Definitions of Veteran Statuses

Recently Separated Veteran: a veteran during the three-year period beginning on the date of such veteran’s discharge or release from active duty in the U.S. military, ground, naval or air service. A discharge date must be listed for any person who is a recently separated veteran according to this definition.

Armed Forces Services Medal Veteran: a veteran who, while serving on active duty in the U.S. military, ground, naval or air service, participated in a United States military operation for which an Armed Forces Services Medal was awarded pursuant to Executive Order 12985. A veteran’s discharge form (DD Form 214) indicates whether a veteran received a service medal.

Disabled Veteran: (i) a veteran of the U.S. military, ground, naval or air service who is entitled to compensation (or who but for the receipt of military retired pay would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs or (ii) a person who was discharged or released from active duty because of a service connected disability.

Vietnam Era Veteran: a person who: (i) served on active duty in the U.S. military, ground, naval or air service for a period of more than 180 days, and who was discharged or released there from with other than a dishonorable discharge, if any part of such active duty was performed: (A) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975; or (B) between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, in any other location; or (ii) was discharged or released from active duty in the U.S. military, ground, naval or air service for a service-connected disability if any part of such active duty was performed (A) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975; or (B) between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, in any other location.

Other Protected Veteran: a veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. military, ground, naval or air service during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized.