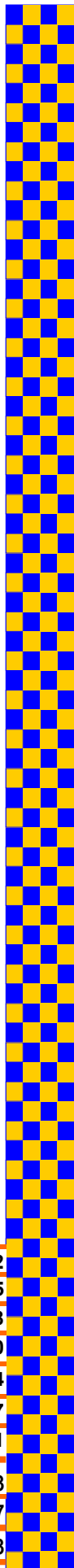




LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

November/December 2014



Lexington, SC.

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At A Glance Calendar November/December

Weekly on Tuesdays in November	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @ 12 noon
Sunday, November 2nd	Lexington County Veterans Parade at 3pm, downtown Lexington Daylight Savings Times Ends
Tuesday, November 4th	Election Day
Thursday, November 6th	Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday, November 7th	Chapin Outreach
Saturday, November 8th	Dang-It Doll Workshop from 10am to 3pm in Cayce
Tuesday, November 10th	Normandy Presentation at Batesburg/Leesville Library @ 5:30pm.
Tuesday, November 11th	Veterans Day County Offices Closed
Friday, November 14th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Tuesday, November 18th	County Council Meeting
Monday, November 24th through Friday, November 28th	No DAV Van running during this time
Thursday, November 27th through Friday, November 28th	Thanksgiving Holidays/County Closed
Weekly on Tuesdays in December	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @12 noon
Thursday, December 4th	Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday, December 5th	Chapin Outreach Volunteer Van Driver Luncheon Office closed 12 noon to 2pm
Sunday, December 7th	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Tuesday, December 9th	County Council Meeting
Friday, December 12th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Saturday, December 13th	Wreaths Across America at Ft. Jackson Cemetery starting @ 10:30am
Sunday, December 21st	Winter Begins
Monday, December 22nd through Friday, January 2nd	No DAV Van running during this time
Wednesday, December 24th through Friday, December 26th	Christmas Holidays/County Closed
Thursday, January 1st	New Year's Day/County Closed No Gaston Outreach

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...

This is our last issue for 2014 and it has been a fast year for all of us in your County Veterans Affairs Office. We welcome a new staff member, Jennifer Parler from West Columbia and we are delighted to have her on our team. Please make her welcome as you visit the office.

With Veterans Day approaching it is always important to remember those who served this great Nation. It is a day set aside for all of us who have served, no matter when your service was. We are a brotherhood and our ties cannot be broken by the government or anyone else. To us in the office, every day is Veterans Day because we serve Veterans and their survivors every day and it is a great honor in life to be afforded this opportunity to serve. We salute you!

Our scanning mission continues in order for us to be completely paperless and use current technology to provide better customer service to our clients. We are always receptive to volunteers who would like to help in this endeavor or lead the Pledge of Allegiance at any future County Council meeting. We also have a van driven by volunteers to transport Veterans to their appointments at Dorn VA Medical Center. We are down to just four volunteers and really need help on this mission in order to keep it going. Please consider volunteering for any of these missions. We would love to have you!

In 2015 we plan to finish scanning all of our files and working in a paperless environment. This helps expedite claims for Veterans and survivors. The VA is almost completely paperless and it has improved the turnaround time for benefits claims. We anticipate next year being the fastest the VA has ever responded to benefits claims and Veterans certainly deserve it.

Since this is a bi-monthly issue I want to take this opportunity to wish all Veterans a Happy Veterans Day, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

It is an honor to serve
Lexington County!



State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, throughout our country's history, courageous men and women have answered the call to protect and defend the core principles upon which our nation was founded, standing ready to fight to keep America safe and to help secure peace around the world; and

WHEREAS, today, there are nearly 22 million veterans, including almost 421,000 living in South Carolina, who have served our country in times of peace and conflict, many of whom willingly entered harm's way to fight for our way of life; and

WHEREAS, these dedicated members of our Armed Forces have kept America strong and inspired generations through their selfless service, proving their heroism and love of country time and again while helping to define the character of our nation; and

WHEREAS, each year on Veterans Day, we recognize, with appreciation and respect, the men and women of our Armed Forces who have helped keep our nation secure and advance the cause of freedom worldwide by boldly defending the American principles of liberty, opportunity, and justice for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2014, as

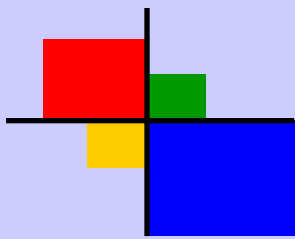
VETERANS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to pause to reflect on the countless contributions and selfless sacrifices of the millions of men and women who have proudly served in the United States Armed Forces.

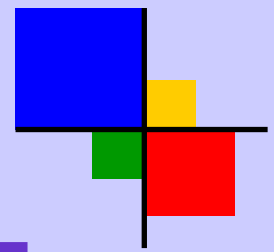


A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS



BASIC ELIGIBILITY:

A person who served in the active military, naval or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for VA benefits. Reservist and National Guard members may also qualify for VA health care benefits if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a Federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.

MINIMUM DUTY REQUIREMENTS:

Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to Veterans discharged for hardship, early out or a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

ENROLLMENT:

For most Veterans, entry into the VA health care system begins by applying for enrollment. To apply, complete VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits, which may be obtained from our office, any VA health care facility or regional benefits office, on line at www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387). Once enrolled, Veterans can receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country.



PRIORITY GROUPS:

During enrollment, each Veteran is assigned to a priority group. VA uses priority groups to balance demand for VA health care enrollment with resources. Changes in available resources may reduce the number of priority groups VA can enroll. If this occurs, VA will publicize the changes and notify affected enrollees.

GROUP 1: Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 50 percent or more and Veterans determined by VA to be unemployable due to service-connected conditions.

GROUP 2: Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 30 to 40 percent.

GROUP 3: Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 10 and 20 percent; Veterans who are former Prisoners of War (POW) or were awarded a Purple Heart Medal; Veterans awarded the Medal of Honor (MOH); Veterans awarded special eligibility for disabilities incurred in treatment or participation in a VA Vocational Rehabilitation program; and Veterans whose discharge was for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

GROUP 4: Veterans receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits and /or Veterans determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled.

GROUP 5: Veterans receiving VA pension benefits or eligible for Medicaid programs, and non service-connected Veterans and non-compensable, zero percent service-connected; Veterans whose gross annual household income and/ or net worth are below the VA national income threshold and geographically-adjusted income threshold for their resident area.

Continued on page 5

VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS continued from page 4

GROUP 6: Veterans of WWII; Veterans seeking care solely for certain conditions associated with exposure to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; for any illness associated with participation in tests conducted by the Department of



Defense (DOD) as part of Project 112/Project SHAD; Veterans with zero percent service-connected disabilities who are receiving disability compensation benefits; Veterans who served in the republic of Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; Veterans of the Persian Gulf War that served between August 2, 1990 and November 11, 1998 and Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998 as follows: 1. Veterans discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, who were enrolled as of January 28, 2008 and Veterans who apply for enrollment after January 28, 2008, for 5 years post discharge 2.

Veterans discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, who apply for enrollment after January 28, 2008, until January 27, 2011

GROUP 7: Veterans with gross household income below the geographically-adjusted income threshold (GMT) for their resident location and who agree to pay co-pays.

GROUP 8: Veterans, enrolled as of January 16, 2003, with gross household income and/or net worth above the VA national income threshold and the geographically-adjusted income threshold for their resident location and who agree to pay co-pays.

Note: Due to income relaxation rules implemented on June 15, 2009 Veterans with household income above the VA national threshold or the GHMT income threshold for their resident location by 10 percent or less, who agree to pay co-pays, are eligible for enrollment in Priority Group 8.

VETERAN HEALTH REGISTRIES

Certain Veterans can participate in a VA health registry and receive free medical examinations, including laboratory and other diagnostic tests deemed necessary by an examining clinician. VA maintains health registries to provide special health examinations and health related information.

PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION

What is Presumptive Service Connection?

VA presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain Veterans were caused by their military service. VA does this because of the unique circumstances of their military service. If one of these conditions is diagnosed in a Veteran in one of these groups, VA presumes that the circumstances of his/her service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded.

Veterans in the following groups identified below: Entitlement to disability compensation may be presumed under the circumstances described.

Veterans within one year of release from active duty: Veterans diagnosed with chronic diseases (such as arthritis, diabetes or hypertension) are encouraged to apply for disability compensation.

Veterans with continuous service of 90 days or more: Veterans diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) /Lou Gehrig's disease at any time after discharge or release from qualifying active service is sufficient to establish service connection for the disease, if the Veteran had active, continuous service of 90 days or more.

Former Prisoners of War---Vietnam Veterans (Exposed to Agent Orange)—Atomic Veterans (Exposed to Ionizing Radiation)—Gulf War Veterans (Undiagnosed Illness)

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. Please stop by the office Monday through Friday from 8-5 to get a closer look at the prints or to purchase.



Looking for Volunteer Van Drivers

The van runs on Mondays and Wednesdays 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 one day a month, contact the office at 803-785-8400.



Effective September 1st, the van will no longer run on Thursdays.

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 4:15pm. 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



****Reminder****

There will be no Gaston Outreach in January!

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online, or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is also available.



Travel Benefits for VA Healthcare

If you meet the criteria below, you may be eligible for mileage reimbursement or special mode transport in association with obtaining VA health care services.

YOU QUALIFY IF:	YOU QUALIFY FOR SPECIAL MODE TRANSPORTATION (AMBULANCE, WHEELCHAIR VAN ETC.) IF:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. you have a service-connected (SC) rating of 30 percent or more, or2. you are traveling for treatment of a SC condition, or3. you receive a VA pension, or4. your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or5. you are traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◇ your medical condition requires an ambulance or a specially equipped van as determined by a VA clinician, and◇ you meet one of the eligibility criteria in 1 through 4 above, and◇ the travel is pre-authorized (authorization is not required for emergencies if a delay would be hazardous to life or health)

Mileage Rates

General Travel

\$0.415 (41.5 cents) per mile

Scheduled appointments qualify for round-trip mileage. Unscheduled visits may be limited to return mileage only.

Deductible

\$3.00 one-way (\$6.00 round trip)

Deductible requirement is subject to a monthly cap of \$18.00. Upon reaching \$18.00 in deductibles or 6 one-way (3 round) trips, whichever comes first, travel payments made for the balance of that particular month will be free of deductible charges.

Waiver of Deductible

A waiver of the deductible will be provided if you are eligible for travel and you:

1. are in receipt of a VA pension or;
2. are a NSC Veteran and your previous year's income does not exceed, or your projected current calendar year's income, in the year of application will not exceed the applicable VA pension rate, or
3. are a SC Veteran and your previous year's income does not exceed, or your projected current calendar year's income, in the year of application will not exceed the applicable national means test income threshold or,
4. are traveling for a scheduled compensation and pension exam

A Pilgrimage Back to Normandy

“70th Anniversary of D-Day”

This is a continuation from the September/October newsletter where the Director, Ed and Mr. “Red” Smith, a local WWII Veteran from Lexington, traveled to Normandy for the 70th Anniversary along with 21 other WWII Veterans.

Day 9 – June 9, 2014

We decided we were going to all enjoy Paris for one whole day, which is our last full day in France. We began at the Eiffel Tower for a great tour of an incredible steel structure. Mr. Red opted to stay near the bus due to being tired and unable to walk very far. The tower is undergoing a complete refurbishment on the first floor and when complete, will have more modern eateries, boutiques and other shops. After this we made our way to the beautiful Seine River, which runs through town. We boarded a river boat that serves meals and had an incredible lunch with dessert and more wine. The French really do love bread and wine! The view from the boat of Paris is spectacular!



Other boats would wave at us as they passed by. The skipper made a grand announcement over the PA system thanking our World War II Veterans. The whole boat erupted in loud cheers and applause, it was an emotional moment.

After the lunch cruise we made our way to the Notre Dame Cathedral. This has to be the most famous cathedral in the world. It is very ornate and impressive architecture. It started to rain and I opted not to stand in the long line to be admitted. Mr. Red stayed on the bus for this stop as well. As I walked in the courtyard in front of the cathedral, I heard music coming from inside. It was quite beautiful and reminded me of home. I walked around the street while looking at the people coming in and out of so many shops. Paris is a noisy but happening place littered with outside cafes, verandas and lots of restaurants. It has its own beauty but is nothing compared to the beauty of the Normandy region. We rode around Paris after this for a few hours while our tour guide pointed out historic and prominent locations. We enjoyed our full day in Paris and were ready to head home to America.



Our last night in France, Mr. Red and I decided to dine on our own with two friends we had made on the trip. We ate with the Gattons from Louisville, KY. Mr. Red lived there for 60 years and really connected with both of them and asked about many things of Louisville. He really cheered up when he rekindled his memories of Louisville. We finalized the packing of our bags for the return trip home and retired for the evening. We had an early start so needed our rest for the next day.

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A Pilgrimage Back to Normandy “70th Anniversary of D-Day” continued from page 8

Day 10 – June 10, 2014

We awakened early and took our bags to the hotel lobby. The hotel prepared a buffet breakfast of everything imaginable for an American breakfast. We all really enjoyed it and appreciated their hospitality. We headed to the airport, which was very busy as usual. The Paris airport has to be the most confusing airport I have ever seen. We checked our bags, went through customs and then security. By the time we got through all of this, our plane was boarding. We were escorted to our seats on the first row and for the first time today, we could relax. We had an uneventful flight and arrived in Charlotte to a water cannon salute for our Veterans. Many US Airways employees were standing outside to greet our plane and were holding huge US flags. This was awesome!



One of their employees came to get Mr. Red and escorted him through the airport. There were more people inside who welcome us most of the way. Local Charlotte reporters were there to interview some of the Veterans. The Patriot Guard was there in full force with their flags. Mr. Red was emotional through all of this and deeply appreciated it. He was given a nice coin as we went through customs from the Border Patrol. We zipped through immigration and boarded our bus for Columbia. We were all excited and chatty all the way home. At the SC border, the York County Sheriff’s Department provided

a police escort in the front and rear of the bus, complete with blue lights. As we entered each county on the way home, the escorts continued. Once we hit Richland County we had the biggest escort of all. We had the Sheriff, the Patriot Guard and the American Legion riders, this was really cool! They led us to our drop off point, Northeast Presbyterian Church on Polo Road.

The celebration here was loud, big and exciting. Hundreds of people showed up to welcome home our heroes and we were all in tears. There was a nice reception, hugs, high fives, back slaps and prayers. We were all thankful to God for a safe journey to Normandy and back home. We said our goodbyes and departed with our families. It was a very emotional goodbye for me and my dear friend, Mr. Red Smith. We have really bonded over these last ten days and I told him he was one of my new heroes.

As I reflect on this enormous trip, the thing I will remember the most is the relationships we formed with one another; the bonding of the hearts. This trip was special for all of us and I have never been prouder to be an American. The people of France, Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg that we met, were all enamored by our Veterans. They were deeply appreciative for their freedom and emotional when thanking the Veterans. It was refreshing to observe the children of these people and to know their appreciation had been passed to them by their parents and grandparents. It is really sad patriotism isn’t shown like this in America.

I gained twenty-two new heroes on this trip. Before I left on this trip, I called it “the trip of a lifetime” and it was exactly that. I made quite a few friends on the trip as well and am thankful for this. We agreed to keep in touch and get together again.

There is something about the Normandy region of France. It captivates you with its beauty, history and kindness. Freedom has been kind to her people and she has returned to her original beauty before war nearly destroyed the entire area. I plan to return some day and discover more of the region. Normandy has given me a new appreciation for freedom, honor and sacrifice.



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The History of the Gettysburg Address

In November 1863, at the dedication of a military cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the site of one of the bloodiest and most decisive battles of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln was invited to deliver remarks, which later became known as the Gettysburg Address. Though he was not the featured orator that day, Lincoln's 272 word address would be remembered as one of the most important speeches in American history as he brilliantly and movingly reminded a war-weary public why the Union had to fight, and win, the Civil War. In the address, he invoked the principles of human equality contained in the Declaration of Independence and connected the sacrifices of the Civil War with the desire for "a new birth of freedom," as well as the all-important preservation of the Union created in 1776 and its ideal of self-government.



The Battle of Gettysburg, fought some four months earlier, was the single bloodiest battle of the Civil War. Over the course of three days, more than 45,000 men were killed, injured, captured or went missing. The battle also proved to be the turning point of the war: General Robert E. Lee's defeat and retreat from Gettysburg marked the last Confederate invasion of Northern territory and the beginning of the Southern army's ultimate decline.



Charged by Pennsylvania's governor, Andrew Curtin, to care for the Gettysburg dead, an attorney named David Wills bought 17 acres of pasture to turn into a cemetery for the more than 7,500 who fell in battle. Wills invited Edward Everett, one of the most famous orators of the day, to deliver a speech at the cemetery's dedication. Almost as an afterthought, Wills also sent a letter to Lincoln—just two weeks before the ceremony—requesting "a few appropriate remarks" to consecrate the grounds.

At the dedication, the crowd listened for two hours to Everett before Lincoln spoke. Lincoln's address lasted just two or three minutes. The speech reflected his redefined belief that the Civil War was not just a fight to save the Union, but a struggle for freedom and equality for all, an idea Lincoln had not championed in the years leading up to the war. Reception of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was initially mixed, divided strictly along partisan lines. Nevertheless, the "little speech," as he later called it, is thought by many today to be the most eloquent articulation of the democratic vision ever written.



"The Gettysburg Address"

*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation,
conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*

*Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation,
or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.*

We are met on a great battlefield of that war.

*We have come to dedicate a portion of that field,
as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.*

It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground.

The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.

*The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here,
but it can never forget what they did here.*

*It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here
to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.*

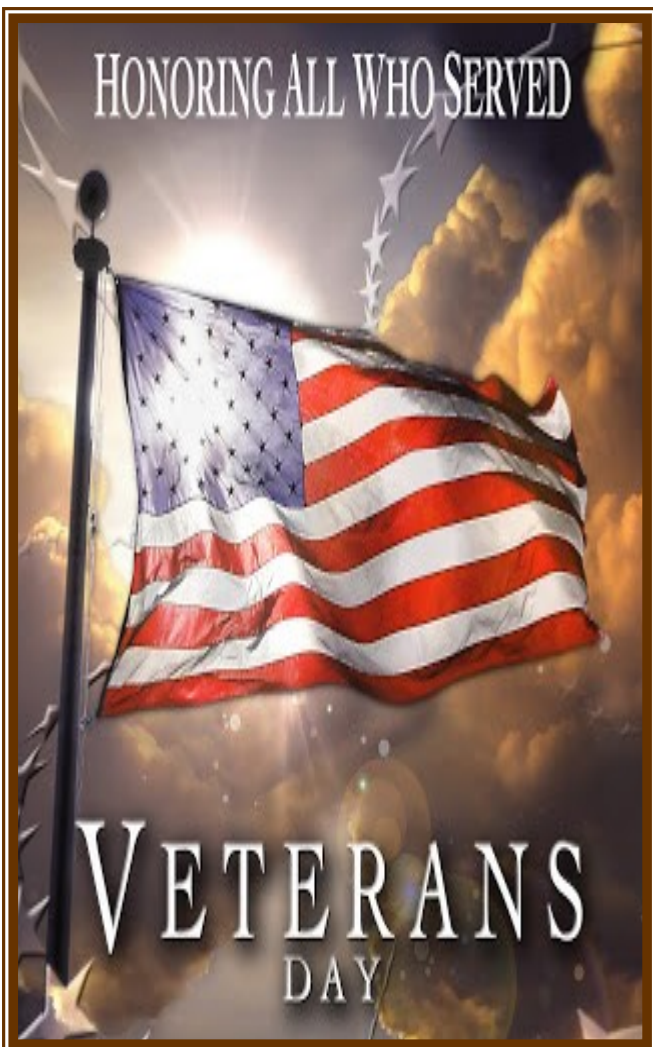
*It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us
that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause*

for which they gave the last full measure of devotion that we here

highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain

that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom

and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



"THANKSGIVING"

The year has turned its circle,
The seasons come and go.
The harvest is all gathered in
And chilly north winds blow.
Orchards have shared their treasures,
The fields, their yellow grain,
So open wide the doorway-
Thanksgiving comes again!



Happy Thanksgiving!

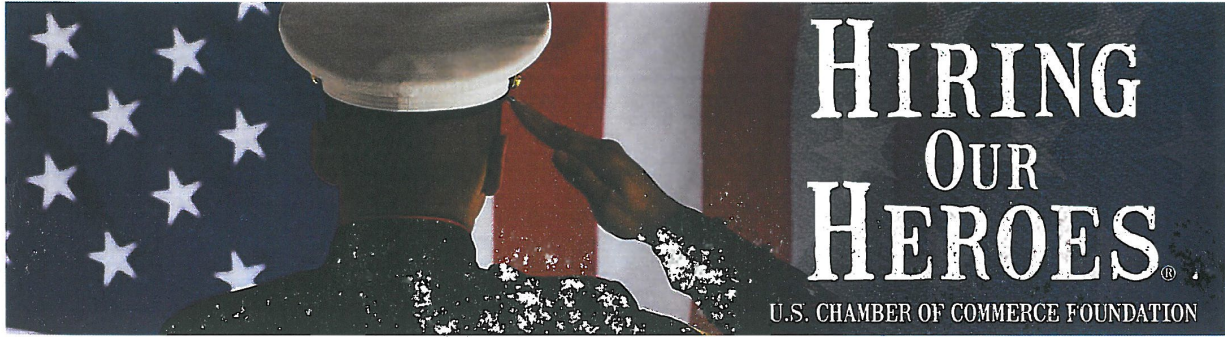
Dang-it Dolls Workshop

Hope everyone is ready to get back to work making Dang-it Dolls for our Service men and women! The November workshop will be held at the Cayce Masonic Lodge, 1701 12th Street, Cayce, SC 29033 on Saturday, November 8, 2014, from 10:00AM until 3:00PM. The Lodge Brothers will be preparing their famous Hot Dog Lunch for everyone.

There will not be a workshop in December, but they will start back the first of January. Grab a friend and come join in with the stuffing and decorating of the dolls so we can bring smiles and stress relief to our service men and women. To date, with your help, over 140,000 Dang-it Dolls have been shipped all over the world. We have volunteers ranging in age from 5 to 90 years of age. There is something for everyone to do and this is the one place where THE MORE THE MERRIER really counts.

Don't forget that Wal-Mart on Hwy 1 in West Columbia is carrying the Morning Glory stuffing now. This is the only stuffing that is used for the dolls as the other brands are too soft and silky for our purpose. We can always use stuffing donations. We are also in need of funds to ship the dolls. With the over 1500 dolls we have shipped out since our May workshop, we are really short of funds right now. Any help you can give will be appreciated. The average cost to ship a box of 25 to 30 dolls is \$35.00. Also, we have our Dang-it Doll T-shirts in black or white. Youth sizes are \$15.00, adult sizes up to 2X are \$20.00 and 3X and above are \$25.00.





2014 Hiring Our Heroes - Columbia SC

Solomon Center

6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd.

Fort Jackson, SC 29207

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 8:30 a.m.

HIRING FAIR: 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

This University of Phoenix sponsored hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Office of the Mayor, Columbia, the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the South Carolina Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), The American Legion, SC DEW, SC Works, NBC News, and other local partners.

EMPLOYERS

Must register for **FREE** at HiringOurHeroes.org

JOB SEEKERS

Register for **FREE** at HiringOurHeroes.org to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.

A workshop for veterans and other military job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 8:30 a.m. To register for the Hiring Our Heroes Employment Workshop, visit HiringOurHeroes.org.

For registration questions, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5807.



University of Phoenix®



VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



NBC NEWS

HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG

Find Hiring Our Heroes online:



Download the free Hiring Our Heroes mobile app! All our powerful tools and resources at your fingertips.





New rules & regulations from the SCDNR on hunting/fishing licenses

1 - Disabled Veterans who are residents of SC and receiving disability benefits from the US Veterans Administration are eligible to apply for a three year disability license at no cost.

2 - Disability license holders who are at least 65 years of age are no longer required to provide a disability benefit statement when they renew a disability license. Proof of SC residency is still required.

You will need to complete a Disability Recreational Hunting and Fishing License Application located on the SCDNR website at <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/licensing.html>. Along with this application you will also need to submit a copy of your unexpired SC driver's license or ID card and a current copy of your disability rating letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Lexington County Offices will be closed on the following dates

- ◇ November 11th - Veterans Day
- ◇ December 24th - Christmas Eve
- ◇ December 25th - Christmas Day
- ◇ December 26th - Day After Christmas
- ◇ January 1st - New Year's Day



A Pilgrimage Back to Normandy "70th Anniversary of D-Day" continued from page 9

As I reflect on Mr. Red Smith, my new hero, who told me many stories of his exploits during the war. He remembered the first town his unit came through in Germany, the town of Geilenkirchen. Today, a NATO Airbase is located there. Mr. Red remembers coming upon a farm with a tractor sitting in the middle of a field. He and some buddies went to check it out and hopefully could commandeer it. He tried to crank it but no luck and then noticed there was a bullet hole in the fuel tank. His unit continued walking to their next bivouac area. He also remembers finding a small working farm in Germany but could not remember the town. On the farm were animals, a man, his wife and daughter. They were amazed when he showed them he knew how to milk a cow. He grew up on a farm in Ohio and explained to me all the intricate details on how a farm works. He misses those days and remembers them fondly. He remarked several times on trips that the rolling hills and green fields of Normandy reminded him of home.



Mr. Red also conveyed to me that when his Engineer unit got near Paris, the unit was ordered to ride in trucks that were provided to them. He stated the top brass did not want Soldiers walking through Paris because of all the beautiful women and displaced people who might try to beg from them or take their equipment. He also fondly remembered other units riding the rails of Germany to state the war was over and this is how they found out the military maneuvering was complete. Afterward, he was shipped back to France as a POW guard for nearly two years and then was honorably discharged.

As I close this journal of our pilgrimage, I am reminded of two things: I am grateful for the service and sacrifice of America's World War II Veterans and I am one proud American who appreciates freedom.

Medical Expense and Eligibility Verification Reports

Medical Expense Report (MER)

For Veterans and Surviving Spouses receiving Non-Service Connection Pension Benefits, the VA may be able to pay you at a higher rate if you identify expenses the VA considers allowable. Medical and dental expenses paid by you may be deductible from the income VA counts when determining your benefit entitlement.

Any medical or dental expenses that you paid for a member of your household (self, spouse, child, etc.) for which you were not reimbursed may also be counted. Below are examples of expenses you should include, if applicable:

• Hospital expenses • Doctor's office fees • Dental fees • Prescription/non-prescription drug costs • Vision care costs • Medical insurance premiums • Monthly Medicare deduction • Nursing home costs • Hearing aid costs • Dental fees • Home health service expenses • Expenses related to transportation to a hospital, doctor, or other medical facility.

These expenses may be listed on a **VA Form 21P-8416 – Medical Expense Report (MER)** - and submitted anytime for the previous year. For example: Medical Expense Reports for 2013 may be submitted anytime during the calendar year of 2014.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Do not include any expenses for which you were reimbursed. If you receive reimbursement after you have filed a MER, promptly notify the VA office handling your claim.
- If you are not sure whether a particular expense can be allowed, furnish a complete description of the purposes of the payment. The VA will let you know if an expense cannot be allowed.
- You may be asked to verify the amounts you actually paid. Keep all receipts or other documentation of payments for at least three years after the VA makes a decision on your medical expense claim. If you are unable to provide documentation of the claimed medical expenses when asked to do so by the VA, your benefits may be retroactively reduced or terminated.

Eligibility Verification Report (EVR)

Historically, beneficiaries have been required to complete a **VA Form 21-0510 - Eligibility Verification Report (EVR)** - each year to ensure their pension benefits continue. However under an initiative released December 20, 2012, this requirement no longer exists. Under the new initiative, the VA works with the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration to verify eligibility for Non-Service Connected Pension Benefits for Veterans and Surviving Spouses.

Eliminating these annual reports reduces the burden on Veterans, their families and survivors because they will not have to return these routine reports to the VA each year in order to avoid suspension of benefits.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If there is a significant increase or decrease in your family income or net worth, or if there is any change in your marital status or the status of your dependents you must notify the VA immediately. Fully describe the change and furnish your name, VA claim number and Social Security number. If you do not promptly notify the VA of these changes, you may end up in an overpayment in your account.

Attention Veterans and Active Duty Military!

Are You in NEED of Home Repairs?



Weatherization Assistance Program.... Working in your Community

"Making communities stronger, one family at a time!"

Obtain needed repairs to your home through grant programs. The Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation & Weatherization Program is available to make repairs for low-medium income homeowners. Available to veterans or active duty members of any branch of the US Military that are currently serving, have served, or their surviving spouse!

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

INCOME GUIDELINES:

Must identify and verify all sources of income for each household member. Verification of income must be within 90 days of submission

OWN OR BUYING A HOME:

Must have thirty (30) days ownership.

STATEMENT FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTION:

Must submit last two (2) months of bank statements for all accounts.

COPY OF DEED:

Must be registered and recorded.

PROPERTY TAX:

Must be paid and current.

DD 214:

Or other proof of service.

Please contact Capital Rehab Management

George Lesesne: Phone - 803.238.4375 or email GeorgeLesesne@yahoo.com

Joyce Pue: Phone - 803.261.5772 or email Pues112@yahoo.com

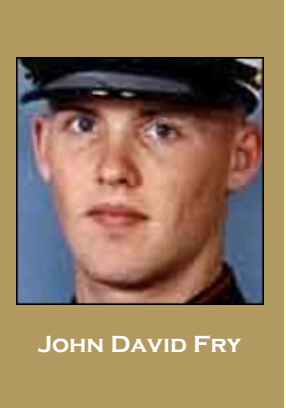
This program is for Veterans, their surviving spouse or active duty members and does have income requirements. The grant money does not have to be repaid and is distributed on a first-come first-served basis each year. The grant allows for repairs such as roofing, windows, doors or HVAC. There is so much the grant can provide for low income Veterans and their surviving spouses to improve their homes, so please call George Lesesne or Joyce Pue at the numbers on the bottom of the flyer.

Changes to the Fry Scholarship

The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (“Choice Act”) was recently signed into law. Most of the Act pertains to Veterans health care but it also included a provision affecting GI Bill benefits, specifically the Fry Scholarship.

The Fry Scholarship was created to honor Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry, 28, of Lorena, Texas. Sergeant Fry had one week left in his tour in Iraq in 2006, when he volunteered to continue working for seven more hours disarming explosive devices, despite having already sustained an injury to his hand. He made the ultimate sacrifice on March 8, 2006, in Anbar province, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated. He left behind a widow and three children.

Section 701 of the Choice Act expands the Fry Scholarship to include the surviving spouses of Service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Prior to this law, only children of those who died in the line of duty were eligible for this benefit. Over 1,275 children were helped under the Fry Scholarship in FY 2013.



The law states eligible spouses are entitled to receive:

- 36 months of full benefits, equal to 100% level of the Post-9/11 GI Bill; this includes tuition and fee payment, a monthly housing allowance, and a stipend for books and supplies.
- Training must start on or after January 1, 2015. Training prior to January 1, 2015, is not eligible to receive benefits under Section 701.
- A spouse has 15 years from the date of the Service Member’s death to utilize benefits. If a spouse remarries, benefits end the date of the remarriage.

Some spouses, currently eligible for or already receiving benefits under the Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance (DEA) program, may now be eligible for the Fry Scholarship. DEA is an educational program offering up to 45 months of education benefits to eligible dependents of Veterans who died while on active duty, as well as dependents of Veterans who died as a result of a service-connected condition or are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition. Surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, will have to make a one-time irrevocable election to receive either the Fry Scholarship or DEA.

Free Admission

*Monday, November 11 from
9:00am – 5:00pm*

Active duty and retired military personnel
with a military ID card receive free
admission in honor of Veterans Day.



What is a Veteran?

Some Veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg, or perhaps another sort of inner steel; the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem.

You can't tell a Veteran by looking.

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times by the four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She or he is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back AT ALL.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket, palsied now and aggravatingly slow, who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier, a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot, **"THANK YOU"**.

2014 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts

Two things to always remember during Veterans Day when using any of the free meals or discounts listed below:

1 - **Proof of Military Service:** First, most companies require some form of military ID – including a U.S. Uniform Services ID Card (active/reserve/retired), Current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), Photograph in uniform, be wearing uniform (if your service permits), Veterans Organization Card (e.g., American Legion and VFW), DD214, discharge paperwork, or other form of identification. Other restaurants and companies may only require a photo of you in uniform, or go by the honor system.

2 – **Participation:** Second, always call ahead to verify locations, times, and participation. Many of the listed companies are franchises and may have different policies. We will do our best to keep this page updated as we find new info.

Discounts at Restaurants

Applebee's – Applebee's is again offering a free meal to military Veterans and active-duty service members on November 11th. There will be 7 entrées to choose from, beverage and gratuity not included. Military ID or proof of service is required. Last year over a million free meals were served.

Carraba's – free appetizer of your choice for active duty service members and Veterans. Military ID or proof of service is required.

Chili's – Chili's is offering all military Veterans, past and present, their choice of one of seven meals during the dinner hour or any lunch combo. Offer is valid at participating Chili's in the U.S. only. Dine-in from limited menu only; beverages and gratuity not included. Veterans and active duty military simply show proof of military service.

Denny's – Free all you can eat pancakes from 6am to 2pm on Veterans Day for all active, retirees, and Veterans with a valid military ID or proof of service. Offer available in every Denny's nationwide.

FATZ – Free meal for current and former military members up to \$13 value. Proof of service is required.

Golden Corral –The 14th annual Golden Corral Military Appreciation Monday dinner is available to any person who has ever served in the United States Military. If you are a Veteran, retired, currently serving, in the National Guard or Reserves, you are invited to participate in Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday dinner. To date over four million free meals have been served.



Hooters –Hooters invites all Veterans and current servicemen and women to enjoy a free meal, up to \$10.99 in value with any drink purchase, by presenting a military ID or proof of service at any locations across the country.

Krispy Kreme – Free doughnut and small coffee available only at participating Krispy Kreme stores. Offer available to all active-duty, retirees & Veterans. Be sure to call ahead to verify your local Krispy Kreme is participating.

Little Caesars Pizza - Little Caesars is honoring the men and women of the United States Armed Forces this Veterans Day by providing Veterans and active military members with a free Crazy Bread with proof of military status or proof of service at participating stores nationwide.

Longhorn Steakhouse – Complimentary Texas Tonion and non-alcoholic beverage. Offer good for Veterans and active duty military members. Proof of service is required.



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2014 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts - continued from page 18

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants – McCormick & Schmick's is celebrating their 16th annual Veteran's Appreciation Event on Sunday, November 9th with free lunch or dinner. Veterans will be able to choose a complimentary lunch or dinner entrée from a special menu. Veterans must provide proof of military service. Be sure to contact your local McCormick & Schmick's as this is valid at participating restaurants only. Space is limited and reservations are highly recommended.

Menchie's – All Veterans and current service members will receive a free 6oz frozen yogurt on November 11th. Proof of service required.

O'Charley's – Free entrée from the \$9.99 menu for all active duty and Veterans with proof of service



Olive Garden – All veterans and military active duty will receive a free meal from a special menu on Veterans Day. Also, all November long, current military service members and their families get 10% their purchase in honor of Military Appreciation Month. Proof of service is required.

Outback Steakhouse – Outback Steakhouse is honoring America's military Veterans by offering active duty military and Veterans a free Bloomin' Onion and a non-alcoholic beverage to military personnel and Veterans with ID or proof of service. Also, receive 15% off your purchase from November 12th - December 31st.

Red Lobster – Free Appetizer on Veterans Day with Military ID or proof of service. Veterans may choose from a select list of appetizers.

Red Robin –Free Red's Tavern Double burger and bottomless steak fries for all Red Robin guests with military ID or proof of service. Red Robin is also partnering with Heinz for Veterans Days to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Red Robin will also donate \$10,000 to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Ryan's – On November 11th, active duty, reservists and retired military may enjoy a free dine-in lunch at participating Ryan's locations, from open until 3:30 pm. Show your military ID or proof of service to enjoy the free meal.

Shoney's –On November 11th, Shoney's will be having a Veterans Day free meal that consists of a free All-American Burger. This is for Veterans as well as active duty military. Proof of military service is required and it's for dine-in only.

Starbucks – Free tall brewed coffee for active duty, Veterans and their spouses at participating stores only.

Texas Roadhouse –Every Texas Roadhouse location across the country will participate in the free lunch event to honor the men and women of our armed forces. Choose from one of 10 free meals, plus sides and a drink. Offer good for All Veterans – including all active, retired or former U.S. military. Dine-in only and ID Required.

T.G.I. Friday's – Free Lunch for all current military members and Veteran from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Valid ID or proof of service required. Dine-in only at participating locations.



Uno Chicago Grill – Free individual pizza or entrée with purchase of a pizza or entrée of equal or greater value. Available for all active duty and Veterans. No coupon is necessary; proof of service required. Don't forget to tell the staff you are there that day to support Fisher House, and a portion of your party's check will go to benefit the Fisher House Foundation, an awesome military charity.

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2014 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts - continued from page 19

Home Improvement Discounts

Home Depot - The Home Depot is offering a 10% discount for all Veterans on Veterans Day. Proof of service is required.



Lowe's – Lowes is offering a 10% discount for all Veterans on Veterans Day (this also includes immediate family). Proof of service is required.

Retail Stores & More

Big Lots – 10% off all purchases with valid military ID, November 9th – 11th.

Bed, Bath & Beyond – 20% off in store purchases, November 9th – 11th.

Build-A-Bear Workshop – 20% off entire purchase.

Char-Broil – Get 10% off site wide on orders over \$75 at Char-Broil! Offer ends November 15th and anyone can use the offer. Code: A14VET

Dollar General – Veterans, active military members and their families will get 11% off their in-store or online purchase on Veterans Day.

JC Penny – Anyone with a military ID or proof of service will receive 20% off their purchases November 3rd – 15th; in-store only.

Sleep Number Beds – From October 14th – November 16th Sleep Number is providing exclusive offers for current and past military personnel. You could save \$400 - \$700 on selected Sleep Number mattress sets.

Sam's Club - Sam's Club continues to honor military veterans from November 9th – 11th with an annual cane giveaway. In collaboration with AMG Medical, 36,000 free folding canes will be distributed to Veterans in need of mobility assistance. "Hugo Salutes Our Veterans" will distribute Hugo Folding Canes (retail value: \$29.99) at all U.S. Sam's Club locations. Sam's Club Membership is not required, but proof of U.S. military service is required to be eligible.

Free Services

Free Car Washes – Grace for Vets is a non-profit organization who has gotten together independent car wash operators to offer Veterans a free car wash in thousands of locations on Veterans Day. Find a list of the participating car washers at Grace for Vets.

Free Haircuts at Great Clips – Veterans and active/inactive/retired military members can stop into Great Clips on November 11th and get a free haircut or pickup a free haircut card to use before the end of the year. Anyone can stop in to get their haircut and receive a free haircut cut that they can give to a Veteran.



Free Haircuts at Sports Clips – Veterans and active duty US service members can stop in at Sports Clips on November 11th to get a free haircut.

Free Night Lodging at B&B's – Veterans can stay the night at over 200 participating B&B's and inns around the country on Monday, November 10th and Tuesday, November 11th. Reservations for your free stay can be made now and oar available while supplies last. For more information visit B&B's for Vets.

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2014 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts continued from page 20

Free Park Admissions for Veterans Day

Colonial Williamsburg – Veterans, service members and dependents of currently deployed troops can get free admission tickets to the park from November 7th – 11th.



Free Entrance Into National Parks – This freebie is in honor of Veterans Day but everyone can take part in it. Over 100 national parks will waive admission fees on November 11th in honor of Veteran's Day.

Knotts Berry Farm– Knott's Berry Farm continues its tradition of honoring the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. military, both past and present, with free admission during its 25th annual Military Tribute. The free-admission offer applies to all U.S. Veterans, retired and active military personnel and one guest. Up to six additional tickets may be purchased at Knott's Ticket Booths for only \$24 each from November 2 through 21 and for \$29 each from November 22 through January 4, 2015. U.S. Veterans, retired and active military personnel must present military ID or proof of U.S. military service at Knott's ticket booths to receive the complimentary tickets. Veterans, retired and active military personnel must be present.

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment – Veterans get 50% off tickets no through November 11th. The tickets must be used by December 21st. Veterans promotion includes SeaWorld Orlando, SeaWorld Antonio, SeaWorld San Diego, Busch Gardens Tampa Busch Gardens Williamsburg, and Sesame Place Langhorne. The program does not include Discovery Cove in Orlando or Aquatica, SeaWorld's Water Park. Active duty military members who have already used their free admission for the year can also get 50% off tickets.

Veteran Ticket Foundation – Get free tickets to sporting event, movies, shows and more by visiting www.vettix.org.



Many area schools are holding Veterans Day Programs. Contact your local school for more information.





Operation Veteran Support

**Crowns for Camo in partnership with
Operation Veteran Support and Addus Home Care**

Operation Warm our Veterans

**First-Ever Coat Drive for our
Veterans in Need**

**Help donate 1,000 new or gently used
coats for ALL our Veterans!
from 14 Oct – 11 Nov 14**

**Calling all community members, businesses, churches, schools
and organizations. Help us collect and donate coats for this first
of its kind event in the Palmetto State.**

Drop off coats at:

**Operation Veteran Support
3600 Colonial Drive, Columbia**

**Addus Home Care
Locations**

**Or contact Lenora at 803-464-1258 for
drop off centers in Sumter**



Addus HomeCare

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Did you know that the following events occurred during the months of November/December in history...



November 3, 1957 – Soviet Russia launched the 1st inhabited space capsule Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.



November 4, 1862 – Richard Gatling patented his first rapid-fire machine gun.



November 6, 1860 – Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th President and the 1st Republican.



November 8, 1895 – X-rays were discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen at the University of Wuerzburg in Germany.



November 9, 1989 – The Berlin Wall was opened up after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War. The 27.9 mile wall had been constructed in 1961.



November 11, 1938 – Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" was first performed.

November 15, 1864 – Union troops under the direction of General William T. Sherman burned Atlanta.



November 17, 1869 – The Suez Canal opened after 10 years of construction.



November 19, 1863 – President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg address.

November 22, 1963 – President John F. Kennedy was fatally shot while riding in a motorcade in downtown Dallas, Texas.



November 26, 1789 – The first American holiday, Thanksgiving occurred.

December 5, 1933 – The 18th Amendment to the US Constitution was repealed.



December 7, 1941 – The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.



December 15, 1939 – The world premiere of "Gone with the Wind".



December 16, 1773 – The Boston Tea Party occurred.

December 17, 1903 – Orville & Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered and controlled airplane flight.



December 20, 1960 – SC became the first state to secede from the Union.



December 23, 1888 – Dutch painter, Vincent van Gogh cut off his left ear during a fit of depression.



December 26, 2004 – An estimated 230,000 people were killed when a 9.3 earthquake set off a giant tsunami that smashed into dozens of countries including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India and Somalia.



December 31, 1879 – Thomas Edison provided the first public demonstration of his incandescent lamp in his lab at Menlo Park, NY.



Falling Behind in Your Mortgage/ Worried about Foreclosure?

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGAL SERVICES

SC HELP- approved Housing Processing Agency

MAY BE ABLE TO HELP AT NO COST

Homeowners worried about foreclosure due to reduction in income caused by unemployment or underemployment, reduction in self-employment income, death of a spouse, catastrophic medical expenses or divorce May Be Eligible for one or more of the following programs administered by SC HELP:

MONTHLY PAYMENT ASSISTANCE :

pays mortgage up to \$36,000 or 24 months whichever comes first while homeowner is seeking employment and a return to self-sustainability

DIRECT LOAN "CATCH UP" ASSISTANCE:

pays up to \$36,000 on past due mortgage to bring current; provided, homeowner can now maintain pay monthly payments

•MPA & DLA are both 5 year forgivable loans if you continue to reside in property



COMBINATION OF MONTHLY AND DIRECT ASSISTANCE:

pays past due mortgage up to \$25,000 and makes monthly payments for a combined total of \$36,000

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR DEED-IN-LIEU OR SHORT-SALE:

provides \$5,000 grant to help transition families from homeownership to rental housing if:

1. Application with SC HELP completed FIRST
2. Permission for short-sale or deed-in-lieu of foreclosure granted by mortgage company
3. Money distributed AFTER execution of deed completed

How To Apply

South Carolina Legal Services:

1 888 257 1988

Or

1 855 435 7472

Apply online at

www.SCHELP.gov



South Carolina
Legal Services

Balancing the Scales of Justice

Andrea E. Loney, Esquire
Executive Director
2109 Bull Street, P.O. Box 1445, Columbia, SC29201
Email: andrealoney@sclegal.org
Fax: 803-744-4191
www.sclegal.org

SC HELP
Mortgage help for homeowners.



South Carolina Legal Services

Balancing the Scales of Justice

Andrea E. Loney, Esquire
Executive Director
2109 Bull Street | P.O. Box 1445 | Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Email: andrealoney@sclegal.org Fax: (803) 799-9420
www.sclegal.org | www.lawhelp.org/sc | www.probono.net/sc



South Carolina Homeownership
and Employment Lending Program

300-C Outlet Pointe Boulevard
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
www.scmortgagehelp.com

Pre-Registration Information

South Carolina Homeownership and Employment Lending Program have been awarded \$295,431,200 in funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. South Carolina Legal Services will help you gather and submit the documents to apply for mortgage assistance.

1. Full name _____
2. Complete Mailing Address _____
3. Email Address _____ Telephone Number _____
Cell phone Number _____
4. Do you or the co-borrower own and live in the property as a primary residence? _____
5. Was your original first mortgage amount less than \$729,750? _____
6. What is the name of your mortgage company? _____
7. Is your mortgage current or delinquent? _____
8. Are you or the co-borrower unemployed? _____
9. If yes, are you getting unemployment compensation? _____
10. If you are no longer getting unemployment compensation, when did it stop? _____
11. If still employed, please give your anticipated date of termination or reduction in hours? _____
12. Have you or the co-borrower had a significant reduction in your income? _____
13. Why was the income reduced? _____

14. Are you able to complete an online application? _____

How to Apply:

Fax this Form to: 803 799 9420

Call:

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGAL SERVICES

1 888 257 1988

Or

855 HELP 4 SC

Submit an application at

www.SCHelp.com



WREATHS-ACROSS-AMERICA.ORG
REMEMBER - HONOR - TEACH

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and others who had helped with their annual Christmas wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America™, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. This nonprofit organization continues the Arlington tradition as part of its mission to Remember, Honor and teach.

In 2013, Wreaths Across America and our national network of volunteers laid over 540,000 memorial wreaths at over 900 locations in the United States and beyond. We accomplished this with help from 1659 fundraising groups, many corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands. Our annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery is known as the world's largest veteran's parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veteran's homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach.

Proceeds place a wreath at one of the participating cemeteries; help support our fundraising partners, educational and veteran's services outreach. Please note that **all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.**

We welcome all to join us at any Wreaths Across America ceremony. If you would like to participate or help bring sponsored wreaths to your local community, please contact us and we will help connect you with other groups already working in your area.

Schedule of Events

Sunday, December 7, 2014

Start of World's Longest Veterans Parade from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery and participating locations

Monday, December 8, 2014 at 12:00noon

State House Ceremony at the SC Veterans Memorial on Assembly St. side of the SC State House

Saturday December 13, 2014 at 12:00noon

Ft. Jackson National Cemetery 4170 Percival Rd. Columbia, SC 29229

Parking will be at the Blue Cross Blue Shield parking lot across from the cemetery on Percival Road. Shuttle buses with Handicap provisions will bring everyone into the cemetery starting at

10:30am There will be no parking in cemetery the day of the ceremony

For more information, contact Carol Davis by email waaftjackson@yahoo.com

or call (803) 739-2774



Wreath Sponsorship Form

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

FOR EVERY 2 WREATHS SPONSORED ON THIS FORM, THE CEMETERY WILL RECEIVE THREE WREATHS

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Sponsoring Group ID Number: SC0015
 Location ID: SCFJNC
(located on our website under locations tab)
 Name of Cemetery: Fort Jackson National Cem.
(please select one cemetery per group)

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual= 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card= If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship-see "In Honor" section below. *Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included.	\$2.00		
Family= 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business= 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate= 100 Wreaths	\$1500.00		
WAA Pins (25 pins per pack)	\$10.00 / pk		
WAA Patch	\$4.00 each		
		Grand Total	

****SORRY- WE CAN NOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS****

In Honor of:

Please provide email of "In Honor Of" recipient, or mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor. (if you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

Email: _____

Mailing: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Wreaths Across America TM

PO Box 3356
 West Columbia, SC 29171

Questions? Please call 803-739-2774 or E-mail Carol Davis waftjackson@yahoo.com

Thank you for your Sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Please note that all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

The American Legion & the Oak Ridge Boys Unite

The American Legion and the Grammy Award-winning Oak Ridge Boys are uniting to raise awareness and support for needs of U.S. military Veterans, including better detection and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), help with the VA benefits process, as well as education and career opportunities for those who served our nation in uniform.

The American Legion is the country's largest Veterans service organization, with 2.4 million members who work every day on behalf of the men and women who have served our nation in uniform. The Oak Ridge Boys will participate in a national fundraising and awareness campaign to support the detection and treatment of mental health issues among Veterans, 22 of whom are lost each day to suicide.

As one of country music's longest-running groups, The Oak Ridge Boys' legacy extends back to the end of World War II. The current group – which consists of lead singer Duane Allen, bass singer Richard Sterban, tenor Joe Bonsall and baritone William Lee Golden – recently celebrated more than 40 years performing together. In that time, The Oak Ridge Boys have produced more than 30 top 10 hit songs, 12 gold records, three platinum records, one double-platinum album and a double-platinum single, with combined sales totaling 41 million records sold. They maintain a vigorous touring schedule and released a live album in April, "Boys Night Out."



Bonsall, a member of The Oak Ridge Boys since 1973, penned an inspirational biography about his Veteran parents titled *G.I. Joe and Lillie: Remembering a Life of Love and Loyalty*. Joe's father spent much of his life living with the wounds of war, both seen and unseen, as told in the book. A song by the same name was included in the Oaks' album, *Colors*. "I know firsthand the ongoing care of our nation's Veterans is critical and how it impacts the entire family unit," Bonsall said. "Uniting with The American Legion to raise awareness of those who are suffering, as my father did, is work we are proud to champion."



The American Legion has been helping Veterans cope with the invisible wounds of war since its formation in 1919, including extensive focus in the last four years to help Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who have suffered what are known as the "signature wounds" of today's war era: PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI). VA estimates that upwards of 20 percent of Veterans from the recent wars are confronting PTSD. The American Legion has met with top national authorities in mental health care, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs and research institutions, as well as Veterans and caregivers, to find solutions and treatments for those who suffer with TBI and PTSD.

"The American Legion welcomes the support of The Oak Ridge Boys in our efforts to help Veterans and their families deal with the mental scars of battle," American Legion National Commander Mike Helm said. "With the generous support of the Oaks, their fans and patriotic Americans, The American Legion will be able to help more Veterans get the support and assistance they need."



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 2:00 pm in the auditorium at 605 West Main Street in Lexington. The group meets for Health Issues and PTSD 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 at 803-785-8400.



Flu Shots for Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare



The William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center is now offering the seasonal flu vaccine at no cost to Veterans to help keep them healthy.

Veterans can visit their Primary Care Clinic to get their flu shot, including their outpatient clinics during scheduled appointments or on a walk-in basis, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Flu shots are also available at Dorn's Mental Health Clinics on a walk-in basis on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Specialty clinics are providing flu vaccines during regularly scheduled appointments.

If a Veteran has not applied for VA health care, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll. For more information on the flu and benefits of immunization visit <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/flu/> or call the flu hotline at 803-695-6701.

According to the Center for Disease Control, flu is a respiratory illness that spreads easily from person to person and getting a flu vaccination is the best protection against the flu. Flu season usually begins in the fall and can continue through late spring. The flu causes more than 225,000 hospitalizations and about 36,000 deaths annually.

"The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you ... Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory! ... Good luck! And let us beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."

~ Dwight D. Eisenhower



"The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him."

~ G.K. Chesterton

"How fortunate it was for the world that when these great trials came upon it there was a generation that terror could not conquer and brutal violence could not enslave."

~ Winston S. Churchill

"The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country."

~ George Washington



LEXINGTON INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

2014 Holiday Basket Wish List

- Ham or Turkey (frozen or canned)
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Canned Collards
- Stuffing Mix
- Cranberry Sauce
- Cornbread Mix
- Green Beans
- Dessert Mix (Complete kit)



Please deliver to LICS by the following dates:

Thanksgiving: Friday, November 21st

Christmas: Friday, December 19th

Questions? Anna Smith
Director of Community Relations
Extension 228 | anna@licssc.org

You may pack a basket or box and bring it completed, or simply bring the items and we will prepare. Feel free to add a personal note or prayer for the family.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" - Matthew 25:40

216 HARMON STREET, LEXINGTON SC 29072
803 957 6656 | 803 957 3414 fax | www.licssc.org



Ruritan Veteran's Park in Pelion

The Pelion, SC Ruritan Club has started a project to build their town a Veterans Memorial which will be located adjacent to the Town Hall. This impressive memorial will feature a large US flag surrounded by engraved brick pavers. There will be a special section to honor those Veterans killed in action and the site will include large brick benches to be used for reflection. Special lighting, landscaping and irrigation will complete this project. The Ruritan Club is seeking those who wish to make a donation for this project or those who wish to purchase a brick to be engraved with a Veteran's name. We want to honor those currently serving, those who have served and those who died in the service of our great country. Bricks will be engraved with the Veteran's name, rank, branch of service (and war served if applicable). Brick purchases are \$100.00 each with all proceeds going to funding this memorial site. Deadline for brick purchase is December 10, 2014. You do not have to be a Pelion resident to purchase a brick or to have a brick placed in your honor. For further details contact: Diane Rawl, Pelion Ruritan Veterans Memorial chairman, at 803-206-1896.

RURITAN VETERAN'S PARK DONATION SHEET – BRICK PURCHASE

The Ruritans are proposing to erect a Veteran's Park along the walking trail. Bricks will be installed bearing the names of those who have served in any branch of service. The cost of purchasing a brick will be \$100 each. (If you would like to contribute more we would appreciate it.) Please use this form to enter the information you wish inscribed on the granite brick. Payment is due when submitting this sheet (check or cash; credit cards not accepted). Make checks payable to Pelion Ruritan and write "Veterans Memorial" in the "For" space.

Please use separate sheet for each brick.

Name and Phone Number of Donor	Amount Given	Inscription (Please print clearly)
		<p>Please enter information in space provided below; please print clearly; one character per block.</p> <p>Limit 17 characters per line; 3 line limit.</p>

DEADLINE for returning forms and monies is December 10, 2014.

Mail completed form with payment to:

Steve Neese
P. O. Box 475
Pelion, SC 29123

Submitted by:

8/19/2014

Happy Holidays

*From Your
Lexington County VA Office*



Ed, Jennifer, Kathy, and Jennifer

VETERANS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES



Veteran Transportation Services (VTS) is a new program offered by the Dorn VAMC in Columbia. Our office at 605 West Main Street in Lexington, has been deemed a shuttle-stop for the “Park and Ride” service on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays only. These are the days that our van does not run. The shuttle runs 8am-4pm except on holidays and will be at our location at 7am. They will pick up in the emergency lane at the front of the building and leave promptly at 7:10am. Any Veteran with appointments at the VAMC Dorn may ride; they can be handicapped, in a wheelchair or on oxygen. For more information on this new program, please contact Steven Torres at 803-776-4000 ext 6398.

***Please do not contact our office
all inquires should be directed to Mr. Torres.***



Coming in the Next Issue...

Education benefits for Veterans; Home loans; and reimbursement of non-VA care along with pictures of the Lexington County Veterans Parade

Featured Medal: Distinguished Service Medal

Distinguished Service Medals are awarded for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in a position of great responsibility to the Government of the United States, and can be awarded for such service as part of a valorous act in combat, continuous acts of valor over a period of time, for distinguished service in non-combat positions of great responsibility, and even for a career of exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in a position of great responsibility. As such, the Distinguished Service Medals are the HIGHEST awards for non-combat actions of the Department of Defense and the individual branches of service.

The DEFENSE Distinguished Service Medal became the NEWEST of these awards when it was authorized on July 9, 1920. It is presented by the Department of Defense, and as such, takes precedence over the DSMs of the branches of service.

Both the Army and Navy Distinguished Service Medals were established in 1918 and 1919 respectively, as part of the new Pyramid of Honor that came out of the Medal of Honor review of 1917. They were part of the program to authorize new awards for presentation to Veterans of World War I who performed heroically, gallantly, and/or meritoriously during the war but whose service and/or actions did not rise to the level demanded for award of the Medal of Honor. (Until 1942 the Navy DSM took precedence over the Navy Cross.)

During World War II, a Distinguished Service Medal was authorized to members of the United States Merchant Marines by Congressional Action in 1942 and was retroactive to September 3, 1939, encompassing the period of service of Merchant Mariners in the earliest days before the United States entered World War I. Since Merchant Mariners were auxiliary to the Navy and today are not employed under the Department of Defense, they are NOT eligible for the Medal of Honor (restricted to members of the U.S. Military), making it the USMM's highest award.

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard, unlike the Merchant Marines, were eligible for award of the Medal of Honor, and one Coast Guardsman was in fact posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in World War II. Members of the Coast Guard are also eligible for award of the Navy Cross (earning 55 in history), as well as the NAVY Distinguished Service Medal. In 1949, however, the Coast Guard was authorized its own unique, Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal. (The award has undergone variations as a result of the post-911 transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security.)

Until 1947 members of the Air Service, Air Corps, and Air Forces were adjunct to the U.S. Army, and as such were awarded the Army Medal of Honor, Army Distinguished Service Cross, and Army Distinguished Service Medal. Subsequent to establishment of the U.S. Air Force as a separate branch of service, however, members of our newest branch of military continued to receive Army awards until the Air Force established its own Air Force Medal of Honor, Air Force Cross, and Air Force Distinguished Service Medal in 1960.



From left to right: Pictures of the Distinguished Service Medal and Ribbon for Defense, Army, Navy/Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force and Merchant Marines.

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!