

VETERANS FOR CHRIST, INC.  
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## Veterans, Gold Star Families get free lifetime pass to national parks, wildlife refuges, other public land

On Veterans Day 2022, the National Park Service unveil a lifetime pass providing free entrance to [national parks](#) for Veterans and their families. The Interagency Military Lifetime Pass waives entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites for current military service members and their dependents, Veterans and Gold Star Families.

Veterans and their families have free access to approximately 2,000 public locations spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, which host activities to fit any lifestyle—from serene to high octane, including hiking, fishing, paddling, biking, hunting, stargazing, camping, and much more.

The Military Pass has been expanded to include a pass that does not expire for Veterans and Gold Star Family members. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2022 authorized a free lifetime pass to national parks and other federal recreational lands for eligible Veterans and Gold Star Families. In recent years, they were able to receive annual passes.

### Are you eligible?

For purposes of this program, a Veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserve, and is able to present one of the following forms of valid (unexpired) identification:

- Department of Defense Identification Card
- [Veteran Health Identification Card \(VHIC\)](#)
- [Veteran ID Card](#)
- Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card

Gold Star Families are next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a “qualifying situation,” such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces.

### How do I check the status of my PACT Act claim?

Sign into your va.gov account with your existing [Login.gov](#), [ID.me](#), [DS Logon](#) or [My HealthVet account](#). If you don't have any of these accounts, you can create a free Login.gov or

ID.me account. Once you are signed into your account, simply follow these three steps to check the status of your PACT Act claim:

- Go to your “My VA” dashboard. You will find the link for this dashboard in the top right corner of the page once you’re signed in.
- Scroll down to the “Track Claims” section. There, you’ll see a summary of the latest status information for any open claims or appeals you may have.
- Click on the “View Status” button for a specific claim. You’ll go to a page with more details about that claim’s status and supporting evidence. Evidence may include documents like a doctor’s report or medical test results. (Claim status tool FAQs can be found [here](#).)

### • **What else can I learn about my PACT Act claim?**

After you log in and follow the steps above, you can find out:

- Where your claim, appeal or decision review is in the review process. (Learn what your claim status means [here](#).)
- Which documents and forms VA needs from you.
- Which documents have already been received from health care providers, government agencies and other sources.
- Details like your claim type, the date VA received your claim and the name of your representative.

### **What should I do if I need help filing a claim or have questions?**

Veterans Service Officers are available to assist a Veteran or their survivor in filing claims, reviewing information or answering questions.

Find a Veterans Service Officer near you at VA’s [VSO Webpage](#).

### **For more information**

For further help, please call 1-800-827-1000 (TTY: 711) from Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET. To learn more about the PACT Act, visit: <https://www.va.gov/pact>.

“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)

## **Need to contact VA?**

[Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255](#) and press 1, [Chat](#), or Text 838255

[Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838](#) or [Chat](#)

[White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311](#)

[1-800-MyVA411 \(800-698-2411\)](#) is never the wrong number