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5 Things Veterans Need to Focus on to Ensure Financial Freedom in Civilian Life

After years of selfless service to your country, re-entering civilian life can be rife with challenges, both expected and otherwise. Not the least of which are difficulties both mental and emotional in nature that often plague veterans, as well as social and physical struggles. And of course, you will likely meet no small measure of financial stress too.

Thankfully, there's no reason for such troubles to spoil the perks of your much-deserved discharge or retirement. You now have the opportunity to reconnect with your family, friends, and loved ones, not to mention follow your own path to success. It's important, therefore, to make the most out of this time and hit the ground running by focusing on the most crucial elements to ensure a brighter financial future for you and your family. Take a look at these tips from [Vets to Vets United](#) on how you can do just that.

Taxes

There's no question that taxes are unavoidable, so be proactive and meet them head-on. You will undoubtedly be interested to know that as a veteran who's had at least 24 months of consecutive service and was discharged honorably, you qualify for several [tax benefits and services](#), like tax preparation, [property tax exemptions](#) and more.

To take advantage of such perks, start by doing your research online, as you will undoubtedly find countless tax guides and resources dedicated to veterans to show you the way.

Career

One of the first things you'll need to address as a civilian is how you will support yourself and your family. Depending on your military background and education, you may be able to find a job that fits your skills and experience. Engineering, healthcare, information technology, and law-related careers are often top choices for veterans.

However, you may want to go into business for yourself. After years of serving your country, the flexibility and promise of entrepreneurship can be exciting and rewarding. Once you have decided what business you'd like to pursue, there are some initial steps you must take to get started. For example, you'll need to research your local market in [North Carolina](#) and come up with a business plan. You should also figure out how to incorporate your business so you can pursue loans and grants, many of which are set aside specifically for veterans.

Life Insurance

As a serviceman or servicewoman, you automatically get life insurance coverage from the government. More often than not, so does your family. At the end of your tour, there are also other life insurance programs you may be eligible for, so take stock of the [government's offerings](#) and find out which ones you'll qualify for. Alternatively, private insurance options are also worth exploring for added coverage.

Another thing worthy of consideration is burial insurance. While the VA does cover non-service-related deaths, the payout is actually on the low side at [just \\$300 to \\$780](#). This barely makes a dent in possible [funeral expenses](#), which on average are \$7,000 - \$15,000. Opting for additional coverage with burial insurance, therefore, will save your loved ones a great deal of financial grief, which is no small comfort at such a difficult time.

Home Loans

Veterans who want to [buy a home](#) also have a lock-in on great home loan benefits. In a nutshell, VA loans exist as mortgages offered by private lenders like banks but are guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), so they generally have low interest rates and, best of all, require zero down payment.

Doubtless, such loans are a godsend in this volatile housing market. It will do you well, indeed, to learn all about them and determine your eligibility. It's also wise to compare various VA loan lenders to find the best terms and offerings, as well as take advantage of the most competitive rates and fees.

Savings

When thinking about your finances as a veteran, it's safe to say you have a future in mind, and not just yours but your family's too. Such forward-thinking will invariably include thoughts of retirement, education, healthcare, and more, making it all the more important to explore options to invest and grow your money exponentially so it can hold its own against inflation, economic fluctuations, and other such concerns.

The good news is there are some great investment opportunities for vets out there for you to seriously consider. At the most basic level, you can also entrust your hard-earned money to special savings and investment programs designed specifically for vets and offered by various [military financial establishments](#) that exist to serve those who have served.

Suffice it to say, there is no dearth of financial assistance for veterans. By simply practicing due diligence, you will have some of the best government and private programs within your reach. So take advantage of your perks as a vet to make your re-integration into society a smoother and more financially sound one.

[Vets to Vets United](#) is dedicated to uniting veterans and service dogs. For more information, please visit our site.