



Restoration of Honor Act Fact Sheet

- The Maryland Restoration of Honor Act authorizes the Maryland Department of Veterans & Military Families (DVMF) to restore State Veterans Benefits to veterans who have an other-than-honorable (OTH), a General Under Honorable Conditions (GUH), or Uncharacterized (UC) character of service due to sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
- Does not change a veteran's official federally issued character of discharge.
- Considers only the veteran's time in service, not conduct after service.
- DVMF field offices will assist veterans in accessing their complete and unredacted Official Military Personnel File and if applicable and required their U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Rating Decision Notice for the conditions they are claiming led to their discharge.
- DVMF shall afford "liberal consideration," employing the standards described by the Hagel, Carson, and Kurta Memorandums issued by the United States Department of Defense, to all evidence provided by the veteran. If the veteran can demonstrate that sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression was at least as likely as not the reason for the veteran's OTH, GUH or UC discharge from military service, then DVMF will adjudicate the matter in the veteran's favor.
- If the veteran receives a favorable determination and their service is considered honorable for the purpose of receiving Maryland State Veterans Benefits, DVMF will provide an award letter with a list of Maryland State Veterans Benefits for which the veteran is now eligible.



Restoration of State Veterans Benefits Instructions

In 2022, the Restoration of Honor Act was signed into law in Maryland. The Restoration of Honor Act authorizes the Maryland Department of Veterans & Military Families (DVMF) to restore access to State Veterans Benefits to veterans who have an Other-Than-Honorable Discharge (OTH), General Under Honorable (GUH), or Uncharacterized (UC) conditions discharge due to sexual orientation, or gender expression to an Honorable Discharge.

This does not change a veteran's federal official character of discharge on their DD-214 or other discharge paperwork. This determination refers solely to a veteran's character of discharge for the purposes of qualifying for specific State Benefits for veterans and their families. DVMF will strive to provide an initial decision **within 60 days** of the receipt of the **completed application**.

When necessary, DVMF field offices will assist veterans in obtaining the veteran's complete and unredacted Official Military Personnel File, a review of which is necessary for DVMF to render a decision on the veteran's application. DVMF field offices can also assist the veteran in obtaining a copy of their U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Rating Decision Notice. Please note that the 60 days for DVMF to render a decision will not begin until DVMF has a complete application, to include the complete and unredacted Official Military Personnel File.



Application Packet

Mandatory Documents

1. Restoration of State Veterans Benefits Application
2. Complete unredacted Official Military Personnel File (Copy)
 - a. DVMF Field Office can assist in applying for your OMPF documents.
 - b. Sending in a completed Standard Form 180 will not meet this requirement.
3. Signed personal statement describing precisely why your assigned character of service was unjust and why an upgrade to a higher character of service is appropriate.
4. If applicable, a VA Rating Decision Letter, from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, verifying that you have a service-connected rating for your disability.

Optional Documents

1. Supporting letters from individuals who can sincerely vouch for the veteran's good conduct and character in the military.
2. Evidence of any medals, commendations, and decorations earned during your military service.
3. If DVMF did not receive enough information to adjudicate your application, we may request signed documents for the release of additional information.

Please mail the mandatory and any optional documents to:

Department of Veterans & Military Families

% Morgan Murphy

16 Francis St., 4th Floor

Annapolis, MD 21668



Restoration of Maryland Veterans Benefits Application

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Last 4 Digits of SSN: _____

Branch of Service: Army Navy Air Force
 Marines Coast Guard

Dates of Service:

Entry: _____ Discharge: _____

Discharge Status:

Uncharacterized Service General Under Honorable Conditions
 Other Than Honorable Conditions

Reason for Restoration of State Veterans Benefits:

Sexual Orientation Gender Identity
 Gender Expression

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____