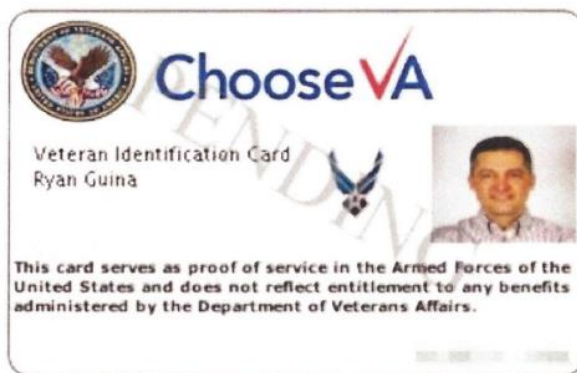


# How to Obtain the Federal Veterans Identification Card (VID)

<https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic/>



Sample VA ID Card

- **Veteran ID Card**

A Veteran ID Card (VIC) is a form of photo ID you can use to get discounts offered to Veterans at many stores, businesses, and restaurants. When you have this card, you won't need to carry around your military discharge papers or share sensitive personal information to receive discounts. If you have a VIC, you don't need to request another type of photo ID card to prove you're a Veteran or to get retail or business discounts.

**Please note:** Retail vendors volunteer to take part in this discount program. If a business decides to provide discounts to Veterans, it doesn't mean that we're recommending or favoring that business.

- **You can use any of these forms of ID to get the same discounts:**

- A Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC), **or**
- A Department of Defense (DoD) Identification Card—either a Common Access Card (CAC) or Uniformed Services ID Card, **or**
- A state-issued driver's license or ID with a Veterans designation

**Note:** If you already have one of these, you don't need a Veteran ID Card, but you can still apply for it if you'd like.

- **Will my Veteran ID Card replace my other military ID cards?**

**No.** Your Veteran ID Card won't replace your Veteran Health Identification Card or your Department of Defense ID Card.

- **You cannot use a Veteran ID Card to:**

- Prove your eligibility for any federal benefits, **or**
- Access military bases or installations, **or**
- Access military commissaries or exchanges, **or**
- Present as a form of identification at the airport, **or**
- Check into a VA hospital, **or**
- Show as proof of retirement from the Armed Forces, **or**
- Show as proof of wartime service to get a special license plate from the Department of Motor Vehicles

# How to Obtain the Federal Veterans Identification Card (VID)

## Am I eligible for a Veteran ID Card?

You may be eligible if you meet both of the requirements listed below.

Both of these must be true. You:

- Served on active duty, in the Reserves, or in the National Guard (including the Coast Guard), **and**
- Received an honorable or general discharge (under honorable conditions)

If you received an other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable character of discharge, you're not eligible for a Veteran ID Card. If you have an uncharacterized or unknown discharge status, we'll have to verify your eligibility before we approve your application.

You'll need to provide a copy of your discharge papers when you apply for a VIC to prove your character of discharge.

## What do I need to apply for a Veteran ID Card?

When you apply, be sure to have these on hand:

- Your Social Security number
- A digital copy of your DD214, DD256, DD257, or NGB22 that you can upload. This could be in a .pdf, .jpeg, or .png file format.
- A copy of a current and valid government-issued ID, such as a driver's license, passport, or state-issued identification card.

You'll also need a digital color photo of yourself from the shoulders up. The photo should follow all these standards:

- Show a full front view of your face and neck (with no hat, head covering, or headphones covering or casting shadows on your hairline or face), **and**
- Be cropped from your shoulders up (much like a passport photo), **and**
- Show you with your eyes open and a neutral expression, **and**
- Be taken in clothing you'd wear for a driver's license photo, **and**
- Be a square size and have a white or plain-color background (with no scenery or other people in the photo), **and**
- Show what you look like now (a photo taken sometime in the last 10 years), **and**
- Be uploaded as a .jpeg, .png, .bmp, or .tiff file


# How to Obtain the Federal Veterans Identification Card (VID)

## How do I apply for a Veteran ID Card?

Sign in to [VA.gov](#)

## You'll need to sign in before you can apply for a Veteran ID Card


Try signing in with your DS Logon, My HealtheVet, or ID.me account. If you don't have any of those accounts, you can create one.


**VA** |  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs


## Sign in to VA.gov

Secured & powered by ID.me

Sign in with an existing account


 Sign in with DS Logon

 Sign in with My HealtheVet

 ID.me Sign in with ID.me

OR

Don't have those accounts?

 ID.me Create an ID.me account

One site. A lifetime of benefits and services at your fingertips.

You spoke. We listened. VA.gov is the direct result of what you said you wanted most—one easy-to-use place to:

- Check your disability claim and appeal status
- Find out how much money you have left to pay for school or training
- Refill your prescriptions and communicate with your health care team
- ...and more

**A secure account powered by ID.me**

ID.me is our trusted technology partner in helping to keep your personal information safe. They specialize in digital identity

## What happens after I apply for a Veteran ID Card?

Once you've submitted your VIC application, we'll check your eligibility and verify that:

- Your character of discharge meets eligibility requirements, **and**
- The ID you submitted (driver's license or passport) is valid, **and**
- The image you've chosen to appear on the card meets the photo requirements

After we've verified your eligibility, we'll send you an email letting you know the status of your application. If you have an unknown or uncharacterized discharge status, your application will take more time to process while we verify your eligibility. (We may need to request your records from the National Personnel Records Center.)

If you receive an email from us asking for additional information or evidence to process your application, you'll need to sign in to AccessVA and update your application with the information we ask for.