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Specializing in Elder & Disability Law

THE B&B ALERT

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THE NEW JERSEY REAL ESTATE VETERANS DEDUCTION

By Thomas D. Begley, Esquire

Veterans honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in time of war, or the unmarried surviving spouses or surviving domestic partners of such veterans, are granted a tax deduction on the real estate in which they have a legal interest.

The deduction is \$250 which is automatically deducted from the real estate tax bill.

In order to qualify for the veterans deduction, a claimant must meet the following conditions as of October 1 of the pre-tax year:

- ! Be a citizen and resident of New Jersey,
- ! Possess an honorable discharge or release under honorable circumstances from active service in time of War, and

- ! Own legal title to the claimed property or a fractional or partial ownership interest in the property.

The surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of a deceased veteran must meet the following conditions as of October 1 of the pre-tax year:

- ! Be the lawful surviving wife, husband or domestic partner of a veteran qualified as above,
- ! Remain unmarried or not enter into a new registered domestic partnership,
- ! Be a resident of New Jersey, and
- ! Own legal title to the claimed property or a fractional or partial ownership interest in the property.

Active service in time of war@ means active service at some time during one of the following periods (Peacekeeping missions@ are noted with an asterisk):

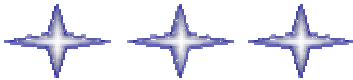
Mission	Inception	Termination
Operation Northern/Southern Watch*	August 27, 1992	March 17, 2003
Operation Iraqi Freedom*	March 19, 2003	Ongoing
Operation Enduring Freedom*	September 11, 2001	Ongoing
Joint Endeavor/Joint Guard@ Bosnia and Herzegovina*	November 20, 1995	June 20, 1998
Restore Hope@	December 5, 1992	March 31, 1994
Mission Somalia* Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm@ Mission*	August 2, 1990	February 28, 1991
Panama Peacekeeping Mission*	December 20, 1989	January 31, 1990
Grenada Peacekeeping Mission*	October 23, 1983	November 21, 1983
Lebanon Peacekeeping Mission*	September 26, 1982	December 1, 1987
Vietnam Conflict	December 31, 1960	May 7, 1975
Lebanon Crisis of 1958*	July 1, 1958	November 1, 1958

Korean Conflict	June 23, 1950	January 31, 1955
World War II	September 16, 1940	December 31, 1946
World War I	April 6, 1917	November 11, 1918

Peacekeeping missions required a minimum of 14 days service in the actual combat zone except where service-incurred injury or disability occurs in the combat zone, then actual time served though less than 14 days, is sufficient for purposes of property tax deduction. The 14-day requirement for Bosnia and Herzegovina may be met by services in one or both operations for 14 days continuously or in the aggregate. For Bosnia and Herzegovina, combat zones also include the airspace above those nations.

Once granted the deduction remains in effect without refiling.

In addition to the veterans deduction there is a veterans exemption for veterans who are totally disabled as a result of a service connected disability. The \$250 deduction can apply to any other property which the veteran owns.



Begley & Bookbinder, P.C. is an Elder & Disability Law Firm with offices in Moorestown, Stone Harbor and Lawrenceville, New Jersey and can be contacted at 800-533-7227. The firm services southern and central New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania.

The Firm provides services in connection with protecting assets from nursing home costs, Medicaid applications, Estate Planning and Estate Administration, Special Needs Planning and Guardianships. If you have a legal problem in one of these areas of law, contact Begley & Bookbinder at 800-533-7227.

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