

**“Preference Eligible” for Appointments under VEOA**  
5 USC 2108(3)(A)-(G):

**(A) Veteran** – an individual who was discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions and who served on active duty in the armed forces--

- during a war (armed conflicts declared by Congress, the last of which was WW II which covers the period from December 7, 1941, to April 28, 1952); **or**
- in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign medal has been authorized. Any Armed Forces Expeditionary medal or campaign badge, including El Salvador, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Southwest Asia, Somalia, and Haiti, qualifies for preference.
- during the period April 28, 1952 through July 1, 1955.

**(B) Veteran** – An individual who was discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions and who served on active duty in the armed forces--

- at any time for more than 180 consecutive days, other than for training, any part of which occurred after January 31, 1955, and before October 15, 1976; **or**
- during the Gulf War from August 2, 1990, through January 2, 1992; **or**
- for more than 180 consecutive days, other than for training, any part of which occurred during the period beginning September 11, 2001, and ending on the date prescribed by Presidential proclamation or by law as the last day of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**(C) Disabled Veteran** – an individual who was separated from active duty under honorable conditions, served on active duty in the armed forces at any time, and has established the present existence of a service-connected disability or who is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension because of a public statute administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**(D) The unmarried widow or widower of a veteran defined in (A), or** if the veteran died while on active duty that included service during a war, period, or in a campaign or expedition identified in (A) under conditions that would not have been the basis for other than an honorable or general discharge.

An individual is NOT eligible under this category if the individual was not married to the veteran when the veteran died or if the individual remarried. (NOTE: If the marriage was annulled, the individual is not considered to have remarried).

**(E) The current spouse of a service-connected disabled veteran** if the veteran was discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions, and is unable to qualify for a position in the Federal civil service or in the District of Columbia government because of a service-connected disability.

Such a disqualification may be presumed when the veteran is unemployed and --

- is rated by appropriate military or Department of Veterans Affairs authorities to be 100 percent disabled and/or unemployable; **or**
- has retired, been separated, or resigned from a civil service position on the basis of a disability that is service-connected in origin; **or**

- has attempted to obtain a civil service position or other position along the lines of his or her usual occupation and has failed to qualify because of a service-connected disability.

**(F) Mother** (natural) of an individual who lost his or her life under honorable conditions while serving in the armed forces during a war, period, campaign or expedition identified in (A), if she is or was married to the father of the veteran and --

- her husband is totally and permanently disabled; **or**
- she is widowed, divorced, or separated from the father and has not remarried; **or**
- she has remarried but is widowed, divorced, or legally separated from her husband when preference is claimed.

**(G) Mother** (natural) of a service-connected permanently and totally disabled veteran, if she is or was married to the father of the veteran and —

- her husband is totally and permanently disabled; **or**
- she is widowed, divorced, or separated from the father and has not remarried; **or**
- she has remarried but is widowed, divorced, or legally separated from her husband when preference is claimed.

**“Preference eligible” DOES NOT include** a retired member of the armed forces unless—

- the individual is a disabled veteran under (C) above; or
- the individual retired below the rank of major or its equivalent