

Military Career Management: MOAA's Annual State Report.

Military Officer Association of America

Which states *really* support our military families?

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MOAA released its Annual State Report Card addressing policies on supporting our military veterans. The report reviews the following policies and programs for each state as listed below.

Educational Assistance

- Survivors
- Surviving Children
- Spouse of Vet with VA Disability rating
- Children of Vet with VA Disability rating

Taxes

- Exempt from State Taxation
 - Military Retirement Pay
 - Survivor Benefits
- Estate Taxes
- Inheritance Taxes

Military Student Identifier Medicaid Waiver

Veteran Treatment Courts Veteran Preferences

(To view the entire article, visit MOAA's website: <http://www.moaa.org/statereport.>)

It is very apparent which states support military families, so when a state offers poor support, I can't help but ask myself, why?

Now I was born in Trenton, Michigan, a small town outside of Detroit and I grew up in Springfield, a township outside of Philadelphia. Both are nice, but as I write this short article I sit here in Southern California where it's currently 73 degrees. Trenton and Springfield are showing temperatures in the 40's and expect snow in the evening. I'm not moving anytime soon, BUT, if I could move right now I would settle down in NEVADA! Where they don't tax my retirement pay and have no state income tax. Those savings add up very quickly!

So let's look at Nevada as an example of a state that supports our Veterans and their families—not because of Las Vegas, but as a politically active state. Senator Reid and Congressman Heck are not of the same party, but are strong supporters of the military family. Politicians in Alabama, Florida, Michigan, New Hampshire, and Texas are also strong veteran advocates. Why is that? Is it about money or just doing the right thing? When a veteran is in your state, there's financial support that comes with them. Nevada consistently solicits veterans to move to the state as witnessed in their advertisements, low cost of living, and tax advantages.

What is the result of increased VA financial aid for the state? More clinics, more hospitals, and increased cash flow into the state. As the Vietnam generation veteran ages, medical demands will continue, ultimately increasing the funding. Gulf War veterans are right behind them and that population just continues to grow. With the increased funding, community support and infrastructure support grow. Construction, housing, medical, and administrative support areas will also need to expand. Workers assisting veteran organizations become in high demand and as a result, support their own families and local economies. This creates an environment of spending, investing, consistent growth, and a sense of well-being. Therefore, the local economies develop and what Politician would not want that?

Most other states talk big about supporting veterans, but the delivery is short in comparison to those who truly support the military family. In fact, a majority of our states just blow a lot of smoke up our exhaust and can surely do more. Look at California for example. It possesses one of the largest populations of veterans within the USA and has a poor record at best when reviewing MOAA's article. See the graphs below exhibiting Veteran population by state; it is very apparent where we live and choose to live.

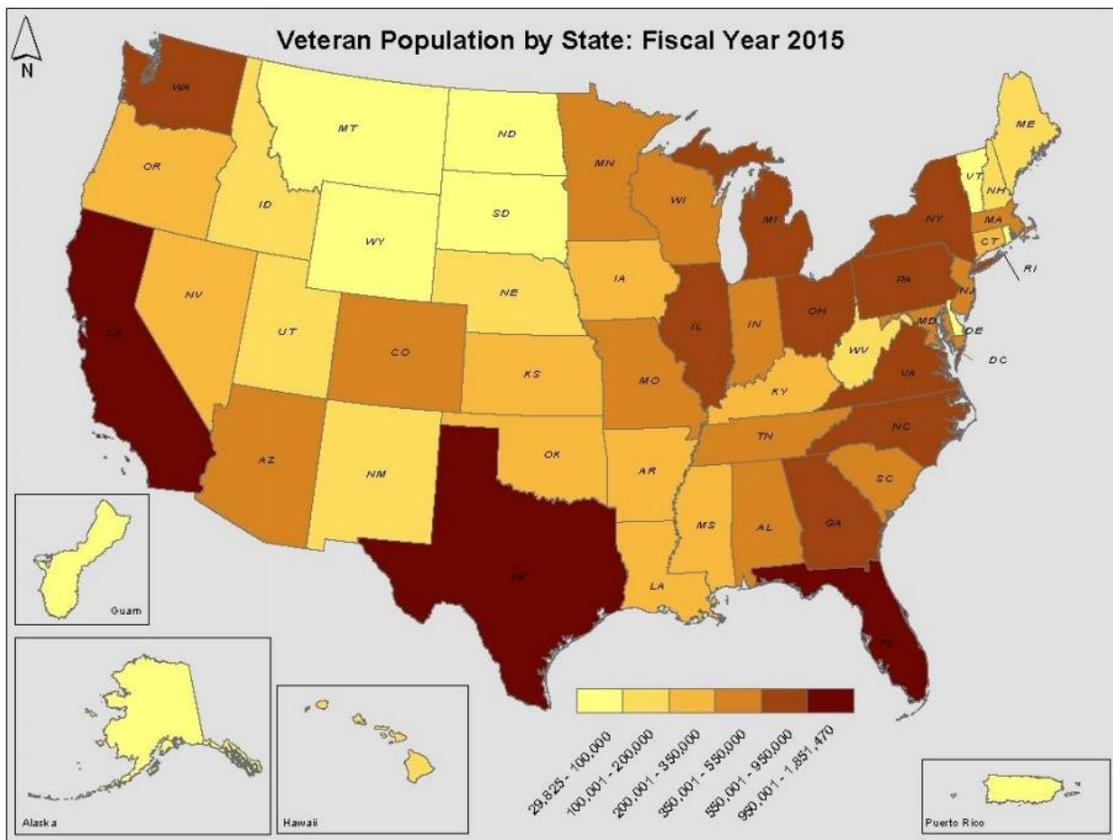
Sources and sites:

<http://www.moaa.org/statereport>. A very special thanks to the MOAA staff for compiling this data: Capt. Paul Frost, USN (Ret), Ms. Karen Golden, Lt. Col. Shane Ostrom, USAF (Ret) and Lucie Rosner.

Visit VA.GOV and review the maps below:

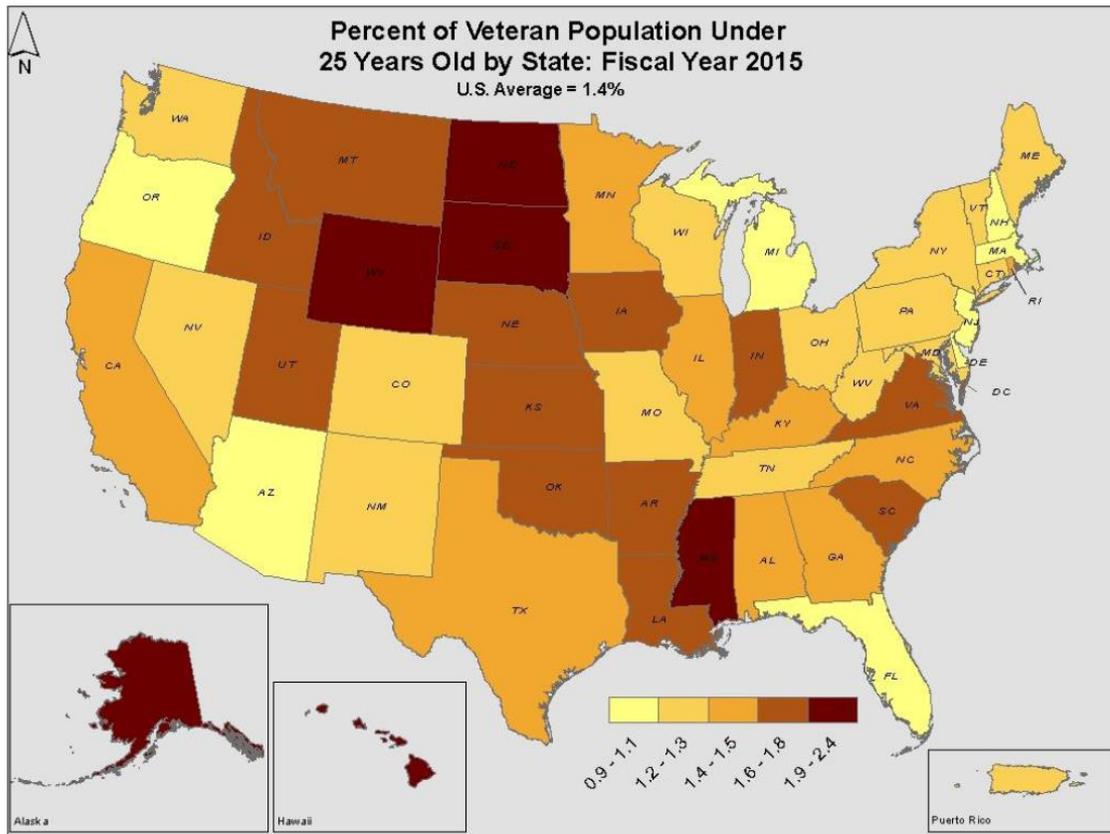
http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/QuickFacts/QuickFactsMaps_Slideshow.pdf

God Bless and Semper Fi!



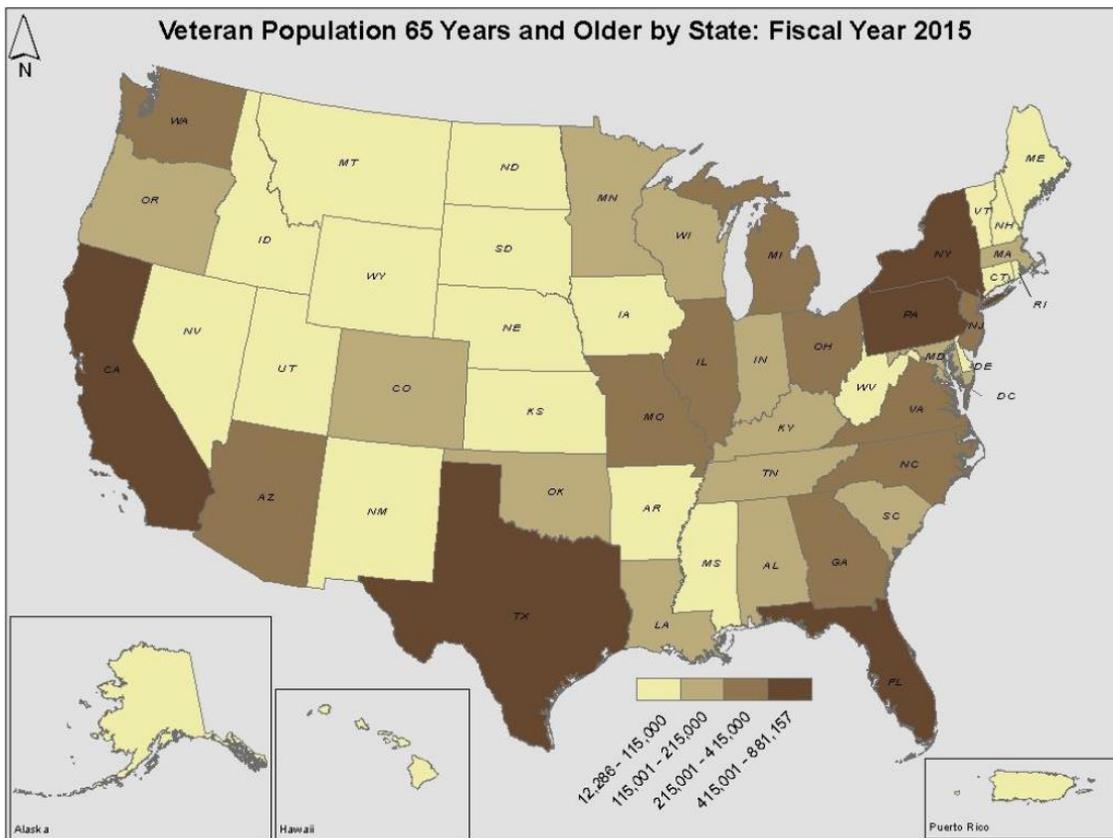
Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Actuary, Veteran Population Projection Model (VetPop), 2014 as of 9/30/2014

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics



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