

VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE
OF LEXINGTON COUNTY



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

605 WEST MAIN STREET
SUITE 101

VET NEWS

February 2005

VFW 6740 MAKES DONATION

At its December meeting, VFW Post 6740 made a donation of \$500 to the Veterans Fund. The fund originated to fund projects that the VA Office is unable to support through its operating budget.

One suggestion made at the VFW meeting was to purchase an electronic bugle for use at funerals where a live bugler cannot attend. The electronic bugle has been approved by the VA as an alternative to a CD version of Taps.

If there is sufficient interest to purchase the electronic bugle for use on a first come, first served basis, please contact the VA Office.

FEBRUARY OUTREACH CANCELLED

Due to staffing requirements and personnel commitments, the **Outreach** programs in Batesburg-Leesville, Chapin, and Swansea will be cancelled for the month of February. We regret this inconvenience. Please call the VA Office to arrange an appointment or for information.

The **Outreach** programs will resume in March (1st: 8-12, Batesburg-Leesville; 8th: 9-12 Chapin; 15th: 8-12, Swansea).

The **Outreach** programs have been effective with almost 50 veterans taking advantage of the opportunity to meet locally with VA Office staff.

FACTS ABOUT WWII VETERANS

US armed forces who served in WWII	16.1 million
WWII veterans counted in Census 2000	5.7 million
US WWII armed forces personnel killed in battle	292,000
Other deaths sustained by US forces in WWII	114,000
Proportion of WWII veterans in April 2000	22%
Median age of WWII veterans 2000 Census	76.7 yrs old

Sources: *US Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2003, and Census 2002*

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES – SUPPORT OF DEPLOYED TROOPS

Several local Girl Scout and Brownie troops are selling cookies this year to support troops deployed overseas. People buying Girl Scout cookies are offered the opportunity to purchase additional boxes of cookies specifically for the troops.

This is a joint project between the Girl Scouts and the Blue Star Families. Last year, the Blue Star Families shipped approximately 1,000 pounds of cookies to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Contact the VA Office at 359-8400 if you want to support this project. In addition to the cookies, the Blue Star Families also are soliciting funds to be used in shipping the cookies to the troops.

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

- May 19-22 DAV
- June 24-26 American Legion
- June 3-5 VFW State Convention

DATES TO REMEMBER

- February
- 1 National Freedom Day
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- Operation Homecoming-release of 590 POWs by North Vietnam (1973)
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 Sinking of USS Marine (1898)
- 16 Purple Heart Day
- 18-20 VFW Spring Conference, Myrtle Beach
- 21 President's Day (office closed)
- 22 Washington's Birthday (1732)
- 23 Raising of US flag on Iwo Jima (1945)

KEY ANNIVERSARIES 2005

2005 is the 30th anniversary of the end of hostilities in the Vietnam War and the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII. May 8th marks the end of the hostilities in Europe (VE-Day, May 8th, 1945) and August 15/September 2 marks the end of the war with Japan (VJ-Day, 1945).

The VA Office will be working to commemorate these events. If your organization has a commemoration planned, please let us know.



VAN NEEDED FOR LEXINGTON COUNTY

The VA Office will be working to obtain a van to transport veterans to the VA Hospital and to other functions. A number of Lexington County veterans lack transportation or vehicle enhancements. The VA Office will be working with the DAV, County Council, Dorn, and other organizations to get a van dedicated to Lexington County veterans.

NEW VA SECRETARY

Anthony Principi recently announced he was stepping down as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Nominated by President George W. Bush to replace him is US Ambassador to the Vatican Jim Nicholson. Nicholson is a Vietnam veteran and a retired colonel from the Army Reserve.

Nicholson has been confirmed by the US Senate to be the new VA Secretary.

SOLDIERS & SAILORS CERTIFICATES

This information sheet has been developed to respond quickly to the many people who write to the Department of Defense requesting confirmation whether an individual has ever served in the military.

To obtain certificates of service or non-service under the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act of 1940, please address your correspondence to the appropriate military office listed below. In the event you are unsure of the Service that an individual may have served in, the only recourse is to write to each office. The charge for each Soldiers and Sailors certificate (as of February 21, 2002) is \$5.20. Checks should be made payable to the "Treasurer of the United States."

ARMY:

Army World Wide Locator Service
Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center
8899 East 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-5031
NOTE: All requests must be in writing.

NAVY:

Bureau of Naval Personnel
PERS-312E
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-3120
(901)874-3351

AIR FORCE:

Air Force Manpower and Personnel Center
ATTN: Air Force Locator/MSIMDL
550 C Street West, Suite 50
Randolph Air Force Base, TX 78150-4752
Locator Service: (210)652-5775

MARINE CORPS:

Commandant of The Marine Corps
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMSB10)
2008 Elliott Road, Suite 201
Quantico, VA 22134-5030
Locator Service: (703)784-3941-3944

MERCHANT MARINE RECORDS

For U.S. Coast Guard discharges and records send Name, Date of Birth, Death Certificate if deceased, Social Security No, address, and Zip number to: Director (NMC-4A), U.S. Coast Guard, National Maritime Center, 4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 510, Arlington, VA 22203-1804. No fee required.

If the mariner was killed during WWII write to: Modern Military Records Unit, Nat'l Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001.



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

A newly-formed detachment of the Marine Corps League, the Harold E. "Speedy" Wilson Detachment No. 1141 has been meeting at the DAV head-quarters in West Columbia.

The detachment meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6 pm for social hour and 7 pm for their meeting. All Marine Corps veterans are urged to join. Contact Detachment Commandant Jim Vinyard at 781-9947.

KOREAN WAR WEBSITE

Veterans of the Korean War can check out a website with loads of information on personnel, units, and actions. The website is at www.koreanwar.org. They publish a monthly on-line newsletter of interest to Korean War veterans.



DORN VA NEEDS

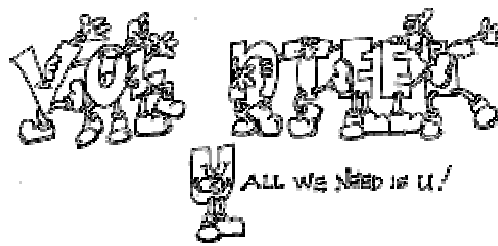
PATIENT AND MEDICAL CENTER "WISH LIST"

- . Flags for Avenue of Flags Memorial Park (Cost \$25.00 each)
- . Welcome Kits for new patients (Cost - \$1.53 each) (These are delivered each morning to all new admissions)
- . Need lightweight, elastic-waist, pull on pants for the summer months only at this time.
- . Funds for Social Work Emergency Fund (Funds provide for meals, transportation, clothing, etc. for indigent patients)

- . Funds for patient coffee service
- . Funds for new Dove Oncology fund to include lodging, meals and transportation
- . Funds for "Customer Service Recovery Program"
- . Funds to purchase crossword and word find puzzle books, chapsticks, non-skid slipper socks, postage stamps
- . Audio/talking books, religious videos and music
- . Funds to purchase decorations for the female veterans clinic and comfort items for female veteran patients
- . Funds to purchase patient/ward daily newspapers . Magazines for men and women veterans
- . Funds for memorial wall (Canteen corridor)
- . Funds for clock radios for patients

Volunteer Assignments Needed

- . Two West Surgical waiting area-to assist with potential questions/concerns from people in waiting room. Assist with information regarding their spouses.
- . Radiology Scheduling Assistant-to help with rescheduling of patients . Van drivers are needed for Columbia, Chester, Florence, Greenville, Lancaster, Orangeburg, Sumter, Union and York Counties
- . Shuttle Cart Drivers for Wednesday afternoons and substitute drivers as needed
- . Information Desk Hosts-for various times and days
- . Ward waiting room hosts are needed to make and serve coffee



- . Another Volunteer is needed to help make and serve POPCORN on Fridays--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
- . Volunteer veterans to visit with veteran patients
- . Volunteers to escort volunteer groups and individuals evenings and weekends

BUY AN EXTRA BOX OF GIRL SCOUT COOKIES TODAY!

SUPPORT AMERICA'S SOLDIERS AND YOUR LOCAL GIRL SCOUTS

Blue Star Families and Blue Star Mothers of South Carolina and the Girl Scout Council of the Congaree Area, Inc. are working together during the month of February to show soldiers how big our hearts are.

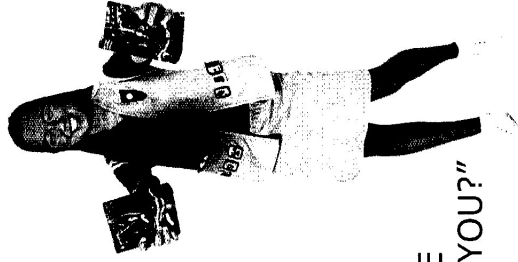
Buy an extra box of Girl Scout Cookies for \$3.00 to satisfy an overseas soldier's wish for the sweet taste of one of their favorite stateside treats.

Girl Scout Cookies are one of the highest requested items by soldiers.

YOU CAN MAKE A WISH COME TRUE!



"PLEASE
WILL YOU?"



100% of your donation provides Girl Scout Cookies to Blue Star Family soldiers