

Veteran ID Cards Now Available

It's been two years since the *Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015* called on the VA to issue veteran IDs to veterans who apply.

The ID card application process opened in November. The law mandates that cards contain a veteran's name, photo and a non-social security identification number, though you must enter your social security number to obtain a card.

The cards are valid only for proving military service and cannot be used for benefits through the VA nor to gain access onto military installations. However, those who are currently eligible for VA or military benefits will continue to have those through their current methods.

Veterans also will not be able to use the cards as proof of age because they are not official government-issued IDs.

To apply, veterans must register with *Vets.gov*, a website that authenticates veterans through the ID.me system. This requires vets to upload a copy of a valid government photo ID and provide their Social Security number, in addition to entering other information.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

“Every veteran — past, present, and future — will now be able to prove their military service without the added risk of identity theft,” Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.), who introduced the ID card legislation in 2015, told *Military.com*. “These ID cards will make life a little bit easier for our veterans.”

An important piece of information to note is that the ID cards are available only to honorably discharged veterans, according to VA spokesman Curt Cashour.

At press time, the VA offered no indication about how long it would take to process the ID applications.