Almost a quarter of the active and retired members of the National Association of Letter Carriers are military veterans. Having exchanged military uniforms for letter carrier uniforms, veterans continue to serve their communities and this great nation. NALC strives to recognize and honor our military veteran members in a variety of ways.

The NALC Veterans Group was created in 2015 to provide access to information and tools specific to veterans’ rights and benefits within the Postal Service. The group provides all NALC military veterans—active as well as retired letter carriers—with resources, information and a sense of camaraderie.

As part of this goal, NALC developed the Veterans Guide as a quick reference for valuable information relating to military service and the Postal Service. The guide contains various topics of interest to veterans and union representatives who represent letter carrier veterans. Some of the topics covered in the guide include the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), Wounded Warriors Leave (WWL) and the Veterans’ Preference Act of 1944. Members of the NALC Veterans Group are provided a copy of the guide upon enrolling with the group.

As explained in the guide, USERRA deals with employment rights of postal employees who leave their jobs to perform military service. If you weren’t already aware, this law prohibits employers, including the Postal Service, from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services.

The guide explains the rules and regulations pertaining to WWL, which is a benefit provided to eligible veterans who need time off to undergo medical treatment for a service-connected disability. Prior to 2016, many veterans were often forced to take sick leave, annual leave or leave without pay to attend medical appointments and undergo treatment.

The Veterans’ Preference Act of 1944 benefits veterans both before and after they start their civilian career with the Postal Service. The Act gives preference to eligible veterans during the hiring process and also grants additional rights regarding job security once employed. NALC military veterans should be sure to read the Veterans Guide for a more comprehensive discussion of the Act and the benefits it provides. These three topics are just a sample of the information covered in the Veterans Guide. The guide also discusses several National Agreement provisions and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) that apply specifically to military veterans.

As previously announced, the 72nd biennial convention will be held Aug. 8-12 in Chicago, IL. As part of each convention, NALC conducts a variety of workshops to educate convention participants. This year, one of these workshops will focus exclusively on resources, rights and benefits for NALC members who are military veterans. The workshop will offer an overview of the information contained in the Veterans Guide so that all NALC convention participants will have an opportunity to become familiar with the publication and information offered. As the convention approaches, be sure to review the convention schedule and plan to attend this important workshop.

Find out what’s offered in the NALC Veterans Guide

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