

Veterans Affairs Office of Lexington County



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VET NEWS

September 2009

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH PROGRAM DATES

Sept. 1st 9-12 Batesburg-Leesville
Sept. 8th 9-12 Chapin

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Please note regarding outreach: Appointments are **greatly** appreciated, and walk-ins will be assisted between appointments. Thank you for helping us better assist you!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sept. 5th Military Working Dog Teams Day
Sept. 7th Labor Day
-County Offices Closed
Sept. 11th Patriot Day
Sept. 11th Anniversary of 9-11 Terror
Attacks on U.S. (2001)
Sept. 22nd Autumn Begins
Sept. 27th Gold Star Mothers Day



We Remember 9-11-01

WHAT IS THE POST- 9/11 G I BILL?

The Post- 9/11 G I Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least **90 days** of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. Applicants must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill will become effective for training on or after **August 1, 2009**. The amount of support that an individual may qualify for depends on where they live and what type of degree they pursue.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Lexington County DAV Van **will not run on Monday, September 7, 2009**.

County Offices will be closed that day in celebration of Labor Day.

What does the Post- 9/11 GI Bill cover?

You may receive benefits for any approved program offered by a school in the United States that is authorized to grant an associate (or higher) degree. Visit our website at www.GIBILL.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/programs.htm to verify that the program at your school, or the program at the school you would like to attend, is approved. You may also receive benefits for tutorial assistance or up to \$2,000 for the reimbursement of one licensing or certification test.

If you transferred to the Post-9/11 GI Bill from the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserves, or the Reserve Education Assistance Program, you may also receive Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for flight training, apprenticeship or on-the-job training programs, and correspondence courses.



The Post-9/11
Veterans Educational
Assistance
Act of 2008

For a summary of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, visit the website:

www.gibill.va.gov

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, throughout our history, brave men and women in our Armed Forces have laid down their lives in defense of our nation and the principles on which it was founded; and

WHEREAS, since 1918, it has been an American tradition to present Gold Stars to the mothers of our fallen heroes to represent their loss and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, sharing a commitment to preserving the memory of their sons and daughters, the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was established in 1928; and

WHEREAS, Gold Star Mothers bring comfort and hope to our courageous veterans and the relatives of fallen service members, inspiring each of us with their devotion to family and country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 27, 2009, as

GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to honor the mothers whose sons and daughters made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country and the freedoms we cherish.



MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

NEW GOLD STAR MOTHERS CHAPTER LAUNCHED TO HONOR LOVED ONES LOST IN WAR



American Gold Star Mothers Inc. President, Ruth Stonesifer, hand on left, leads (l-r) Linda Phillips, Debbi Rivers, Ann Hampton and Elaine Johnson in accepting their obligation to the American Gold Star Mothers South Carolina Chapter .

For more information contact:

• Debbi Rivers, (803) 943-5307 or Debbi@goldstarfamilysupportgroup.com

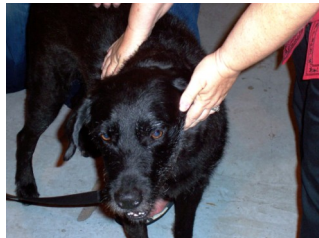
• American Gold Star Mothers Inc., 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. Phone: (202) 265-0991

Web site: www.goldstarmoms.com

Ann Ricard and Jackie Neal of the Blue Star Mothers of SC presented the Gold Star Banner to **Mrs. Lona Pugh**, whose son **CPL Gerald R. Pugh** was killed July 5, 1969 in Vietnam.



In Photo: Brave Military working dogs, with their handlers, await their departure for deployment July of 2008. These dogs are often used to locate drugs or explosives.



State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, performing as well-trained teams in defense of Americans and their allies in times of combat as well as peace, military working dogs and their handlers have served in our armed forces since World War II; and

WHEREAS, military working dogs and their handlers undergo extensive basic and specialized training to prepare for their assignments, which have included sentry, scout, messenger, tracker, and mine and tunnel duty, and to help reduce the casualty rate during combat, with an estimated 10,000 American soldiers' lives saved during Vietnam alone; and

WHEREAS, the natural instincts and keen senses of hearing and smell inherent to the working dogs enable them to serve as an extension of their handlers, deterring attacks, enhancing the safety of our men and women in uniform, and faithfully serving as valuable members of our military; and

WHEREAS, military working dog teams remain an active part of our country's armed forces, helping protect our troops overseas and our bases at home, including Charleston Air Force Base, Fort Jackson, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Naval Weapons Station Charleston, and Shaw Air Force Base.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 5, 2009, as

MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize military working dog teams for their valuable contributions to saving lives during armed conflict and peacetime in the defense of our country.



MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves are its only safe depositories."

-Thomas Jefferson

HONOR FLIGHTS SC CHAPTERS EXPANDING

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Honor Flight South Carolina:
803-582-8826 or visit www.honorflightsc.com

Honor Flight Upstate SC:
864-963-5774 or visit www.honorflightupstate.com
Email: vets2dc@charter.net

Honor Flight Lowcountry:
843-906-0399 or visit www.honorflightlowcountry.com

Honor Flight Kershaw:
803-475-3721 or by mail to: Honor
Flight Kershaw
c/o First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 67 Kershaw, SC 29067
Email: fbckershaw@windstream.net

Veterans or Guardians, to obtain an Honor Flight Application, go to one of the websites listed.

You may also call or visit the VA Office in Lexington to pick up a copy.

803-785-8400



Next scheduled flights:

- > September 5, 2009
- > November 7, 2009



Upstate Honor Flight Veterans Salute as "Taps" is played at the

2009 Lexington County Veteran's Parade Application

Sunday, November 8, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

*** PARADE ROUTE HAS CHANGED PLEASE NOTE ***

ENTRY IS FREE! DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS OCTOBER 30, 2009

***** ALL MARCHING BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE PARKING LOTS OF BUSINESSES THAT ARE CLOSED ON SUNDAY IN THE BUTLER STREET AND MAIN STREET AREA. PLEASE USE CAUTION. PLEASE DROP OFF ALL MEMBERS AND YOU CAN PARK AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT FOR PICK UP. PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT TAKE UP SPACES AT MCDONALD'S FOR PARKING. THANKS,

PARADE ROUTE: WILL LINE UP ON WEST BUTLER STREET AND HAYGOOD STREET, ENTER MAIN STREET TAKE A LEFT, GO DOWN MAIN STREET, TURN RIGHT ON SOUTH LAKE DRIVE AND THEN LEFT, ENDING AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT.

Name of Entry: _____

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

Number Participating: _____

Additional Comments: _____

Entry Contact Person: _____

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

Telephone: (W) _____ (H) _____

Mail Applications To:
Lexington County Veteran's
Parade Committee
Attn: Sharon Willis, Chairperson
212 South Lake Drive Ste 302
Lexington SC 29072

For More Information Contact:
Sharon Willis 785-1454
Cell # 803-237-9617
Fax # 803-785-8300 or call the
Veterans Affairs Office 803-785-8400

***** Applications can be emailed to you also. Contact Sharon at sjswillis57@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP PUT OUT THE PARADE STAKES BEFORE THE PARADE AND TO HELP WITH THE BAND & ROTC GROUPS, MAKING SURE THEY ENTER THE PARADE ROUTE AT THEIR APPROPRIATE PLACES. THANK YOU AGAIN AND ALL THE VETERANS THANK YOU.



*You Are Invited
To The First Annual
ECRC Det. Fort Jackson Navy Birthday Ball*

When: Saturday, October 03, 2009

Where: The Marriott Hotel 1200 Hampton St.

Time: Cocktails – 6:00 PM Dinner – 7:00 PM

*Tickets: \$40.00 Civilians and E7's and above
\$30.00 E6's or below*

*Attire: Service Dress Blue (Dinner Dress
Optional) Civilian: Coat & Tie (Black
Tie Optional)*

*For Tickets or more information, contact Chaplain Zirschky at (970)-901-
0370 email: lzirschky@aol.com*

This is our first annual Ball here in Columbia. Let's make it a memorable one!

SERVICE HONORS VETERANS OF LONG-FORGOTTEN WAR

“Someone should do it. I’m just really vehement that veterans be remembered,” he said. Encouraged by the turnout, he said he hopes to make it an annual event. The service marked the anniversary of two major battles of the war, both on Aug. 20, 1847. Local historian and author of the book “South Carolina in the Mexican War,” Jack Meyer, who also spoke at the event, said most people only have a vague idea about the war because it has been overshadowed by the Civil War. “But it’s important to know because it led to the secession crisis of 1849-52,” Meyer said.

As he explained, the United States’ acquisition of more than 500,000 square miles of territory as a result of the conflict caused an imbalance in the number of free and slave states. “It destabilized things. By gaining territory, we gained political problems. So while it was not the cause of the Civil War, it was certainly one of the causes,” Meyer said. Columbia residents Carter and Barbara Ellis said the event was a “real eye-opener,” especially since Carter’s great-great-uncle William E. Watson served in the Palmetto Regiment.



Kenneth Robinson, center left, and local historian author Jack Meyer, center right, spoke at a Mexican War remembrance at the State House

After thanking Robison for organizing the event, Ellis produced a silver officer’s coin Walker had been awarded for his service to the country. Ellis said it felt good to know his ancestor was still being honored, if only in some small way. “I think it’s important to remember them,” he said. “This war had more of an effect than people realize.”

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THE MEXICAN WAR 1846-48



Local historian and author **Jack Meyer**, speaks to the crowd gathered at the event

SOUTH CAROLINA’S ROLE:

More than 1,000 S.C. soldiers fought in the war in the Palmetto Regiment. Of that number, more than 400 died, many from disease.

- Gov. Pierce Mason Butler was commissioned to lead the regiment. Butler died at the Battle of Churubusco on Aug. 20, 1847.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- Visit the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room at 301 Gervais St. The museum has several artifacts from the period and a traveling panel exhibit titled “The Forgotten War: The Palmetto Regiment and the Mexican War.” The exhibit is on loan to the museum until Saturday.
- For a timeline of events, list of battles or varying viewpoints and perspectives, visit www.pbs.org/keramexicanwar.

- Most historians agree the stage was set for war after the United States annexed Texas in 1845. The concept of “Manifest Destiny” — in which the United States actively expanded its holdings — also fanned the flames of conflict.
- A little more than 100,000 U.S. soldiers fought in the war with about 13,000 casualties. Only about 2,000 soldiers were killed in battle; most died from disease or illness.
- An estimated 30,000-40,000 soldiers fought for Mexico. There is no official total for the number of Mexican casualties because the Mexican government did not keep good records.
- In the end, the United States acquired more than 500,000 square miles of land from Texas to California, what now is known as the American Southwest.

SOURCES: pbs.org; S.C. Confederate Relic Room, “South Carolina: A History” by Walter Edgar; “South Carolina in the Mexican War” by Jack Allen Meyer, The State Newspaper