
		19____ - 19____
19. Name for Diploma		
_____	_____	_____
First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
20. I certify that I (or my _____) left high school before graduating for service in the military during World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam era. I also certify that the information provided on this application and the supporting documentation is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. (NOTE: Return the completed application to veteran's school district.)		
Signature _____		Date _____

Family Assistance Centers

Family Assistance Centers Coordinator: **BELINDA IRELAND**

3423 N. Martin Luther King JR. Blvd, Building 31, Lansing, MI 48906

Office: (517) 481-9889 Fax: (517) 481-9886 Cell: (517) 974-8844

belinda.r.ireland.ctr@mail.mil

Point of Contact	Contact Information	Counties
REGION 1 Eve Giraud-Prosser eve.a.giraud-prosser.ctr@mail.mil	Ishpeming Armory 900 Palms Avenue Ishpeming, MI 49849 Office: (906) 485-2548 Fax: (906) 486-4946 Cell: (906) 203-7676	Baraga, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon
REGION 2 Jerry McDonald gerald.l.mcdonald.ctr@mail.mil	Sault Ste Marie Armory 1170 E. Portage Road Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783 Office: (906) 632-7861 Fax: (906) 632-4753 Cell: (906) 203-7680	Alger, Cheboygan , Chippewa, Emmet, Luce, Mackinac, Presque Isle, Schoolcraft
REGION 3 Beth Amy bethann.m.amy.ctr@mail.mil	Camp Grayling Building #3 Grayling, MI 49739 Office: (989) 344-6144 Fax: (989) 344-6421 Cell: (989) 745-1439	Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Roscommon
REGION 4 Katie Baxter katie.n.baxter.ctr@mail.mil	Big Rapids Armory 15900 190 th Avenue Big rapids, MI 49307 Office: (231) 796-6823x4 Fax: (231) 796-4102 Cell: 517-898-4144	Clare, Isabella, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Wexford
REGION 5 Melissa Halm melissa.s.halm.ctr@mail.mil	Bay City Armory 2510 Wilder Road Bay City, MI 48706 Office: (517) 481-7323 Fax: (517) 481-7324 Cell: (989) 573-3425	Arenac, Bay, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Lapeer, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, St. Clair, Tuscola
REGION 6 Amy Gould amy.s.gould.ctr@mail.mil	Grand Valley Armory 1200 44 th Street SW Wyoming, MI 49509 Office: (616) 249-2741 Fax: (616) 249-2671 Cell: (616) 485-8966	Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Ottawa, Van Buren
REGION 7 Darnell Holmes darnell.l.holmes3.ctr@mail.mil	Grand Ledge Armory 10600 Eaton Highway Grand Ledge, MI 48837 Office: (517) 481-8850 Fax: (517) 481-8822 Cell: (517) 395-0840	Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Ionia, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph
REGION 8 Dawn Lamb dawn.m.lamb2.ctr@mail.mil	Jackson Armory 4850 Cooper Road Jackson, MI 49201 Office: (517) 990-1186 Fax: (517) 990-1108 Cell: (517) 395-0839	Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Shiawassee, Washtenaw
REGION 9 Laura Chirio laura.e.chirio.ctr@mail.mil	Taylor Armory 12450 Beech Daly Road Taylor, MI 48180 Office: (734) 946-2553 Fax: (734) 946-2540 Cell: 734-558-0217	Macomb, Oakland, Wayne

Airman and Family Readiness Program (FRP) Managers

Airman and FRP Managers	Contact information
Robin Rogers 110th Fighter Wing robin.rogers@ang.af.mil	17 Phantom Street Building 6930 Battle Creek, MI 49037 Office: (269) 969-3493 Fax: (269) 969-3556
Paulus Obey 127th Family Support Center paulus.obey@ang.af.mil	29868 George Ave Bldg 168 Selfridge ANGB, MI 48045 Office: (586) 239-5583 Fax: (586) 239-5786
MSGT Amy Luxton Alpena CRTC amy.luxton@ang.af.mil	5884 A Street Alpena, MI 49707 Office: (989) 354-6541 Fax: (989) 354-6298
Tiffany Maddux ANG Yellow Ribbon Coordinator tiffany.e.maddux.ctr@us.af.mil	Office: (517) 817-8292

ID Card/DEERS/TRICARE/Retired Services

Point of Contact	Contact information
SSG Rex Waterbury NCOIC rex.a.waterbury.mil@mail.mil	Office: (517) 481-9872
SGT Gabriel Bates gabriel.j.bates.mil@mail.mil	Office: (517) 481-9879
SGT David Saunders RPAM NCO david.j.saunders.mil@mail.mil	Office: (517) 481-9867

Family Readiness Support Assistants

Senior Family Readiness Support Assistant: MELISSA FRICKE

3423 N. Martin Luther King JR. Blvd, Building 31, Lansing, MI 48906

Office: (517) 481-9892 Fax: (517) 481-9886 Cell: (517) 599-5372

melissa.a.fricke.ctr@mail.mil

Point of Contact	Contact Information	Command/Units
Brandy Johnson-Yordy	Fort Custer Office: Fax: Cell: (517) 599-6002	DET 15 OSA, 51 CST, FCTC, MTC, MIARNG MEDCOM, 1146 JAG DET, 46 MP CMD, 126 PCH, 177 RTI
Amy Jannausch amy.l.jannausch.ctr@mail.mil	Jackson Armory 4850 Cooper Road Jackson, MI 49201 Office: (517) 990-1122 Fax: (517) 990-1108 Cell: (517) 599-7477	272 Regional Support Command, 1225 CSSB (1071 Maintenance Company, 1072, 1073, 464 QM), 246 Transportation BTN (1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, DET 1-1461, DET 1- 1463), 146 Med BN (MMB), 1171 Med Co (ASMB), 3-238 GSAB (all AVN and DET Companies)
Michael Petrie michael.j.petrie4.ctr@mail.mil	Grand Valley Armory 1200 44 th Street SW Wyoming, MI 49509 Office: (616) 249-2662 Fax: (616) 249-2675 Cell: (517) 599-5474	63 Troop BDE, Co B BSTS 37 BCT, Co C BSTS 86 BCT, Co F 425 INF 1-126 Squadron (Troops A,B,C,D 237 BSB), 1-119, FA (BTRY A, B, C, FSC)5632305
Jenna Kirkton jenna.l.kirkton.ctr@mail.mil	Taylor Armory 12450 Beech Daly Road Taylor, MI 48180 Office: (734) 946-2510 Fax: (734) 946-2512 Cell: (517) 599-5690	177 MP BDE, 777 MP DET, 210 MP BTN (1775 MP Co, 1776 MP Co, 144 MP Co. 631 Troop CMD (DET 2, HHC BSTB 86 IBCT, 460 CHEM, 126 Army Band, 156 SIG Co, 1208 Linguist PLT), 507 ENG BN (1433, 1434, 1436, 1440, 1439, 1442 ENG Co, DET 1 1434, 745 EOD, 126 SIG)
Denise Gardner denise.m.gardner12.ctr@mail.mil	Bay City Armory 2510 Wilder Road Bay City, MI 48706 Office: (517) 481-7320 Fax: (517) 481-7324 Cell: (517) 599-6456	63 Troop BDE, 1-125 INF BN (CO A, B, B (-), C, D, F237 BSN) 1-182 FA (BTRY A, B, C, FSC)
Stephanie Barsaw	Ishpeming Armory 900 Palms Avenue Ishpeming, MI 49849 Office: (906) 485-2524 Fax: (906) 486-4946 Cell: (517) 599-7022	107 ENG BTN) 1430, 1431, 1432, 1437, 1430 DET 1, 1431 DET 1, 1432 DET 1, 1430)

Family Programs

FAMILY PROGRAMS OFFICE

JFHQ-Family Programs Office
 3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Bldg 31 Lansing, MI 48906
 Phone: (517) 481-9893 Fax: (517) 481-9886

Point of Contact	Contact Information	Position
CW3 Jessica Ulrey	jessica.s.ulrey.mil@mail.mil Office: (517) 481-9897 Cell: (517) 955-7892	State Family Programs Director
CSM Delbert Husband	delbert.p.husband.mil@mail.mil Office: (517) 481-9897 Cell: (517) 391-8484	State Family Programs Deputy
SGT Jaime Day	jaime.n.day.mil@mail.mil Office: (517) 481-9891 Cell: (517) 899-6313	Family Programs Specialist
SGT Michael Nick	michael.g.nick.mil@mail.mil Office: (517) 481-9874	Family Program Assistant
CPT Nicholas Anderson	nicholas.anderson36.mil@mail.mil Office: (517) 481-9898 Cell: (517) 977-5925	Buddy To Buddy OIC
CW2 Ronald Hatchew	ronald.b.hatchew.mil@mail.mil Office: (517) 481-9877 Cell: (517) 993-7782	Yellow Ribbon Coordinator
Angela Spina	angela.s.spina.ctr@mail.mil Office: (517) 481-9894 Cell: (517) 977-8312	Lead State Child and Youth Coordinator
Traci Osterman-Pierce	traci.m.osterman.ctr@mail.mil Office: (517) 481-9890 Cell: (517) 582-9280	State Child and Youth Coordinator
Raymond Ladd	raymond.d.ladd.ctr@mail.mil Jackson Armory Office: (517) 990-1111 Lansing Office: (517) 418-9895	Transition Assistance Advisor
Tom Foster	thomas.w.foster.ctr@mail.mil Office: (517) 418-9887 Cell: (989) 372-1126	Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Coordinator
Wendy Day	wendy.j.day2.ctr@mail.mil Cell: (517) 672-0918	Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Coordinator
Michael Wilson	michael.d.wilson110.ctr@mail.mil Cell: (269) 689-5711	Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Coordinator

Please Mail To:
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
State Operations
Reserve Forces Service Center
3423 North Martin Luther King Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48906
Attn: Military Family Relief Fund

MICHIGAN MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND APPLICATION

MILITARY MEMBER'S INFORMATION –attach a copy of deployment orders

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell/Work Phone: _____

Branch: _____ Rank: _____ SSN: _____

Home Station Unit of Assignment: _____

Is member married? _____ If not, does member have dependents/family in DEERS? _____

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION (IF OTHER THAN MILITARY MEMBER)

Name: _____ SSN: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell/Work Phone: _____

Relationship to military member: _____

MILITARY UNIT POINT OF CONTACT FOR VERIFICATION

Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

EXPENSE	AMOUNT	DESCRIBE AND ATTACH COPIES OF BILLS, INVOICES, ESTIMATES RECEIPTS
Food/clothing:	\$ _____	_____
Rent/mortgage:	\$ _____	_____
Utilities:	\$ _____	_____
Medical services/prescriptions:	\$ _____	_____
Insurance:	\$ _____	_____
Vehicle payments:	\$ _____	_____
Vehicle repairs:	\$ _____	_____
Day Care Expenses:	\$ _____	_____
Home Repairs:	\$ _____	_____
Other:	\$ _____	_____

LIST ITEMS YOUR REQUESTING ASSISTANCE WITH:

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$ _____

Please Complete the Following:

- Military member's monthly civilian salary (attach copy of pay stub): \$ _____
- Military member's monthly military salary (attach copy of pay stub): \$ _____

NEED BASED GRANT -- UP TO \$2,000

The Adjutant General may waive the requirements in emergency cases, when accompanied by a written request indicating the circumstances justifying such a waiver.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

I certify the above information to be true and correct. I authorize verification/release of the information I am providing on this application. I authorize the State of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Military & Veterans Affairs access to my pertinent records, including information maintained in DEERS, as necessary to evaluate my application. Disclosure of information on this form, including social security numbers, is voluntary. Failure to provide the requested information, however, will prohibit the processing of this grant application. In accordance with applicable laws, the State of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Military & Veterans Affairs will maintain confidentiality regarding the application and any grant given or denied, except as required to process this or subsequent applications, or as otherwise required by law.

<p>Authority: 2004 PA 363 & 364 Compliance: Voluntary, but a grant will not be approved unless complete form is submitted.</p>

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson announces May 1 debut of new driver's licenses for veterans

New licenses will carry special "Veteran" designation for honorably discharged vets

For 40 years, Dick Rossell didn't really talk about his military service during Vietnam. "When I came home, I got thrown out of a frat party and spit on. A lot of us had mixed feelings ... I never did talk about it much, but it was always important to me."

Years passed. Attitudes changed. And when the new driver's licenses for veterans is offered in May, U.S. Army veteran Rossell, 66, of Holly, will get one for the very same reason his battered old Jeep outside proudly carries a veteran's license plate.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson says her department's new driver's licenses for veterans, marked with the word VETERAN in bold red on the front, will help those who served their country get the benefits and discounts they have earned and deserve.

"We are indebted to these courageous men and women," said Johnson. "I hope every store clerk, every bank teller who sees these licenses will take a moment to thank that veteran for their service and sacrifice."

Michigan Veterans Affairs Director Jeff Barnes also supports the new veteran's designation.

"This is one more way Michigan can honor our state's veterans and make their day-to-day lives a little easier," Barnes said. "I look forward to being able to display the veterans' designation on my license after May 1."

Veterans can sign up for the new driver's licenses and state ID cards at their local Secretary of State branch. If they are renewing their license, they'll only have to pay the normal renewal fee. If it isn't time for them to renew, they can order a duplicate driver's license or state ID for \$9.

Bob VanFleet, commander of American Legion Post 24 in Waterford and a Vietnam-era veteran, says he's getting one of the new licenses. Plenty of his fellow Legion members, from World War II vets to Gulf War vets, are interested too.

VanFleet, who served in the U.S. Air Force and the National Guard, says the reason is simple: "I think all veterans should stand up and be proud."

When asked if he's going to get the new driver's license, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Steve Striggow of Holly, a member of American Legion Post 149, said "You bet I will! I'm a veteran and I'm damn proud of it."

1. What is the veteran designation?

The veteran designation gives veterans an easy way to prove their veteran status to receive discounts from businesses.

It also allows the Secretary of State's Office to partner with the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency, and veteran service organizations to provide referral information so veterans better know what resources and services are available to them.

The word "Veteran" will be printed in red on the front of the card.

2. Who is eligible to have a veteran designation on their license or ID card?

Military veterans who served in any branch of the U.S. armed forces and have an honorable or under honorable conditions (general) discharge may have a veteran designation printed on their Michigan driver's license or state identification card.

Qualifying services include the U.S. Air Force, Air Force National Guard, Army, Army National Guard, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy, as well as their Reserve components.

Individuals who actively serve in the National Guard or Reserves at the time of application may qualify for the designation if they have a DD214 with an honorable or under honorable conditions discharge.

3. What documentation is required to obtain the veteran designation?

Veterans must provide acceptable documentation to receive the designation. Any submitted form must indicate the character of discharge. Acceptable forms include:

- DD214 (or correction DD215), Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, any copy except Copy 1
- Form NGB FM 22 or 23, Report of Separation and Record of Service, which must indicate honorable or general discharge
- Forms WD AGO, such as WD AGO 53-55, Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge
- GSA 6954, Certificate of Military Service
- NAVPERS 553, Extract of Notice of Separation from U.S. Naval Service

Secretary of State offices will accept other documents issued prior to 1950 if they indicate an honorable or general discharge. Photocopies of official documents are acceptable. Veteran documentation will not be retained by the Secretary of State and will be destroyed if provided by mail.

Documentation needs to be presented only upon the initial request for a driver's license or ID card with the designation. Subsequent licenses and ID cards will have the designation unless you request that it be removed.

4. How can I obtain a copy of my DD214?

For copies of your military discharge papers, write to:

National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138

Or you can [request a copy from the National Archives online](#), or from Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency [online](#) or by phone at 1-800-MICHVET.

5. Is there a cost for obtaining the veteran designation?

If you are renewing your license or ID card, or applying for one for your first Michigan driver's license or ID, you will pay only the normal driver's license or ID card fee.

Otherwise, the standard fee for a duplicate or corrected license or ID card will apply.

6. How do I add the veteran designation to my driver's license or ID card?

The designation may be added by visiting any Secretary of State office and providing the required documentation.

If the designation is added when you apply for your first Michigan driver's license or ID card, or at the time you're renewing, you will only pay the normal renewal fee. Otherwise, the standard fee for a corrected license or ID card will apply.

If you are renewing your license or ID card by mail, you must include the required documentation and the completed veteran designation application along with your renewal form so the designation is included on your new card. Please note the documentation submitted will not be returned to you. Copies are accepted.

If you want to add the veteran designation outside of your renewal period and do not want to visit a Secretary of State office, send in the completed Veteran Designation Application form, the required documentation and the applicable fee.

Current renewal and correction fees for standard licenses and state IDs are listed at http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1627_14648-75447--,00.html, and for enhanced licenses and state IDs at http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1627_8669_9040-213056--,00.html.

Mail your completed application, veteran documentation and applicable fee to:
Michigan Department of State
Renewal By Mail Unit
Lansing, MI 48918.

The veteran designation cannot be requested when a driver's license or ID card is renewed online.

7. Am I required to obtain the designation?

No. The designation is optional.

8. Will my veteran status be shared with other organizations?

Besides providing veterans with an easy way to prove their veteran status to receive discounts at retailers, the designation also allows the Secretary of State's Office to partner with the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency and veteran service organizations across the state to provide referral information so veterans better know what resources and services are available to them.

9. Can my spouse and dependents have the veteran designation?

No.

10. Do I qualify for veteran designation if I am on active duty?

No, unless you are Active Reserve and possess a DD214.

11. How can I have the designation removed?

The designation can be removed at no charge at any time by visiting an office or requesting the removal by mailing to **Michigan Department of State, Renewal By Mail Unit, Lansing MI, 48918**, or faxing your request to (517) 322-6822.

12. What if I already have a veteran designation from another state?

You will be required to provide your service documentation, such as a DD214, to have the designation put on your Michigan driver's license or ID card.

13. Does the veteran designation qualify me to receive veteran benefits?

No, the veteran designation is not legal proof of veteran status and does not qualify you for receiving benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency, or other state and federal agencies.