

Grave Markers/Monuments

Grave markers or flags for deceased veterans are available and requests should be emailed to rhague@fallriverma.org or call 508-324-2432.

Monuments and Markers

There are 31 monuments and markers in the City of Fall River. All monuments and markers are maintained by Veterans Services through the Department of Community Maintenance. For more information please visit www.fallriverma.org

State Memorials

World War II

Battleship Cove is home to the Massachusetts' official memorial to all Bay Staters killed in service to their nation during World War II. Located on board the USS Massachusetts this memorial symbolizes the eternal gratitude of a proud Commonwealth and Nation.

Battleship Cove

Five Water Street/P.O. Box 111

Fall River, MA 02722-0111

Tel: 508-678-1100

Toll-Free: 1-800-533-3194 (Within New England)

www.battleshipcove.com

Korean War Memorial

The Massachusetts Korean War Memorial is in the Charlestown Navy Yard. The memorial honors the over 1,200 Massachusetts veterans who died in Korea.

Vietnam Veterans' Memorial

The Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Green Hill Park Worcester was given and dedicated by a grateful Commonwealth to the honor and sacrifice of all its citizens who served in the armed forces of the United States of America from 1955-75. The memorial was dedicated in 2002 at a ceremony that paid special tribute to those whose names are inscribed on the memorial as well as honored all Vietnam veterans.

Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans' Memorial

Green Hill Park

50 Skyline Drive

Worcester, MA 01605

Tel: 508-799-1190

www.massvvm.org

Local VA Hospitals

Brockton Division

940 Belmont St.

Brockton, MA 02301

(508) 583-4500

Toll Free: 1-800-865-3384

Jamaica Plain Division

150 S. Huntington Avenue

Boston, MA 02130

(617) 232-9500

Toll Free: 1-800-865-3384

Providence Division

830 Chalkstone Ave.

Providence, RI 02908-4799

Phone: (401) 273-7100 or

Toll Free: 866-363-4486

Transportation

Transportation to the Brockton, Providence and Boston Veterans Administration Medical Centers are available Monday through Friday. For more information please contact the Council on Aging at 508-324-2402.

Return times is approximately at 2:30 p.m.

Other special medical clinics and services are available through the Veterans' Services Office. Veterans or their families needing rides, should call 508-324-2401 or 508-324-2402, 24 hours prior to your appointment.

eBenefits

Web portal that provides resources and self-service capabilities to Veterans, Service members, and their families



research, access and manage their VA and military benefits and personal information.

To learn more please visit: www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage



Guide to Veteran's Services

Mission

The mission of Veterans' Services is to provide quality support services and benefits to veterans and their dependents in need of emergency financial and medical care under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 115.

Annuities

Awards & Medals

Burial Information

Chapter 115 Benefits

Clothing

Education

Elder Services

Employment

Flags and Markers

Financial Assistance

Food

Graves Care

Housing

License Plates

Medical Assistance

Pensions

Prescription Assistance

Real Estate Tax Abatements

Record Retention

Sales Tax Exemptions

Shelter

Who is a Veteran

To be a "Veteran" under Massachusetts law a person is required to have either:

- **180 days** of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions or;
- **90 days** of active duty service, one day of which is during "wartime" per the chart which follows, and be discharged or released under honorable conditions, except for Vietnam I, which requires 180 days of active duty service.



Veterans' Services
1 Government Center
Fall River, MA 02720
508.324.2436



Make It Here

Eligibility

To be eligible for Veterans' Benefits in Massachusetts, an individual must be a veteran or a dependent of a veteran under M.G.L.c. 4, cl. 43rd as amended by the acts of 2005, ch.130. Please visit www.mass.gov/veterans to see if you qualify.

Guard Members

To qualify they must have either:

- **180 days** and have been activated under Title 10 of the U.S. Code and have been discharged or released under honorable conditions or;
- Members who were activated under Title 10 or Title 32 of the U.S. Code of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 33, sections 38, 40, and 41 must have served 90 days, at least one of which was during “wartime,” of the code. The members’ last discharge or release must be under honorable conditions.

Reservists

To qualify, they must have been called to active duty, at which time their eligibility can be determined by the eligibility dates.

Eligible Dependents

To qualify as a dependents of veteran:

- Spouse of the Veteran.
- Widow or widower of the Veteran.
- Dependent parent of the Veteran.
- Any person who acted as a parent to the Veteran for 5 years immediately preceding the commencement of veterans WARTIME service.
- Child of a veteran until his or her 19th birthday.
- Child of veteran between 19 and 23 years of age while child is attending high school; an institution of higher learning or accredited educational institution provided the applicant is in receipt of benefits under the provisions of M.G.L. C.115.
- Child of Veteran 19 years of age or older who is mentally or physically unable to support themselves and was affected by the disability prior to their 18th birthday.
- Legally adopted children of the Veteran.

Veterans’ Bill of Rights

M.G.L. ch. 115 and 108 CMR. You have a right to:

- File a written application for veterans’ benefits at any time. You can insist upon this right, even if told that you are not eligible. 108 CMR 4:02 (1)
- Receive assistance from your local Veterans’ Service Officer (VSO) in completing your application M.G.L. ch. 115, s. 3
- Receive a full explanation of the services and benefits available under M.G.L. ch. 115, as well as other available benefits
- Receive a written notice and explanation of the approval or denial of your application for benefits 108 CMR 8.02
- Be treated with dignity and respect and to receive accurate, courteous, and timely service
- Appeal and request a hearing if you disagree with any action taken in your case 108 CMR 8.07 (1)
- Expect confidentiality: personal information will not be collected or used except for the purpose of determining your eligibility for benefits M.G.L. ch. 40, s.51
- Receive fair and equal treatment without regard to sex, race, religion, handicap, ethnicity, or national origin M.G.L. ch. 151B, s.3
- Preference in public employment M.G.L. ch.31, s.12, 26, 28 and ch. 41, s.112

Service Records & Awards

Lost Medals and Awards

Information on how to obtain lost medals, please visit the National Archives website at: www.archives.gov/veterans/replace-medals.html or contact the Veterans Services office.

Service Records

If you are a veteran and you are looking to request your personnel records, please visit the federal government's military personnel records website at:

www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html



Burial Benefits

To be eligible for:

Burial in state Veterans’ Cemeteries

Massachusetts has state Veterans’ Memorial Cemeteries located in Agawam and in Winchendon. There is no fee for a veteran’s burial in a state veterans’ memorial cemetery. A nominal fee will be charged for the burial of spouses, widows/widowers, and qualified dependents.

Eligibility for Veterans

With the exception of a residency requirement, the Massachusetts Veterans’ Memorial Cemeteries follow the military eligibility requirements set forth by the National Cemetery Administration:

Military Service

- Veteran was discharged or released from active duty service under honorable conditions or;
- Veteran served at least 20 years in the National Guard or United States Reserve and is in receipt of a military pension or has documentation verifying he/she will receive retirement pay at age 60, in accordance with Title 10, Chapter 1223, of the United States Code or;
- Any member of the armed forces of the United States who dies on active duty and whose home of record is Massachusetts or;
- With certain exceptions service beginning after September 7, 1980 as an enlisted person, and service after October 16, 1981 as an officer, must be for a minimum of 24 months –or– the full period for which the person was called to active duty (examples include those serving less than 24 months in the Gulf War or Reservists who were federalized by Presidential Recall).

Residency

- Veteran’s home of record on his/her DD Form 214 or other discharge form indicates that he/she was a resident of Massachusetts at the time he/she entered into active military service or;
- Veteran resided in a state other than Massachusetts when he/she entered military service and resided in Massachusetts at least one day after discharge from active duty or;
- Veteran was a resident of Massachusetts at the time of his/her death.