



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
**VETERANS  
AFFAIRS**



**They are  
Not  
The  
Enemy!**



## CLAIMS REPRESENTATION AND COUNSELING

### Veterans Service Offices

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) has veterans service offices located in 55 counties throughout the State of Alabama. The primary function of the ADVA service offices is to assist veterans, their dependents, and survivors in the application and processing of claims for benefits and entitlements available from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the benefits provided for veterans by law from the State of Alabama earned by honorable service in the armed forces of the United States.

Services include the processing of compensation and pension applications; appeal VA decisions; file for survivors death benefits; apply for aid and attendance and housebound benefits; certification of claim documents; request for military service records; upgrade military discharges; apply for special veteran license plates.

ADVA veterans service officers are accredited to perform claims actions by nationally chartered veterans service organizations to include the American Legion, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Fleet Reserve Association, and Blinded Veterans Association.

### Links

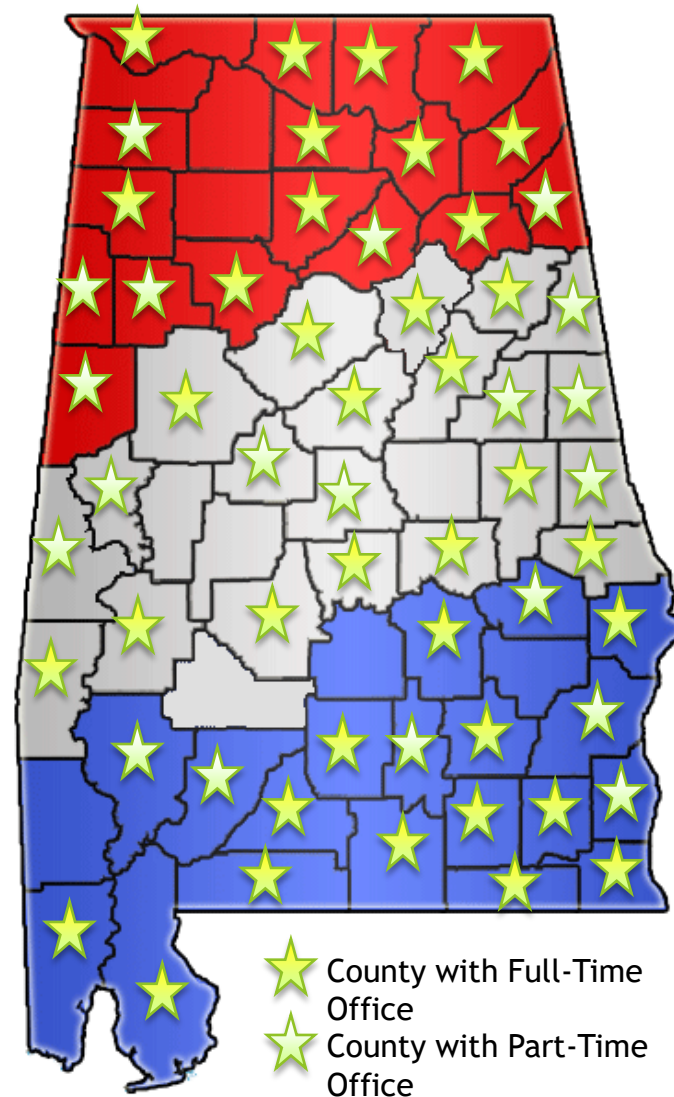
To find your nearest Veterans Service Office visit the [Veterans Service Office Locator Page](#) for contact options.

# ADVA Major Veterans Facilities

## State Veterans Homes, District Offices, and Cemetery



## Veterans Service Offices





## ALABAMA G.I. DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### About the Program

This nationally renowned program was created by Act 633 and approved October 1947 by the Alabama Legislature. It is administered by the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) and is governed by the Code of Alabama 1975, Section 31-6-1. The veteran must meet the qualifications listed below to establish eligibility of his/her dependents. A dependent is defined as a child, stepchild, spouse or the un-remarried widow (er) of the veteran.

**Military Service:** The veteran must have honorably served at least 90 days of continuous active federal military service or been honorably discharged by reason of service-connected disability after serving less than 90 days of continuous active federal military service.

**Disability Requirements:** Beginning July 31, 2017 veterans must be rated 40% or more due to service-connected disabilities or have held the qualifying rating at the time of death, be a former prisoner of war (POW), declared missing in action (MIA), died as the result of a service-connected disability rating or died while on active military service in the line of duty.

\*Veterans with a disability rating of 20-30% may qualify if the effective date of their disability rating is on or before July 31, 2017. This provision will expire on July 31, 2023.





\*Veterans whose disability rating is less than 20% prior to May 23, 2017 but who had a claim for compensation pending prior to that date which resulted in a final award by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs of at least 20% may be eligible if the dependent applies for benefits within six months of that final adjudication.

**Veteran Residency Requirements:** (Veterans must qualify under at least one of the following two requirements).

1. Permanent civilian resident for at least one year immediately prior to initial entry into federal active military service or any subsequent entry into federal active military service where a 12 month break in service occurred.

**AND one of the following:**

- Current resident for at least two years immediately prior to the date of the scholarship application or date of veteran's death; or
  - Current resident who was discharged from active duty within 12 months prior to the date of the scholarship application; or
  - Filed a resident Alabama income tax return for the past 10 consecutive years immediately prior to the date of the scholarship application.
- 2. Bona fide permanent resident for at least five years immediately prior to the date of this application or the date of the veteran's death. Applies to 100% permanent and total ratings only .



**STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:** As of July 31, 2017, Students applying for benefits for the first time must meet all of the following:

- Must be a current resident of the state of Alabama at the time of application; and
- Must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for each year that they are covered under the Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program; and
- Must comply with Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as defined by their education institution; and
- Must complete a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release form for each educational institution that they attend to authorize the release of personally identifiable information required to determine continued eligibility and as required for necessary reporting.

**STUDENT ENTITLEMENT:** Children and stepchildren of qualified veterans may receive five standard academic years (10 semesters) at any Alabama State-supported institution of higher learning or a prescribed course of study at any state-supported technical college to be used for undergraduate courses of study at the in-state tuition rate. The effective date of benefits granted under the Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program is the date that the approvable application is received in the headquarters office. Students receive 8 years from that date to use their 10 semesters. Benefits cannot be granted retroactively.

Spouses or the un-remarried widow (er)s of a veteran rated as 100% permanently and totally disabled may also receive five standard academic years (10 semesters) at any Alabama State-supported institution of higher learning or a prescribed course of study at any state-supported technical college to be used for undergraduate courses of study at the in-state tuition rate. The effective date of benefits granted under the Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program is the date that the approvable application is received in the headquarters office. Students receive 8 years from that date to use their 10 semesters. Benefits cannot be granted retroactively.

Spouses or the un-remarried widow (er)s of a veteran rated 20-90% disabled are entitled to three standard academic years (6 semesters) at any Alabama State-supported institution of higher learning or a prescribed course of study at any state-supported technical college to be used for undergraduate courses of study at the in-state tuition rate. The effective date of benefits granted under the Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program is the date that the approvable application is received in the headquarters office. Students receive 6 years from that date to use their 6 semesters. Benefits cannot be granted retroactively.



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Beginning with applications received at the ADVA headquarters office with a postmark dated on or after July 31, 2017, tuition will be limited to the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Cap (currently \$250 per semester hour) and required textbooks and applicable fees will be limited to a combined \$1,000 total per student for each semester. Schools may waive any overages of these charges at their discretion. All scholarships and grants must be applied to education expenses first (unless otherwise proscribed by state law) and the Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program will be applied for any applicable remaining charges pursuant to current state law.

**Please note:** Students who made application prior to fall 2009 received a lower amount of awarded semesters and students who made application prior to Fall 2014 were not required to utilize benefits for undergraduate courses of study.

**Age Deadline:** The child or stepchild must initiate training under our program prior to his/her 26th birthday. In certain situations, a child or stepchild may be eligible for our program up to the age of 30. If the applicant is a stepchild, the veteran and the stepchild's parent must be legally married prior to the child's 19th birthday.

**Application Assistance:** The ADVA maintains offices throughout the state which can furnish information and assist you in filing your application. To find your nearest veterans service office, visit the [Veterans Service Office Locator Page](#) for contact options.

### Links

- [State Supported Schools](#)
- [Download Alabama G. I. Dependent Scholarship Pamphlet](#)





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# ALABAMA STATE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY AT SPANISH FORT

## Overview

The Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort sits on over 120 acres of land in Baldwin County, Alabama. The cemetery was dedicated in December 2012 and began interments in April 2013. The initial phase of the cemetery is 22.8 acres and has 2,776 burial sites (2,392 in-ground). The lifespan of the entire cemetery is 100 years.

Pre-registration is available and allows a veteran and their spouse to establish, in advance, their eligibility for burial at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort. There is no cost for pre-registration and it does not obligate the veteran to be interred at the cemetery. Pre-registration is intended to simplify and assist the veteran's next-of-kin at the time of death. The key items needed for pre-registration are a copy of the veteran's discharge certificate (DD Form 214) and, for married veterans, a copy of the marriage certificate.

## Contact Info

Tony Ross, Cemetery Director

Joseph S. Buschell, Assistant Cemetery Director

Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort

34904 Alabama Highway 225

Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Phone: (251) 625-1338

Fax: (251) 626-9204







## Disclaimer

The Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery receives full staffing and operational funding from the State through the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA), its parent state agency, and does not rely upon private individuals or fundraising organizations for agency operations and services. However, ADVA recognizes and appreciates the voluntary contributions received from other organizations, veteran families, and individuals including The Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort Foundation, Inc. (Foundation). The Foundation is a separate, nongovernment, nonprofit organization which promotes the mission of the cemetery and supports other veteran organizations, activities, and programs which promote the welfare of veterans and commemorate the honorable service provided by veterans.

## Links

- [Employment at the State Veterans Cemetery](#)
- [Cemetery Brochure](#)
- [Pre-Registration Application](#)
- [National Cemetery Administration](#)
- [Alabama National Cemetery](#)
- [Fort Mitchell Cemetery](#)
- [Mobile National Cemetery](#)
- [National Cemetery Administration National Gravesite Locator](#)
- [Download Monthly ADVA Cemetery Interment Statistics](#)



## VETERAN DRIVER LICENSE

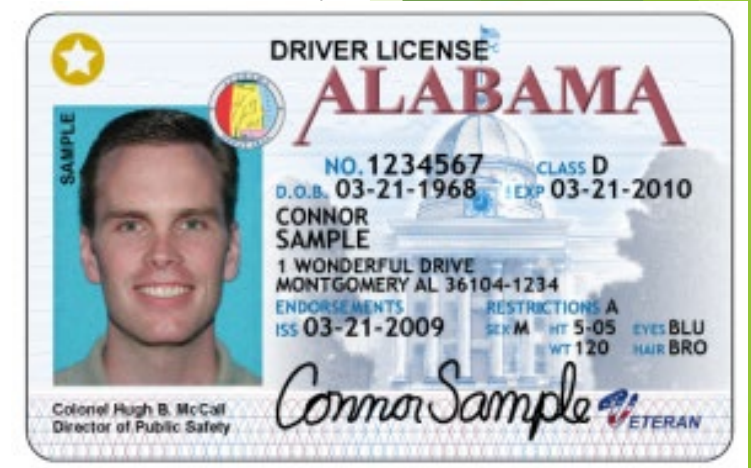
Since May 1, 2013, Alabama veterans have had the option of displaying proof of military service on their driver licenses.

To establish proof of service, a veteran must visit one of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's Driver License examining offices, a license commissioner's office or probate office, and present a DD-214 form from the U.S. Department of Defense that shows an "honorable" or "general under honorable conditions" status.

There is no additional charge for the veteran designation for a first-time driver license applicant or for an individual seeking to renew his or her license. A veteran who chooses to add the designation before his or her renewal date, however, must pay the standard fee for a duplicate license.

## Links

[Alabama Department of Public Safety](#) – Visit the DPS Website for more information about driver licenses.





## DISTINCTIVE LICENSE PLATES

To obtain a Veterans Distinctive License Plate , a veteran in most cases must first obtain an affidavit from an Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Service Office (VSO). The affidavit will state the veteran’s eligibility for the license plate. Veterans should hand carry to the VSO a copy of their DD Form 214, deployment orders, or signed letter from unit commander verifying service along with a valid driver license for verification. Veterans will present the affidavit to their County License Office for the distinctive license plate. Veterans can call their local VSO for more information about the Alabama Distinctive Military/Veterans License Plate Program. To find your nearest VSO, visit the [Veterans Service Office Locator Page](#) for contact options.

### Links

- [Veterans Service Offices](#) – Find your local Veterans Service Office.
- [Alabama Department of Revenue](#) -Visit the ADOR Website for a complete listing of Military/Veterans License Plates.





## ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



# ALABAMA STATE VETERANS HOME PROGRAM

## Overview

The people of the United States have always held a tradition, mandated by law, that those who serve the country in the armed services, especially in time of war, shall receive consideration and care when they are in need. The hospitals maintained by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have filled the needs of acutely ill or injured veterans. But a different type of facility is needed for aging or chronically disabled veterans.

The State of Alabama is extending this special kind of care to veterans through a partnership with the federal government and private industry by proudly operating four state-of-the-art veterans homes located within the state.

The Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City has been "home" to thousands of veterans since its opening in November 1989. In July 1995, Alabama opened two more homes to veterans, the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville and the William F. Green State Veterans Home in Bay Minette. In November 2012, the Colonel Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home opened in Pell City. A fifth State Veterans Home, the CSM Bennie Adkins State Veterans Home will be opening in Enterprise some time in 2023.

The Alabama state veterans homes are a very affordable solution for you or your loved ones. Applications may be obtained from your local [veterans service office](#), contacting the facility, or you may download the application from this website. For information on how to contact one of our veterans homes or to download an application, click the name of the home you are interested in.

## Employment

For information regarding employment at one of Alabama's state veterans homes, visit HMR of Alabama's website at <http://hmrveteranservices.com/employment/>.



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# Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

<https://va.alabama.gov>



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QUESTIONS?

