



# LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

*"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"*

November 2012

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### *From the Director...*

November is one of my favorite months of the year because it is the month I married, later became a father and much later became a grandfather. It is also the month we, as Americans, exercise our right to vote and the month we observe Veterans Day in this country. An added bonus is Thanksgiving Day and the official beginning of the holiday season. Family and patriotism are two things I am passionate about and two things I cherish in this life. I hope you will vote this year and give thanks to the very people who gave us the right to vote---our Veterans!

There are a host of Veterans Day events planned in the county and in the Midlands and you will find them in this issue. If some are omitted it was because we were not informed of them before we printed this issue. Also, there are several free or reduced offers for Veterans in this issue and I hope you will take advantage of the free meals, free admissions, free lodging and free items, you earned them!

I travelled back to Germany last month and spent a week with my former landlord and his family and we had a wonderful time together. He invited me to his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party and I just could not decline his very personal invitation. I re-discovered Germany and some great historical, cultural and magical places and I now believe there is no better way to discover Germany than with the locals. The weather was perfect and the leaves were vibrant in their color. I really missed being there and the wonderful memories I have living there as a Soldier in the Army with my family. If it had not been for the Army, I would not have some great people in my life as friends. I am sure many of you who served there have the same experiences.

We have a new Secretary in the office and her name is Margaret Boggess and I hope you will take the time to call or stop by our office and welcome her to our team. We are lucky to have her and she graces us with her humor. Gloria, our former Secretary, moved on to full time employment with the University of South Carolina history department and we wish her well.

As I travel around the county speaking at civic clubs, Chambers of Commerce and Veteran service organizations, I am honored to represent Lexington County as your Veteran Service Officer. The people are gracious and kind and I am very humbled to be invited to speak about our role in the county.

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!

**AT-A-GLANCE**  
**November**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Thursday, November 1  | Gaston/Swansea Outreach  |
| Friday, November 2    | Chapin Outreach  |
| Sunday, November 4    | Daylight Saving Time Ends<br>Lexington County Veterans Parade at 3pm   |
| Tuesday, November 6   | Election Day   |
| Thursday, November 8  | Cayce/West Columbia Outreach<br>An American Celebration @ Grace Baptist Church @ 7pm                                       |
| Friday, November 9    | Batesburg/Leesville Outreach<br>Veterans Ceremony - Batesburg/Leesville HS @ 10am<br>Purple Heart Ceremony—VAMC Dorn @ 1pm |
| Saturday, November 10 | Dang-it Doll Workshop @ Cayce Masonic Lodge, 1701 12th St., Cayce @ 10am.  |
| Sunday, November 11   | Veterans Day   |
| Monday, November 12   | County Offices Closed<br>No Van Scheduled<br>Irmo Town Hall Park Dedication, Palmetto Wood Pkwy @ 2:15pm                   |
| Thursday, November 15 | Presbyterian Homes Expo  |
| Thursday, November 22 | Thanksgiving Holiday<br>County Offices Closed<br>No Van Scheduled  |
| Friday, November 23   | County Offices Closed  |

- Purple—Holidays/Special Days
- Blue—Outreach dates
- Red—County Offices Closed/No van scheduled
- Black—Director’s appearances in the County
- Pink—Special Events throughout the County
- Orange—Special event—Director Out of Office
- Dark Green—Special Notices



**Appointments are strongly encouraged to meet with our Veterans Counselors.**



**YOUR VA OFFICE STAFF**

**ED LUNDEEN**  
ELUNDEEN@LEX-CO.COM  
**DIRECTOR**

**JENNIFER HENDRIX**  
JHENDRIX@LEX-CO.COM  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**JANET D. SMITH**  
VETERANS SPECIALIST

**MARGARET K. BOGGESS**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

605 WEST MAIN STREET,  
SUITE 101  
LEXINGTON, S.C. 29072  
TELEPHONE: (803) 785-8400  
FAX: (803) 785-0115

**NOVEMBER DATES FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM**

November 1st - Gaston/Swansea Outreach  
November 2nd - Chapin Outreach  
November 8th—Cayce/W. Columbia Outreach  
November 9th—Batesburg/Leesville Outreach

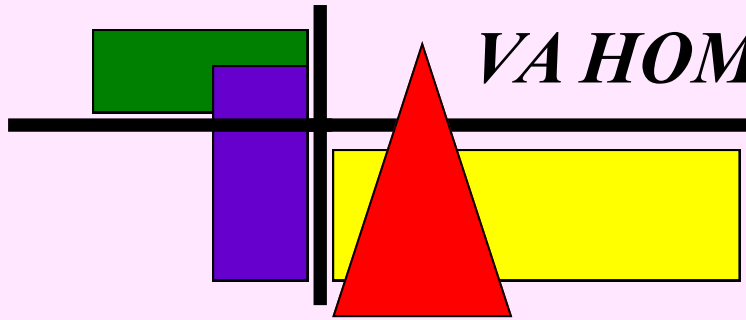
**TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Lexington Main Office: 785-8400  
From Batesburg/Leesville: 332-8400  
From Chapin: 941-0231

*We are now emailing copies of the newsletter. Please contact the office to be added to the newsletter email list.*

**New Office Policy**

★ Please call the office to schedule an appointment for outreach in all four areas. Walk-ins will be seen after appointments if time permits. ★



# VA HOME LOANS

## Who's Eligible:

1. Veterans
2. Active duty personnel
3. Certain reservists and National Guard members
4. Surviving spouses of persons who die on active duty or die as a result of service-connected disabilities
5. Certain spouses of active duty personnel who are (a) missing in action, (b) captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or (c) forcibly detained by a foreign government or power



## How It Works:

You get your loan from a private lender, and VA “stands behind” the loan with that lender. If something goes wrong and you can’t make the payments the lending institution can come to us to cover any losses they might incur. The *VA loan guaranty* is this “insurance” that we provide the lender. Most loans are handled entirely by lenders. VA rarely gets involved in the loan approval process.

## What It Can Do for You:

Here are some advantages of the VA program:

1. You can buy a home without a down payment - as long as the sales price doesn't exceed the appraised value. (Of course, you have to qualify in terms of income and credit.)
2. You won't need to buy private mortgage insurance.
3. VA rules limit the amount you can be charged for closing costs.
4. Closing costs *may* be paid by the seller. (You should keep this in mind when negotiating the sales price.)
5. The lender can't charge you a penalty fee if you pay the loan off early.
6. VA may be able to provide you some assistance if you run into difficulty making payments.



You should also know that: You don't have to be a first-time homebuyer, you can reuse the benefit, and VA-backed loans are assumable, as long as the person assuming the loan qualifies.

## Size of the Loan:

VA doesn't specify a maximum loan amount. But the law does set limits on the amount of liability we can assume. This usually affects the amount of money an institution will lend you. The lender may be able to increase the size of the loan if you can make a down payment.

Continued on page 4

## VA Home Loans - continued from page 3



When the lending institution is deciding how big a loan you can *afford*, it uses either of two methods:

One Method is the “residual income calculation.” The lender adds up your routine housing expenses, taxes, and additional debt payments such as your car and credit cards. He or she subtracts this total from your income. Then the lender decides whether you’ll have enough money left over for everyday living. The second method is the debt-to-income ratio. Under VA’s rules, this is the ratio of your total debt (both housing and other debt) to your income. This is just a thumbnail sketch. *A*

*VA-approved lender is the best resource to see how large a loan for which you qualify.* In making a decision, the lender must look at income (amount and stability), credit, and “compensating factors.” Lenders may use certain automated systems to help with their decisions.

Your Costs:

**The VA Funding Fee.** Although we don’t require private mortgage insurance we do charge a funding fee. (This can be folded into the loan.) If you receive service-connected disability payments each month, you’re exempt from the fee.

**Other Costs of the Loan.** Other costs will be involved. Of course, the lender charges interest. And some other fees and charges have to be paid at closing. Here are some general rules:

The lender, not VA, sets the interest rate, the “discount points,” and closing costs. These rates may vary from lender to lender.

The seller *can* pay for some closing costs. (Under our rules a seller’s “concessions” can’t exceed 4% of the loan. But only some types of costs fall under this 4% rule. Examples are: payment of pre-paid closing costs, VA funding fee, payoff of credit balances or judgments for the veteran, and funds for temporary “buydowns.” Payment of discount points is not subject to the 4% limit.)

You’re not allowed to pay for the termite report, unless the loan is a refinance. That fee is usually paid by the seller.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **VETERANS DAY** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**HONORING ALL WHO SERVED**



[WWW.VA.GOV](http://WWW.VA.GOV)

## *Changes to TRICARE*

TRICARE Prime enrollment fees to increase.

TRICARE Prime enrollment fees will increase for some retired military personnel and their families by 3.6 percent and for most by 17 percent starting October 1<sup>st</sup>.

TRICARE Management Activity announced July 2 its new annual fee structure for military retirees enrolled in Prime. For those who enrolled before October 1, 2011, annual fees will increase for individuals from \$230 to \$269.28, and from \$460 to \$538.56 for families.

Those who enrolled after October 2, 2011, and all new beneficiaries will pay \$269.28 a year for individuals, up from \$260, and \$538.56 for families up from \$520.

The increase falls in line with legislation passed in 2011 restricting the amount the Pentagon can increase annual fees to the military cost-of-living adjustment. The TRICARE fee increases are equal to the cost-of-living adjustment in military retired pay made December 1, 2011.

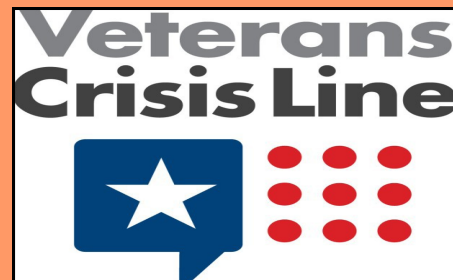
Survivors of active duty deceased sponsors or medically-retired uniformed service members and their dependents are exempt from enrollment fee increases. They continue to pay the rate they paid when the survivor or medically-retired member enrolled.



## Prints for Sale

**We have several copies of the Veterans Memorial and Gibson Pond prints for sale in our office. 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 if you wish. Come by the office to have a closer look at the prints. Please stop by our office M-F from 8 to 5 to purchase one or more of these beautiful prints!**

## 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.

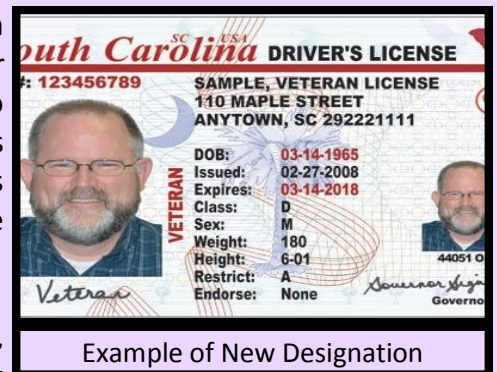
# New Drivers License Information

The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announced on the September 7, 2012, the availability of a "VETERAN" designation on driver licenses, identification cards and beginner permits for individuals who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces.

The VETERAN designation applies only to individuals who served honorably as members of the United States Armed Forces. To apply, Veterans must present their Form DD214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), which indicates an honorable discharge. No other proof of service will be accepted. Military dependents, spouses, or civilian employees on military bases are not eligible.

The cost to add VETERAN designation to a driver license, identification card or beginner permit is \$1.00. If a customer adds the designation without changing or renewing his license, he will pay only the \$1.00 fee. However, if the customer conducts another license transaction, he will pay \$1.00 plus the required transaction fee. For example, a customer that adds the designation when he renews his 10-year driver license would pay \$25.00 plus the \$1.00 fee. A customer who changes his address and adds the designation would pay \$10.00 plus the \$1.00 fee. Each time a customer changes or renews his credential, he must pay an additional \$1.00 fee to add the designation.

Because state law requires documentation of military service, Veterans applying for the designation must visit a DMV office. To get the best service in the shortest amount of time, DMV recommends that customers visit the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Customers should also remember that the days before and after a holiday are extremely busy at DMV.



Example of New Designation

## Volunteers needed

### County Council Needs You!



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

### Looking for Volunteer Van Drivers

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



## *History of Veterans Day*

World War I - known at the time as "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday - a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the Veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American Veterans of all wars.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major Veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's Veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

# Free or discounted offers for Veterans Day 2012

## Two notes before jumping in:

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.



**Applebee's – free meal, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012:** Last year, Applebee's served over one million free meals to military Veterans and active servicemembers. Applebee's is again offering a free meal to military veterans and active-duty service members on **Veterans Day**, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012. There will be 7 entrées to choose from, beverage and gratuity not included. Military ID or proof of service required. Find locations at: <http://applebees.com/>.

**Chili's – free meal, Sunday, Nov. 11 2012.** Chili's is offering all military Veterans past and present their choice of one of 7 meals. This offer is available from 11am – 5pm on November 11, 2011 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 Veterans Day Appreciation Event, Nov. 12 2012.** Free all you can eat pancakes from 6 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 12 for all active, retirees, and Veterans with a valid military ID or proof of military service. Offer available in every Denny's nationwide.

**Golden Corral – Free meal, Monday Nov. 12:** The 12th annual Golden Corral Military Appreciation Monday dinner will be held on Monday, November 12, 2012 from 4 pm to 9 pm in all Golden Corral Restaurants nationwide. The free “thank you” 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. For more information visit: <http://www.goldencorral.com/military/>.

**Hooters – Free Meal, Sunday, Nov. 11 2012.** Hooter's is serving up a free meal to military veterans all day on Veterans Day. Offer good for all Veterans and active duty military personnel. Get 10 Free Wings – Boneless or Regular, drink purchase required. Offer valid at participating Hooters only; open to all active duty and military veterans with valid military ID or proof of military service. For more information, visit, [www.HootersVeteransDay.com](http://www.HootersVeteransDay.com).

**Krispy Kreme – Free doughnut.** Available only at participating Krispy Kreme stores. Offer available to all active-duty, retirees & Veterans on Sunday November 11th. Be sure to call ahead to verify your local Krispy Kreme is participating.

**Little Caesars® Pizza, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012.** 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. Call ahead to verify participation.

**Outback Steakhouse – A week of Free Bloomin' Onions and Cokes.** Outback Steakhouse is honoring America's military Veterans by offering active duty military and veterans a free Bloomin' Onion and a Coca-Cola product during the week leading up to Veteran's Day. This offer is available to Military Personnel who have one of the following forms of identifications: U.S Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), DD form 214 Veterans Organization Card (i.e., American Legion and VFW), Photograph in Uniform, Wearing Uniform. For more information, visit, <http://outback.com/companyinfo/veteransday.aspx>.

**Subway – Free Six Inch Sub, Nov. 11, 2012.** Select SUBWAY® Restaurants will offer a FREE six inch sub or flatbread to military Veterans on Veterans Day. This offer is valid only on November 11, 2012 at participating local SUBWAY® restaurants, Military ID or proof of service required. *Note: SUBWAY® Restaurants are franchises, so this offer may not be available everywhere. Please call ahead for participation and times.*

**Texas Roadhouse – free lunch, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012.** 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. ID Required.

**T.G.I. Friday's – Free Lunch, Monday Nov 12, 2012.** Valid for all US Military personnel and Veterans. Must wear uniform (if permitted by your service) or present military ID or other proof of service. Only valid at participating locations for anyone with an old or current military ID. More details on [TGIFridays.com](http://TGIFridays.com).

**The Olive Garden, Free entrée, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012.** Offer good for Veterans and active duty military, on Sunday, November 11th during regular business hours. Chose from a special menu; all entrées include freshly baked garlic sticks and choice of soup or salad. Offer good in US and Canada, proof of service required.

**Uno Chicago Grill, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012.** Veteran's Day Discount: 19.43% discount on their food and non-alcoholic beverage beverages purchases from 11/7 through 11/11. Why 19.43%, do you ask? That is the year UNO invented deep dish pizza. Offer good for all military, Veterans, and active duty military. ID or proof of service required: Show up in uniform (if your service permits), provide military ID, show a picture of yourself in uniform, or have other ID showing proof of service.





## Home Improvement Discounts

**Home Depot Military Discount:** The Home Depot(R) is offering all active duty personnel, reservists, retired military, Veterans and their families a 10 percent discount off their purchases in honor of Veteran's Day. The offer is valid on purchases of up to \$2,000 for a maximum of \$200 and is available at The Home Depot stores, The Home Depot Design Center locations, Yardbirds and EXPO Design Center(R) locations. The 10% [military discount](#) is available everyday for active duty and retirees, but not all Veterans. Home Depot makes this offer available to all Veterans on most military holidays.



**Lowe's Military Discount:** Lowe's Companies, Inc. will offer all active, reserve, honorably discharged, retired military personnel and their immediate family members a 10 percent discount on in-store U.S. purchases made during the Veterans Day holiday. The discount is available on in-stock and special order purchases up to \$5,000. To qualify, individuals must present a valid military ID or other proof of service. Excluded from the discount are sales via Lowes.com, previous sales, and purchases of services or gift cards. Like Home Depot, Lowes offers this discount daily to active duty military members, but not to Veterans. However, they extend the offer to military Veterans on military holidays.

### Free Park Admissions for Veterans Day

**Anheuser-Busch Parks.** Anheuser-Busch Parks offers Active Duty Service Members free admission for them and up to 3 dependents to any of their parks once a year. Throughout 2012, members of the military and as many as three direct dependents may enter SeaWorld, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks with a single-day complimentary admission. The [Here's to the Heroes program](#) is only available to any active duty, activated or drilling reservist, or National Guardsman. Eligible parks include: Adventure Island, Busch Gardens (Tampa Bay or Williamsburg), SeaWorld (Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio), Sesame Place, and Water Country USA. Not valid at Discovery Cove and Aquatica. Christmas Town at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va. is not included as part of this program. For more information and to register, visit: [Free admission summary](#), and [ticket application](#).

**Colonial Williamsburg Free Admission.** Colonial Williamsburg offers free weekend-long admission tickets to active-duty military, reservists, retirees, Veterans, and their immediate dependents from Thursday, Nov. 9 through Monday, Nov. 12th. The complimentary ticket includes admission to Colonial Williamsburg exhibition sites, art museums, and most daytime programs, as well as free parking and use of the shuttle bus system. Tickets are only available at on-site ticket sales locations. Tickets are also available to families of deployed service members. Tickets available on the following dates: **Nov. 9-12, 2012.**

**Fee Free Day at National Parks.** To honor America's service men and women, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that areas managed by the National Park Service would not charge entrance fees for Veterans Day weekend – November 10-12, 2012. Everyone is eligible, not just Veterans. [Over 100 national Parks will be participating in this event.](#)

**Historic Jamestowne – Free Admission.** The National Park Service commemorates Veterans Day with Fee Free days at Historic Jamestowne November 11-13. Free admission for everyone.

**Knotts Berry Farm Military Tribute Days – Free Admission – 2012.** Knott's Berry Farm has an annual Military Tribute event in which they offer military members past and present free park admission. This year the Military Tribute Days run from November 1 – 21. Veterans or current serving military personnel plus one guest get in FREE with proper ID presented at Knott's turnstile (DD214, Veterans Administration Hospital ID or Active Military Service ID). Purchase up to six additional tickets for just \$19 each.

**Pro Football Hall of Fame – Free Admission, Nov. 3, 2012.** Annual Veterans Day Salute, Saturday, November 03, 2012, 09:00 AM – 05:00 PM. Any Veteran or member of the armed forces and their spouse or a guest will be admitted free of charge to the Hall of Fame for a day-long recognition of US Military Veterans. Members of the Blue and Gold Star Mothers will also be eligible for free admission. Veterans and guests also receive a 10% discount in the Hall of Fame Store. There will be a special ceremony beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Hall of Fame's NFL Films Theater.



### Bed and Breakfast for Vets

In the third year of the program, **B&Bs for Vets** has organized over 230 (and counting) participating Bed and Breakfasts and Inns across the US and Canada which will be offering Veterans a free night's stay on November 10th, the night before Veterans Day. This offer is available to both active duty military members and Veterans with ID, but space is limited. Each Inn and B&B has at least one room available for this promotion and reservations must be made directly through the participating Inns and B&Bs. For more information visit [B&Bs for Vets](#).





**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 2011, Wreaths Across America and our national network of volunteers laid over 320,000 memorial wreaths at 741 locations in the United States and beyond. We accomplished this with help from 1185 fundraising groups, 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 veterans 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 9th, 2012**

Start of World's Longest Veterans Parade from Maine to participating locations all across the Country

**Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 noon** S.C. Veterans Memorial on the South Carolina State House grounds, and in all 50 States and Puerto Rico

**Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 noon (EST)** Ft. Jackson National Cemetery, 4170 Percival Rd. Columbia, SC 29229

Simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies will be held at over 750 locations all across the World.

For more information visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org), or call 877-385-9504.  
Locally, you can contact Carol Davis at [waftjackson@yahoo.com](mailto:waftjackson@yahoo.com) or call (803) 739-2774



Tax ID 20-8362270

**Wreath Sponsorship Form**

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

[www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

(To receive our FREE email newsletter)

Sponsoring Group ID Number: SCNDV001

**For every 2 wreaths purchased on this form, we receive a 3<sup>rd</sup> one free.**

Cemetery Designation: Fort Jackson National Cemetery, Columbia, SC

Cemetery ID Number: SCFJNC

| Sponsorship                    | Price               | Quantity           | Total |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Individual= 1 Wreath           | \$15.00             |                    |       |
| Family= 4 Wreaths              | \$60.00             |                    |       |
| Small Business= 10 Wreaths     | \$150.00            |                    |       |
| Corporate= 100 Wreaths or more | \$15.00 each wreath |                    |       |
| WAA Pins (25 pins per pack)    | \$10.00 / pk        |                    |       |
| WAA Patch                      | \$3.00 each         |                    |       |
|                                |                     | <b>Grand Total</b> |       |

**\*\*WE DO NOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS\*\***

Please make All checks payable to:

**Wreaths Across America TM**

**P.O.Box 3356**

**West Columbia, SC 29171**

Local Contact:

**Carol Davis (803) 739-2774**

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.



**CAROLINA**



**CLEMSON**



**REMEMBER WHEN — “BIG THURSDAY”  
HEALTH–WELLNESS FAIR**

**\$ Invest in Your Well'th**

*“The greatest wealth is health.” – Virgo*

**The Columbia Presbyterian Retirement Community**

You are invited to participate in our upcoming Health Wellness Fair

Please see Registration and Contract also attached



**Thursday, November 15, 2012**

**2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**700 DaVega Drive • Lexington, SC 29073 • 803-796-8700**

**Near the Intersection of I-20 & Hwy 378**

**W. Columbia side – across from the PB Station**

# Support and Donate to the WAR DOG MEMORIAL FUND

## Veteran's Memorial Park ★



Veteran's Memorial Park in Columbia, S.C. where the S.C. Vietnam Memorial stands is the site for the proposed "War Dog Memorial". Funds and support are being raised to make this worthy tribute to all military working dogs a reality.

## S.C. Vietnam Monument ★



## Proposed South Carolina War Dog Monument ★



Military working dogs have fought alongside and saved the lives of thousands of American soldier's throughout our history. Many were killed in action . Those who fought alongside these dogs have long considered them their fellow soldier with great reverence. It is only fitting that a memorial honoring them be erected in their memory and those whom they saved and protected. Please donate today. For more info-

### Contact:

Allen Marshall: 803-252-6636 /

Johnny Mayo: 803-767-6756

Email: [K9heroes@att.net](mailto:K9heroes@att.net)

Website: [www.wardogmemorialfund.com](http://www.wardogmemorialfund.com)

**S.C. Memorial Park Fund / "War Dog Memorial Fund"  
c/o Smith Barney - PO Box 7277 - Columbia, SC 29202**

**\* All Contributions are Tax Deductible**

**God our Father,**

Help me to remain true to my ideals during my service to my country.

Help me be what is in America, the land of the free.

May I realize that I represent what our country stands for.

My uniform is a symbol of duty and valor both in peace and in war.

I take up arms to defend what all Americans hold dear:  
life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Grant me the strength to live according to these ideals,  
the courage of my convictions, and the resolve to endure whatever dangers  
threaten.

With you at our side I fear no evil and resist every enemy,  
secure in the knowledge that you hold me in the palm of your hand.

Amen.



*“Every man thinks meanly of himself for not  
having been a soldier.”*

*- Samuel Johnson*

**DON'T FORGET...**

**Dang-it Doll Workshop @ Cayce Masonic  
Lodge, 1701 12th St., Cayce @ 10am.Saturday,  
November 10th**

**Currently there are requests for almost 200  
dolls right now. The Lodge brothers will have  
their famous Hot Dog Lunch. For more  
information, contact Carol Davis with  
Operation Military Stress Relief Dolls,  
Inc at 803-739-2774 or  
[www.militarystressreliefdolls.com](http://www.militarystressreliefdolls.com).**



**The VA hospital is offering flu shots**

Seasonal flu shots are now available for all registered and enrolled Veterans.

Veterans can receive the flu shot during their regularly scheduled Primary Care or Specialty Care appointments or Primary Care Walk-in visits. Walk-ins are accepted Monday through Friday (except for Federal Holidays) between the hours of 8am to 4pm.



**The Office Staff  
would like to  
wish everyone a  
Happy  
Thanksgiving**





## Military Mentoring Program

### What is the Military Mentoring Program?

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Military Mentoring Program supports children in military families and engages active duty, reserve or retired military personnel as volunteer mentors. Our staff will carefully match mentors and mentees in long-term, one-to-one friendships and provide professional mentoring support for the volunteers, children and families throughout the life of the match. Backed by independent studies, Big Brothers Big Sisters holds itself accountable for helping children succeed in school, avoid risky behaviors, and gain confidence.

### Why We Do It

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia is committed to supporting our nation's military personnel and their families. We seek to provide strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change the lives of children and youth for the better, forever. Our Case Managers and mentors are here to:

1. Strengthen the connection between military parents and children,
2. Respect and reinforce family values
3. Promote the educational success of military children.

A need also exists to engage military service members in civilian community service. Recent research found that 90% of veterans want to serve other Veterans and military families and 86% want to serve at-risk youth.

### About the Program

Big Brothers Big Sisters programs are offered to families **at no cost**. Bigs (concerned and committed adult volunteers) and Littles (children age 9-16) come together in one of two programs:

1. **Community-based Mentoring:** Volunteer Bigs provide their Littles with 4-6 hours per month of one-to-one time and attention. In this program, the Bigs usually picks the Littles up at their home, takes them on an outing to share fun activities and then brings them home.
2. **Site-based Mentoring:** Bigs and Littles meet once a week to talk and have fun at a designated site, which may include facilities operated by Fort Jackson's Child, Youth and School Services, schools or select Boys & Girls Club locations.

### Get Involved

To volunteer or enroll a child, please contact Tanza Cooper or Emily Hebert by phone at (803) 691-5700 or by e-mail at [tanza@bbbsgc.org](mailto:tanza@bbbsgc.org) or [emily@bbbsgc.org](mailto:emily@bbbsgc.org).

# ***Featured Medal:*** **Afghanistan Campaign Medal**

The Afghanistan Campaign Medal is a military award of the United States military which was created by Executive Order 13363 of President George W. Bush on November 29, 2004. The Afghanistan Campaign Medal was designed by the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry.

The Afghanistan Campaign Medal became available for general distribution in June 2005. It is awarded to any member of the U.S. military who has performed duty within the borders of Afghanistan (or its airspace) for a period of thirty consecutive days or sixty non-consecutive days. The medal is retroactive to October 24, 2001 and is active until a date to be determined. Personnel who have been engaged in combat with an enemy force, or personnel who have been wounded in combat within Afghanistan, may receive the Afghanistan Campaign Medal regardless of the number of days spent within the country. The medal is also awarded posthumously to any service member who dies in the line of duty within Afghanistan, including from non-combat injuries such as accidents and mishaps.

The Afghanistan Campaign Medal may be awarded with the Arrowhead device for qualified soldiers. The Afghanistan Campaign Medal may be awarded with the combat operation insignia for qualified sailors assigned to Marine Corps units. The following are the established combat campaigns authorized for service stars on the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

- ◇ Liberation of Afghanistan – September 11, 2001 to November 30, 2001
- ◇ Consolidation I – December 1, 2001 to September 30, 2006
- ◇ Consolidation II – October 1, 2006 to November 30, 2009
- ◇ Consolidation III - December 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011
- ◇ Transition I - July 1, 2011 to a date to be determined



Picture of Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Ribbon

The award replaces the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM) for service in Afghanistan and personnel who previously received the GWOTEM for Afghanistan service may elect to exchange the medal for the new Afghanistan Campaign Medal. Both medals may not be received for the same period of service in Afghanistan and any current Afghanistan service will only be recognized with the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.



**For basic information and questions,  
please check out our webpage at  
[www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptRZ/va/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptRZ/va/Pages/index.aspx)**

**We have also moved the  
Veterans Service Organizations in Lexington County  
to our Webpage.**

***Coming in the Next Issue...*** Requesting Military Medals and Records