

## FAQs

### How do I locate a buddy who I served with in the military?

The VA cannot release personal information about a Veteran without that person's permission. However, the VA can forward a message to the Veteran, providing the VA has a current address on record. Write your message to your friend and place it in an unsealed, stamped envelope. Include a note to VA explaining who you are trying to reach and provide as much identifying information as possible. Place everything in another envelope and address it to the nearest VA RO. If the Veteran is in VA records, the message to your friend will be sealed and the envelope will be sent to the address on file.

### What assistance is available for homeless women Veterans or women Veterans on the verge of homelessness?

Women Veterans facing homelessness should contact the VA homeless coordinator, Social Work Services department, or Women Veterans Program Manager (WVPM) at the local VA medical center or regional office. The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans is 1-877-4AIDVET (1-877-424-3838). This hotline provides emergency support and resources to homeless Veterans and Veterans facing the possibility of homelessness.

### I'm interested in participating in medical research geared toward women Veterans. Where do I find more information on medical studies currently running?

Because women have traditionally been underrepresented in medical research, women Veterans can make an important difference by volunteering to participate in VA research studies. For information on current studies, or to sign up to participate, please visit [www.va.gov/womenvet/research/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/womenvet/research/index.asp).

## How do I find a County Veteran Service Office to help me with local, state, and federal benefits and resources?

### Follow these steps:

- ★ Visit [www.nacvso.org](http://www.nacvso.org)
- ★ Choose Find Service Officers > County Directory
- ★ Click on the state and county in which you reside in the interactive map
- ★ Your County Veteran Service Officers' name and contact information will appear

*\*Those who do not have a CVSO in their county will have their closest State VSO's name and contact information appear.*



### Useful Links & Resources

National Association of County Veteran Service Officers  
[www.nacvso.org](http://www.nacvso.org)

Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans  
[www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet)

Women Veterans Health Services  
[www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)

Women Veterans Call Center  
**1-855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636)**

To Find the Nearest VA Facility  
[www.va.gov/directory](http://www.va.gov/directory)



## Information for Women Veterans



**Women Veterans Representative contact information may be found at [nacvso.org/about/women-veterans](http://nacvso.org/about/women-veterans).**

[nacvso.org](http://nacvso.org)



## ★ BENEFIT SERVICES

- Women Veterans receive the same benefits as their counterparts, including VA Home Loans, GI Bill, Disability Compensation, VA Pension, etc.
- Women Veteran Coordinators (WVCs) are located in every Regional Office (RO) and function as the primary contact for women Veterans. WVCs provide detailed information and comprehensive assistance to women Veterans, their dependents, and beneficiaries concerning VA benefits and related non-VA benefits.

## ★ HEALTH SERVICES

- A full continuum of health care, including comprehensive primary care (care for acute and chronic illness and gender-specific care), specialty care, mental health care, disease prevention and screening, emergency care, and women's health specialty care (e.g., advanced breast and gynecological care, maternity care, and some infertility treatments). In addition, the VA offers services such as inpatient and/or outpatient medical/surgical/mental health care, physical rehabilitation, substance abuse treatment, long-term care, and pharmacy benefits.
- The VA covers pregnancy care, typically through arrangements with community providers. The VA will pay for prenatal care, delivery, and postnatal

***The mission of the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers is to actively pursue all rightfully earned benefits for Veterans and eligible family members through education, training, and advocacy programs.***

care for eligible women Veterans. Contact a Women Veterans Program Manager at your local VA facility as early in pregnancy as possible to discuss prenatal care processes and to explore your options.

- The Federal Register published the interim final rule authorizing IVF on January 19, 2017 and the funds are authorized through September 30, 2018. The interim final rule authorizes IVF services for a Veteran with a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the Veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment. It also states that the VA may provide fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technologies, including IVF, to a spouse of a Veteran with a service-connected disability resulting in the inability of the Veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.
- The VA covers care for newborns for the first seven days after birth for eligible women Veterans receiving VA maternity care. The VA is only authorized to provide child care services under a pilot program at four select VA facilities. These facilities are located in Northport, New York; Buffalo, New York; Dallas, Texas; and American-Lake, Washington. To find out if your child qualifies for health care through Medicaid and/or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in your state, call 1-877-543-7669.

- VA medical centers staff providers who are knowledgeable about the aftereffects of trauma and offer evidence-based treatments for posttraumatic stress disorder and other conditions related to trauma. The VA uses the term "military sexual trauma" (MST) to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment experienced during military service. Veterans can receive free, confidential treatment for mental and physical health conditions related to MST. These services are available at every VA healthcare facility and at Vet Centers.
- Every VA facility has at least one LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator (LGBT VCC) on staff that can help LGBT Veterans receive appropriate health care services.

## ★ CEMETERY SERVICES

- Women Veterans may receive the same burial benefits as their counterparts, including burial allowance, plot allowance, presidential memorial certificates, medallions, markers, etc.
- If a woman Veteran is married to another Veteran, they may have plots side-by-side and are not required to share a headstone. Let the National Cemetery representatives know this when the first spouse passes away so an additional plot may be reserved next to the original plot.
- The National Cemetery representatives can also assist in arranging burials for dependent children and, at times, miscarried children. The dependent children would share the Veteran's plot.

