

## VETERAN AND MILITARY I.D. CARDS

**Question:** Does the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs or Monroe County Veterans Affairs issue a photo I.D. card to verify veteran status?

**Answer:** No, the only photo I.D. that is issued to a veteran is a VA Medical I.D. for those who are enrolled in the VA Healthcare System. This card is used solely at the VA Medical Facilities for medical care. The Federal Department of Veterans Affairs **does not** issue a veteran I.D. card.

The Department of Defense issues an I.D. card to those who are currently on active military duty, to those veterans who have retired from the military and to those veterans rated 100% permanently and totally service connected disabled by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as dependents of those who fall into one of these three categories. These cards are used solely for Department of Defense benefits, i.e. medical, commissary, etc.

**The VA Medical Card and Department of Defense I.D. cards were never intended by the “issuing authority” to be used for commercial purposes.**

All veterans have one document to prove veteran status and that is their DD214 or for those who served during WWII their Honorable Discharge. This document however contains the veteran’s personal information and a veteran should be cautious when sharing this kind of information.

**Note:** There are private businesses offering discounts to veterans and ask for the veteran to provide an I.D. Card. Other than those cards mentioned above there are **no other type** of I.D. card for veterans. Again, the only verification other than those cards mentioned above is the veteran’s DD214 or Honorable Discharge for those who served during WWII.

How a business wants to do business with a veteran is the decision of the business and is not a Federal Department of Veterans Affairs program nor is it a program of the Monroe County Veterans Affairs.

It is this office’s opinion that businesses who wish to give discounts on purchases made by veterans ask the veteran for their DD214 or WWII discharge to verify veteran status and then issue a store discount I.D. card for the sole purpose of using at the place of business for discounts available.

We remind all veterans it is, in this day and age, more valuable to protect your identity and private information than to have a “product discount”. In the long run protecting your identity can save you much more money than immediate gratification of a discount.

