

## **VETERANS' BILL OF RIGHTS**

### **Veterans, you have a right to:**

File a written application for veterans' benefits at any time. You can assist upon this right, even if told that you are ineligible.

Get help from your Veterans' Services Officer in completing your application. (M.G.L., Chapter 115, Section 3)

Receive a full explanation of the services and veterans' benefits available under M.G.L., Chapter 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 (1)]

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.

Receive fair and equal treatment without regards to veterans' status [M.G.L., Chapter 40, Section 51], race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex or handicap. [M.G.L., Chapter 151B, Section 3]

Preference in public employment [M.G.L., Chapter 31, Section 25 and Chapter 41, Section 112]

Coleman Nee, Secretary

Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services

600 Washington Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Telephone: (617) 210-5480

Website: [www.mass.gov/veterans](http://www.mass.gov/veterans)

## **Veterans' Services Officers:**

### **Indispensable Public Servants to the Community**

For more than 100 years a Veterans' Services Officer has been available in every Massachusetts city and town to provide an array of services to America's veterans and their dependents. Veterans' Services Officers offer a helping hand to anyone in their community in need of guidance or assistance relating to military services. Their departments serve every citizen by providing information and direction concerning:

\*M.G.L., Chapter 115 Financial Assistance  
Benefits\*Medical Assistance\*Prescription  
Advantage\*Annuities\*Wartimes Bonuses\*Real Estate Tax  
Abatements\*Burial Benefits, including Grave  
Markers\*Housing, including Homeless  
Services\*Education\*Employment\*Military Records &  
Medals\*License Plates\*Motor Vehicle Sales & Excise Tax  
Exemptions\*Records Retention\*Elder

## **EASTON VETERANS SERVICES**

### **HSIU-ANN TOM, DIRECTOR**

**Town Offices**  
**136 Elm Street**  
**Easton, MA 02356**  
**Phone: (508) 230-0551**  
**Fax: (508) 230-0609**

**Email: [htom@easton.ma.us](mailto:htom@easton.ma.us)**

**Website: [www.easton.ma.us](http://www.easton.ma.us)**

### **Office Hours**

**Monday – 8:30 AM-7:30 PM**  
**Tuesday – 8:30 AM-4:30 PM**  
**Wednesday – 8:30 AM-4:30 PM**  
**Thursday – 8:30 AM-4:30 PM**  
**Friday – 8:30 AM-12:30 PM**

## **EASTON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES**



**We Owe You!**



### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Easton's Veterans Services is to advocate on behalf of all of Easton's veterans and provide them with quality support services and to direct a financial assistance program for those veterans and their dependents who are in need.

## HISTORY

Since 1861, from its first commitments to Civil War veterans, their spouses and their dependents, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has demonstrated solid concern and compassion for those men and women who have displayed sacrifice, valor, and duty when their state and nation called upon them. The Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) supports a network of services and benefits to ensure that none of the estimated 476,000 veterans in Massachusetts today, nor their 1 million dependents will go hungry, be homeless, or medically deprived.

Following World War II, the Legislature redrafted Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 115 establishing the position of Secretary of Veterans' Services, who has the responsibility for the proper administration of M.G.L., Chapter 115. This program provides the necessary support for veterans with dignity and sensitivity to which they are entitled in view of the sacrifices they have made for their country. The dependents of deceased veterans are also provided with the same benefits.

It is the local Veterans' Services Officer to whom the unemployed, the indigent, the disabled, the ill, or veterans otherwise in need, first apply for assistance. Appointed by the Town Administrator, the Veterans' Services Officer interviews the applicants, determines their eligibility, and files requests for assistance with the Secretary of Veterans' Services. Your Veterans' Officer is available to anyone seeking information or assistance in the area of veterans' benefits and services.

## STATE BENEFITS

**Chapter 115 Benefits:** The Commonwealth is the only state in the nation that has made generous provisions in state law by providing to eligible veterans and/or dependents financial assistance for food, housing, clothing, medical and burial assistance. To apply, contact Easton Veterans' Services at (508) 230-0551.

**Bonuses:** For the Persian Gulf War Bonus call (617) 210-5927. For bonuses after 9/11/01 to the present, contact the State Treasurer at (617) 367-3900, ext.543, or for OEF/OIF veterans, ext. 539.

**Property Tax:** There are a number of exemptions available to certain disabled veterans or their survivors. Contact Easton Veterans Services at (508) 230-0551 or the Town Assessor at (508) 230-0520 for the exemption.

**Sales & Excise Tax:** Certain disabled veterans and ex-prisoners of war are eligible for motor vehicle sales & excise tax exemptions. Contact Easton Veterans Services for more information.

**Annuity:** There is a \$2,000 annuity available for 100% service connected disabled veterans, parents of a son or daughter whose death occurred as a result of injury sustained or disease contracted during active service in time of war, insurrection, or combat, and to a spouse whose husband or wife died as a result of the above.

## STATE BENEFITS (continued)

### **Massachusetts Veterans'**

**Cemeteries:** The Cemeteries in Winchendon and Agawam are now open for burial of the Commonwealth's deceased veterans, spouses, and dependents. Contact the cemetery in Winchendon at (978) 297-9501 or Agawam at (413) 821-9500 for applications and information. Massachusetts' National Cemetery is located in Bourne on Cape Cod. Call (508) 563-7113.

**Public Housing:** Veterans and their families are given preference for state-aided public housing through the Easton Housing Authority. Contact them at (508) 238-4747.

**Women Veterans:** DVS has a Women's Network Program whose mission is to provide women with information on benefits expand awareness of the needs of women veterans and identify available health care and other resources to meet those needs.

**Educational Assistance:** Veterans are eligible to attend state colleges tuition free on a space available basis. Contact the Veterans Representative at the state college of your choice for eligibility requirements. MA National Guard Veterans receive free tuition and fees at state colleges.

**For additional benefits information contact Easton Veterans' Services at (508) 230-0551.**