

Section XVIII

# **Veterans Assistance**

# Connecticut Veteran's Home

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## Description:

The Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Home and Chronic Care facility provides comprehensive services for veterans ranging from inpatient hospital care to residential rehabilitation services.

The Department operates a licensed and accredited 350-bed chronic care facility, which provides a full range of inpatient medical services. Chronic Care facility services include a 24-bed Alzheimer's Unit, hospice beds and a Caregiver Respite program. Comprehensive substance abuse treatment services are also offered.

The rehabilitation program is provided in a 400-bed domiciliary facility. Its primary goal is to return as many individuals as possible to a productive and independent life.

The Department also operates three state veteran's cemeteries and provides payment for the installation of veteran's headstones and an allowance for a state veteran's burial.

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## Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

### Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a Veteran.
- Must be honorably discharged from the military.
- Must be a resident of Connecticut.
- Must have completed a minimum of 90 days service, unless separated from service earlier because of a service-related disability rated by the Federal Department of Veteran's Affairs.

### Service Areas:

Statewide

### Program Year:

July 1 – June 30

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## Contact Information:

Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Admissions Office  
287 West Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
Telephone: 800-447-0961 Ext. 2279  
Website: [www.state.ct.us/ctva](http://www.state.ct.us/ctva)

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**Related Information:**

[Department of Veteran's Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance; refer to page XVIII-3.](#)

# Department of Veteran's Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance

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## **Description:**

The Office of Advocacy and Assistance is a subdivision of the Connecticut Department of Veteran's Affairs.

The Office of Advocacy and Assistance maintains offices and provides Veteran's Affairs Service Officers in each of the state's five congressional districts. Officers provide advice and assistance to Connecticut veterans and to their dependents. Veteran's Affairs Service Officers are trained to provide a variety of services to eligible veterans and their dependents and to assist them in obtaining the right benefits and privileges to which they may be entitled.

Veteran's Affairs Service Officers are certified to represent eligible veterans before the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs and to act as formal representatives for such veterans who need assistance.

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## **Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:**

Eligibility Requirements:

- Veteran's Affairs Office must be called to determine eligibility and benefits.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:

July 1 – June 30

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## **Contact Information:**

Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Office of Advocacy and Assistance  
Donna Meskony, Director  
87 West Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
Telephone: 860-721-5915  
Fax: 860-721-5895  
Email: [donna.meskony@po.state.ct.us](mailto:donna.meskony@po.state.ct.us)  
Website: [www.ct.gov/ctva](http://www.ct.gov/ctva)

Nicholas Oshana  
Veterans Services Supervisor  
555 Willard Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111  
Telephone: 860-596-6604  
Fax: 860-667-1081  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 310909  
Newington, CT 06131-0909

Congressional Districts:

Congressional District 1:  
287 West Street, Bldg #7  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
Telephone: 860-721-5893 or 721- 5894

Congressional District 4:  
75 Middle Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Telephone: 203-336-2570

Congressional District 2:  
100 Broadway, City Hall  
Norwich, CT 06360  
Telephone: 860-887-9162

Congressional District 5:  
Rowland Governor Center  
55 West Main Street, Suite 140  
Waterbury, CT 06702  
Telephone: 203-805-6340

Congressional District 3:  
487B Campbell Avenue  
West Haven, CT 06516  
Telephone: 203-931-0460

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**Related Information:**

[State Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund, refer to page XVIII – 5.](#)  
[Veteran's Basic/Additional Exemption Tax Relief Program, refer to page VI – 25.](#)  
[Vet Express, refer to page XVIII – 9.](#)

# State Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund

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## Description:

The State Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund provides temporary financial assistance to meet, or help meet, the health and maintenance needs of eligible wartime veterans and their dependent(s) who demonstrate a "need." Available assistance may include shelter (rent/mortgage interest), food, clothing, medical expenses or funeral expenses.

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## Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

### Eligibility Requirements:

- A veteran or a veteran's dependent(s) must live in Connecticut at the time of application and while receiving assistance
- The veteran must have been honorably discharged from military service.
- The veteran must have served a minimum of 90 days during a statutory wartime period unless discharged earlier for a service-connected disability rated by the Veteran's Administration.

### Service Areas:

Statewide

### Program Year:

July 1 – June 30

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## Contact Information:

Applications are submitted through a designated Fund Representative at one of the five Field Offices or through local volunteer Fund Representatives in municipalities. Contact the local American Legion Post for names and contact information of local Fund Representatives or contacts:

### Main Office

864 Wethersfield Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06114  
Telephone: 860-296-0719  
Fax: 860-293-1460  
Email: [elizabeth.rodriquez@ct.gov](mailto:elizabeth.rodriquez@ct.gov)

Hartford Office  
999 Asylum Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Telephone: 860-566-2677

### Bridgeport Office

350 Fairfield Avenue, Room 103  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Telephone: 203-331-8876

### New Haven Office

746 Chapel Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Telephone: 203-789-7841

Norwich Office  
307 Main Street  
P.O. Box 987  
Norwich, CT 06360  
Telephone: 860-886-8557

Waterbury Office  
Rowland State Government Center  
55 West Main Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Waterbury, CT 06702  
Telephone: 203-805-6350

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**Related Information:**

[Department of Veteran's Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance, refer to page XVIII-3.](#)  
[Veteran's Basic/Additional Exemption Tax Relief Program, refer to page VI – 24.](#)  
[Vet Express, refer to page XVIII – 9.](#)

# State Veterans' Cemetery

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## Description:

The State Veterans' Cemetery is administratively controlled by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Veterans and their spouses may be buried free of charge in the State Veterans' Cemetery. There is no charge for the plot, single or double depth, or cremation, for the opening or closing of the grave or the perpetual care of the grave. A white, upright marble headstone/marker is required and provided by the Federal Government; it is installed by cemetery personnel at no cost. The vault that the casket is placed in is required and is the responsibility of the family. Veterans can arrange in advance to reserve a space in the cemetery; however, an exact gravesite is assigned after a person dies. An eligible veteran's spouse may be buried in the cemetery before the veteran.

Many towns statewide operate their own veterans' cemeteries, which are independent from the State Veterans' Cemetery. Burial in these cemeteries is usually limited to residents of the town in which the cemetery is located.

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## Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a veteran who served at least 90 days of active duty and was released from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions.
- Must have either entered the service as a Connecticut resident, died as a Connecticut resident or provide proof of one-time residency in Connecticut.
- Must be the spouse of an eligible veteran.
- Honorable service in the Armed Forces of any country allied with the United States is also acceptable.

### Service Areas:

Statewide

### Program Year:

N/A

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## Contact Information:

For additional information:

Cemetery and Memorial Services  
Department of Veteran's Affairs  
287 West Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
Telephone: 860-721-5838  
Fax: 860-721-5843  
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Requests to reserve a space in the cemetery should be made in writing and submitted with a copy of the Veteran's discharge papers to:

Paul Barry, D.V.A.  
287 West Street, Building #7  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Location and hours of the State Veterans' Cemetery:

State Veterans' Cemetery  
317 Bow Lane  
Middletown, CT 06457  
Everyday 7:30 a.m. to sunset

Burials take place:  
Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 2:00 pm.  
Saturday, 9:00 am to Noon.

There is a small non-denominational Chapel on the grounds of the cemetery; it seats 35 to 45 people. It is available without charge upon request; it must be scheduled in advance.

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### **Related Information:**

[Department of Veteran's Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance, refer to page XVIII – 3.](#)

# Vet Express

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## Description:

The Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs provides a mobile service program called Vet Express to make services more accessible to veterans. The Vet Express van visits convenient locations such as town halls, libraries, state facilities, shopping centers and special events to provide direct services to Connecticut's veterans. Department of Veterans' Affairs service officers are available on the van to provide general information and assistance and to initiate claims for veterans' benefits. The van is handicapped accessible. Appointments are not needed to visit the van at any of its locations. Organizations can schedule the Vet Express for special events.

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## Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

### Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a Veteran.

### Service Areas:

Statewide

### Program Year:

N/A

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## Contact Information:

For additional information, for a current schedule of the Vet Express or to schedule the Vet Express for an event:

Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Community Affairs Office  
287 West Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
Telephone: 800-721-5826  
Website: [www.ct.gov/ctva](http://www.ct.gov/ctva)

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## Related Information:

[Department of Veteran's Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance, refer to page XVIII -3.](#)  
[State Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund, refer to page XVIII – 5.](#)