



Honoring Those Who Served Colorado State Veterans Legislation

Our nation is home to nearly 21 million Veterans of the Armed Forces, four million of whom have served since September 11, 2001.¹ Many have chosen to call Colorado home and have entered the civilian workforce in a variety of occupations and industries.

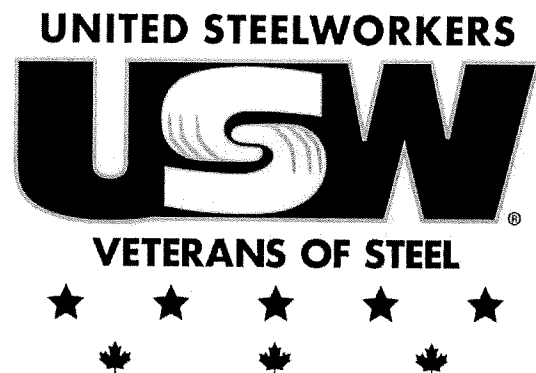
Honoring these courageous individuals should happen not only while they are actively serving, but also when they return home. Within our union, the “Veterans of Steel” program honors military service and identifies ways to assist Veterans and their families in Steelworker-represented workplaces.

As a state and a nation, we have shown through policymaking that we respect and honor the patriotic service of our Veterans and their families by ensuring that there are programs to assist them in education and training, job placement, healthcare, and more — but there is still more work to be done.

The federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) helps Veterans to secure jobs, but it does not offer details on benefits and services — from healthcare to financial compensation to educational opportunities to employment preferences — for which Veterans and their families are eligible.

Colorado should help be a national leader as one of the first states to enact legislation requiring a standardized workplace posting that includes basic information about Veterans’ benefits and a way for Veterans to learn more about programs such as:

- Free advocacy & assistance for Veterans & their families, such as:
 - CO Division of Veterans’ Affairs Services
 - VA Crisis Line
 - Peer Support Program Info
- Federal disability compensation & other VA benefits
- Educational opportunities for Veterans
- Veteran-focused assistance with substance abuse and other forms of addiction
- Tax exemptions and credits available to Veterans
- CO Veteran Driver’s License information
- Lifetime Independence Pass for Colorado State Parks
- Employment & re-employment rights for Veterans
- Veteran-focused *pro bono* legal services
- Info for constituency groups like African-American Veterans Groups and LBGTQ Veterans Groups



The myriad programs for which Veterans are eligible helps ease the transition back into civilian life and ensures that families and communities are supported after giving selflessly for our country. We urge you to support efforts to improve transparency and outreach in workplaces regarding these life-changing programs.

¹ https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2017/article/Veterans.htm?view_full



VETERAN BENEFITS AND SERVICES

The following resources and hotlines are available at no-cost to help veterans understand their rights, protections, benefits, and accommodations:

dol.ny.gov/veteran-benefits-and-services

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESOURCES

All calls and texts are free and confidential

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Crisis

Line: www.veteranscrisisline.net

Call: 988, press 1 Text: 838255

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: www.veteranscrisisline.net

Call: 988 Text: 988

Crisis Textline:

Text: 741741 Chat: crisistextline.org

NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH):

www.omh.ny.gov

NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports

(OASAS): www.oasas.ny.gov/hopeline

Call: 1-877-8-HOPENY (467469)

Text: HOPENY (467369)

TAX BENEFITS

NYS Department of Tax and Finance

- Information for military personnel and veterans: tax.ny.gov/pit/file/military_page.htm
- Property tax exemptions: tax.ny.gov/pit/property/exemption/vetexempt.htm

EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND TRAINING RESOURCES

Veteran Readiness and Employment

(VR&E) Program: www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab

New York State Civil Service Credits

for Veterans Program: www.cs.ny.gov

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline:

Call: 800-942-6906 Text: 844-997-2121

NYS Workplace Sexual Harassment Hotline:

Call: 1-800-HARASS-3

NYS Department of Motor Vehicles:

- Veteran Status Designation Photo Document: dmv.ny.gov/more-info/veteran-status-designation-photo-document
- Veteran License Plate: dmv.ny.gov/plates/military-and-veterans

LEGAL SERVICES

Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC): ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/problem_solving/vet/courts.shtml

Email: ProblemSolving@courts.state.ny.us

NYS Defenders Association Veteran Defense Program:

www.nysda.org/page/AboutVDP

NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF VETERANS' SERVICES

Website: veterans.ny.gov

Help Line: 1-888-838-7697

Email: DVSInfo@veterans.ny.gov

Services: Legal, education, employment and volunteer, financial, health care, and more.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR VETERANS' PROGRAM

Website: dol.ny.gov/services-veterans

Help Line: 1-888-469-7365

Email: Ask.Vets@labor.ny.gov

Services: Workforce and training resources, unemployment insurance, the Experience Counts program, and more.



Division of
Veterans' Services

WE ARE YOUR DOL



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of Labor