



way businesses and organizations show they're grateful for the service of military and veterans. Some establishments offer year-round discounts, too.

Because of COVID, some establishments have had to close or limit their operations. And situations do change day to day, so above all, if you're going to a restaurant for a discount, for example, call ahead to find out if they're actually open, and whether they are participating in the discount program. Find out what their safety protocol is to make sure you're protected, and what you need to do... such as bring a mask!

One thing of note this year: We're eating out differently now, using third-party delivery services, etc. In perusing discount offers, we've noticed that some restaurants restrict the discount to dine-in or carryout, and don't apply it to online orders or third-party deliverers, for example. So if you're counting on that discount, make sure you clarify ahead of time.

The discounts come in various sizes and may have various exclusions. These are a few for starters, but we're maintaining a running list and will update it at least several times over the next week or so. Check back for deals offered by restaurants, hotels, retail establishments and other businesses. Email Senior Reporter Karen Jowers at [kjowers@militarytimes.com](mailto:kjowers@militarytimes.com) with your additions and suggestions.

If you don't see a favorite establishment on the list, ask them if they offer a military discount. They may offer it, but may not have a sign in the store. Just remember that nobody is required to offer a discount or deal, (with the exception of military stores and ticket and tour offices.)

Be aware that the free meal may be offered to you, but not to your other family members. That's entirely up to the business owner, but it helps you to know that ahead of time so you'll be prepared to pay before you enter an establishment with your family members.

Check out our "Before you go" section at the bottom of this article to save yourself some headaches.

[Applebee's](#): Offering a free meal from a limited menu to active duty and other veterans on Nov. 11, at participating [locations](#). Proof of service required; dine in only.

[Bob Evans](#): Offering a free meal from a menu of seven choices to active duty and other veterans on Nov. 11. Proof of service required; dine in only. Find the nearest location [here](#).

[Cracker Barrel](#): Offers a free slice of Double Chocolate Fudge Coca-Cola Cake on Nov. 11, when dining at any Cracker Barrel location, available to active duty and other veterans.

[Famous Dave's](#): Free Georgia Chopped Pork Sandwich plus side for all military personnel, on Nov. 11 at participating locations only. Valid for dine in, to go and online ordering. Not valid for call in orders. Proof of service required. Check to see if a [location](#) near you is participating.

[Houlihan's](#): Offering \$10 off a \$30 food purchase on Nov. 11, for active duty and other veterans and military families. The offer is valid for in-restaurant dining or for carryout; but orders through their website or a third-party delivery service aren't eligible. The offer may vary in some markets, but the \$10 off \$30 purchase is available at all 10 restaurants in New Jersey; and in Pittsburgh, for example. For the nearest Houlihan's restaurant, operating hours and to confirm the Veterans Day special, visit their [website](#). Year-round, Houlihan's offers a 15 percent discount on food to all active duty and other veterans, with proof of service.

[Little Caesars](#): Offering a free Hot-N-Ready Lunch Combo to active duty and other veterans, on Nov. 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. . The combo features four slices of their Detroit-style deep-dish pizza, with a 20-ounce Pepsi product. Present proof of service such as ID card, DD-214, or an ID card with veteran designation.

[Pilot and Flying J Travel Centers](#): Offering one free breakfast combo and a free Pilot coffee of any size, at participating locations, from Nov. 9 through Nov. 15. Eligible are active duty and other veterans. The offer will be available through the [Pilot Flying J app](#) and can be redeemed at any participating U.S. Pilot and Flying J travel center.

[Red Lobster](#): Offering a free appetizer or dessert on Nov. 11, to active duty and other veterans with a valid ID. The offerings include seven appetizer selections ranging from lobster and langostino pizza to mozzarella cheesesticks; and four dessert selections ranging from vanilla bean cheesecake to key lime pie. Find locations and information [here](#).

[Shoney's](#): Offering a free, all-you-can-eat, breakfast bar on Nov. 11 from opening until 11 a.m. Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, gravy and fresh fruit are just a few of the offerings for active duty and other veterans. The free breakfast bar is dine-in only, with no purchase required, but coffee and beverages cost extra. For locations click [here](#).

[Starbucks](#): Offers a free tall (12-oz) cup of coffee to active duty and other veterans, and military spouses on Nov. 11, at participating U.S. Starbucks stores.

[Torchy's Tacos](#): Offering a free taco and a non-alcoholic beverage on Nov. 11 to active duty and other veterans. Veterans can choose from a special menu of five different tacos, such as the Trailer Park Taco and the Fried Avocado Taco. The offer is available for dine-in and pick up orders placed by phone or in person. Military ID or other proof of service is required. For information, and to find one of the 80 locations nationwide near you, click [here](#).

[Colonial Williamsburg](#): Free admission Wednesday through Sunday, Nov. 11 through Nov. 15, to all active duty and other veterans and their immediate dependents. That includes admission to historic trades and sites; admission to two art museums, and complimentary shuttle service. Guests must visit a Colonial Williamsburg on-site ticket sales location to receive the free admission ticket. Proof of service required, to include military ID or DD Form 214. If a service member is deployed, dependents can use the free admission, and dependents ages 10 and over must have valid ID.

[National Corvette Museum](#): Free admission through Nov. 30 to this museum in Bowling Green, Ky., for active duty and other veterans. Accompanying family members will receive a \$2 discount on admission. Ticket prices are normally \$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors 61-plus; \$7 for youth ages 5 to 12; and age 4 and under are free. The offer is also open to firefighters, police and first responders. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Central time. For more information, visit their [website](#).

[National WWII Museum](#): Offering free admission to the museum, located in New Orleans, to veterans of all conflicts on Nov. 11. The museum also plans commemorative programming with a [livestream available at 11 a.m. Central time Nov. 11](#).

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation areas](#): Fees are waived for day use on Nov. 11 at the more than 2,850 USACE-operated recreation areas nationwide. The waiver covers fees for boat launch ramps and swimming beaches; it doesn't apply to camping and camping-related services, or fees for specialized facilities such as group picnic shelters, or events. Visitors should contact USACE lake and river projects beforehand to make sure the recreation areas are open. The status of these areas is available [here](#).

[World of Coca-Cola](#): While the attraction in Atlanta offers [year round free admission](#) to military members and retirees, the company is offering half-price tickets for up to four friends and family members to join the service members and retirees at the museum and attraction on Monday through Thursday, from

Nov. 2 to Nov. 12. Normally general admission tickets for adults are \$18; for seniors 65-plus, \$16, and youth, \$14. Toddlers 2 and under are free. Tickets must be purchased online using promotional code “vets2020” and members will be asked for their military ID at the ticket window.

**Tickets and tours:** These offices, which are part of installations' morale, welfare and recreation programs, offer a variety of discounts exclusive to the military community for local and national entertainment and recreational activities, many of which can only be obtained at these offices. Check with your local office, which you can find via Military OneSource's installation directory at the bottom of its homepage

**Maxwell House:** Beginning Nov. 9, active duty members and other veterans can visit [coupons.com](https://coupons.com) to download a coupon for a free coffee canister. The Maxwell Houses for Heroes pack is a 1-pound or 3-pound canister of coffee. The coupon can be redeemed online or at participating retailers from Nov. 9 through Nov. 16.

**Target:** Active duty and other veterans and their families receive a 10-percent discount on a purchase, in stores or online, from Nov. 1 through Nov. 11. To get the discount, register at [www.target.com/circle/military](http://www.target.com/circle/military) so that your eligibility can be verified. After that verification, a one-time use Target Circle offer will be available. Some exclusions apply. More information is available [here](#).

**QALO:** Free wedding ring from the U.S. Military Silicone Ring Collection, for active duty and other veterans, available through Nov. 30. Normally priced at \$19.95, it features the service branch's logo imprinted into the silicone. Military service must be validated through [GovX](http://GovX.com), which is a website offering discounts on a variety of products to military, police and first responders .

**GB Auto Service, Inc.:** Active duty and other veterans in five cities can get a free lube, filter and oil change of up to five quarts, through Nov. 30. The brands in those cities are BRAKEmax in Tucson, Ariz.; Tire Works in Las Vegas, Nevada; Ramona Tire in Inland Empire, Calif.; Tate Boys in Tulsa, Okla.; and Driver's Edge in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas. In addition, in two other cities, these veterans can buy three tires and get one free at Louetta Automotive in Houston, Texas and Lamb's Tire in Austin, Texas.

**Great Clips:** On Nov. 11, visit a salon and get a free haircut or a free haircut card that can be redeemed through Dec. 11. Retired and active duty service members are eligible. In addition, non-military customers who get a haircut on Veterans Day at a Great Clips salon will receive a free haircut card to give to a

service member. Now through Nov. 6, people can nominate an active duty or retired service member to receive free haircuts for a year, plus a \$350 gift card. Two people will be randomly selected through this social media campaign, instructions are available [here](#). Great Clips has more than 4,400 salons throughout the U.S. and Canada. In the previous seven years Great Clips has offered this program, it has provided more than 1.6 million haircuts.

[Sport Clips](#): Many locations will offer free haircuts to active duty and other veterans on Nov. 11, with proof of service. Find a participating location [here](#).

[TBC Corporation](#): Offers a conventional oil change for \$18.99, free service on flat repair, 10 percent discount on tires and 20 percent discount on services. These discounts are available every day (not just select days), to active duty and other veterans and first responders. This applies to Tire Kingdom Service Centers, NTB Tire & Service Centers, Big O Tires and Mida

## **BEFORE YOU GO**

- Check the fine print, and call the participating organization to be sure the offer is available at the time you plan on arriving. That's especially important during these days of COVID, when an establishment may have had to shut down in the last day or two.
- Don't forget your mask.
- Let the host, cashier, attendant, reservation agent or other relevant employee know up front that you want the discount or deal.
- "Free" isn't always completely free. A free meal doesn't always come with a drink, for instance. Be prepared to pay for extras such as taxes, (and to tip). Most restaurants require patrons to dine in if they want the deal.
- Call ahead to local establishments to be sure they are aware of, and are participating in, national chain programs. Confirm availability and what type of ID is required.
- Not all offers apply to veterans of all stripes. Be sure you are eligible and you have the appropriate ID/paperwork.
- Not all discounts apply to the entire party. Be sure you're clear whether family members or guests are covered in the discount.

- Always check with your local installation's tickets and tours office before making plans for travel and visiting local attractions. They work with local and national companies to offer discounts on a variety of hotels and attractions, and many of these deals are available only through that installation office.
- It doesn't hurt to ask a company whether they offer a military discount before you book a reservation or order from your waitress. But don't act like you expect it

### **3 things Veterans should know about VA's new electronic health record**



VA is implementing its [new electronic health record \(EHR\) system](#) on Oct. 24 at initial sites in the Pacific Northwest. The implementation improves how clinicians store and manage patient information, including visits, test results, prescriptions and more. This will also mean some changes to how Veterans access their own health data online if their VA facility has changed to the new EHR.

Veterans who receive care at Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Spokane, Washington, and its community-based outpatient clinics in Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint, Idaho; Libby, Montana; and Wenatchee, Washington, will be the first in the nation to use VA's new electronic health record and patient portal, [My VA Health](#). As a complementary tool to VA's existing [My HealthVet](#) patient portal, My VA Health will allow Veterans to manage their appointments, prescription refills, medical records and communication with health care providers online.

Since full implementation of VA's new EHR is expected to occur over a 10-year period ending in 2028, most Veterans will not see immediate changes to how they view their medical records

online. VA will continue to support its current EHR systems, including My HealtheVet, throughout the transition period to ensure there is no interruption to the accessibility and delivery of care. Veterans can expect to learn more as their local facilities prepare to migrate to the new EHR.

In the meantime, here are three key things Veterans should know about VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) program and My VA Health.

## **What is VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization program, and how does it impact Veterans?**

EHRM is an effort to unite VA, the Department of Defense (DOD), the U.S. Coast Guard and community care providers on a single interoperable health information platform. This modernized system will allow VA to continue providing a world-class health care experience for Veterans across all VA facilities.

The new system will replace the department's current electronic health record, known as the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA), with a commercial, off-the-shelf solution developed by Cerner Corp.

The new EHR will create a paperless transition from receiving care as a service member through DOD to receiving care as a Veteran through VA. It will also support providers' clinical decision-making by increasing their ability to make connections between a Veteran's time on active duty and potential health issues later in life.

## **When will Veterans start using My VA Health?**

Veterans will begin using the new My VA Health capabilities, accessible via [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) or [My HealtheVet](https://myhealthvet.va.gov), when their local VA medical center or clinic transitions to the new EHR. Until then, Veterans will use only the existing My HealtheVet portal, which is also accessible via [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov). Mann-Grandstaff VAMC and its clinics are the first facilities introducing My VA Health to their patients.

Once My VA Health launches at a site, Veterans will be able use their current credentials to sign in to either My VA Health or My HealtheVet. This will ensure Veterans who have received care at more than one VA site have access to all of their records. For example, Veterans who receive care at Mann-Grandstaff VAMC and its four clinics will use My VA Health to manage their care from those sites and My HealtheVet to manage their health care from other VA and community sites. Historical records, including prior secure messages, will remain available on My HealtheVet. Meanwhile, VA is working to make [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) the single place where Veterans can go for their health needs, so navigation between the two portals is not necessary. VA will provide resources to walk Veterans through these changes as EHRM deployment reaches their facilities.

## **How will Veterans at Mann-Grandstaff and its associated clinics access the patient portal?**

Veterans will sign in as they do today, either through [My HealtheVet](https://myhealthvet.va.gov) or [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov), using any of the following accounts:

- **Premium** DS Logon account
- **Premium** My HealthVet account
- **Verified**me account

Once logged in, Veterans will be directed to My VA Health regarding care received at Mann-Grandstaff and its clinics and to My HealthVet regarding care received at other VA locations. Veterans with basic or advanced My HealthVet accounts can upgrade to a premium account using [this guide](#).

Additionally, Veterans who receive care at Mann-Grandstaff VAMC and its associated clinics can visit [this page](#) for more information on My VA Health ahead of its introduction Oct. 24.

## **Veteran? How to Know If College Is the Best Way to Start Your Civilian Life**



It's common for veterans to return to school after their tour. The question is, is this the right path for you? In line with [Veterans for Christ's commitment](#) to assisting veterans as they return to civilian life, we put together a guide to help you determine if college should be your next step. Let's start.

### **What you can expect**

After years in service, most veterans find civilian life a challenge. Returning to school is no different, but it also has the potential to make this transition a little easier. For one thing, even the rigors of schoolwork is a lot less pressure than the real world. For another, most colleges go out

of their way to support veteran-students through flexible accommodations, extramural programs, and strength-based teaching, to name just a few.

As a veteran, you're also eligible for several [VA education benefits](#). Depending on the program, these may include funds for tuition, housing support, and stipends for books and supplies. There are even [scholarships](#) that can cover your educational program of choice. These benefits are undoubtedly crucial to your transition as it takes care of the biggest concern for most students—the financial aspect of education—so it's best to start by researching your eligibility.

### **How it will benefit you**

Beyond easing your transition into the real world, going back to school will also offer you more advantages. First of all, you now have the opportunity to study something that you love and enjoy. Perhaps you've already gone to college before joining the armed forces—this can be your chance to pursue a different field or higher education like a master's degree. Or, if you enlisted after high school, years in service might have helped you develop more certainty on the career path that you want to take, so now is a great time to go for it.

Next, a college degree will also improve your job prospects exponentially, as well as [better prepare](#) you for jobs. Research shows that those who have earned bachelor's degrees earn [approximately \\$32,000 more](#) per annum than high school graduates. Moreover, degree holders are 47 percent more likely to have health insurance and have lower rates of joblessness.

It goes without saying that while a degree is not the end-all-be-all for a successful, productive, and lucrative post-military career, it does give you a valuable leg-up in a highly competitive world. With that said, a stint in school is surely worth your time.

### **What are your options?**

You'll be more hard-pressed to find colleges that are *not* welcoming to veterans than those that are [veteran-friendly](#), so finding a school is the least of your worries. The real challenge is in [picking the right one](#). It's a good idea, therefore, to scout various schools and weigh your options based on your circumstances and personal goals. Networking with other veterans also helps.

These days, earning a degree online is also possible, and may even be a highly viable option. For instance, if you're looking to earn a degree in computer science, healthcare, or business, the right online program will provide you with the appropriate skills and [cutting-edge training](#) to become a qualified professional. What sets it apart is [the flexibility](#) you enjoy, so you can study at your own pace and avoid potential transition issues.

College will be another challenge after your time in the armed forces, but it is unquestionably a challenge that will enrich your civilian life. By recognizing the benefits, managing your expectations, and researching your options, you can adequately prepare for this new chapter in your life.

(By Kelli Brewer)

**The VFC 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon at the 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Restaurant has been cancelled with Guest speaker Ms. Bobeth Yates from Channel 46 because of Covid 19.**



### Verse of the Day

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.  
Romans 12:2 KJV*

## **YOU TOO CAN BE A MEMBER OF THE VETERANS FOR CHRIST, INC.**

Sign up online to become an associate member. The annual associate membership of \$120.00 which can be used as a tax deduction for supporters. Registration fees can be paid online through our PayPal account. You will get a free VFC T-shirt with your associate membership. Your tax deductible membership fee will support the VFC mission.

All Honorably Discharged Veterans are welcome to come and observe the VFC; feel free to ask questions and learn more. If we don't know the answer we know someone who does. Please browse our web site [www.veteransforchristinc.org](http://www.veteransforchristinc.org). There you'll find information on many subjects of interest to veterans. You'll also find a Newsletter for your branch of service and links to Social Security and many other links with an abundance of information.

Our monthly meetings are on hold until the pandemic is cleared and a vaccine is developed. No meetings are being held at the Wesley Chapel Library at 2861 Wesley Chapel Rd., Decatur, Ga. Our meetings are the fourth Thursday of every month and start at 6:30 (PM) for approximately one hour and a half, unless otherwise advertised. We will be respectful of your time. All Meetings are cancelled until further notice because of the corona virus pandemic.

Thank you for your interest in the VFC. We look forward to communicating and fellowshiping with you soon. We are looking for a corporate sponsor for our VFC Gerald Prince College Scholarship which is donated each September at our Anniversary Luncheon

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, being men of courage, be strong." 1Cor 16:13

Sincerely,

*William A. Harris, Jr.*

William A. Harris, Jr., USAF Retired  
President, Veterans for Christ, Inc.

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