



Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

Presentation

to

Advisory Committee for Gulf War Veterans

February 19, 2009

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Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

- ❑ Mission
- ❑ Organization
- ❑ Programs and Services
- ❑ The Way Ahead



Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

□ Mission

TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ALL VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS IN FORMULATING AND PROCESSING CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION, PENSION, HOSPITALIZATION, EDUCATION, BURIAL, AND OTHER BENEFITS OR PRIVILEGES.



Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

□ Organization

- **IN 1945, THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WAS CREATED BY STATE LAW FOR HANDLING THE AFFAIRS OF VETERANS.**
- **TO FACILITATE ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS ON A STATEWIDE BASIS, THE ADVA MAINTAINS A DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND CENTRAL CLAIMS OFFICE IN MONTGOMERY, AND FIELD OFFICES IN EACH OF ALABAMA'S 67 COUNTIES.**



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□ Programs and Services.

CLAIMS

- **THE ADVA EMPLOYS 150 VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS THAT PROVIDE CLAIMS SERVICES TO ALABAMA'S 420,000 VETERANS, 89,787 OF WHICH ARE GULF WAR VETERANS, IN THE STATE'S 67 COUNTIES. BY STATE LAW, A VSO MUST BE A VETERAN AND RESIDE IN THE COUNTY WHERE THEY ARE EMPLOYED.**
- **PREPARATION OF VETERANS' CLAIMS.**
- **REPRESENT VETERANS IN PERSONAL APPEARANCES BEFORE THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**
- **ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING DECISIONS FOR COMPENSATION, PENSION, EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS.**



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VETERANS' BENEFITS

- **COMPENSATION**
- **PENSION**
- **HEALTH CARE**
- **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT**
- **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
- **HOME LOANS**
- **LIFE INSURANCE**
- **DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS BENEFITS**
- **BURIAL BENEFITS**





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ALABAMA STATE VETERANS HOMES PROGRAM

THE ADVA OPERATES THREE STATE VETERANS HOMES IN ALEXANDER CITY, BAY MINETTE AND HUNTSVILLE THAT PROVIDE LONG-TERM CARE TO ALABAMA VETERANS.





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ALABAMA STATE VETERANS HOMES PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY

- **AT LEAST 90 DAYS OF ACTIVE DUTY TIME OTHER THAN ANNUAL TRAINING, ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING, OR INACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING.**
- **QUALIFY FOR SKILLED LONG-TERM CARE.**
- **RESIDENT OF ALABAMA DURING THE IMMEDIATE 12 MONTHS OF APPLYING FOR CARE.**
- **WARTIME VETERANS HAVE PRIORITY. PEACETIME VETERANS MAY BE ADMITTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS.**



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ALABAMA STATE VETERANS HOMES PROGRAM

- 24-HOUR SKILLED LONG-TERM CARE.
- PHYSICIAN ON CALL 24/7.
- SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS.
- AROUND THE CLOCK SECURITY STAFF.
- COMPASSION FOR THE VETERAN'S WELL-BEING.
- EACH VETERANS HOME PROVIDES LONG-TERM CARE FOR 150 VETERANS. PER DIEM RATE IS \$11.64 PER DAY.





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□ Programs and Services.

ALABAMA DEPENDENTS' G.I. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- **ENACTED IN 1951, THE ALABAMA DEPENDENTS' G.I. SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDES CHILDREN AND WIVES/WIDOWS OF DECEASED OR DISABLED VETERANS OR PRISONERS OF WAR WITH EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS IN ANY STATE-SUPPORTED COLLEGE OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL.**
- **PAYS FOR TUITION, BOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL FEES FOR FOUR ACADEMIC YEARS FOR CHILDREN, AND TWO ACADEMIC YEARS FOR SPOUSES.**



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ALABAMA DEPENDENTS' G.I. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY

- VETERAN HAS A 20% OR GREATER VA RATED DISABILITY.
- RESIDENT OF ALABAMA 12 MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS OR HER ENLISTMENT IN THE ARMED FORCES.
- THE CHILD OR SPOUSE APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS IS THE VETERAN'S LEGAL DEPENDENT.





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OTHER STATE BENEFITS

- **AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION ON HOMES OF TOTALLY DISABLED PERSONS OR VETERANS AGE 65 OR OLDER WITH AN ANNUAL INCOME OF \$75,000 OR LESS.**
- **AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION ON MOTOR VEHICLES PAID FOR BY VA GRANT.**
- **STATE TAX EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY OR MILITARY PAY EARNED IN A COMBAT ZONE.**



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OTHER STATE BENEFITS

- **NO REGISTRATION FEE FOR COMMEMORATIVE VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES.**
- **FREE LICENSE PLATES FOR DISABLED VETERANS.**
- **DISCOUNTED FISHING LICENSE FOR VETERANS WITH A 20% OR GREATER VA RATED DISABILITY.**



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ADVA'S VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM

- SUPERMARKET OF VETERANS BENEFITS.
- PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE YELLOW RIBBON REINTERGRATION PROGRAM.
- ANNUAL PUBLIC VETERANS INFORMATION FORUMS.
- PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNOR'S GRATEFUL HEART PROGRAM.
- COMMUNITY BASED VA PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN.



Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

□ The Way Ahead.

- **CONSTRUCT A FOURTH STATE VETERANS HOME IN PELL CITY, ALABAMA.**
- **INCREASE THE ALABAMA G.I. DEPENDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS FROM EIGHT TO TEN SEMESTERS FOR CHILDREN, AND FROM FOUR TO SIX SEMESTERS FOR SPOUSES OF ELIGIBLE VETERANS.**
- **BUILD THE FIRST STATE VETERANS CEMETERY IN SOUTHWEST ALABAMA THAT WILL SERVE VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS.**



Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

ADVA WEBSITE

WWW.VA.STATE.AL.US



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QUESTIONS?