

# VETERANS!

## Here's How To Record Your Discharge At A County Clerk's Office In New York State

Honorably discharged veterans of the United States armed forces are entitled to record their discharge certificates (DD214) at the County Clerk office where they live, free of charge. Certified copies of recorded discharges will be made, again free of charge, for veterans or their immediate families whenever needed.

### Why should you record your honorable discharge at the County Clerk's office?

The honorable discharge certificate provided to a veteran on leaving the service is the most common proof of service in the armed forces. It is a valuable and important document, like a deed of a mortgage, and New York State law provides a way for this valuable document to be recorded at the County Clerk's office, just as deeds and mortgages are.

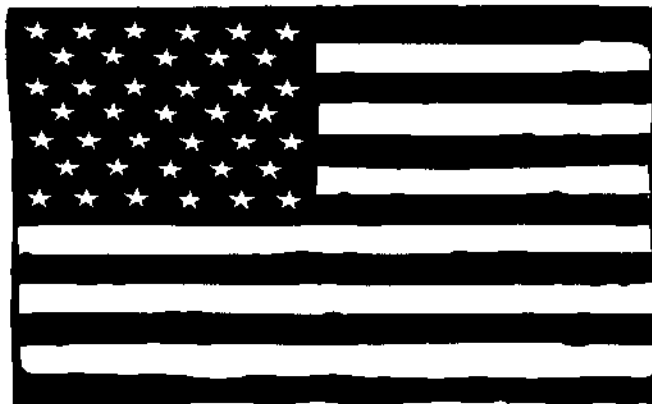
Once recorded at the Clerk's office, a DD214 is available at any time in the future, *even if the original document should be lost by its owner*. A certified copy off a discharge

certificate is legally as acceptable as the original.

### How to get your honorable discharge recorded.

On the back of this form is a list of every County Clerk's office in New York State. If you know the name of your home county, just look on the list for the address of the Clerk's office. If you're not sure of the county, call the nearest County Clerk's office and ask them to verify that your town or city is in that county. Be careful: sometimes the city shown on your mailing address is actually in another county!

Once you know which County Clerk's office you want to record your discharge, you can either bring the discharge to that office in person, or mail it. You have to bring (or mail) the original document, not a copy. Your original document will be returned directly to you. There is never a charge for this service.



Section 250 of the Military law provides for free recording of all veterans' honorable

discharges. A different statute, Section 79-g of the Civil Rights law, gives you the right to keep that recording sealed, and only available to you or your authorized agent or representative. Consult your County Clerk's office about sealing this recording, if you are interested.

### Why would I ever need a copy of my discharge?

The best reason to record your discharge certificate is to insure against losing the original. Once recorded, certified copies will be made for you or immediate family, free of charge, whenever you need them, even if you lose the original.

Discharge papers are the best proof of military service, and these important papers are used to prove eligibility for a variety of benefits, from property tax exemptions to civil service credits.

### For More Information

The County Veteran's Service officer in your county can provide you with information on other benefits you're entitled to as a veteran. The County Clerk's office has information about mortgages, deeds, and other important records.

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Mary C. Weidman  
Chenango County Clerk