



LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

March/April 2015



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At A Glance Calendar March/April

<p>Weekly on Tuesdays in March</p> <p>Wednesday, March 4th</p> <p>Thursday, March 5th</p> <p>Friday, March 6th</p> <p>Sunday, March 8th</p> <p>Tuesday, March 10th</p> <p>Friday, March 13th</p> <p>Tuesday, March 17th</p> <p>Friday, March 20th</p> <p>Tuesday, March 24th</p> <p>Weekly on Tuesdays in April</p> <p>Wednesday, April 1st</p> <p>Thursday, April 2nd</p> <p>Friday, April 3rd</p> <p>Sunday, April 5th</p> <p>Wednesday, April 8th</p> <p>Friday, April 10th</p> <p>Saturday, April 11th</p> <p>Tuesday, April 14</p> <p>Wednesday, April 15th</p> <p>Monday, April 20th through Friday, May 1st</p> <p>Tuesday, April 28th</p> <p>Saturday, May 9th</p> <p>Wednesday, May 13th</p>	<p>Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @ 12 noon</p> <p>Director speaking engagement @ Oakleaf Village in Lexington</p> <p>Gaston Outreach</p> <p>Chapin Outreach</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Begins</p> <p>Director speaking engagement @ Lexington County Veterans Group County Council Meeting</p> <p>Batesburg/Leesville Outreach</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day</p> <p>Spring Begins</p> <p>County Council Meeting</p> <p>Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @ 12 noon</p> <p>April Fool's Day</p> <p>Gaston/Swansea Outreach</p> <p>Good Friday/Passover Begins NO CHAPIN OUTREACH</p> <p>Easter</p> <p>Veterans Rally @ State House</p> <p>Batesburg/Leesville Outreach</p> <p>Dang-it Doll Workshop</p> <p>County Council Meeting</p> <p>Due date for applications for the next Honor Flight</p> <p>Remembering Our Fallen exhibit @ County Administration Bldg.</p> <p>County Council Meeting</p> <p>Dang-it Doll Workshop</p> <p>Honor Flight</p>
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<p>Purple—Holidays/Special Days</p> <p>Blue—Outreach dates</p> <p>Red—County Offices Closed, No van scheduled and Special Notices</p> <p>Black—Director's appearances in the County</p>	<p>Brown—County Council Meetings</p> <p>Pink—Special Events throughout the County</p> <p>Orange—Director Out of Office</p> <p>Green—Lexington County Veterans Group Meetings</p>
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From the Director...

When I accepted the position as your County

Veterans Service Officer I did not realize the partnerships and friendships I would form because of it. I make it a point to accept benefit presentation requests and speaking engagements to get the word out of who we are and what we do in order to serve our Veterans and their survivors. At these events it is always an honor to represent Lexington County.

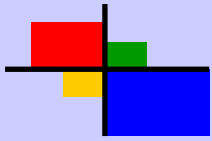
Recently, I attended three funerals in an eight day period, all Veterans, and I had a relationship with each of them. They all meant a lot to me and in fact, two of them were on the trip with me last June to Normandy. It never occurred to me I would experience this as part of my job but death is a part of life. Each Veteran served this country with pride and distinction. I thank them for their service.

The new year has started off with a bang in our office and we are busier than ever! We are delighted to serve you and we are here to help with VA benefits and programs any way we can. We are continuing the scanning of paper files in an effort to better serve our clients more efficiently.

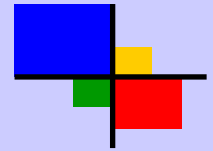
I encourage everyone to attend the Veterans Rally April 8th from 10-2 on the State House grounds. The featured speaker is retired Major General James Livingston, Medal of Honor recipient. The theme this year is welcoming home our Vietnam War Veterans and commemorating the 50th anniversary of the war. This theme will continue for three years nationwide and is a concerted effort to reach all Vietnam War Veterans.

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!





Death and Burial Benefits

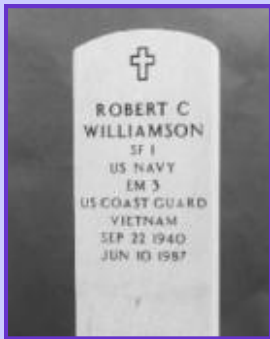


Veterans discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and service members who die while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, as well as spouses and dependent children (under age 18 and age 18-23 if in school full-time) of Veterans and active duty service members, may be eligible for VA burial and memorial benefits. The Veteran does not have to die before a spouse or dependent child (under age 18 and age 18-23 if in school full-time) for them to be eligible.



Burial in VA National Cemeteries

Burial in a VA National Cemetery is available for eligible Veterans, their spouses and dependents (under age 18 and age 18-23 if in school full-time) at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For Veterans, benefits also include a burial flag (with case for active duty) and military funeral honors. The VA operates 131 National Cemeteries, of which 72 are open for new casketed interment and 18 are open to accept only cremated remains. The funeral director or the next of kin makes arrangements by contacting the National Cemetery Scheduling office at 800-535-1117 or the Ft. Jackson National Cemetery at 866-577-5248 (803-699-2246).



Headstones, Markers, and Medallions

Veterans, active duty service members, and retired Reservists and National Guard service members, are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their grave at any cemetery—National, State Veterans, or private. VA will deliver a headstone or marker at no cost, anywhere in the world. For eligible Veterans whose deaths occurred on or after November 1, 1990, VA may provide a government headstone or marker even if the grave is already marked with a private one, or VA may provide a medallion instead of a headstone or marker for Veterans' graves in private cemeteries when the grave is already marked with a privately-purchased headstone or marker. Spouses and dependent children (under age 18 and age 18-23 if in school full-time) are eligible for a government headstone or marker only if they are buried in a National or State Veterans cemetery. Public Law 110-157 enacted December 26, 2007, expanded VA authority to provide a medallion instead of a headstone or markers for Veterans' graves in private cemeteries when the grave is already marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Claimants will have the option to apply for either a traditional headstone or marker to place on the grave, or a medallion to affix to a privately-purchased headstone or marker.



Military Funeral Honors

Upon request, Department of Defense will provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of "Taps." A funeral honors detail consists of two or more uniformed members of the armed forces, with at least one member from the deceased's branch of service. Family members should inform their funeral director if they want military funeral honors. Department of Defense maintains a toll-free number (1-877-MIL-HONR) for use by funeral directors only to request honors. VA can help arrange honors for burials at VA National cemeteries. Veterans service organization or volunteer groups may also help provide honors. For more information, visit www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil/.



Continued on page 4

Death and Burial Benefits continued from page 3

Burial Flags

VA will furnish a United States burial flag to memorialize: Veterans who served during wartime or after January 31, 1955; Veterans who were entitled to retired pay for service in the Reserve or National Guard, or would have been entitled if over age 60; or members or former members of the Selected Reserve who served their initial obligation, or were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or died while a member of the Selected Reserve.



The next of kin may apply for the flag at any VA regional office or United States Post Office by completing VA Form 21-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes, available at <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/2055/forms/VBA-21-2008-ARE.pdf>. In most cases, a funeral director will help the family obtain the flag.



Reimbursement of Burial Expenses

VA will pay a burial allowance of up to \$2,000 if the Veteran's death is deemed service-connected. In such cases, the person who bore the Veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement from the VA. In some cases, VA will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a Veteran whose death was service-connected to the nearest National cemetery with available gravesites.

There is no time limit for filing reimbursement claims in service-connected death cases.

Burial Allowance

VA will pay up to a \$700 burial and funeral allowance for Veterans who, at time of death, were entitled to receive pension or compensation or would have been entitled if they were not receiving military retirement pay. Eligibility also may be established when death occurs in a VA facility, a VA-contracted nursing home or a State Veterans nursing home. In cases in which the Veteran's death was not service-connected, claims must be filed within two years after burial or cremation.



Plot Allowance

VA will pay up to a \$700 plot allowance when a Veteran is buried in a cemetery not under United States government jurisdiction if: the Veteran was discharged from active duty because of disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; the Veteran was receiving compensation or pension or would have been if the Veteran was not receiving military retired pay; or the Veteran died in a VA facility. The plot allowance may be paid to the state for the cost of a plot or interment in a state-owned cemetery reserved solely for Veterans burials if the Veteran is buried without charge. Burial expenses paid by the deceased's employer or a state agency will not be reimbursed.



Presidential Memorial Certificates

Certificates are issued upon request to recognize the United States military service of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. Next of kin, relatives and other loved ones may apply for a certificate by mailing, e-mailing, or faxing a completed and signed VA form 40-0247 along with a copy of the Veteran's military discharge documents or proof of honorable military service. The form and eligibility requirements can be found at www.cem.va.gov.



Lexington County is honored to host an exhibit called "Remembering Our Fallen". This exhibit showcases all of the men and women from South Carolina that have died since the current campaign began in 2001.

The "Remembering Our Fallen" exhibit will be located in the lobby of the County Administration Building near the spiral staircase.

You will be able to view the exhibit 8am to 5pm Monday, April 20, 2015 through Friday, May 1 at noon.

Please stop by to see this exhibit and help us honor these local heroes.



Exhibit Production Sponsored by



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 Chapin outreach on Friday, April 3rd.

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.



The History of the Midnight Ride of Paul Revere



In 1774 and the spring of 1775, Paul Revere was employed by the Boston Committee of Correspondence and the Massachusetts Committee of Safety as an express rider to carry news, messages, and copies of resolutions as far away as New York and Philadelphia.

On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere was sent for by Dr. Joseph Warren and instructed to ride to Lexington, Massachusetts, to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that British troops were marching to arrest them. After being rowed across the Charles River to Charlestown by two associates, Revere borrowed a horse from his friend Deacon John Larkin. While in Charlestown, he verified that the local "Sons of Liberty" committee had seen his pre-arranged signals. (Two lanterns had been hung briefly in the bell-tower of the Old North Church in Boston, indicating that troops would row "by sea" across the Charles River to Cambridge, rather than marching "by land" out Boston Neck. Revere had arranged for these signals the previous weekend, as he was afraid that he might be prevented from leaving Boston).



On the way to Lexington, Revere "alarmed" the country-side, stopping at each house, and arrived in Lexington about midnight. As he approached the house where Adams and Hancock were staying, a sentry asked that he not make so much noise. "Noise!" cried Revere, "You'll have noise enough before long. The regulars are coming out!" After delivering his message, Revere was joined by a second rider, William Dawes, who had been sent on the same errand by a different route. Deciding on their own to continue on to Concord, Massachusetts, where weapons and supplies were hidden, Revere and Dawes were joined by a third rider, Dr. Samuel Prescott. Soon after, all three were arrested by a British patrol. Prescott escaped almost immediately, and Dawes soon after. Revere was held for some time and then released. Left without a horse, Revere returned to Lexington in time to witness part of the battle on the Lexington Green.



The "One, if by land, and two, if by sea" phrase was coined by the American poet, Henry W. Longfellow in his poem, "Paul Revere's Ride". It was a reference to the secret signal orchestrated by Revere during his historic ride from Boston to Concord on the verge of American Revolutionary War. The signal was meant to alert patriots about the route the British troops chose to advance to Concord.



A few days before the historic ride, Revere was preparing his mission and arranged with three fellow patriots to set up a light signal in case the British troops started their advance to Concord. To give even more information, it was agreed that one lantern meant that the troops chose the longer land route and two lanterns meant the shorter route by water, leaving less time for patriots to react.

When Revere started his ride, Robert John Newman, the sexton (custodian) of the Old North Church and Captain John Pulling carried two lanterns to the steeple of the church while Thomas Bernard kept the watch outside on the street. The two lanterns were meant as the message that the British forces left from Boston Common, which then bordered the Charles River, and rowed over to Cambridge.

The place for the signal, the Old North Church in Boston's North end was chosen for two reasons. One was that the Old North Church was at the time the tallest building in Boston. Even today its steeple is easily visible from far away in many directions standing at 191 feet tall. The second reason why Revere chose this specific church was because of the cooperation of Robert John Newman, the sexton of the church, who was a fellow patriot and had access to church in the middle of the night.

One morning a grandmother awoke to find that her 7-year old grandson had made her coffee! Smiling, she choked down the worst cup of coffee in her life. When she finished, she found three little green Army men at the bottom. Puzzled, she asked, "Honey, what are these Army men doing in my coffee?" Her grandson answered, "Like it says on TV Grandma...the best part of waking up is soldiers in your cup!"



VA TRAVEL BENEFITS

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

You Qualify If:

1. You have a service connected (SC) rating of 30% or more, or
2. You are traveling for treatment of a SC condition, or
3. You receive a VA pension, or
4. Your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or
5. You are traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension examination.

You Qualify for Special Mode Transportation (Ambulance, Wheelchair van, etc.) if:

1. Your medical condition requires an ambulance or a specially equipped van as determined by a VA clinician, and
2. You meet one of the eligibility criteria in 1 through 4 above, and
3. The travel is pre-authorized (authorization is not required for emergencies if a delay would be hazardous to life or health)

General travel is paid at \$0.415 (41.5 cents) per mile.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...



Ft. Jackson will be hosting a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Ceremony on Saturday, May 16, 2015.

This event is open to the public and will feature the Roving Vietnam Memorial Wall and a special concert by Billy Currington.

More information to follow on this in next month's newsletter.

**HAPPY
EASTER
EVERYONE!**



Searching for WWII Veterans - Next Honor Flight—May 13, 2015.

Honor Flight of SC is searching for as many WWII Veterans as possible to join them on the May 13th flight. We have lost so many of our WWII Heroes and many of those that are still with us are becoming very frail. This may be the only flight this year, so please help locate WWII Veterans that have never had an opportunity to see "THEIR" WWII Memorial. For more information or to get an application go to www.honorflightsc.com.

VA Life Insurance

As part of our mission to serve Service members, Veterans, and their families, the VA provides valuable life insurance benefits to give you the peace of mind that comes with knowing your family is protected. The VA's life insurance programs were developed to provide financial security for your family given the extraordinary risks involved in military service.

Benefit Descriptions, Eligibility Requirements, and How to Apply

Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is a low-cost group term life insurance program for service members. Coverage can be extended for up to two years if the service member is totally disabled at separation. Coverage is automatic for most active duty service members, ready reserve and National Guard members scheduled to perform at least 12 periods of inactive training per year, members of the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Public Health Service, cadets and midshipmen of the U.S. military academies, and ROTC members. Use SGLV 8286 to designate beneficiaries, or reduce, decline, or restore SGLI coverage.



Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) allows Veterans to convert your SGLI to a civilian program of lifetime renewable term coverage after separation from service. Service members with full-time SGLI coverage are eligible to convert SGLI to VGLI after separation from service. You would need to complete form SGLV 8714.

Family Service Members' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) insures spouses and children of Service members with SGLI coverage. Spousal coverage may not exceed the service member's coverage. Dependent children are automatically covered at no charge. The term life insurance coverage is automatically provided to spouses and dependent children of service members insured under SGLI. Use form SGLV 8286A to decline, reduce, or restore FSGLI coverage.

Service Members' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) is an automatic feature of SGLI that provides payments to service members who suffer losses, such as amputations, blindness, and paraplegia, due to traumatic injuries that occur in service. All service members insured by SGLI are automatically covered by TSGLI. To file a claim for the TSGLI benefit, complete for SGLV 8600.

Service-Disabled Veterans' Life Insurance (S-DVI) provides life insurance coverage to Veterans who have been given a VA rating for a new service-connected disability in the last two years. Totally disabled Veterans are eligible for free coverage and have the opportunity to purchase additional life insurance. This insurance is available for service members who were released from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions after April 25, 1951, AND have been granted service connection for any disability (even 0 percent) within the last two years, AND are in good health except for any service connected conditions may be eligible. For this coverage you would need to complete VA form 29-4364.



Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) provides mortgage life insurance protection to disabled Veterans who have been approved for a VA Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant. VMLI is available to Veterans who received a SAH grant, have a title to the home, and have a mortgage on the home. You would need to complete VA form 29-8636.

Medical Expense Reports

For Veterans and Surviving Spouses not receiving the maximum Non-Service Connection Pension or Survivor 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 expense that you paid for a member of your household (self, spouse, child, etc.) for which you were not reimbursed may also be counted. 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 2014 may be submitted anytime during the calendar year of 2015.

You can contact our office now at 803-785-8400

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>. 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.



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Did you know that the following events occurred during the months of March/April...



March 1, 1961 - President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps.



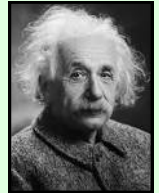
March 3, 1847 - Inventor Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.



March 6, 1836 - Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna.



March 10, 1862 - The first issue of U.S. government paper money occurred as \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills began circulation.



March 10, 1880 - The Salvation Army was founded in the United States.



March 14, 1879 - Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Germany.

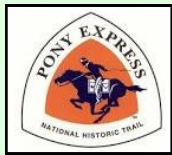
March 15, 1767 - Andrew Jackson was born in a log cabin in Waxhaw, South Carolina.



March 24, 1989 - One of the largest oil spills in U.S. history occurred as the oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound off Alaska.



April 3, 1860 - The Pony Express service began as the first rider departed Missouri.



April 4, 1968 - Civil Rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was shot and killed by a sniper in Memphis, Tennessee.



April 6, 1896 - After a break of 1500 years, the first Olympics of the modern era was held in Athens, Greece.

April 9, 1865 - The Civil War effectively ended as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House.



April 12, 1861 - The American Civil War began as Confederate troops at 4:30 a.m. fired upon Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.



April 14, 1828 - The first dictionary of American-style English was published by Noah Webster.



April 15, 1912 - The Titanic with 2,224 persons on board sank after striking an iceberg just before midnight. Over 1,500 persons drowned while 700 were rescued.



April 18, 1775 - The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes occurred as the two men rode out of Boston about 10 p.m. to warn patriots at Lexington and Concord of the approaching British.



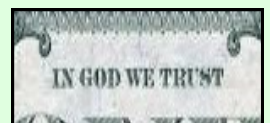
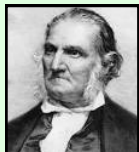
April 19, 1995 - At 9:02 a.m., a massive car-bomb explosion destroyed the entire side of a federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, killing 168 persons, including 19 children inside a day care center.



April 22, 1864 - "In God We Trust" was included on all newly minted U.S. coins and currency by an Act of Congress.



April 26, 1785 - American artist and naturalist John J. Audubon was born in Haiti.



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.



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.

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 new 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.

Dang-it Dolls Workshop

There will be no workshop held in March, but will start again in April. The April workshop will be held on Saturday, April 11th at the Cayce Masonic Lodge, 1701 12th Street, Cayce, SC 29033 from 10am until 3:00PM.

Mark your calendar as there will be another workshop on Saturday, May 9, 2015, same time and place. So 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 Highway 1 in West Columbia carries the Morning Glory stuffing. 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.





STAND UP! BE HEARD!

*You have fought for your Country,
Now fight for your rights!*

Keynote Speaker:

Major General James E. Livingston (Ret)

“Special Highlight”

Vietnam Veteran’s Homecoming

*“Rally for our
Veterans”*

*Wednesday, April 8, 2015
10am – 2pm North End
State House Steps*



Organized by the South Carolina Veteran’s Advocacy Council

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



"The credit belongs to those who are actually in the arena, who strive valiantly; who know the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spend themselves in a worthy cause; who at the best, know the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if they fail, fail while daring greatly, so that their place shall never be with those cold



and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

- Theodore Roosevelt

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. A Veteran living within a 25 mile radius of the hospital are picked up at their home. 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.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH.
DON'T FORGET TO TURN
YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD!**





FOR YOUR SERVICE

let us serve you.



Every Monday

All active, retired and reserve members of the military and their families receive these special discounts.

**\$8.99 Dinner, \$5.99 Lunch
Kids eat for \$1.99**



Mondays only. Must show military ID. Good up to 4 family members including military member (active or reserve or retired). Kids* being defined as 11 years of age or younger. At participating restaurants only. Limited time only. Beverage and Tax not included. Kids meal includes beverage. ©2014 Ovation Brands.



**WWII
Ceremony
commemorating
the
72nd Anniversary
of the
1st US Army
Mass Parachute Jump
at the site of the
82nd Airborne Division Monument
on
Sunday, March 29, 2015,
at 2pm
located on
US Highway 1
between Camden and Elgin.**

**This ceremony will commemorate
those who participated in the
“Jump”,
all WWII Veterans
and
Veterans of all Wars/Conflicts.**

**We are also planning a
“flyover” of a
WWII Vintage C-46 Commando
and
late model aircraft.**

**This is an outdoor event.
Seating will be limited and reserved
for disabled and WWII Veterans.**



Featured Medal:

KOSOVO CAMPAIGN MEDAL

The Kosovo Campaign Medal (KCM) is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established by Executive Order 13154 of President Bill Clinton on May 3, 2000. The medal recognizes military service performed in Kosovo from March 24, 1999 through December 31, 2013.

Service members must be bona fide members of a unit participating in, or be engaged in direct support of, the operation for 30 consecutive days in the area of operations or for 60 non-consecutive days provided this support involves entering the area of operations or meets one of the following criteria:

1. Be engaged in actual combat, or duty that is equally as hazardous as combat duty, during the operation with armed opposition, regardless of time in the area of operations;
2. While participating in the operation, regardless of time, is wounded or injured and requires medical evacuation from the area of operations.
3. While participating as a regularly assigned aircrew member flying sorties into, out of, within, or over the area of operations in direct support of the military operations.



**Picture of the
Kosovo Campaign
Medal and Ribbon.**

Service stars are awarded for participation in either the Air Campaign or the Defense Campaign. Two service stars may be awarded provided that two separate tours, exceeding the 30/60 day requirement, were performed in both the Defense and Air Campaigns. The Kosovo Campaign Medal is always awarded with at least one service star. The Fleet Marine Force combat operation insignia is also authorized for certain sailors.

On the front of the medal there are two mountains with a pass between them resting in front of a fertile valley and atop a wreath composed of two stylized sheaves of wheat. Behind the mountains a rising sun, and superimposed over the sun's rays are the words, in two lines, KOSOVO CAMPAIGN. The stylized wreath of grain reflects the agricultural character of the area and its economy and symbolizes basic human rights while high-lighting the desire of all for peace, safety and prosperity. The rocky terrain, fertile valley, and mountain pass refer to the Dinartic Alps and the campaign's theater of operations. The sunrise denotes the dawning of a new age of unity and hope, the right to forge a future of freedom, progress, and harmony; thus fulfilling the goal of the Alliance. On the back of the medal is the outline of a map of the Yugoslavian Province of Kosovo. Beneath the map is a three-pointed star. In a circle surrounding the map and star are the words IN DEFENSE OF HUMANITY. The outline of the Province of Kosovo denotes the area of conflict, and is combined with the NATO star, the highlighted cardinal points of the compass, signifying the Alliance participants who stabilized the region and provided massive relief. The inscription reinforces the objective of the military action conducted during the campaign.

The ribbon consists of red, white, and blue pinstripes of equal width in the center; the ribbon to the wearer's right is dark blue and abuts to the red pinstripe; the ribbon to the wearer's left is red, and abuts to the blue pinstripe. The red, white, and blue were suggested by the NATO Alliance's colors, and the red, white, and blue pinstripes represent the colors of the United States flag.

Coming in the Next Issue... Fiduciary/Incompetency and Healthcare.