

NCDVA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN OF DECEASED OR DISABLED VETERANS

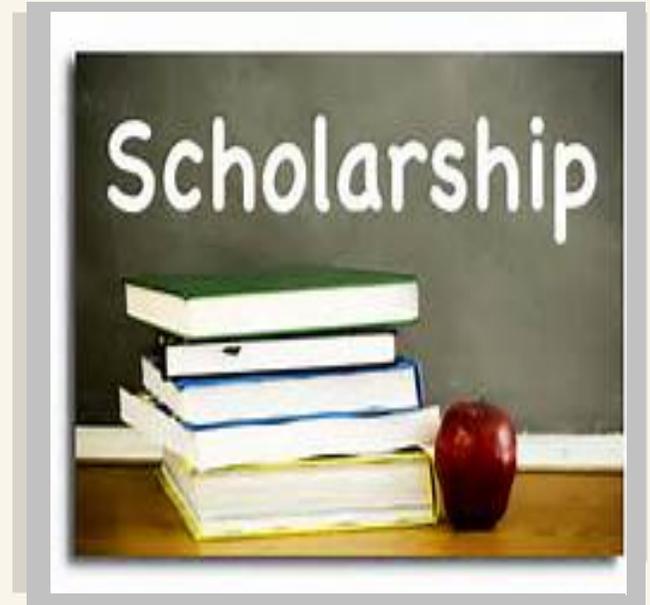
In appreciation for the service and sacrifices of North Carolina's war Veterans, a four-year scholarship program at North Carolina Approved Schools has been established for the qualifying children of certain class or category of deceased, combat, or POW/MIA Veterans.

At the time of the application, applicant must be under age 25; a resident and Domiciled in North Carolina. The Veteran was a legal resident of North Carolina at the time of said Veteran's entrance into that period of service in the armed forces during which eligibility is established. Or, the applicant is the natural child or adopted child prior to age 15, who was born in North Carolina and has been a resident of North Carolina continuously since birth.

The Veteran's qualifying criteria must have occurred during a period of war. The only exception is that eligibility may exist for peacetime Veterans or reservists/National Guard if disability or death was incurred as a result of armed conflict or while engaged in extra hazardous service.

Other qualifying criteria include that the Veteran dies during a wartime service or a service connected death, or the Veteran is 100% totally disabled due to a war time disability, or 20% to 90% service connected or received a Purple Heart due to war time disabilities. Or the Veteran is in receipt of a non service connected pension, received a campaign medal, or was a former POW or MIA.

The deadline for application to be in the director's office is March 1st.



We would like to have scholarship applications turned into the local County Veterans Service Office in order to check all eligibility as well as conduct interviews if need be.

A minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA is required to continue receipt of the scholarship. The scholarship is for four academic years (8 semesters) if used within 6 years. It does not cover books, computers, or supplies.

All money is paid directly to the school and does not go to the applicant. The scholarship is only for North Carolina schools and cannot be transferred to schools outside of NC.

There have been changes to the program this year, effective 2014 due to State budget cuts. Of these changes include, eliminating funding for summer classes, and limiting the room and board paid for public schools to 75% of total cost. Scholarships will only be awarded on January 1st and July 1st. All programs will be funded at the undergraduate rate.

Please call your local Veterans Service Office for more information.

FEBRUARY 2014

TAX ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS

It's that time a year again! Dreaded tax time. But there is help for Veterans and the elderly. Many resources are being set up to help file your taxes. Being a Veteran or an Active Duty Service Member means you have options for assistance.

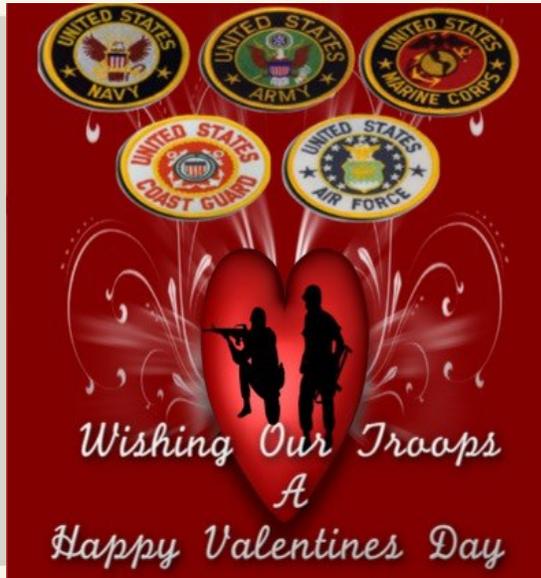
First, check out the Internal Revenue Services Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs. The page has information on how to qualify for these programs, and links to online search pages so that you can find help near you.

Qualified Veterans and Active Duty military can also get free federal and state tax preparation and filing assistance, both online and in person, by MyFreeTaxes.com. This is the only free online tax preparation and filing service available in all 50 states that allows users to file both a federal and state return, no matter where they live. This use this service, qualifying families must earn \$58,000 or less.

MyFreeTaxes.com is sponsored by Walmart, Goodwill, the National Disability Institute and the United Way. For those who prefer to do their own taxes, there are several options to e-file your taxes online – free of charge.

- IRS Free File
- Turbo Tax Freedom Edition
- Turbo Tax Military Edition
- MilitaryOneSource.mil
- Taxslayer.com





4 Tips to Celebrate Valentine's Day with Military Spouse Away

- Make baked goods with the kids. Treat your kids to some quality time by helping them bake cookies or cupcakes for Valentine's Day. The cookies can be treats for school mates, friends, or sent in care packages to a deployed parent.
- Make cards to send to Dad or Mom, or have the family pick out a funny e-card to send. Get some construction paper, sweet-tarts, pictures of your family and glue and create cutesy Valentine's Day card for your spouse.
- Have a Girls or Boys night out or in! If you feel like getting out that night call up other military spouses go to dinner or a show. Or, have Valentine's Day Potluck!
- Get out and Move. Don't waste time sitting on the couch. Go hiking, running or ride your bike.

Reminder

- If you have a child who will be starting college soon, get your applications in for the NCDVA Scholarship. Deadline is March 1st, 2014.
- February 2: Groundhog Day
- February 3: Vietnam War Ended: 1973
- National Random Acts of Kindness Week: February 10-16.
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 17: Presidents Day