



# LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

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

September 2012

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

At-A Glance Calendar /Office Staff	2
Special Monthly Compensation	3
History of Patriot Day	6
Dang-it Doll Update	7
Parade Information and Application	10-11
Tricare Changes	15
Featured Medal	16

### *From the Director...*

This month we reflect on all the Americans that lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and we remember that eventful day America was viciously attacked. The patriotism displayed and felt throughout the country after this event has waned but we should never forget those innocent lives lost that day.

Our office has received several donated items from the surviving spouse of a World War II Veteran and we are deeply appreciative. The items donated are a beautiful panoramic picture taken in 1943 of men in uniform and headed to war. We also received a rare canteen and pistol belt of the Veteran and these have been placed in our museum display case in the lobby. Please check out the many historic items we have accumulated over the years in our display case and if anyone would like to donate items, we would be glad to add them to our collection.

Last month we were notified of a new van driver for our DAV van that transports Veterans to their medical appointments at the Dorn VA hospital on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. All of our drivers are Veterans and they volunteer their time to take their fellow Veterans to this hospital but there is something different about our newest driver, he is not a Veteran! For the first time in the history of this office we have a non Veteran volunteer transporting Veterans. I told him the days could be long and sometimes take all day and he insisted he would be honored to drive Veterans to the hospital. This driver also works full-time so this makes his commitment very special and we salute him!

If any of you know someone who might be interested in volunteering to drive Veterans to the VA hospital or a Veteran who would like to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at County Council meetings, please call our office. Our office could not function without the volunteers and support we receive from the public and we deeply appreciate it. We serve the greatest people in Lexington County---our Veterans!

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

George Washington



*AT-A-GLANCE*  
**September**

<b>Monday, September 3</b>	<b>Labor Day; County Offices Closed; No Van Transport</b>
<b>Thursday, September 6</b>	<b>Outreach</b>
<b>Friday, September 7</b>	<b>Outreach</b>
<b>Saturday, September 8</b>	<b>Dang-it Doll Workshop 10-4 in Cayce</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 11</b>	<b>Patriot Day</b>
<b>Thursday, September 13</b>	<b>Outreach</b>
<b>Friday, September 14</b>	<b>Outreach Leadership Retreat</b>
<b>Monday, September 17</b>	<b>Constitution Day (Constitution signed on September 17, 1787)</b>
<b>Friday, September 21</b>	<b>Spirit of America Show at Colonial Life Arena</b>
<b>Saturday, September 22</b>	<b>Autumn Begins Spirit of America Show at Colonial Life Arena</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 26</b>	<b>Honor Flight</b>
<b>Thursday, September 27</b>	<b>Lexington Workforce's Veterans Enrichment Seminar, 10-4 at National Guard Armory in West Columbia</b>

**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.**



**Lexington, SC.**

***YOUR VA OFFICE STAFF***

**ED LUNDEEN**  
DIRECTOR  
**JENNIFER HENDRIX**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
**JANET SMITH**  
VETERANS SPECIALIST  
**GLORIA PRICE**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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

**SEPTEMBER DATES FOR  
OUTREACH PROGRAM**

September 6th - Gaston/Swansea Outreach  
 September 7th - Chapin Outreach  
 September 13th - Cayce/West Columbia  
 Outreach  
 September 14th - Batesburg/Leesville Outreach

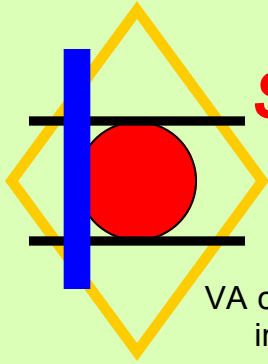
**TOLL-FREE  
TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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***

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



## ***Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) for Serious Disabilities***

Can a Veteran Receive Additional Payments for Serious Disabilities?  
VA can pay additional compensation to a veteran who, as a result of military service, incurred the loss or loss of use of specific organs or extremities.

### What Is Considered Loss or Loss of Use?

Loss, or loss of use, is described as either an amputation or, having no effective remaining function of an extremity or organ. The disabilities VA can consider for SMC include:

- ◇ loss, or loss of use, of a hand or foot
- ◇ immobility of a joint or paralysis
- ◇ loss of sight of an eye (having only light perception)
- ◇ loss, or loss of use, of a reproductive organ
- ◇ complete loss, or loss of use, of both buttocks
- ◇ deafness of both ears (having absence of air and bone conduction)
- ◇ inability to communicate by speech (complete organic aphonia)
- ◇ loss of a percentage of tissue from a single breast, or both breasts, from mastectomy or radiation treatment

### What if I Have a Combination of These Disabilities?

The VA will pay higher rates for combinations of these disabilities such as loss or loss of use of the feet, legs, hands, and arms, in specific monetary increments, based on the particular combination of the disabilities. There are also higher payments for various combinations of severe deafness with bilateral blindness.

Additional SMC is available if a veteran is service connected for paraplegia, with complete loss of bowel and bladder control.

In addition, if you have other service-connected disabilities that, in combination with the above special monthly compensation, meet certain criteria, a higher amount of SMC can also be considered.

### Can VA Pay SMC for Being Bedridden, Housebound, or in Need of the Aid and Attendance of Another Person?

If a veteran is service connected at the 100% rate and is housebound, bedridden, or is so helpless to need the aid and attendance of another person, then consideration of payment of additional SMC can be considered. The amount of SMC will vary depending on the level of aid and attendance needed.

### How Can You Apply?

You should contact your local VA regional office for information about applying for SMC. In determining qualifications for SMC, the VA must review the medical evidence regarding the loss or loss of use and then make a decision regarding the level of SMC to be paid.

**Only \$5 Million left in this year's Palmetto Heroes home loan fund**

Please help us remind your members that there is only \$5 million left in the SC Housing Palmetto Heroes home loan fund. Anyone hoping to purchase a home with these funds needs to move quickly.

Palmetto Heroes funds are available to **teachers, nurses, law enforcement officers (including correctional officers), firefighters, veterans and emergency medical services workers.**

Rates for Palmetto Heroes have dropped to **3.5%** and, perhaps most importantly, have **\$5000** down payment assistance available to help with closing cost.

Please help us get the word out. More details are available at our website at: <http://www.schousing.com/First-Time Home Buyers/Palmetto Heroes>

**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!*

**Just A Reminder...**

Active and retired military personnel and their dependents with proper military ID will be admitted **FREE** the entire 12 days of the fair. This is in appreciation for their service to our country and its citizens.



Also, join in for a patriotic flag-raising ceremony each day of the fair at 12:00 noon near the South Gate as the State Fair salutes our military and the USA.



The State Fair opens on Wednesday, October 10th and runs through Sunday, October 21st.



**County Offices will be closed on September 3rd in observance of Labor Day. The DAV van will not be running that day.**

**Mark your calendar...**

There will be an Advisory meeting on October 8th at 7:00pm at 605 West Main Street, Suite 101, Lexington.





## VA Now Accepting Applications for VRAP



Are you or do you know an unemployed Veteran? VA is now accepting applications for the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP is a joint program offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor. The program provides up to 12 months of benefits for training towards a high-demand occupation.

Veterans can take advantage of VRAP if they meet the following criteria:

- \* At least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- \* Currently unemployed
- \* Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- \* Not eligible for any other VA education benefit program
- \* Not receiving VA compensation due to unemployability
- \* Not enrolled in a federal or state job-training program

You must enroll in a VA-approved program of education that: is offered by a community college or technical school; provides training towards an associate's degree, non-college degree, or certificate; and leads to a high demand occupation. We will accept applications through October 1, 2013, or once we have 99,000 participants, whichever comes first. Apply online since participation is limited.

Visit the VRAP website at <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>, contact your VA Regional Office, or call the VBA Education Office at 1-888-442-4551 (prompts 1-2-1-0) for more information.



## 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.



# **The History of Patriot Day**



Patriot Day is observed on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Patriot Day was signed into law on December 18, 2001 as a day to remember those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on our country.

On Patriot Day, Americans should fly their flags at half-staff and observe a moment of silence to honor those individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks.

On September 11, 2001, two hijacked civilian aircraft crashed into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. A third hijacked aircraft crashed into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C. And a fourth hijacked aircraft crashed in southwestern Pennsylvania after passengers tried to take control of the aircraft in order to prevent the hijackers from crashing the aircraft into an important symbol of democracy and freedom. Thousands of innocent people lost their lives in this tragedy.

The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation calling on:

- ◇ state and local governments and the people of the United States to observe Patriot Day with appropriate programs and activities;
- ◇ all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States and interested organizations and individuals to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001;
- ◇ the people of the United States to observe a moment of silence on Patriot Day in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001.

In 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act which recognizes September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance, calling upon Americans to make an enduring commitment to serve their community and our Nation.



## ***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.

# Dang-it Doll Update and Schedule



It is that time of year again and we are ready to crank up the Dang-it Doll making workshop here in the Midlands. While we have taken a break from the midlands workshops, the Senior Centers at Pineridge and Swansea as well as the Columbia Adult Day Care and other individuals have been carrying the Ball. It is OUR time to get busy. Please join us for the Fall Fling Workshop at the Cayce Masonic Lodge, 1701 12th Street, Cayce, SC 29033, on Saturday, September 8, 2012, from 10:00am until 4:00pm and help us make a little stress relief for our Service Men and Women. It is a drop-in type of affair. Come when you can and leave when you need to. The Lodge Brothers will be making their famous Hot Dog Lunch for us.

The requests for Dang-it Dolls come in daily. As we approach the holiday season, these requests will increase and we need all the help we can get to see that these requests are filled. Please bring a friend. This is one place the more the merrier is for real!

Don't forget the Wal-Mart on Hwy 1 in West Columbia has the Morning-glory Polyfil stuffing we use. This is the only kind we use. We are also always in need of donations for shipping. Your help is always appreciated, be it in the form of helping make the dolls, stuffing, fabric, yard, monetary donations or your prayers. Without your donations and cooperation, we would not have been able to send out over 80,000 Dang-it Dolls around the world over the past 7 1/2 years. We will start our 8th year on January 21, 2013. With your support, we will continue to send a little stress relief and our love and appreciation to our Service Men and Women everywhere.

## **THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING 7 1/2 YEARS!**

Our Midlands workshop calendar for the 2012/2013 year is as follows:

September 8, 2012  
October 13, 2012  
November 10, 2012  
NO WORKSHOP FOR DECEMBER  
January 12, 2013  
February 9, 2013  
March 9, 2013  
April 13, 2013  
May 11, 2013

If you have any questions,  
please call Carol Davis at (803) 467-4482 or email us at  
OMSRD@yahoo.com





# VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IN LEXINGTON COUNTY

## AMERICAN LEGION

**Post #7**-Lexington: Meets the first Saturday of the month (except before a holiday) at 7:00pm.

Address is: 200 American Legion Drive (off Harmon Street), Lexington

**Post #61**-Batesburg Leesville: Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 8:00pm.

Address is: South Hendrix Street, Leesville.

**Post #79**-West Columbia: Meets the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm.

Address is: 700 B Avenue, West Columbia

**Post #90**-South Congaree: Meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm.

Address is: Hwy. 302 near South Congaree.

**Post #130**-Cayce: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm.

Address is: Naples Avenue, Cayce.

**Post #142**-Gilbert: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

Address is: 4200 Veterans Road (off US Highway #!), Gilbert

**Post #156**-Sandy Run: Meets the fourth Monday of the month.

Address is: Pine Plain Road outside of Gaston, just off Old Sandy Run Road.

**Post #174**-Irmo: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

Address is: 801 Piney Woods Road, Columbia

**Post #193**-Chapin: Meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm.

Address is: 102 Lexington Ave., Chapin.

**Post #217**-Lexington: Meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30pm.

Address is: 117 Cat's Paw Road, Lexington

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

**Chapter #4**-West Columbia: Meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

**Chapter #13**-West Columbia: Meets the second Saturday of the month at 1:00pm.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

**Chapter #20**-West Columbia: Meets the third Saturday of the month at 11:00am.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

**Chapter #28**-West Columbia: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

**Chapter #51**-Leesville: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm.

Address is: South Hendrix Street, Leesville.

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**Post #6740**-Lake Murray: Meets the of the month at

Address is: 950 Rock N Creek Road, Leesville.

**Post #8738**-Lexington: Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

Address is: 424 Cedarcrest Drive, Lexington.

**Post #9037**-Pelion: Meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm.

Address is: 505 Canal Drive, Pelion.

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

**Detachment #1141**-West Columbia: Meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm .

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

## BLUE STAR MOTHERS

**Midlands Chapter**-Lexington: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm.

Address is: 424 Cedarcrest Drive, Lexington.

## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

**Chapter #402**-Columbia: Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm.

Address is: 200 Pickens Street, Columbia.

## NAVY SEABEES

**SCX #2**-West Columbia: Meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm.

Address is: 1006 12<sup>th</sup> Street, West Columbia (West Metro Chamber of Commerce Building)

## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

**Chapter #303**, Sandlappers-Columbia: Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

Address is: 200 Pickens Street, Columbia



Continued on page 15





*You are cordially invited to attend the .....*

*Belgian Waffle Breakfast Fundraiser and  
Celebration of the Opening for*

**The Shepherd's Center of Lexington**

**Friday, November 2, 2012**

**Lexington United Methodist Church  
309 East Main Street, Lexington**

**Donation for Breakfast - \$7 payable at door**

Serving of Belgian Waffles – 8 am to 9 am

Celebration of Opening – 9:15 am to 9:45 am

Registration for Lifelong Learning Courses – 9:45 am to 11 am

A Shepherd's Center has the conviction that **life is not over at retirement** but opens a door to a new chapter of life. A life in which we continue to **contribute** to society, a time we **learn new skills**, make new **friends**, a time to find ways to **serve** others, a time to learn how to take care of ourselves, and a time to get connected in fresh ways within our faith community

The Shepherd's Center of Lexington is affiliated with the Shepherd's Centers of America. All Shepherd's Centers are nonprofit organizations focused on serving the needs of their local communities. For more details visit the following website: [www.shepherdcenters.org](http://www.shepherdcenters.org)

*Printed material furnished, compliments of Simplified Office Systems, Dave Gordon, 917-5489*



**2012 LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS PARADE APPLICATION**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2012 @ 3:00PM**  
**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 10TH YEAR**

**NO ENTRY FEE, SIGN UP DUE BY OCTOBER 26th, PLEASE**

**(IF YOU MISS THE DEADLINE GIVE ME A CALL, EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN THIS PARADE)**

ALL MARCHING BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE EMPTY PARKING LOTS OF BUSINESSES IN THE BUTLER STREET AND MAIN STREET AREA. PLEASE USE CAUTION! PLEASE DROP OFF ALL MEMBERS AND YOU CAN PARK AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT FOR PICK UP. PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT TAKE UP SPACES AT MCDONALD'S FOR PARKING.

PARADE ROUTE WILL LINE UP AT HAYGOOD AND WEST BUTLER STREET, ENTER MAIN STREET TAKE A LEFT, GO DOWN MAIN STREET, TURN RIGHT ON SOUTH LAKE DRIVE AND THEN LEFT, ENDING AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT.

.....  
Name & Description of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax : \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Applications To:**

Lexington County Veterans Parade  
Attn: Sharon Willis  
212 South Lake Drive Ste 302  
Lexington SC 29072

**For More Information Contact:**

Lexington Veterans Affairs Office @ 803-785-8400  
Sharon Willis @ 803-785-1454  
Cell # 803-237-9617  
Fax # 803-785-8300

Applications can be emailed to you also. Contact Sharon at [swillis@lex-co.com](mailto:swillis@lex-co.com)

EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE TO PLACE YOU IN THE LINEUP THAT SHOWCASES YOUR ORGANIZATION AT THE BEST POSSIBLE SPOT. ONCE THE LINEUP FOR THE PARADE HAS BEEN DETERMINED YOU WILL RECEIVE A MAP AND LOCATION FOR YOUR PLACE IN THE PARADE. PLEASE ENTER THE PARADE LINE UP ROUTE FROM SOUTH CHURCH AND GO UP BUTLER STREET. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER FROM COLUMBIA AVENUE OR MAIN. TURNING FLOATS AND TRAILERS AROUND IS VERY DIFFICULT. HAYGOOD STREET MUST BE KEPT OPEN FOR THE LINEUP. MAIN STREET WILL BE CLOSED DOWN AT 2:45 SO PLEASE BE AT YOUR LOCATION BY 2:30.

*(A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE VETERANS MONUMENT FOLLOWING THE PARADE.)*

**ALL OF THE VETERANS APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT  
AND  
THEY THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

NEED A FLOAT?  
CONTACT KIRBY FLOATS @ 803-359-3134.  
(DISCOUNTS GIVEN TO VETERANS)





# Blue Star Mothers

*Midlands Chapter*

**More than 2.4 million men and women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan in the last decade. Nearly half have served more than one tour.**

**Active-duty U.S. troops die by their own hand at a rate of one per day, on average.**

**Among all veterans, the rate is one every 80 minutes.**

**Almost a quarter million Iraq or Afghanistan vets have been diagnosed with mental health injuries from combat service.**

**Compared to 2011, there has been an 18% increase in suicides among active-duty troops in 2012 (through June 3).**

**Last year, we lost more troops to suicide than we did on the battlefields.**

**The national veterans suicide crisis line, operated by the VA, gets an average of 17,000 calls a day.**

**The VA believes the suicide rate for all U.S. veterans is more than 500 per month.**

**A major VA study found that about 31 percent of men and 27 percent of women had suffered from PTSD at some point after their return from Vietnam.**

\*\*\*\*\*

One must only watch the news to know how the suicide rate is climbing among our most recent combat veterans. We know that the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress can be helped or hindered by the way we, as family members and a community in general, equip ourselves to react, inform and help those affected. On Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, the Midlands Chapter of Blue Star Mothers will be hosting a forum addressing Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury and Suicide Prevention. Topic experts will be on-hand to discuss the signs and symptoms of these silent killers and how you can help those you encounter who may be dealing with these symptoms. We invite everyone concerned with the wellbeing of our returning warriors to attend.

**What: Forum on PTSD, TBI, Suicide Prevention**

**When: Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

**Where: American Legion Post 6 – 200 Pickens Street, Columbia, SC 29205**

For more information, please email [info@bluestarmotherssc.com](mailto:info@bluestarmotherssc.com)

THE LEXINGTON VETERANS EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PRESENTS



# Veterans Enrichment Fair

“Transitioning to civilian life”

**SC WORKS**  
Lexington

**Thursday, September 27, 2012**

**10am-4pm**

**National Guard Armory  
3528 Platt Springs Road  
West Columbia, SC 29170**

**Vendors include employers, healthcare & service  
providers, and education institutions**

Partial list of companies participating

Department of Corrections	Blue Cross Blue Shield
Lexington Sheriff's Dept.	O'Neill Auto Parts
SLED	Prysmian Cables and Systems
Department of Public Safety	ECPI University
Waffle House Management	Mobile Vet Center Counseling
South East Frozen Foods	Tradesmen International
Apple One Staffing	Michelin Tires
Adecco	SC Commission for Blind
MRS Human Resource	Alvin S. Glen Detention Center
Shaw Group	Palmetto Health
SCANA	Aerotek
	Onin Staffing

**FREE Health Screenings  
at the**

**Veterans Enrichment Fair**

Prostate Cancer Screening (PSA Blood Test)

African American men age 40 & over; all other men age 50 & over

Diabetes Screening (A1C Blood Test)

High Risk Men & Women Age 18 & over

**Registration required: Call CARE CALL at 803-296-2273**

**Deadline to register is July 20th, 2012**

Screenings provided courtesy of  
Palmetto Health Office of Community Services

For more details visit

[www.palmettohealth.org/communityservices](http://www.palmettohealth.org/communityservices)



An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

All voice telephone numbers may be reached using TTY/TDD equipment via the South Carolina Relay Service at 711.



Bake Sale, Crafts, & Lunch too!



*PLEASE COME*

*SATURDAY*

*SEPTEMBER 29, 2012*

*8:00 AM – 1:00 PM*

Sponsors

LICS

Thrivent Financial

PODS of Columbia

Mae's of Lexington

Walter P. Rawl & Sons, Inc.

Caughman-Harman Funeral Home

*American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary*

*200 American Legion Drive (off Harmon Street)*

*Lexington, SC 29072*

*803-359-1278*



Accepting donations and will pick up.  
Call number above!

*Come help us turn 'trash to treasure'  
so that we can put back into  
our community through your  
generous donations.*

**"...supporting veterans in Lexington County for over 80 years."**

*Come join us for fun, fellowship, and food too!*

Clothing/Jewelry  
Household items  
Linens and things  
Tools  
Furniture & Appliances



Computer equipment  
Books  
Golf items  
Exercise equipment  
And much more!

**RAIN OR SHINE — ALL INDOORS**



## We Need Your Help...

We are in the process of adding this to our website so please help us in verifying the information we have and including any we don't have. If you know of any Veteran organization that is not on our list, please give us a call or email with the information and we will update the list.

### 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.

### New Drivers License Information

The Governor signed into law to add a Veteran field to the SC driver's license.  
There will be a statewide announcement in the fall concerning the changes.  
More information will follow later.

training

The office will be on a limited staff for the days of October 10th through October 12th for training in Columbia.



# ***Featured Medal:***

## **National Defense Service Medal**

The National Defense Service Medal is a military service medal of the United States military originally commissioned by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Created in 1953, the National Defense Service Medal was intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to any member of the United States military who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared.

As of 2010, with an issuance span of sixty years, the National Defense Service Medal is the oldest service medal still in circulation by the United States armed forces, followed second by the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal which has been active since 1961. Combat and meritorious decorations (such as the Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Purple Heart and Commendation Medals) are older still, but are considered personal decorations and are classified under separate award criteria from service medals.

In the years since the creation of the National Defense Service Medal, it is authorized only for the following time periods:

- \* June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1954 for service during the Korean War
- \* January 1, 1961 to August 14, 1974 for service during the Vietnam War
- \* August 2, 1990 to November 30, 1995 for service during the Gulf War
- \* September 11, 2001 to a date to be announced for service during the War on Terrorism



Picture of National Defense Service Medal and Ribbon

The National Defense Service Medal is awarded to anyone who serves on active duty in the United States military during the above time periods. For service in the Gulf War, members of the military reserve (in good standing) or National Guard were initially awarded the NDSM when called to active duty service, but this was later expanded to include all members of the Reserve or National Guard in good standing on the Reserve Active Status List (or equivalent) during the eligibility period. For service in the War on Terrorism, Selected Reserve and National Guard members need only to have been in good standing to receive the NDSM, and no active duty service is required. Inactive Ready Reserve and Retired Reserve are not eligible to be awarded the NDSM unless called to active duty.

The National Defense Service Medal is authorized to Cadets and Midshipmen at the service academies after they are sworn into service, as well as pre-commission officer candidates/trainees at the Officer Candidate Schools or Officer Training Schools of the various U.S. services; but is not granted to discharged or retired veterans who did not serve in one of the above time periods; nor is it authorized for Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadets and Midshipmen who enlisted in the inactive reserve (i.e., Obligated Reserve Section or ORS) during qualifying periods.

The National Defense Service Medal ranks eleventh out of twenty-nine in the order of precedence of service medals. There is no time limit imposed for the medal's issuance, meaning that someone who joins the military for simply a few days, and then receives an entry level discharge, would technically be entitled to the NDSM; in practice, however, military clerks will not add the NDSM on a DD Form 214 if the service member performed duty for less than 90 days from the completion of their initial entry training. This accounts for the medal's omission from a large number of "uncharacterized" and "entry level" separation documents.

Multiple awards of the National Defense Service Medal are authorized for members of the military who served in more than one of the eligible time periods; such additional awards are denoted by service stars. A second award of the medal is not granted for reenlisting during the same time period or transferring between branches of service.

***Coming in the Next Issue...Appeal Process***