

## **Disability and Benefits Overview**

The VA may provide a number of benefits to Veterans (*contingent on type of discharge*) including, but not limited to:

Disability Compensation	Support for those with limited incomes	Education and Training	Home Loans
Dependent and Survivor Benefits	Medical Insurance	Burial and Memorial Benefits	Vocational Rehabilitation
Mental Health Care	Crisis Hotlines	Dental Insurance	Assistance with homelessness

If you are service connected or receive benefits from the VA, please consult the VA directly at 303.399-8020. If you need assistance with applying for or understanding your benefits, please review the resources below:

## **Colorado Veterans Service Officers**

[http://vets.dmva.state.co.us/?page\\_id=63](http://vets.dmva.state.co.us/?page_id=63)

The Veterans Service Officer (VSO) assists Veterans who served in the United States Military and/or their dependents in filing valid claims for including those listed above as well as life insurance, discharge upgrades, high school diplomas, and other issues.

The VSO may assist a surviving spouse or other individual with any entitled benefit based on the veteran's service history.

Contact Information for local Veterans Service Officers:

Jefferson County Service Officer:

- Peter Mortaro
- 303-271-4205
- [pmortaro@jeffco.us](mailto:pmortaro@jeffco.us)
- 3500 Illinois Street, Suite 1600, Golden, CO 80401

Clear Creek Service Officer:

- Troy Erickson
- 303-670-7543
- [terickson@co.clear-creek.co.us](mailto:terickson@co.clear-creek.co.us)
- 1531 Colorado Blvd, Idaho Springs, CO 80452

Gilpin County Service Officer:

- 303-582-5444 x1103
- 2960 Dory Hill Road, Suite 100 Black Hawk, CO 80422

Denver County Service Officer:

- George Cassidy
- 720-944-350
- [george.cassidy@denvergov.org](mailto:george.cassidy@denvergov.org)
- 1200 Federal Boulevard, Denver, CO 80204



**Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**

303-914-5570

[www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

155 Van Gordon Street, Box 25126, Denver, CO 80225

- Represent Veterans with claims for benefits by helping Veterans build their cases, prepare claim forms and briefs
- May act as attorneys-in-fact when filing claims for VA disability compensation and pension
- Can present claims before government agencies, boards and other bodies
- Free of charge with no obligation

**The Military Order of the Purple Heart**

303-914-5410

<http://www.purpleheart.org/>

155 Van Gordon Street, Lakewood, CO 80228-1709 (VA Regional Office, Room 352)

- Provides direct tailored assistance to Veterans, their dependents, widows and orphans in matters involving the Veterans Administration.
- Assists Veterans whose benefits have been denied at the local office.
- Provides services to Veterans in rural and urban areas.

*You do not need to be a member of the Order to request assistance.***Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States**

303-914-5595

<http://www.vfw.org/>

155 Van Gordon Street #360, P.O. Box 29126, Denver, CO 80225 (VA Regional Office)

- Nationwide network of service officers, both on the Department (state) level and Post level (volunteer advocates)
- Assist with developing disabled Veterans' cases by reviewing and applying current law, pertinent legislation, regulations, and medical histories.
- Function as attorneys-in-fact for Veterans and families they represent.

Review rating board decisions, informing Veterans and their families of the appeals process and of their appellate rights.

