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Benefits for WWII Veterans

During the course of WWII, over nine million men and women served in the United States military. After the war, the Federal Government established benefits for those who served. Although the majority of these veterans have passed on in the ensuing decades, many today are still relying on the benefits they earned for their service. Administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense and other agencies, these programs have been modified over the years but the wish to give back to those who served remains.

GI Bill

The Serviceman's Readjustment Act, or GI Bill, was passed in 1944 to provide veterans with educational opportunities after the war. Most soldiers and sailors who served went straight from high school to boot camp and received little or no vocational training. As such they were trained to be soldiers but had few skills required in a manufacturing or service-oriented workforce.

The GI Bill provided cash benefits to pay for college or vocational training. The GI Bill also offered what amounted to unemployment benefits while the recently returned serviceman sought work or applied for additional school.

VA Loan

The Department Of Veterans Affairs (VA) loan program was established for WWII veterans and continues to this day. The VA loan provides for any active duty or veteran military personnel the opportunity to purchase a home with 100 percent financing. No down payment is required. Although income requirements are still necessary to qualify for the loan, the veteran can purchase a home without the need to save an appreciable down payment amount.

WWII veterans are still eligible for the VA loan program. Veterans are only permitted one VA loan at any time. A veteran can sell an existing home, satisfy the existing VA loan amount, and then acquire a loan on a new purchase. Any veteran at any age who was honorably discharged qualifies for this benefit.

Medical

A WWII veteran who did not serve a minimum of 20 years in the military is not considered retired, and is therefore not entitled to a military retiree's continuing all-encompassing medical benefits. A WWII veteran, however, who was injured while on active duty in a service-related incident and receives continuing care related to the treatment of the condition and any subsequent maladies related to the illness is eligible for medical benefit. Soldiers and sailors exposed to toxic chemicals such as asbestos during the war receive regular medical attention as a part of their veteran's status. If a condition worsens and leads to more severe conditions such as a cancer or other malignancy, the Veterans Affairs department will provide support and treatment for the disease.

[Source](#)