

About the Erie County Clerk's Office "Thank A Vet" Discount Program

What is the Erie County Clerk's Office "Thank A Vet" card?

The "Thank A Vet" card is a complimentary photo I.D. certified by the Erie County Clerk that the veteran has produced their original discharge paper and has been honorably discharged.

The card carries significant benefits, with hundreds of Erie County businesses signed up to voluntarily honor the card and provide the holders with discounts on purchases and services when the card is presented. The number of businesses joining the Erie County Clerk's Office "Thank A Vet" Program has increased exponentially, a testament to how very proud we all are of our men and women who have served and sacrificed so much to help preserve the freedoms we all enjoy.

Who is eligible for the Erie County Clerk's Office "Thank A Vet" discount card?

The "Thank A Vet" card is available to any veteran who is an Erie County resident and **honorably** discharged from any branch of service of the United States Armed Forces.

Upon filing your **ORIGINAL** discharge papers with the Erie County Clerk, you will be issued a "Thank A Vet" discount card that can be used at our participating local businesses. Your original document is returned to you immediately upon recording. A scanned image is chronicled for safe-keeping and peace of mind.

Discharge papers include: DD-214, DD-256, NGB-22 etc.

Where does a veteran go to file their ORIGINAL discharge paper and receive the card?

→ Discharge papers are filed at the Erie County Clerk's Office in **BASEMENT RECORDS** (directly across from the concession stand on the first floor of Old County Hall).

→ After filing your discharge papers, your picture will be taken in the **Clerk's Administrative Office** located on the first floor next to the Pistol Permit Office, and your card will then be issued.

Filing discharge papers is free of charge and certified complimentary copies of recorded discharges are made for veterans or their immediate families whenever needed. **note: Discharge papers are not public documents and therefore not subject to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL).*

What can a veteran do if they have lost their ORIGINAL discharge papers?

Original discharge papers are proof of your military service, and can be used to establish eligibility for a variety of benefits including property tax exemptions and civil service credits.

[Click here](#) to complete a form to obtain your original discharge paper from the National Archives and Records Administration located in St. Louis, Missouri. On average, it takes 3-4 weeks to receive a certified copy of your original discharge paper from the National Archives.