## PROTECTED VETERAN DEFINITIONS

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| Veteran of the Vietnam Era           | Veteran of the U.S. military, ground naval, or air service, and part of whose service was during the period August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975, who:  
  1. served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days and was discharged or released with other than a dishonorable discharge, or  
  2. was discharged or released from active duty because of a service connected disability.  
  “Vietnam era veteran” also includes any veteran of the U.S. military, ground, naval, or air service who served in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. |
| Special Disabled Veteran             | Veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. military ground, naval, or air service, and:  
  1. who was discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability, or  
  2. who is entitled to compensation (or who but for the receipt of military retired pay would be entitled to compensation) for certain disabilities under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (i.e., disabilities rated at 30 percent or more, or at 10 or 20 percent if the veteran has been determined to have a serious employment handicap). |
| Disabled Veteran                     | Veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. military ground, naval, or air service, and:  
  1. is entitled to disability compensation (or who but for the receipt of military retired pay would be entitled to disability compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or  
  2. was discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability. |
| Recently Separated Veteran           | With respect to federal contracts and subcontracts entered into before December 1, 2003:  
  Any veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. military ground, naval, or air service during the one-year period beginning on the date of such veteran’s discharge or release from active duty.  
  With respect to federal contracts and subcontracts entered into on or after December 1, 2003:  
  Any veteran who served on active duty during the three-year period beginning on the date of such veteran’s discharge or release from active duty. |
| Other Protected Veteran              | Any other veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. military ground, naval, or air service during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized, other than a special disabled veteran, veteran of the Vietnam era, or recently separated veteran. |
| Armed Forces Service Medal* Veteran | Veteran who, while serving on active duty in the U.S. military ground, naval, or air service, participated in a United States military operation for which an Armed Forces service medal was awarded pursuant to Executive Order 12985 (61 Fed. Reg. 1209). |

* To determine eligibility for Veterans Preference please click on the following link:  

**Additional website links:**
