

**Veterans Affairs Office
of Lexington County**



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VET NEWS

July 2011

JULY DATES FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

July 5th: 9-12 Batesburg-Leesville
July 12th: 9-12 Chapin

**Please call the office to schedule an
appointment.**

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

2nd	U.S. Army Air Corps Established (1926)
4th	Independence Day (1776) Lex. County Peach Festival
27th	Korean War Ended (1953) National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
28th	World War I Began (1914)



HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!!!

*REMEMBER THOSE WHO FIGHT
TO SECURE OUR FREEDOM!*

ALL COUNTY OFFICES WILL BE
CLOSED
ON JULY 4TH IN OBSERVANCE OF
INDEPENDENCE DAY.

THE DAV VAN WILL NOT RUN THAT DAY.

HONOR FLIGHT—NOVEMBER 9, 2011

Information at www.honorflightsc.com
803-582-8826



QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

“Liberty may be endangered
by the abuse of liberty,
but also by the abuse
of power.”

-James Madison
**4TH PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



One of South Carolina's bravest has new place to call home

PONTIAC, SC (WIS) - One of South Carolina's bravest got a big gift Saturday.

Staff Sergeant Ronell Bradley moved into his new home that was bought and built entirely by volunteers.

It's not hard for Ronell Bradley's infectious laughter to rub off on you. Even after losing both legs and part of a hand in Iraq, the Army Staff Sergeant still loves to serve his community. "As a soldier, I was always motivated," he said. "I like to see things get done, and I like to help people accomplish the goals they have in life."

But Bradley's community is helping him this time by giving him a brand-new handicapped-accessible house. It's courtesy of Homes For Our Troops. "It's gonna provide me with more freedom of movement and independence," he said. "I won't have to wait on my family to do anything for me."

Built by an army of volunteers, the home has roll-under counters and automatic doors that are wide enough for a wheelchair. "If he wants to say goodnight to his kids, he can do it without having to get out of his chair, drag himself over and then get back in his chair," said CFO of Homes for Our Troops, Tom Benoit.

Benoit said it's a way to show thanks to soldiers who have already given up so much. "We feel they ought to be able to come home at night to a home that's theirs, that they don't have to pay a mortgage on," he said. "That's a very important part of what we do."

For Bradley, the gesture shows so much more. "It shows that there are truly people who care and are willing to help soldiers and veterans who sacrificed for their country," said Bradley. "It shows the true American spirit."

It's a feeling Staff Sergeant Bradley will take with him as he continues to help others. "God gave me a second chance to be on this earth, so now I'm gonna motivate other injured vets to be positive in life," he said.

Homes for Our Troops is funded entirely by donations. If you'd like to help, you can get more information at homesforourtroops.org.

(Source WISTV.com June 18, 2011)



3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Wounded Warrior Project

August 21, 2011

What

In the mood for a competitive round of golf? Head down to Indian Wells Golf Club to play in the 3rd annual Golf Tournament to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. The \$100 registration fee includes golf cart, player gift bag, beverages, continental breakfast, buffet lunch, awards and prizes. Contests for longest drive plus a silent auction and more will be held during the tournament to support this great cause.

When

The golf tournament will be held on Sunday, August 21. Registration begins at 8:00am and the opening ceremony starts at 9:00am with a shotgun start following.

Where

Indian Wells Golf Club

Indian Wells Golf Club is the winner of the 2004 Golf Course of the Year awarded by the Myrtle Beach Area Golf Course Owners Association. The 18-hole course was designed by Gene Hamm and proves a challenge for any level player.



Obama to award Medal of Honor to living soldier

By [Brian Montopoli](#) May 31, 2011

President Obama will award the Medal of Honor to Army Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry on July 12, the White House has announced.

Petry will be just the second living, active duty member of the military to receive the honor since the end of the Vietnam War, as well as the second to be given the award for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. The first was [Army Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta, to whom Mr. Obama presented the Medal of Honor last November.](#)

Petry will be awarded for "his courageous actions during combat operations against an armed enemy in Paktya, Afghanistan in May, 2008," according to the White House.

Born in 1979, Petry is a native of Sante Fe, New Mexico, who enlisted in the Army in 1999. He has completed multiple tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq for a total of 28 months of deployment, and has already been awarded two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart, among other decorations.

The Medal of Honor is awarded to those who "distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty."

"The meritorious conduct must involve great personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life," the White House said. "There must be incontestable proof of the performance of the meritorious conduct, and each recommendation for the award must be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit."



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOMS

The Story of Taps

The 24-note melancholy bugle call known as “taps” is thought to be a revision of a French bugle signal, called “tattoo,” that notified soldiers to cease an evening’s drinking and return to their garrisons. It was sounded an hour before the final bugle call to end the day by extinguishing fires and lights. The last five measures of the tattoo resemble taps.

The word “taps” is an alteration of the obsolete word “taptoo,” derived from the Dutch “taptoe.” Taptoe was the command — “Tap toe!” — to shut (“toe to”) the “tap” of a keg.

The revision that gave us present-day taps was made during America’s Civil War by Union Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield, heading a brigade camped at Harrison Landing, Va., near Richmond. Up to that time, the U.S. Army’s infantry call to end the day was the French final call, “L’Extinction des feux.” Gen. Butterfield decided the “lights out” music was too formal to signal the day’s end. One day in July 1862 he recalled the tattoo music and hummed a version of it to an aide, who wrote it down in music. Butterfield then asked the brigade bugler, Oliver W. Norton, to play the notes and, after listening, lengthened and shortened them while keeping his original melody.

He ordered Norton to play this new call at the end of each day thereafter, instead of the regulation call. The music was heard and appreciated by other brigades, who asked for copies and adopted this bugle call. It was even adopted by Confederate buglers.

This music was made the official Army bugle call after the war, but not given the name “taps” until 1874.

The first time taps was played at a military funeral may also have been in Virginia soon after Butterfield composed it. Union Capt. John Tidball, head of an artillery battery, ordered it played for the burial of a cannoneer killed in action. Not wanting to reveal the battery’s position in the woods to the enemy nearby, Tidball substituted taps for the traditional three rifle volleys fired over the grave. Taps was played at the funeral of Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson 10 months after it was composed. Army infantry regulations by 1891 required taps to be played at military funeral ceremonies.

Taps now is played by the military at burial and memorial services, to accompany the lowering of the flag and to signal the “lights out” command at day’s end.

