



LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

July/August 2013



Lexington, SC.

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Mark your Calendar

The 2013 Lexington County Veterans Parade is scheduled for Sunday, November 3rd at 3pm in downtown Lexington. Please mark your calendars and join us for the 11th Annual Parade. Please see the parade application on page 12

A Note from the Editor... The Veterans News is now a bi-monthly issue.

At A Glance Calendar July/August

Weekly/July	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @12 noon
Tuesday, July 2nd	No Lexington County Veterans Group
Thursday, July 4th	Independence Day Lexington County Peach Festival in Gilbert County Offices Closed No van running No Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday, July 5th	No Chapin Outreach
Friday, July 12th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Monday July 15th	Korean War Presentation @ Columbia Convention Center
Tuesday, July 23rd	County Council Meeting @ 4:30pm
Weekly/August	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @12 noon
Thursday, August 1st	Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday, August 2nd	Chapin Outreach
Friday, August 8th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Tuesday, August 27th	County Council Meeting @ 4:30pm

Purple—Holidays/Special Days
Blue—Outreach dates
Red—County Offices Closed, No van scheduled, and Special Notices
Black—Director's appearances in the County
Brown—County Council Meetings
Pink—Special Events throughout the County
Orange—Special event, Director Out of Office
Green—Lexington County Veterans Group Meetings



From the Director...

In July we celebrate Independence Day and the 237th birthday of our Nation and there is always a lot of summertime activities during this period. We, as Americans, get to observe fireworks displays and enjoy outdoor barbecues, baseball, ice cream, peaches, watermelon and the beach. The Peach Festival in Gilbert has always been a favorite of mine and my family. I remember my grandparents taking us as kids and seeing former Sen. Strom Thurmond and Rep. Floyd Spence, two great Americans. It is a great time of year and all made possible by those Patriots from long ago, our Veterans and active duty troops currently serving.

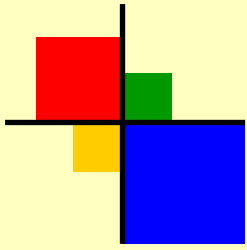
Lexington County government begins a new fiscal year with a slightly higher budget and strives to serve all citizens with quality services and does a superb job. In our office, we are rejoicing because our Administrative Assistant, Margaret, is now a full-time employee thanks to your County Council approving this in May. This will greatly enhance the customer service quality in our office because there will always be someone to greet you when you visit. We appreciate having her as an employee! Please stop in and congratulate her and catch her excitement with this new addition to our team.

In August it will be back to school for all school age children and we must be mindful as we travel on the roads to look out for them. A new high school opens here in Lexington and we hope to see their marching band and ROTC in our Lexington County Veterans' Parade in November.

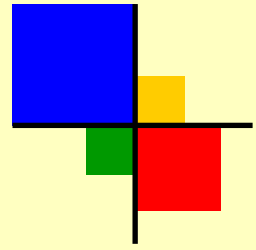
Lastly, please read our article on the May 22nd Honor Flight that was sponsored by Lexington Medical Center. It was definitely a highlight of my life and worth every minute spent with Veterans who are true heroes in this country. There were many on this flight from Lexington County, which made the day even more special.

I look forward to seeing you at events around the County.

**It is an honor to serve
Lexington County!**



Fully Developed Claims



The Fully Developed Claim process is intended to be a fast track way to get VA disability benefits processed. From 2008-2012, the VA experienced a 50% increase in the number of claims submitted, and those incoming claims were more complex – containing 19% more medical conditions. The Fully Developed Claim (FDC) was first tested as a pilot program, to address the increasing delays in processing claims.

What is a Fully Developed Claim?

As the VA works to reduce the backlog of claims, the FDC emerged as a way to get claims that are in solid order pushed through the system faster. The FDC concept refers to the fact that VA disability benefits claims are considered “fully developed” when the Veteran has no more evidence to submit and the only assistance required from the VA is to secure federal records and order any medical examinations.

The applicant submits an official FDC claim form, and submits all available supporting evidence, like private treatment records and notice of Federal treatment records, to the VA at the time they first file a formal claim; the Veterans also certify they have no more evidence to submit.



The VA states that it has provided priority channels for processing claims submitted in accordance with the FDC procedures. According to the VA, “The Fully Developed Claims (FDC) Program is the fastest way of getting your compensation or pension claim processed. Participation in the FDC Program allows for faster claims processing while preserving great quality of service and your right to appeal a decision.”



Fast-track procedure

Using the FDC procedures can cut down on the claim processing time for an initial claim by more than half. In an August 2012 press release, the VA stated, “Currently, FDC claims take an average of 110 days to decide compared to 254 days through the traditional claims method.”

There are a couple of ways that the FDC process cuts down on processing time:

Continued on page 4

Fully Developed Claims (Continued)

- First, the Veteran files an intention to use the FDC system, which sets the effective date of the claim.
- The VA tells the Veteran precisely what information and evidence is needed to process the claim. Once the Veteran gathers and submits all of the documentation, the VA begins to process the claim. This can eliminate delays of the back and forth of waiting for further instructions and more evidence. It lets you know up front the documents you need. Veterans and their representatives do much of the development that typically takes the VA up to half a year to gather.
- The up front submission of evidence allows the VA to start processing the claim immediately, without holding it for mandatory wait periods.
- Most Veteran's Service Organizations have representatives who can help develop a FDC claim for free, although applicants can also seek legal advice.
- If for some reason your claim does not meet the FDC criteria, your claim will be converted to standard processing. The VA will then inform you in a letter that your claim has been removed from the FDC process and placed in standard processing.



After the Veteran submits the claim, the VA will gather all federal records identified, such as VA Medical Center records and the documents from the Social Security Administration. The VA will also send the applicant for a VA medical examination, if needed.

How does FDC compare to a regular claim submission?

The main difference is that with a standard application, the VA is the one who tracks down most of your documentation and evidence. With the FDC, the veteran gathers as much documentation as possible up front.

The VA website describes the standard claim process this way:

- The VA is responsible for getting relevant records from any federal agency that you identify and authorize;
- The VA will make every reasonable effort to obtain relevant records not held by a federal agency that you identify and authorize.



These may include:

- privately held evidence and information you tell them about (such as records from a private doctor or hospital) and/or;
- records from state or local governments or current or former employers.

The VA estimates that it takes an average of 175 days to gather evidence for a standard VA disability benefits claim.

In contrast, the FDC form outlines the evidence that you need to submit. Usually, this is private treatment records. The Veteran also notifies the VA precisely where other federal records exists, such as those with VA Medical Centers or the Social Security Administration. Depending on the type of military service, you may

What are the pros and cons of using the FDC process?

The main advantage of the FDC system is a speedy resolution. Data shows the FDC process can cut the time to a decision by half – which on average, means a decision coming in less than four months, instead of the standard eight-month time.

Some of the pilot programs were showing 90-day decision windows, outside of any delays caused by waiting for more records outside the VA's control. The pilot program in Chicago showed great results. Chicago reported that, "By 2010, 25 percent of FDC claims were rated in 69 days, and half were decided in 115 days. These are good results."

VA regional officers say the FDC involves Veterans more in the process, and gives them more control over their claim. Using the FDC process is not intended to affect the quality of care or level of benefits received. It is simply a method to speed up claim review.

Early evidence suggests use of a FDC may also reduce the appeals rate. The FDC also provides an option to request a reconsideration after a decision, and a chance to submit more evidence before needing to go to the appeal stage.

There doesn't appear to be active negatives reported. If anything bumps you out of the FDC process, your claim may just be put back in the standard processing pool. This could happen if, for example, your claim ends up requiring the VA's assistance for more than just ordering federal records or medical exams; or if it's determined more documents are needed. You can also drop out of the FDC process at any time and have your claim move through the standard processing procedures.

The Fully Developed Claim process currently applies only to the initial application for VA disability benefits, or secondary and increased disability service connection claims. The VA is testing an expedited appeals process.



"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent."

- Douglas MacArthur



Prints for Sale

We have several copies of the Veterans Memorial and Gibson Pond prints for sale in our office. The Gibson Pond print is 32x24 and the Monument print is 24x15. Both are suitable for framing. The cost is \$10.00 each. The proceeds will be placed in our Veteran's Fund and/or Van Fund. Your donation is tax-deductible and a receipt can be provided. Come by the office to have a closer look at the prints. Please stop by our office M-F from 8 to 5 to purchase one or more of these beautiful prints!



Looking for Volunteer Van Drivers



The van runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, taking Veterans to appointments at DORN VAMC for their scheduled appointments between 9am and 1pm. If you can volunteer to drive the DAV van at least 1 day a month, contact the office at 803-785-8400.

County Council Needs You!

Veterans are needed to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at County Council meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. County Council meetings start at 4:30pm, so you would need to be present around 4 to 4:15pm. Contact the office at 803-785-8400 if you are interested.



OUTREACH DATES AND TIMES

Please be aware that our outreach dates and times have changed. The correct dates and times are listed below. Appointments are strongly encouraged.



Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
- 2nd Friday of the month at the Batesburg/Leesville Library from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Chapin Outreach – 1st Friday of the month at the Chapin Library from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.



Gaston/Swansea Outreach – 1st Thursday of the month at the Gaston Library from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Cayce/West Columbia Outreach— has been cancelled effective immediately due to poor response.

VA Caregivers

VA knows your focus as a Family Caregiver is taking care of the Veteran you love. It can be an incredibly demanding job, and we want you to know you don't have to do it alone. VA offers a number of services that can provide you with the support that's right for you. Whether you and the Veteran you care for could use some help at home or you just need someone to listen, we're here to support you. You may know that VA provides benefits and services for Veterans, but did you know that VA also has a number of services designed specifically to support you in your role as a Family Caregiver? VA values your commitment as a partner in our pledge to care for those who have "borne the battle," and we have several support and service options designed with you in mind. The programs are available both in and out of your home to help you care for the Veteran you love and for yourself. Asking for help isn't always easy – especially if you're not exactly sure what kind of support would be the best fit for your needs. Learn more about how VA's trained professionals can help you find the services and support that are right for you and the Veteran you attend. Learn more about the support and services VA offers Family Caregivers by reading the descriptions below.

Caregiver Support Line

With the VA's Caregiver Support Line – 1-855-260-3274 – assistance is just a quick phone call away. Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can:

1. Tell you about the assistance available from VA.
2. Help you access services.
3. Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you.
4. Just listen, if that's what you need right now.

If you're just getting started with VA, calling the Caregiver Support Line is a great first step to learn more about the support that's available to you.

VA's Caregiver Support Line

1-855-260-3274 toll-free

Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 11:00 pm ET

Saturday 10:30 am – 6:00 pm ET

Caregiver Support Coordinator

Your local Caregiver Support Coordinator is a licensed professional who can support you by matching you with services for which you are eligible, and providing you with valuable information about resources that can help you stay smart, strong and organized as you care for the Veteran you love. Local contacts:

William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center

6439 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209-1639

Phone: 803-776-4000

Cristina (Cristy) Roberson, LISW-CP: 803-776-4000 X 7180

Billie Lawrence-Wiggens, LCSW-R: 803-776-4000 X 4420

Caregiver Services

Below are descriptions of various services available to Family Caregivers of Veterans. If you'd like additional information or are interested in signing up for any of the services listed below, contact VA's Caregiver Support Line or your local Caregiver Support Coordinator for assistance.

Continued on page 8

Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) Centers

ADHC Centers are a safe and active environment with constant supervision designed for Veterans to get out of the home and participate in activities. It is a time for the Veteran you care for to socialize with other Veterans while you, the Family Caregiver, get some time for yourself. ADHC Centers employ caring professionals who will assess a Veteran's rehabilitation needs and help a Veteran accomplish various tasks so he or she can maintain or regain personal independence and dignity. The Veteran you care for will participate in rehabilitation based on his or her specific health assessment during the day (ADHC centers are generally open Monday through Friday during normal business hours). The ADHC Centers emphasize a partnership with you, the Veteran you attend and Centers' staffs.

Home-Based Primary Care

Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) is a program designed to deliver routine health care services to your home when the Veteran you care for has medical issues that make it challenging for him or her to travel. Home-Based Primary Care is staffed with medical professionals who will come to your home. Some of their services are primary care and nursing, managing medication, and helping plan and put together nutritious and tasty meals. Home-Based Primary Care can also include physical rehabilitation, mental health care for your Veteran, social work and referrals to VA and community services. This program can help ease the worry and stress of having to bring a Veteran to and from a VA medical center for routine medical appointments.

Skilled Home Care

The Skilled Home Care service provides a medical professional who comes to your home to help care for a homebound Veteran. Some of the care a Veteran can receive includes basic nursing services and physical, occupational, or speech therapies. To be eligible for this service, a Veteran must be homebound, which means he or she has difficulty traveling to and from appointments and so is in need of receiving medical services at home. The Skilled Home Care service is similar to Home-Based Primary Care, but it involves VA purchasing care for a Veteran from a licensed non-VA medical professional.

Homemaker and Home Health Aide Program

Feeding and bathing another person can be very stressful, physically tasking, and time-consuming for you. Often times, taking care of a Veteran's needs leaves no time for you to take care of your own needs. The Homemaker and Home Health Aide Program is designed to help a Veteran with personal care needs. Your local VA medical center can help arrange for a home health aide who will come to your home on a regular schedule to allow you time to take care of your own needs. Caring for yourself helps you stay strong for yourself and your Veteran.

Home Tele-health

We know how difficult or challenging it can be to get the Veteran you care for to a VA medical center for assistance. The Home Tele-health program is designed to give you ready access to a care coordinator by using technology (e.g., telephone, computers) in your home. The Home Tele-health program enhances and extends care management to you, the Family Caregiver. The program is typically offered to individuals who live at a distance from a VA Medical Center. Home Tele-health services can also include education and training or online and telephone support groups. Please contact your Caregiver Support Coordinator to discuss which tele-health programs are available at your VA.

Respite Care

As a Family Caregiver, it can be hard to find time for a much-needed break from your daily routine and care responsibilities so that you have some time for yourself. Respite is time for relaxing and renewing your own energy, and respite care can provide you with the time to do that. If a Veteran requires a Caregiver, you are eligible to receive up to 30 days of respite care per year. The care can be offered in a variety of settings including at your home or through temporary placement of a Veteran at a VA Community Living Center, a VA-contracted Community Residential Care Facility, or an Adult Day Health Care Center. Respite care may also be provided in response to a Family Caregiver's unexpected hospitalization, a need to go out of town, or a family emergency. Staying strong for your Veteran means staying strong yourself. By taking an opportunity to be refreshed through respite care, you may be amazed at how your fresh outlook will help you and your Veteran.

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Home Hospice Care

During the advanced stages of a terminal disease, Home Hospice Care can offer comfort and supportive services for you and the Veteran you care for in your own home. The professionals who provide Home Hospice Care understand the challenges you face and are there to help you and the Veteran you care for ease into the final stages of life. An interdisciplinary team of health care providers and volunteers from a local community hospice agency provide the services during this sad and challenging time. The team is there for you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Bereavement care (grief counseling) is also available for you and other immediate family members.

Under the "Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010," additional VA services are now available to seriously injured post-9/11 Veterans and their Family Caregivers through a new program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. VA is now accepting applications for these services.

Who Is Eligible?

Veterans eligible for this program are those who sustained a serious injury – including traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma or other mental disorder – incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, on or after September 11, 2001.

Veterans eligible for this program must also be in need of personal care services because of an inability to perform one or more activities of daily living and/or need supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological impairment or injury.

To be eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, Veterans must first be enrolled for VA health services, if not enrolled previously.

Services Available to Family Caregivers through this Program

The law will provide additional assistance to primary Family Caregivers of eligible post-9/11 Veterans and Service members. Services for this group include:

- Monthly stipend

- Travel expenses (including lodging and per diem while accompanying Veterans undergoing care)

- Access to health care insurance (if the Caregiver is not already entitled to care or services under a health care plan)

- Mental health services and counseling

- Comprehensive VA Caregiver training provided by Easter Seals

- Respite care

If you think you fit the criteria for these services, please visit va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/Caregiver_Eligibility_Check.asp to answer some preliminary questions and download an application. The application enables Veterans to designate one primary Family Caregiver and up to two secondary Family Caregivers, if desired. Caregiver Support Coordinators are available at every VA Medical Center to assist Veterans and their Family Caregivers with the application process.

*August
means
back
to School*



Watch for kids and buses!



My trip on the Honor Flight

By Ed Lundeen

I was privileged to ride on the Honor Flight on May 22, 2013, with two distinguished gentlemen and both Army Veterans like me--Mr. Thomas Austin and Mr. George Bell. The day began bright and early with a wonderful send off by the Patriot Guard at the Columbia airport. There was so much excitement in the air as we all gathered to board the flight. On the flight were many Korean War Veterans from Lexington County, it was almost like a reunion in itself.



Once we arrived in Washington, we had a firemen's water salute over the plane and were warmly welcomed by many citizens as we moved through the Reagan airport to the busses waiting outside. As we walked through the airport, people were lined up and some dropped their bags and applauded and yelled in excitement to the World War II and Korean War Veterans in our group. This was totally unexpected and warmly received. As we entered our first stop at the World War II Memorial, many school children and others were lined up on both sides to clap, yell and thank the Veterans for their service. Many shook hands or just hugged the Veterans and this was a teary event for all of us.

The day was filled with listening to our great tour guide as we rode through this historic city, visiting prominent memorials and enjoying the company of each other. There were actually four Honor Flights in Washington that day; the three others were from Missouri, Arizona and Ohio. Many people came up to these Veterans to thank them for their service, ask where they were from and ask a little about their war experiences. It was a warm, muggy day so there was a lot of sitting on park benches under shade trees for me and my two Veterans, which I enjoyed.



Pictured left to right are George Bell, Tom Austin and Ed Lundeen.

As we entered the Korean War Memorial area my Veterans took on a different demeanor and I think actually envisioned themselves as young men like the ones we saw on patrol at this memorial. They were somber yet proud of this memorial and I think it stirred a lot of emotion for both of them, it certainly did in me.

The changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery was a reflective highlight of this trip. The precision with which the Army guard marches twenty-one paces and pauses for twenty-one seconds is simply incredible. One of my Veterans remarked as we were leaving that there was a time in his youth when he was sharp and precise as the guard we saw. All of us were Soldiers once and it made this event more special to see the Army in its finest form as they guard the Tomb.

Continued on next page

The plane ride back was quick and the welcome home celebration at the Columbia airport was an humbling experience and well attended by many people. The Veterans got so many gifts, hugs, handshakes and well wishes and all of it was well deserved. One Veteran who was there to welcome us back leaned over and told one of my Veterans that this celebration was incredible because they never received such a welcome when they returned home from war. One of the Honor Flight volunteers remarked to me that this was the largest crowd ever to welcome home an Honor Flight.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Dorothy Shepherd for making this trip possible and I thought of her and her husband throughout the day. It is a trip I will never forget and one I recommend everyone participates in if ever given the chance. It is a jam packed day but the events of the day, the people, the places, the stories are what are etched in my memory and will last a long time.



Lexington County Veterans Group

All Lexington County Veterans are invited to attend the weekly meetings. The group meets weekly on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 2:00pm in the auditorium at 605 West Main Street, Lexington, SC. The group meets for PTSD and Health Issues counseling with a licensed Counselor.

Our Veterans also participate in various social activities such as group lunches, group dinners with wives/significant other, boat trips on Lake Murray, participation in the Lexington County Veterans parade, and other general group tours.

For further information, please contact the Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office @ 803-785-8400.



2013 LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS PARADE APPLICATION
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2013 @ 3:00PM
JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 11TH YEAR

NO ENTRY FEE, SIGN UP DUE BY OCTOBER 25th, PLEASE

(IF YOU MISS THE DEADLINE GIVE ME A CALL, EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN THIS PARADE)

ALL MARCHING BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE EMPTY PARKING LOTS OF BUSINESSES 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.

PARADE ROUTE WILL LINE UP AT HAYGOOD AND WEST BUTLER 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 & Description of Entry: _____

Special Request: _____

Entry Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (W) _____ (H) _____

Email address: _____ Fax : _____

Mail Applications To:

Lexington County Veterans Parade
Attn: Sharon Willis
212 South Lake Drive Ste 302
Lexington SC 29072

For More Information Contact:

Lexington Veterans Affairs Office 803-785-8400
Sharon Willis @ 803-785-1454
Cell # 803-237-9617
Fax # 803-785-8300

Applications can be emailed to you also. Contact Sharon at swillis@lex-co.com

EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE TO PLACE YOU IN THE LINEUP THAT SHOWCASES YOUR ORGANIZATION AT THE BEST POSSIBLE SPOT. ONCE THE LINEUP FOR THE PARADE HAS BEEN DETERMINED YOU WILL RECEIVE A MAP AND LOCATION FOR YOUR PLACE IN THE PARADE. PLEASE ENTER THE PARADE LINE UP ROUTE FROM SOUTH CHURCH AND GO UP BUTLER STREET. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER FROM COLUMBIA AVENUE OR MAIN. TURNING FLOATS AND TRAILERS AROUND IS VERY DIFFICULT. HAYGOOD STREET MUST BE KEPT OPEN FOR THE LINEUP. MAIN STREET WILL BE CLOSED DOWN AT 2:45 SO PLEASE BE AT YOUR LOCATION BY 2:30.

(A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE VETERANS MONUMENT FOLLOWING THE PARADE.)

**ALL OF THE VETERANS APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT
AND
THEY THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

NEED A FLOAT? CONTACT KIRBY FLOATS @ 803-359-3134.
(DISCOUNTS GIVEN TO VETERANS)

Featured Medal: Navy Cross

The Navy Cross is the second highest military decoration for valor that may be awarded to a member of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard (when operating under the Department of the Navy) for extraordinary heroism in combat. It is equivalent to the Army's Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Force's Air Force Cross and the Coast Guard's Coast Guard Cross.

The Navy Cross is bestowed by the Secretary of the Navy and may also be awarded to members of the other armed services, and to foreign military personnel while serving with the U.S. naval services. The Navy Cross was established by Act of Congress (Public Law 65-253) and approved on February 4, 1919.

The Navy Cross was instituted in part due to the entrance of the United States into World War I. Many European nations had the custom of decorating heroes from other nations, but the Medal of Honor was the sole American award for valor at the time. The Army instituted the Distinguished Service Cross and Distinguished Service Medal in 1918, while the Navy followed suit in 1919, retroactive to April 6, 1917. Originally, the Navy Cross was lower in precedence than the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, because it was awarded for both combat heroism and for "other distinguished service." Congress revised this on August 7, 1942, making the Navy Cross a combat-only award and second only to the Medal of Honor. Since its creation, it has been awarded more than 6,300 times. It was designed by James Earle Fraser.

The first actual recipient of the Navy Cross is unknown because initial awards were made from a lengthy list published after World War I.

The Navy Cross may be awarded to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces while serving with the Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard (in time of war only) who distinguishes himself or herself in action by extraordinary heroism not justifying an award of the Medal of Honor. The action must take place under one of three circumstances:

- * While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States
- * While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force
- * While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The act(s) to be commended must be performed in the presence of great danger or at great personal risk and must be performed in such a manner as to render the individual highly conspicuous among others of equal grade, rate, experience, or position of responsibility. An accumulation of minor acts of heroism does not justify an award of the Navy Cross. As originally authorized, the Navy Cross could be awarded for distinguished non-combat acts, but legislation of August 7, 1942 limited the award to acts of combat heroism.



Picture of Navy Cross and Medal and Ribbon



For basic information and questions, please check out our webpage at www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptRZ/va/Pages/index.aspx

We have also moved the Veterans Service Organizations in Lexington County to the webpage.

Coming in the Next Issue...
Fiduciary Program, Debts, and Emergency Care in a Non-VA Facility