

Veterans Affairs Office of Lexington County



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VET NEWS

August 2008

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August Dates To Remember

Aug. 1st	Air Force Day
Aug. 4th	U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)
Aug. 7th	Purple Heart Medal Established (1782) - National Purple Heart Day
Aug. 14th	Japan Surrendered Ending WWII (1945)- Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting 7PM
Aug. 16th	National Airborne Day
Aug. 19th	National Aviation Day



*Did you know that
August is National
Blueberry Month?*

The Korean War: Pilot's remains identified

Info taken from article by **CHUCK CRUMBO** - The State Newspaper,
July 4, 2008

The remains of a South Carolina pilot, whose fighter plane was shot down during the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family. Capt. William K. Mauldin will be buried with full military honors, 56 years after he was declared missing in action, the Defense Department said Thursday. "If anything, there's some closure and there's some peace about him being able to come home," said Corinne Mauldin, the aviator's daughter.

On Feb. 21, 1952, Capt. Mauldin took off from Kimpo Air Base, South Korea, in a RF-51 Mustang, the Pentagon said. His mission was to take aerial photos of enemy targets in North Korea. Mauldin's plane was hit by enemy fire and crashed near Sinan-ri in North Korea. Aerial searches that day and the next could not find any signs Mauldin survived the crash, the Pentagon said. He later was declared missing in action.

Corinne Mauldin, who was 3 years old when her father died, started writing letters about his case to the Air Force in the 1960s, when she was in college. "I've always wanted to know the details about what happened," said Corinne Mauldin of Charleston. Capt. Mauldin's remains were in some 200 boxes of U.S. servicemen's remains the North Koreans turned over between

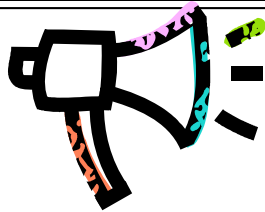
1991 and 1994, Pentagon spokesman Larry Greer said. One set of remains included fragments of life-support equipment, which investigators learned had been recovered from the crash site near Sinan-ri, he added. That evidence led investigators to think the remains were Mauldin's. He later was positively identified through DNA samples from family members.

A graveside service for Mauldin, a Pickens native, was to be held July 18 at Robinson Memorial Gardens in Easley. Mauldin is one of three S.C. service members, killed in the Korean War, who have been identified from remains. More than 400 South Carolinians were killed in the war. However, 113 S.C. service members who served in Korea remain missing in action, according to a Pentagon Web site.



"YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN"

*****MEETING NOTICE*****



Calling **WIVES** of
COMBAT Veterans!
Our Wives of Viet-
nam Veterans Group
has now been ex-
panded to include **all** combat vet-
erans' wives or significant others.

The next meeting of this
group is scheduled for **Monday,**
August 11th at noon.

David Cox of the Columbia
Vet Center is the facilitator. The
meeting location is **605 West Main
Street, Room 110.**

Please call us at 785-8400 with
questions regarding this, or you
may simply plan to attend. No ap-
pointment is necessary.

Quote of the Month:

**"Never give in - never, never,
never, never, in nothing great or
small, large or petty, never give in ex-
cept to convictions of honour and
good sense.**

**Never yield to force; never
yield to the apparently overwhelm-
ing might of the enemy."**

Winston Churchill



VETERANS BENEFIT EXPIRATION UPDATE

Many Veterans benefits have an expiration date. Below are
a few important federal ones to remember.

{Source: CFVI newsletter June 2008—For more information
on these benefits, you may go to www.va.gov}

- **Education, Training and Employment Programs:**
10 years from date of last discharge or release
from active duty
- **Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP):**
10 years from last discharge or release from active
duty.
- **Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserve:**
14 years from the date of eligibility for the pro-
gram, or until released from the Selected Reserve or Na-
tional Guard.
- **Reserve Educational Assistance Program
(REAP):**
No time limit, while remaining in the same level of
the Ready Reserve.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment:**
Generally, 12 years of separation from service or
within 12 years of being awarded service-connected VA
disability compensation.
- **V A Life Insurance Programs:**
For Service members: Group life coverage ends
120 days after separation—can be extended up to 1 year if
totally disabled
Family Group life insurance coverage ends 120
days after separation or can be extended up to 1 year if
totally disabled
Veterans Group life insurance (VGLI) coverage
ends 120 days after separation
Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance: Claim must
be filed within 2 years from the date of being notified of
service-connected status
- **Veterans Health Care Administration Programs:**
Veterans Health Care: No Time Limit
Combat Veterans Health Care: 5 years from date of
release from active duty
Dental Treatment: Within 90 days of separation
- **VA Pension and Compensation Programs:**
Disability claims have no time limit
Disability Pension claims have no time limit
- **VA Home Loan Guaranty Program:** No Time Limit



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEER VAN DRIVERS

PART TWO OF A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS

STAN THORNBURGH: *Mr. Thornburgh has been a volunteer van driver since June 2006, the first month of our van transport.*

Q: Are you a native of our county?

A: *No, I was born in Huntington, West Virginia and grew up in eastern Kentucky, amidst the coal mines and tobacco fields.*

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: *I have been married for over 48 years to the former Jutta Broinslaw Boettcher of Berlin, Germany. We have two children, one grandchild and one great-grandchild.*

Q: Are you a Veteran?

A: *Yes, I am a Vietnam Veteran and also served multiple tours in Germany and Korea.*

Q: What is your current or former occupation, if retired?

A: *I was a professional soldier for over 32 years, later a real estate and insurance agent before being employed by the SC Division of Veterans Affairs. I am currently retired.*

Q: What are your hobbies and interests?

A: *My hobbies formerly generally placed me outdoors, where I enjoyed boating, fishing and hunting. However, in the last couple of years my hobbies have been limited to gardening, reading and traveling. I do enjoy photography and generally keep a camera nearby.*

Q: What would be your most memorable van driving experience?

A: *Driving the van is not about me or my experiences; it's about veterans who truly need our help. I do gain satisfaction in knowing that in a small way I have given a few hours of my time to help my community.*

Q: Please share something our readers would be surprised to know about you:

A: *People may be surprised to learn that I entered the service at the age of 15.*



Mr. Thornburgh's birthday is August 24th..

Please join with us in wishing him a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!!!



Favorite Southern Expression?

"I'm not so sure I have one!"

Favorite Expression?

"Suck it up." For example, when the task at hand appears to be too hard you just don't believe you can take another step. Yet you learn there are greater strengths within oneself that allow you to resolve most issues, to endure great hardships, realizing quitting is not an option." "Just suck it up and keep on moving."

.....
"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."
.....
- Elizabeth Andrew
.....

MORE DRIVERS STILL NEEDED

We appreciate the SERVICE provided by our current volunteer van drivers. There is an increasing need for more folks to step up and lighten their workload. The Lexington County DAV van is transporting an increasing number of veterans to Dorn VA hospital each month, and our drivers are logging over 1,000 miles per month.

Whether **1 day** a week or **1 day** a month, any help would be appreciated. Please call our office at **785-8400** or stop by for an application if you feel you could serve our veterans in this way.

AUGUST 7TH IS NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR EVERY PURPLE HEART VETERAN◊

*By Barbara Youngblood Carr
National Poet Laureate, Military Order of The Purple Heart
Purple Heart, March/April 2008 edition*

The first Purple Heart medal was bestowed by
General George Washington to
his wounded men at Valley Forge.

That medal is still proudly presented today
To American soldiers wounded in battle's fray.

It honors those who served us all,
Who fought for us when duty called.
They left America's safe, warm womb,
They suffered grievous combat wounds.
In every battle and great World Wars
Our veterans got their wounds and scars.
No matter what their race or creed –
All men spill red blood when they bleed.

So many veterans, when they're old
And sick, go quietly when they go.
Some die alone, their loved ones gone,
They've been too lonely for too long.
They served us gladly when we asked
But now their serving days are past.
Life's pleasures not within their grasp,
They're tired and long for peace at last.

We've known so many, then and now
With bodies bent, spirits unbowed.
When phone calls come to say they've passed,
We go hear bugles play their Taps.
Another Patriot fades away,
Receives His peace and rest today.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

HEROES TO HOMETOWNS



Our Pledge

A Life Long Salute to the ideals entrusted by our forefathers: to instill our future generations a sense of honor and pride in belonging to The American Legion.

This is the essence of The American Legion, and it is our duty to continue the tradition.

With your help, the Heroes to Hometowns program will assist our nation's young warriors with their family needs and their transition to civilian life.

We need your years of experience, your wealth of knowledge, your vast social network and your dedication to veterans helping veterans.

We need your support to carry on the efforts of The American Legion.

Background

As part of its social contract with servicemembers and their families to care for their quality of life, the Department of Defense established the Military Severely Injured Center (MSIC) in February 2005. This establishment is designed to augment the Severely Injured Support Programs: Army Wounded Warrior, Marine Corps Wounded Marine Regiment, Air Force Palace HART and Navy Safe Harbor. The objective is to ensure seamless care to severely injured personnel and their families for as long as it takes.

Heroes to Hometowns is one element of the MSIC network that operates at the national, state and the local community levels. Heroes to Hometowns is designed to identify needs and coordinate resources in local communities prior to servicemembers and their families returning home. The American Legion family will work with the community to organize a proper "hero's welcome" for our wounded warriors.

This flyer explains the Heroes to Hometowns program and guides local posts in how to form action teams to coordinate and encompass volunteer efforts. The American Legion encourages posts to take a proactive approach to connect their local volunteers with national, state and local resources to facilitate a smooth transition from military service to civilian life. This builds a vital community network useful to all returning veterans.



Our Mission

We, The American Legion, dedicate ourselves to encouraging state and local communities to create a positive transition home, and to establish a local support network for returning severely injured servicemembers and their families, so they can lead productive lives.

Because of The American Legion's extended national support network and the family services we provide, we can identify and coordinate resources in local communities to assist severely injured servicemembers and their families before they even return home.

Our post homes and The American Legion families are safe havens for the military members and their loved ones. We provide a place where they can find compassion, understanding and care.

"I got to be one of those lucky guys who got a hometown hero welcome. I'll never forget it. I felt like the president of the United States that day."

Army Staff Sgt. Chris Bain

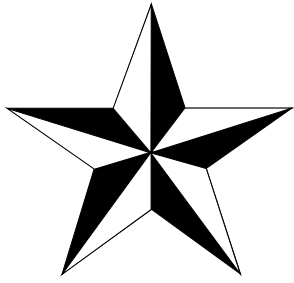
For more program information and promotional tools:

Visit www.legion.org/h2h

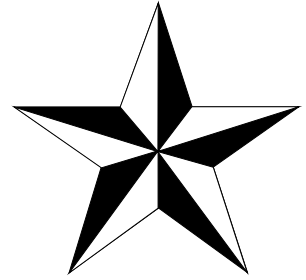
(703) 908-6250
heroestohometowns@legion.org

VA&R (Washington Office)
(202) 263-2983

As a community-based organization, The American Legion pledges our support to build America's future on the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. We are the vision of the past generations helping and inspiring the future, for God and Country.



**LEXINGTON COUNTY
VETERANS' PARADE**



Sunday, November 9, 2008
North Lake Drive and South Lake Drive
Downtown Lexington

**PARADE BEGINS AT 3:00 P.M.
(No entry fee)**

**COME HELP HONOR OUR VETERANS !!
Grand Marshals: Vietnam Veterans**

**A memorial service will be held at the Veterans'
Monument following the parade**

SPONSORED BY:

**LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS
AMERICAN LEGION POST 7
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
LADIES AUX. MOPH CHAPTER 402
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART CHAPTER 402
TOWN OF LEXINGTON
VFW POST 8738**

**For More Information Contact:
Sharon Willis swillis@lex-co.com
Gary Baker or Barbara O'Connor 785-8400**

**2008 County of Lexington Veterans' Day Parade Application
Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.**

***** PLEASE READ GROUP DROP OFF INSTRUCTIONS *****

Name of Entry: _____

Description of Entry: _____
(i.e., truck, car, float, tractor trailer - include the length of your entry)

Number Participating: _____

Entry Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (W) _____ (H) _____

Additional Information for Your Entry Here:

Mail Applications To:

County of Lexington Veterans' Day
Parade Committee
Attn: Sharon Willis, Chairperson
212 South Lake Drive
Lexington SC 29072

For More Information Contact:

Sharon Willis swillis@lex-co.com
Gary Baker 803-785-8400
Barbara O'Connor 803-785-8400

ENTRY IS FREE! DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS OCTOBER 31, 2008

*******ALL MARCHING BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE BUS PARKING LOT OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. PLEASE DROP OFF ALL MEMBERS OF THE BAND AND ROTC IN THE REAR BUS PARKING LOT. (Please enter off of North Lake Dr, to Corley Street then left on School Street. This will take you to the rear of school parking lot.) BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL LINE UP AND ENTER THE PARADE FROM THE DRIVEWAY OF THE PARKING LOT. THANKS*******

PARADE ROUTE:

START AT 116 AZALEA DRIVE IN FRONT OF LEXINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. TURN LEFT ON TO NORTH LAKE DRIVE - CONTINUING DOWN NORTH LAKE DRIVE CROSSING MAIN STREET TO SOUTH LAKE DRIVE. CONTINUE DOWN SOUTH LAKE DRIVE, TURNING LEFT ON FORT STREET, AND ENDING AT LEXINGTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOTS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP PUT OUT THE PARADE STAKES BEFORE THE PARADE AND TO HELP WITH THE BAND & ROTC GROUPS BEHIND THE SCHOOL . THANK YOU AGAIN AND TO ALL OF OUR VETERANS... THANK YOU!!!

ABOUT VA COMPENSATION GARNISHMENT

Contrary to popular belief, there are some conditions under which VA compensation can be garnished in order to pay alimony or child support.

Although VA compensation cannot be *attached* or *assigned*, there is no statutory prohibition against garnishment of military retired pay. Under Public Law 95-30, a veteran's disability compensation **can be garnished in order to pay alimony or child support and pursuant to a court order**, only if the veteran receives disability compensation in lieu of an equal amount of military retired pay, in accordance with a total or partial military retired pay waiver.

In these cases, the Veterans Service Center withholds disability compensation, and makes a payment in compli-

ance with the garnishment order for certain categories of payees.

Follow this link http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_06/5cfr581_06.html to obtain more information about this issue., i.e., what income is taxable and what is not. [Editor's note: I cut and pasted this address into my web browser and it brought up a menu and table of contents.]

Source: [RAO Bulletin](#)



**VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE
OF LEXINGTON COUNTY**
605 West Main Street, Suite 101
Lexington, SC 29072
(803)785-8400

AUGUST OUTREACH PROGRAM DATES

Aug. 5th	9-12	Batesburg/Leesville
Aug. 12th	9-12	Chapin

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Lexington Main Office:	785-8400
From Batesburg/Leesville:	332-8400
From Chapin:	941-0231