

### **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN OF 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 by the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs. This scholarship is for qualifying children of certain class categories of deceased, disabled, combat, or POW/MIA veterans.

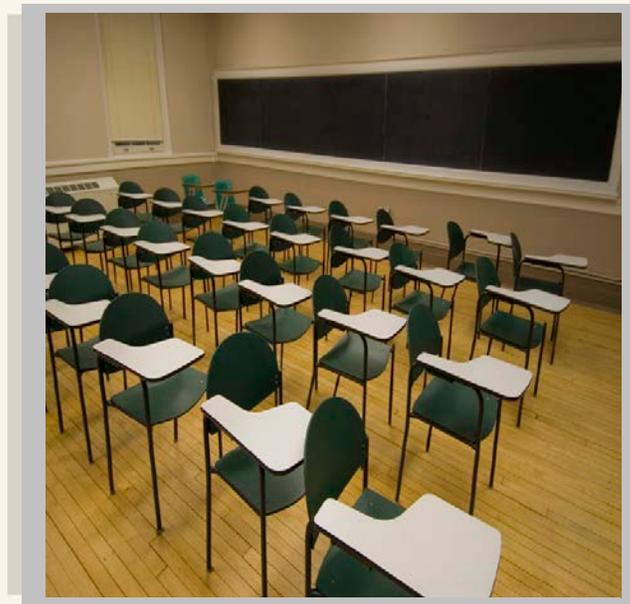
Basic rules for eligibility include:

- Applicant must be under the age of 25 and domiciled in North Carolina.
- Veteran parent was a legal resident of North Carolina at the time of entry in the armed forces
- OR: The applicant is a natural child, or adopted child prior to age 15, who was born in North Carolina and has been a resident of NC since birth.
- The Veteran's qualifying criteria must have occurred during a period of war.

There are 5 classes of scholarships. Scholarships for 4 of the 5 classes include free tuition, a room allowance, a board allowance, and exemption from certain mandatory fees as set forth in the law for all public, community and technical colleges. For private and junior colleges, the scholarship provides \$4500 per nine month academic year.

The deadline for submission of scholarship applications is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Ideally, NCDVA requests these applications much sooner in order to get interviews completed with the applicant.

Please contact your local County Veterans Service Officer for more information on the scholarship.



### **2013 COLA INCREASE FOR VETERANS**

Veterans will see a 1.7% Cost-of-Living (COLA) increase for 2013, which became effective on December 1, 2012. This bill gives veterans and their survivors a small increase, which should have appeared on January checks deposited on December 31, 2012.

The average increase in income is expected to be around \$500 per year, depending on individual disability rating. The increase will affect 4 million disabled veterans, military retirees and survivors.

The COLA will increase pay for Social Security recipients and military retirees who receive disability compensation and pension, as well as veterans' survivors who receive dependency and indemnity compensation.

JANUARY 2013

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS GOING PAPERLESS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is working toward a paperless processing system, in order to reduce the claims backlog, which is a huge problem that plagues the VA.

The VA's disability claims backlog has increased 190 percent since 2009.

There will be many challenges that will arise as a result of moving veterans' records into a paperless system. One of the biggest aspects of moving to a paperless system involves scanning records into electronic forms. Currently the Department of Veterans Affairs has no clear way to deal with the issue.

The American Legion, in an effort, to support the VA's paperless action, has spoken to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. The American Legion feels that the VA must improve coordination of data and communication with the Department of Defense, a part of the move towards the paperless process.

The American Legion also feels that the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office needs to enforce the best practices and highly encourage all Regional Offices to follow the leaders.

They have also encouraged efforts on the part of the VA to address this problem, through the creation of scanning contracts.





## LOCATING MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS

The Department of Veterans Affairs does not maintain veterans' military service records.

The personnel records of individuals currently in the military service, in the reserve forces, and those completely separated from military service are located in different offices.

A veteran and spouse should be aware of the location of the veteran's discharge and separation papers. If a veteran cannot locate discharge and separation papers, duplicate copies can be obtained.

The easiest way to request your records or your DD-214 is to visit the National Archives website at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov). This is a simple online request form that can be faxed or mailed to the National Archives. Once they receive the information, they can usually process your request within a few weeks. You may also request a duplicate set of medals using this website. These requests will take longer.

Most other requests can be sent to National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138 or by phone at 314-801-0800.

National Personnel Records Center  
1 Archives Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63138

Telephone: 314-801-0800

Fax: 314-801-9195

E-mail: [MPR.center@nara.gov](mailto:MPR.center@nara.gov)

