



**VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE  
OF LEXINGTON COUNTY**

**GARY R. BAKER**  
DIRECTOR  
**JEAN FRICK**  
ASST. CSO

TELEPHONE: (803) 359-8400  
FAX: (803) 808-2105

605 WEST MAIN STREET  
SUITE 101  
LEXINGTON, S.C. 29072

# VET NEWS

August 2004



Massing of the colors at the 2003 Rally at White Knoll HS

## SEPTEMBER 12 RALLY

Plans are well underway for the Troop Rally/ 9/11 Remembrance to be held at Lexington District 1 Stadium on Sunday, September 12 at 3:00 p.m. Alternate site in case of inclement weather is White Knoll High School gymnasium.

Next meeting of the planning committee is Thursday, August 12 at 5:30 pm in the VA Office.

Marching units, bands, military equipment or memorabilia displays, patriotic organizations, recruiting information, etc. will be welcomed. Any group desiring to participate should notify the VA Office prior to August 13<sup>th</sup>. Each group will be responsible for its own display table; no electrical service will be available.

Bring out your colors and show our troops and the families of the 9/11 disaster that we still care and we remember them and their sacrifices.

We will be collecting items for our deployed troops and for Iraqi and Afghanistan children at the Rally. Collection boxes will be available at the site.

**CORRECTION:** In July's VetNews, we announced the Rally for September 12, however, in the calendar of upcoming events, the Rally was listed as occurring on September 11. Please note that September 12 is the correct date.

## WORLD WAR II PROGRAM

At 1:00 pm on Friday, August 20, Dorn VA Medical Center will conduct a program to honor all World War II veterans. The program will be in the Poat Auditorium.

Keynote speaker will be Guy Wright from Gilbert. Guy was a 16 year old POW in the Philippines. He will relate some of his military experiences during his talk.

All World War II veterans in attendance will be recognized with a special commemorative pin.

Call the VA Office if you need directions or a ride.

## ADOPT-A-GUARDSMAN

The Adopt-A-Guardsman Foundation of SC is soliciting support for National Guard troops activated since 9/11. The tax-exempt organization disburses funds to worthy recipients and to Family Readiness Groups and other groups in support of Guard families and units.

Over one third of all SC National Guard members have been deployed since 9/11. The funds collected support these soldiers and their families.

Contributions or further information can be obtained from: Adopt-A-Guardsman Foundation of SC, P.O. Box 80606, Charleston, SC 29416, telephone (866) 724-8273.

## WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP

Lexington Baptist Church is offering Widows Support on Tuesdays for 12 weeks. Contact Mrs. Tutton or Cathy Warren at 808-5222.

## COLD INJURY CLAIMS

A number of veterans served in areas where they were subject to cold conditions. If those conditions resulted in injuries or lasting symptoms, the VA Office has a questionnaire for submission with a cold injury claim.

## VA FACT SHEET FOR FORMER POWS

Check out the attached POW fact sheet from the VA concerning benefits available to former POWs.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### August

|    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 3  | Outreach, Batesburg-Leesville |
| 10 | Outreach, Chapin              |
| 17 | Outreach, Swansea             |
| 20 | WWII Program, Dorn VA         |

#### September

|    |                                    |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 6  | Labor Day Holiday<br>Chapin Parade |
| 11 | 9/11 Anniversary                   |
| 12 | Rally/9/11 Remembrance             |

### An American in Paris

The elderly American gentleman arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he fumbled for his passport.

"You've been to 'Franz, before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. The old gent admitted that he had been to France previously.



"Zen, you should know enough to 'ave your passport ready for inspection."

The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."

"Impossible. You Americans always 'ave to show your passports on arrival in Franz!"

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained. "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in '44 I couldn't find any french men to show it to "

### CHIROPRACTIC CARE

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has announced that Dorn VA Medical Center will be providing chiropractic care to veteran patients later this year.

## STATE BENEFITS- PERMANENT AND TOTALLY DISABLED VETERANS

A veteran who has been rated 100% "permanent and totally disabled" is entitled to several benefits:

- (1) Entrance to state parks at reduced rates
- (2) Free hunting /fishing licenses
- (3) Tax exemption on dwelling house
- (4) Tax exemption on personal property (2 vehicles)
- (5) Military ID card
- (6) CHAMPVA for Dependents
- (7) Chapter 35 Education Benefits for Dependents
- (8) Waiver of premium for VA Life Insurance
- (9) Free tuition for children at state-supported higher education institutions
- (10) Free Disabled Veterans Special License Plate
- (11) Exemption from municipal parking meter fees if vehicle bears a disabled veteran ("V") tag

To qualify, the permanently and totally disabled veteran needs a series of letters which can be obtained from the Veterans Administration Regional Office (VARO) verifying the 100% permanent and totally disabled rating.

Call the VA Office for details.

### DORN WISH LIST

Dorn VA Medical Center has a wish list of items and service opportunities. If your organization or you can individually provide assistance, the veteran patients will be appreciative.

- Funds to purchase "refrigerator" magnets with the telephone advice program number
- Funds to purchase decorations for the female veterans clinic and comfort items for female veteran patients
- Social work emergency funds (to purchase bus tickets, transportation and canteen books)
- New sweat pants/shirts and underwear in a variety of sizes for veterans in need and also light weight pants/shirts for the hot days of summer.
- Comfort item kit funds (kits are \$1.53 each)
- Funds for patient coffee service
- Flags for Avenue of Flags Memorial Park (Cost \$22.50 each)
- Funds for memorial wall

- Funds for portable radios/cassette players for hospitalized veterans (Cost approx. \$10.00 each)
- Audio/talking books, religious videos and music, puzzle/word find books . Stationery, postage stamps, sports and car magazines for men . Funds to purchase Christian DVDs, videos, movies

Dorn also has a number of volunteer opportunities available.

- Volunteers needed to pull weeds and help maintain grounds. (You can adopt a small spot for a flower garden.)

• Transportation Network Drivers are needed for Columbia, Chester, Florence, Greenville, Lancaster, Orangeburg, Sumter, Union and York Counties

- Shuttle Cart Drivers
  - Information Desk Hosts
  - Ward waiting room hosts are needed to make and serve coffee
  - Another Volunteer is needed to help make and serve POPCORN on Fridays from 11 am to 2pm
  - Volunteer to do laundry for patients in the nursing home
  - Extended Care/Recreation Therapy needs volunteers to help with patient activities on Sunday afternoons
  - Volunteers to visit with veteran patients
- Contact Janet Kauffman at the Voluntary Service Office at 695-6780 if you or your organization can provide assistance.

### FLAG SIZE

The length of a flag should be at least ¼ the height of the flagpole. See table below for display.

Flag sizes for home use should be a 3'x5' flag on a 15 or 20 feet flagpole. A 5'x8' flag should be used on a 25 foot flagpole.

| <u>Flagpole</u> | <u>Flag</u>                |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 20'             | 4' x 6'                    |
| 25'             | 5' x 8'                    |
| 20' – 35'       | 3' x 5', 4' x 6', 6" x 10' |
| 40' – 45'       | 6' x 10' – 8' x 12'        |
| 50'             | 8' x 12' - 10' x 15'       |
| 60' – 65'       | 10' x 15' – 10' x 19'      |
| 70' – 80'       | 10' x 19' – 12' x 18'      |
| 90' – 100'      | 20' x 38' – 3- ' x 50'     |

Source: American Patriot Flag Store



### WIDOWS OVER 57 DEADLINE

The Veterans' Benefits Act of 2003 permits a surviving spouse who remarries on or after his/her 57<sup>th</sup> birthday to remain eligible for DIC, home loan and educational benefits. Under the old law, a surviving spouse who received Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) lost the benefit upon remarriage.

The effective date of the change is January 1, 2004, however, surviving spouses who remarried after reaching age 57 and who file claims for the restoration of their benefits during calendar year 2004 are entitled to benefits from January 1, 2004. Surviving spouses who remarried after turning 57 prior to the enactment of this legislation have until December 16, 2004 to apply for restoration of these benefits.

Eligible surviving spouses whose claims for restoration of benefits are not received prior to December 16, 2004 are not entitled to restoration of benefits.

### Looking for Women who Served Overseas

The Women's Overseas Service League is looking for all women who have served overseas. WOSL is the only national service organization for women who have served overseas in the military, and civilians who have served overseas supporting the Armed Forces. The latter group includes women who have served with any agency working with or for the armed forces, i.e., American Red Cross, Department of Defense Dependents School System, the exchange systems, as well as civilian employment with the military departments, such as Army Special Services.

In existence since 1921, WOSL supports the Women in Military Service and the Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project.

Get further information from the WOSL National Vice President, 319 Wickes Street, San Antonio TX 78210-1247. Email chabgood@world-net.net.