

Eligibility for Veterans Benefits

Era of Service	Dates	Requirement for Veteran Status
WWI	6-Apr-1917 11-Nov-1918	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PEACETIME	12-Nov-1918 15-Sep-1940	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
WWII (Merchant Marine: 7-Dec-1941 through 31- Dec-1946)	16-Sep-1940 25-Jul-1947	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PEACETIME	26-Jul-1947 24-Jun-1950	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
KOREA	25-Jun-1950 31-Jan-1955	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
Korean Defense Service Medal	28-Jul-1954 (to be determined later)	90 days of active duty service, last discharge under honorable conditions and the Korean Defense Service Medal.
VIETNAM I	1-Feb-1955 4-Aug-1964	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
VIETNAM II	5-Aug-1964 7-May-1975	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PEACETIME	8-May-1975 1-Aug-1990	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
Lebanon Campaign*	25-Aug-1982 (to be determined later)	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
Grenada Campaign*	25-Oct-1983 15-Dec-1983	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
Panama Campaign*	20-Dec-1989 31-Jan-1990	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PERSIAN GULF	2-Aug-1990 (to be determined later)	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.

To be eligible for veterans' benefits, one must be a "veteran" or a dependent of a "veteran" under M.G.L. c. 4, sec. 7, cl. 43rd as amended by the Acts of 2005, ch. 130. See below for service requirements and exceptions.

*Naval and Marine DD214 must indicate Expeditionary Medal. All DD214's must specify campaign: Lebanon, Granada, or Panama.

- For **GUARD MEMBERS** to qualify they must have 180 days and have been activated under Title 10 of the U.S. Code **-OR-** Members who were activated under Title 10 or Title 32 of the U.S. Code or Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 33, sections 38, 40, and 41 must have 90 days, at least one of which was during wartime, per the above chart.
- For **RESERVISTS** to qualify, they must have been called to regular active duty, at which point their eligibility can be determined by the above chart.

Training Duty Exception

Active duty service in the armed forces shall not include active duty for training in the Army or Air National Guard or active duty for training as a Reservist in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Minimum Service Exception (for Death or Disability)

It is not necessary that an applicant have completed the minimum service for wartime or peacetime campaign if he/she served some time in the campaign and was awarded the Purple Heart, or suffered a service-connected disability per the Discharge Certificate, or died in the service under honorable conditions.

Eligible Dependents

The following categories of persons may qualify as dependents eligible to receive veterans' benefits.

- 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 five years immediately preceding the commencement of the veteran's wartime service.

- Child of the veteran until his or her 19th birthday.
- Child of the veteran between 19 years and 23 years of age while the child is attending high school, an institution of higher learning or some other accredited educational institution provided that the applicant is in receipt of benefits under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 115.
- Child of the veteran 19 years of age or older who is mentally or physically unable to support himself or herself and was affected by the disability prior to his or her 18th birthday.
- Legally adopted children of the veteran.

Who is NOT eligible?

None of the following shall be deemed to be a veteran:

- Any person, who at the time of entering into the armed forces of the United States, had declared his/her intention to become a subject or citizen of the United States and withdrew his/her intention under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918.
- Any person who was discharged from the said armed forces on his/her own application or solicitation by reason of his/her being an enemy alien.
- Any person who has been proved guilty of willful desertion.
- Any person whose only service in the armed forces of the United States consists of his/her service as a member of the Coast Guard auxiliary or as a temporary member of the Coast Guard Reserve, or both.
- Any person whose last discharge or release from the armed forces is dishonorable.

Applications for Chapter 115 Public Assistance benefits can be filed with the Veteran's local [Veterans Agent](#) who works out of your city or town hall.

Springfield's Department of Veterans' Services Agent is Marine Combat Veteran, **Daniel M Walsh III**.

City Hall Room 416,

36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103

Phone: 413.787.6144 M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Walk-Ins are Welcome!

<http://www.springfield-ma.gov/cos/veterans.0.html>