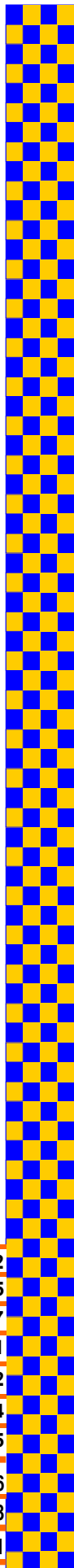




LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

September/October 2014



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At A Glance Calendar September/October

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|---|---|
| Weekly on Tuesdays in September | Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @ 12 noon |
| Monday, September 1st | Labor Day County Offices Closed/No Van Running |
| Wednesday, September 3rd | Honor Flight |
| Thursday, September 4th | Gaston/Swansea Outreach |
| Friday, September 5th | Chapin Outreach |
| Thursday, September 11th | Patriot's Day VAMC Mental Health Summit |
| Friday, September 12th | Lexington County Senior Leadership Retreat from 8am to 5pm Batesburg Outreach |
| Saturday, September 13th | Dang-It Doll Workshop from 10am to 3pm in Cayce |
| Friday, September 19th | Tunnel to Towers 5K Run and Walk @ 7pm in Columbia |
| Monday, September 22nd | Autumn Begins |
| Tuesday, September 23 | County Council Meeting |
| Thursday, September 25th | PTSD Workshop hosted by Blue Star Mothers from 6-8pm @ the LRADAC Convention Center in Columbia |
| Weekly on Tuesdays in October | Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @12 noon |
| Thursday, October 2nd | Gaston/Swansea Outreach |
| Friday, October 3rd | Chapin Outreach |
| Wednesday, October 8th through Friday, October 10th | SCACVAO training for office staff in Columbia |
| Wednesday, October 8th through Sunday, October 19th | South Carolina State Fair |
| Saturday, October 11th | Dang-It Doll Workshop from 10am to 3pm in Cayce |
| Monday, October 13th | Columbus Day—Federal Holiday County Offices will be open |
| Tuesday, October 14th | County Council Meeting |
| Thursday, October 16th | National Boss' Day |
| Tuesday, October 28th | County Council Meeting |
| Friday, October 31st | Halloween |

Purple—Holidays/Special Days

Blue—Outreach dates

Red—County Offices Closed, No van scheduled and Special Notices

Black—Director's appearances in the County

Brown—County Council Meetings

Pink—Special Events throughout the County

Orange—Special event, Director Out of Office

Green—Lexington County Veterans Group Meetings

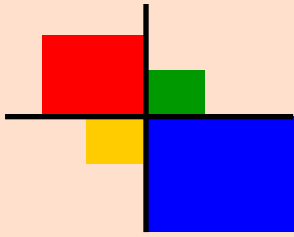
From the Director...

With summer nearly behind us, we turn to fall and the start of school and football season. This is always an exciting time, especially in South Carolina. Your Veterans' Affairs team has begun the scanning of our paper files in an effort to become a paperless office. This will make us more efficient and better equipped to serve Veterans and survivors.

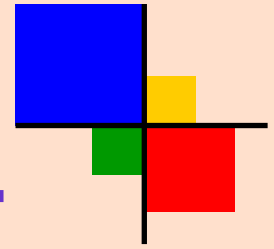
I hope you enjoy this edition of our office newsletter and read the continuation of my Normandy trip with 22 World War II heroes. I can't put into words what an incredible trip this was and what lifelong memories were created. It was an honor to hear their stories and to watch them interact with generations of people who live in freedom because of their service. I encourage all Americans to visit Normandy and see what freedom means to this region of France.

The State Fair commences from October 8-19 and once again active duty and retired military, as well as their spouses will be admitted free each day. The fair has always been a staple for my family and me and we enjoy the many exhibits, food and animals. There is nothing better than candy apples, corn dogs, Fiske fries, elephant ears and cotton candy that the fair provides.

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Agent Orange



Part of the United States' strategy in Vietnam was to conduct a herbicide program to remove foliage providing cover for the enemy. Agent Orange was the most widely used of the herbicide combinations sprayed. Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam were tested or stored elsewhere, including some military bases in the United States.

When & Where Agent Orange was Sprayed in Vietnam:

The U.S. military herbicide program in South Vietnam took place between 1962 and 1971. Herbicides were sprayed in all four military zones of Vietnam. More than 19 million gallons of various herbicide combinations were used. Agent Orange was the combination the U.S. military used most often.

Heavily sprayed areas included:

- * Inland forest near the demarcation zone
- * Inland forests at the junction of the borders of Cambodia, Laos, and South Vietnam
- * Inland forests north and northwest of Saigon
- * Mangrove forests on the southernmost peninsula of Vietnam
- * Mangrove forests along major shipping channels southeast of Saigon.



Eligibility for Disability Compensation:

Veterans may be eligible for disability compensation if they have a service-connected disability and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Presumed Exposure Based on Vietnam or Korea Service:

For the purpose of disability compensation, VA presumes that Veterans were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides if they served:



- * In Vietnam anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 (includes brief visits ashore or service aboard a ship that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam. Check VA's list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships that operated in Vietnam.
- * In or Near the Korean demilitarized zone anytime between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971. These Veterans do not need to prove that they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides to qualify for disability compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure (also called "presumptive diseases").

Exposure not Presumed:

A Veteran who believes he or she has a disease caused by herbicide exposure, but it is not a presumptive disease, must show an actual connection between the disease and herbicide exposure during military service. Veterans who do not meet criteria for presumed exposure to Agent Orange may be eligible for service-connection for related disabilities. This includes:

- * Blue Water Veterans who served on ships off the shore of Vietnam that did not operate on the inland waterways of Vietnam, or who did not set foot in Vietnam.
- * Veterans who served on or near the perimeters of military bases in Thailand during the Vietnam Era.
- * Veterans who served where herbicides were tested and stored outside of Vietnam.



Continued on page 4

Agent Orange continued from page 3

They must show that they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service to be eligible for service-connection for presumptive diseases related to Agent Orange exposure. For diseases that are not presumptive, they must show that they were exposed to herbicides and that there is an actual connection between the disease and their herbicide exposure.

EXCEPTION: Blue Water Veterans with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma may be granted service-connection without showing inland waterway service or that they set foot in Vietnam. This is because VA also recognizes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as related to service in Vietnam or the waters offshore of Vietnam during the Vietnam Era.



List of Presumptive Diseases:

** Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy*

A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides and resolve within two years after the date it began.

** AL Amyloidosis*

A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs.

** Chloracne (or Similar Acneform Disease)*

A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, chloracne (or other acne form disease similar to chloracne) must be at least 10% disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

** Chronic B-cell Leukemia's*

A type of cancer which affects white blood cells.

** Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)*

A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.

** Hodgkin's Disease*

A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen and by progressive anemia.

** Ischemic Heart Disease*

A disease characterized by reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain.

** Multiple Myeloma*

A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow.

** Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma*

A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.

** Parkinson's Disease*

A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement.

** Porphyria Cutanea Tarda*

A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

** Prostate Cancer*

Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men.

** Respiratory Cancers*

Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.

** Soft Tissue Sarcoma*

A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood, and lymph vessels, and connective tissues. Does not include: Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma).

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Agent Orange continued from page 4

Agent Orange Registry Health Exam for Veterans:

VA's Agent Orange Registry Health Exam alerts Veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to Agent Orange exposure during their military service. The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively. This comprehensive health exam includes an exposure and medical history, laboratory tests, and a physical exam. A VA health professional will discuss the results face-to-face with the Veteran and in a follow-up letter.



Important points about registry health exams:

- * Free to eligible Veterans and no co-payment.
- * Not a disability compensation exam or required for other VA benefits.
- * Enrollment in VA's health care system not necessary.
- * Based on Veterans' recollection of service, not on their military records.
- * Will not confirm exposure to Agent Orange.
- * Veterans can receive additional registry exams, if new problems develop.

To contact the VA about Agent Orange Registry Health Exams:

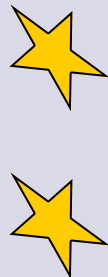
By Telephone

* Call your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator at Dorn VAMC: 803-776-4000 ext. 4710 or 6179

* TDD (for hearing impaired): 1-800-829-4833

In Person

* Go to your nearest VA health care facility and speak to the VA Environmental Health Coordinator: Dorn VAMC, 6439 Garner's Ferry Road, Columbia, 29209



What Is A Veteran?

A "Veteran" - whether active duty, discharges, retired, or reserve – is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to, and including their life."

Mark Your Calendars



The 12th annual Lexington County Veterans Parade will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2014, at 3pm.

Parade application follows on page 13.

Prints for Sale

We have several copies of the Veterans Memorial and Gibson Pond prints for sale in our office. The Gibson Pond print is 32x24 and the Monument print is 24x15. Both are suitable for framing. The cost is \$10.00 each. The proceeds will be placed in our Veteran's Fund and/or Van Fund. Your donation is tax-deductible and a receipt can be provided. Please stop by the office Monday through Friday from 8-5 to get a closer look at the prints or to purchase.



Looking for Volunteer Van Drivers

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



Effective September 1st, the van will no longer run on Thursdays.

County Council Needs You!

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



OUTREACH DATES AND TIMES

Please be aware that our outreach dates and times have changed. The correct dates and times are listed below.

Appointments are strongly encouraged.



Batesburg/Leesville Outreach - 2nd Friday of the month at the Batesburg/Leesville Library from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Chapin Outreach - 1st Friday of the month at the Chapin Library from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

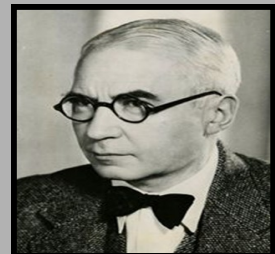


Gaston/Swansea Outreach - 1st Thursday of the month at the Gaston Library from 10 a.m. to 12 noon



There will be no Batesburg/Leesville outreach in October.

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." —Elmer Davis



How to obtain DD-214s; awards and medals; corrections or upgrades; and emergency requests

A Veteran may obtain their military personnel records through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. Military personnel records can include DD-214s or separation documents, service personnel records found within the official military personnel file and medical records. Military personnel records can be used for proving military service or as a valuable tool in genealogical research. Please note that NPRC holds historical military personnel records of nearly 100 million Veterans.

A Veteran may request their military service records online, by mail or by fax. This request may include DD-214 or separation documents, personnel records, and medical records. A Veteran may submit their request online by going to the NPRC website at www.archives.gov. A Veteran may also submit a request by mail or fax using Form SF-180. The address for the NPRC is: 1 Archive Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138. Their telephone and fax numbers are: (314) 801-0800 and (314) 801-9195.

If your request is urgent (for example, for a funeral) and there is a deadline associated with your request, please provide this information in the purpose section of the Form SF-180 and fax it to the Customer Service Team at (314) 801-0764. Their goal is to complete all urgent requests within two working days. Please contact the customer service staff at (314) 801-0800 if you have questions or require same day service. Due to the large number of calls received at this number, hold times are often long. However, once you reach a technician they will be happy to assist you with emergency service.

The NPRC does not issue service medals; that is a function of each military service department. Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the Veteran served. Use the addresses listed below, and mail your request accordingly.

Army and Air Force

National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138

Navy, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard

Navy Personnel Command
Liaison Office Room 350
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138.

The National Archives and Records Administration only *stores* Military Service Records – they cannot make changes or corrections to these records or to your discharge status. You will need to apply to the review board for your respective service branch for corrections or changes.

Army: Contact the Army Review Board Agency at (703) 607-1600

Air Force: Contact the Board for Corrections for Air Force Records at (240) 857-3502

Navy and Marine Corps: Contact the Board for Correction of Naval Records at (703) 604-6884/(703) 604-6885

Coast Guard: Contact the Board for Correction of Military Records of the Coast Guard at (202) 477-4099

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online, or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is also available.



A Pilgrimage Back to Normandy

“70th Anniversary of D-Day”

This is a continuation from the July/August newsletter where the Director, Ed and Mr. “Red” Smith, a local WWII Veteran from Lexington, traveled to Normandy for the 70th Anniversary along with 21 other WWII Veterans.

Day 5 – June 5, 2014

I forgot to mention yesterday that after Mr. Red and I left the sea wall near the water, he thanked me for escorting him there. He was emotional as he said it and I told him it was worth every penny I spent on this trip to be there with him for that moment. As I said it I, too, became emotional. Mr. Red has to use a walker but gets around pretty good with it. We took longer walks yesterday than he is accustomed to and he tired out. Hopefully, he will be renewed today for our tours.

We boarded our tour bus early for a military ceremony in Picauville, which was a one and a half hour ride. The ceremony was held near the local church in this small, quaint town. The 9th Air Force and other units of the US Army helped liberate this town during the invasion of Normandy. The people of the town, along with current active duty members commemorate this liberation every year. Our Veterans were invited to the ceremony and treated like royalty. Many autograph seekers and people who wanted to show their gratitude were on hand after the moving ceremony. The Veterans posed for pictures with active duty military, local school children and many others. It was a great morning. We had a nice lunch and afterward toured St. Lo, which was obliterated during the war. It was wonderful to see a thriving city. We visited the statue of Major Thomas Howie in the town square. He was from Abbeville, SC, and served by his men and was killed during the Battle of St. Lo.



We had a nice supper and returned to our rooms in preparation of tomorrow’s activities. We must leave on the bus by 6am for the 10:30am D-Day ceremony because of security and heavy traffic here. It should be a patriotic and emotional day. Our Veterans will be VIPs and this is only fitting.

I forgot to mention our lunch menu and it was very significant. We were invited to a steak lunch being served on the grounds of a French Chateau, which could be considered a castle, but smaller. The place was just outside Picauville and under a huge tent. We had great Texas steaks, chili beans, coleslaw and cornbread; all provided by a company from Dallas who calls themselves, The Steak Mission. They provide these meals to troops and Veterans periodically throughout the world. The Veterans truly loved it and basked in the attention they got.

We took a group photo in front of the chateau and then the owner gave us a tour of the home. It was built in 1870 and he was a fifth generation owner. German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel commandeered the chateau during the occupation of France and there is a photo of him and his staff exiting the chateau during the war.



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A Pilgrimage Back to Normandy “70th Anniversary of D-Day” continued from page 8

Day 6 – June 6, 2014

The day began early at 5am. We left for the Normandy American Cemetery at 6:15am and arrived by 7:30am. We received commemorative programs and passes for the 10:45am ceremony. The day was warm, our warmest yet. The Veterans were escorted to a VIP tent where they were showered with coffee, juice, and pastries. Many members of Congress came to shake their hands and speak with them.



There were no South Carolina Congressional delegation members and our Veterans made note of that.

We went through Secret Service security and each Veteran had an active duty Soldier escort to the dais. The event attracted 11 to 12 thousand people and was televised worldwide. The Veterans were all moved by the speeches of the French and the US President.

After the ceremony, President Obama autographed programs, shook the hand of many of our Veterans and talked with them. His speech was very good and hit all the right chords. We were all proud to be in attendance as we reflected on the 9,387 graves that lay in this hallowed ground. This cemetery has many memorials and statues from grateful nations, it was the highest honor to be there and meet many Veterans and family members.

We left the cemetery around noon and headed for a tour and sampling of a local French apple cider. The tour was great and so was the sampling.

We left there for a ride through the countryside and came upon a makeshift village that had tents set up for re-enactors of D-Day. This was complete with vehicles and uniformed people from many countries. We found a shady area, set up tables and chairs and had a nice picnic lunch.



The Veterans were asked if they wanted to ride in the military equipment and many did. Mr. Red jumped at the chance when this was announced. I helped him get into a Dutch vehicle and he held his arms over his head and said “yippee.” I instructed the driver not to let him drive because he did want to drive it. He really enjoyed it and was like a triumphant kid as they drove off.



We returned to our rooms and walked to the local town near our hotel. We were briefed on the next day agenda and our trip to St. Mere Eglise and supper with the Mayor of this town.

We learned later in the evening that 12,000 were in attendance for today’s historic ceremony. We also learned former President George W. Bush, Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and House Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi, were in the VIP tent but it was so crowded we never saw them. It would have been wonderful to meet them. Our Veterans were the only true VIPs in attendance.

Day 7 – June 7, 2014

We started today a lot later due to the long day yesterday. It was cold and rainy compared to the bright, sunny day yesterday. Many of us were sunburned because the sun was in front of us for the D-Day ceremony.

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A Pilgrimage Back to Normandy “70th Anniversary of D-Day” continued from page 9



Our first stop was Gold Beach for one of the Veterans in our group. The Veteran’s ship helped ferry British Soldiers here on D-Day. After this, we headed to the beautiful town, Sainte Mere Eglise, the first town in France liberated by the Allies on D-Day. Traffic was very thick and I counted in a booklet we were given at least 37 different events in Normandy today.

We arrived in Sainte Mere Eglise in the late afternoon and Mr. Red and I walked to the church in town. The church is famous because paratrooper John Steele got his parachute caught in one of the spires on top of the church and could not free himself. It is believed he was shot while parachuting down. He survived after playing dead and was released by the Allies from his position a few hours later. There was a grand ceremony while we were there with French children singing and paying tribute to our World War II heroes. It was an emotional moment.

We journeyed on to a huge building where the mayor of the town hosts a huge dinner to any World War II Veteran and select members of the town. We had wine, beer, and a whole lot of camaraderie. The food was buffet and it was more food that any of us has seen on this entire trip. The 82nd Airborne active duty troops were there and all of them spoke, posed for photos and ate with our Veterans. We were all touched by this and the 82nd Airborne Soldiers call all of our Veterans heroes. They also had a chorus that sang beautiful songs with perfect harmony.

After the singing, local citizens began to clamor for the Veterans. This exchange excited both groups as they thanked the Veterans for their freedom and service. They had yearbooks, scrapbooks, posters, and much more for the Veterans to autograph. They took selfies with their cell phones and posed for hundreds of pictures. The mayor of Sainte Mere Eglise also came by to meet the Veterans. This was all a true first class event and is held annually in this town as a reminder to all that freedom is not free.



Many of our Veterans came in at Utah Beach and we were so close our bus driver took us there as it was nearing darkness. Beautiful monuments here dedicated to what happened in 1944 and I was able to escort Mr. John Beauford down from the monument area in his wheelchair. It was a little tricky and dark except for the moon, but I told him on the way down that a Soldier never leaves another Soldier behind, especially on Utah Beach.

We got back to our condos about 1am and we were exhausted but thrilled at all the events we experienced today. We got our briefing on the next day agenda and retired for the night.

Day 8 – June 8, 2014

We are leaving Normandy today and had our regular breakfast of croissants, jelly and orange juice. Our condos in the little town of Courselles-sur-mer are situated near the ocean and available on a time share rental basis. They are really big by European standards and we have enjoyed staying here.

Mr. Red again tells me stories of his combat days in France and Germany. He is quite proud of his military service in the Army and still has his unit patches that were worn on his uniform. After his service he became employed with Ford Motor Company for a successful career and talks fondly about it. He reflects quite a lot on the past and is amazed he is living at the age of 90.

We pack our bags, load the bus and say goodbye to the region of Normandy. She has amazing beauty with rolling hills, quaint villages and beautiful wheat fields. Bread is abundant here and one of the cheapest things a person can buy. We had a picnic at a rest stop off of the highway and enjoyed the pastoral scenery one last time.

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A Pilgrimage Back to Normandy “70th Anniversary of D-Day” continued from page 10



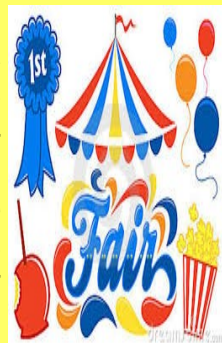
We arrived in Paris late afternoon and immediately went to Versailles, the largest chateau in France. It was the home of French Kings and is of Renaissance architecture. The gates outside of it are partially made of real gold. Mr. Red wasn't able to maneuver the cobblestone streets very well so we opted for a photo shoot of the area.

We arrived at our hotel on the east side of Paris and it is huge and beautiful. After riding through a lot of the city, we determined we would rather be back in Normandy. Mr. Red and I shared a room and got settled in. We had a nice French supper in one of the hotel's banquet rooms. The meal was excellent followed by the greatest of French desserts, a mixture of a few delicacies. For a nightcap, we had a shot glass of cognac; we were told it helps to digest our food better. To be continued...

The story will continue in the next issue.

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 8th and runs through Sunday, October 19th.



Please Note:

There will be no Batesburg/Leesville outreach in October due to scheduling conflicts. Please call the office at 803-785-8400 to schedule a time to see a counselor in the office.

We are sorry for any inconvenience.



ANNUAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Veterans who wear or use a qualifying prescribed prosthetic or orthopedic appliance and/or prescription medication for a service connected disability or skin condition may be eligible for an annual clothing allowance. To be eligible, the appliance must wear or tear clothing, or medication must irreparably damage the Veteran's outer-garments. Effective December 16, 2011, Veterans who wear or use more than one qualifying prescribed prosthetic or orthopedic appliance and/or prescription medication for more than one service-connected disability or skin condition may be eligible for more than one clothing allowance. To be eligible for more than one clothing allowance, the qualifying appliances must wear or tear more than one type of article of the Veteran's clothing and/or medications must irreparably damage more than one type of the Veteran's clothing or outer-garment.



Appliances such as an artificial limb, rigid brace, wheelchair, crutches or other appliance prescribed for the Veteran's service-connected disability are included. Non-rigid appliances, such as knee, ankle, or elbow sleeves are not included. Any medication prescribed for a service connected skin condition that causes permanent stains or otherwise damages the Veteran's outer garments is included. Clothing such as shirts, blouses, pants, skirts, shorts and similar garments permanently damaged by qualifying appliances and/or medications are considered in clothing allowance decisions. Shoes, hats, scarves, underwear, socks, and similar garments are not included.

The application form for the clothing allowance is VAF 10-8678 APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE (<http://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-8678-fill%204-o8.pdf>). Clothing allowance claims should be forwarded to the VA Medical Center (VAMC) or Outpatient Clinic (OPC) of jurisdiction, for the attention of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service.



To be eligible for the 2014 clothing allowance, the Veteran must be found to meet the eligibility requirements as of August 1, 2014. At the end of July 2014, computer generated letter/applications will be issued to Veterans whose records are set to require annual redetermination of clothing allowance eligibility. The 2014 clothing allowance payments for Veterans who have been authorized recurring payments and for others whose awards are input on or before the last processing cycle of August, will be issued from September 1st to October 31st. If you have not received your payment by October 31st, you should contact your local prosthetic representative. Payments authorized after the last processing cycle of August will be made by out-of-system payment processing and should go out about 7 - 10 days after authorization. The 2014 clothing allowance is \$764.13. Veterans who are receiving their compensation payments by direct deposit will receive the clothing allowance payment by direct deposit. Veterans without direct deposit will receive their clothing allowance payments by check to the same address as their compensation payments. A Veteran receiving military retired pay is not required to waive any portion of his/her retired pay to receive the clothing allowance.



2014 LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS PARADE APPLICATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2014 @ 3:00PM

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 12TH YEAR

NO ENTRY FEE, SIGN UP DUE BY OCTOBER 24th, 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
swillis@lex-co.com

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 also be found on the Lexington County VA website.

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)

The History of Columbus Day



The second Monday in October is designated in the United States as Columbus Day. This day commemorates Christopher Columbus' first voyage and sighting of the Americas on October 12, 1492. However, Columbus Day as a federal holiday was not officially recognized until 1937.

Early Commemorations of Columbus

The first recorded ceremony commemorating Columbus in America occurred in 1792, 300 years after his famous first voyage in 1492. To honor Columbus, a ceremony was held in New York, and a monument was dedicated to him in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1892, a statue of Columbus was raised at Columbus Avenue in New York City. Further, at the Columbian Exposition held in Chicago that year, replicas of Columbus' three ships were displayed.

Creating Columbus Day

Italian-Americans were key in the creation of Columbus Day. Beginning on October 12, 1866, New York City's Italian population organized a celebration of the 'discovery' of America. This yearly celebration spread to other cities and became known as Columbus Day in San Francisco in 1869.

Colorado became the first state to observe an official Columbus Day in 1905. Over time other states followed until 1937 when President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed every October 12 as Columbus Day. In 1971, the federal holiday was officially changed by Congress to be observed on the second Monday in October.



Current Celebrations

Since Columbus Day is a designated federal holiday, the post office, government offices, and many banks are closed. Many cities across America stage parades that day. For example, Baltimore claims to have the "Oldest Continuous Marching Parade in America" celebrating Columbus Day. New York City holds a Columbus Celebration that includes a parade down Fifth Avenue and a mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Critics of Columbus Day

Leading up to the 500th anniversary of Columbus sighting of the Americas which occurred in 1992, many groups came out against the celebrations. Columbus had arrived in the Caribbean islands on his first voyage to the New World. He believed that he had reached India and that the Taino, the indigenous people he found there, were in fact Indians. In a later voyage, he captured and sent over 1,200 of the Taino to Europe as slaves. Further, the Spanish who remained on the islands used the Taino people as forced labor, punishing them with torture and death if they resisted. Adding these terrible acts to the unwitting passing of disease from the Europeans to the Taino would mean that the entire population of Hispaniola was wiped out in forty-three years. Many people cite this as the reason why Americans should not be celebrating Columbus' accomplishments. Individuals and groups continue to speak out against and in many cases protest Columbus Day celebrations.



RUN ★ WALK ★ HONOR OUR HEROES!

Join Medal of Honor Recipient
Kyle Carpenter

at the

Stephen Siller
Tunnel to Towers
5K RUN & WALK
SOUTH CAROLINA

SUPPORTED BY  LEXINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER

September 19
Friday ★ 7:00 p.m.
Columbia, SC

Event Celebration
& AWARDS CEREMONY

7:45 p.m. • 1022 Senate Street

FREE ENTRY FOR REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS
AND TWO GUESTS.




SCRemembers911.com
SC Midlands First Responders Historic
Remembrance Memorial




REGISTER NOW
T2TRun.org



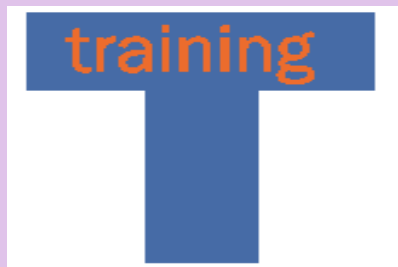
 @T2TSC

 Facebook.com/T2TSC

 T2TSC

Proceeds will benefit the Tunnel to Towers Foundation and its various programs, including Building for America's Bravest, which builds smart homes for catastrophically injured service members. A portion of these funds will also benefit first responders, military service members and their families in South Carolina.

The office will be closed from Wednesday, October 8th through Friday, October 10th due to SCACVAO training in Columbia. Please be patient during this time.



From the Director . . . continued from page 2

Our own Jennifer Hendrix was recognized by County Council for going above the call of duty by providing high quality customer service to a Veteran and her son in July. We are proud of her and the level of professionalism and service she provides daily. Please stop in or call to congratulate her!

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!



"Autumn Is Here"
Pumpkins in the cornfields
Gold among the brown
Leaves of rust and scarlet
Trembling slowly down
Birds that travel southward
Lovely time to play
Nothing is as pleasant
As an autumn day!

Author: John Muir

Dang-it Dolls Workshop

The first workshop of the fall season will be on Saturday, September 13th from 10am to 3pm at the Cayce Masonic Lodge at 1701 12th Street in Cayce. The Lodge Brothers will be preparing their famous Hot Dog Lunch for us.

To date, with your help, we have shipped over 130,000 Dang-it Dolls all over the world. We have volunteers ranging in age from 5 to 90 years old. There is something for everyone to do. This is one place and time where we really mean **THE MORE THE MERRIER!!!**

The same time and location will be used for the meetings on Saturday, October 11th and Saturday, November 8th.



There will be no workshop in December.

Attention Veterans and Active Duty Military!

Are You in NEED of Home Repairs?



Weatherization Assistance Program.... Working in your Community

"Making communities stronger, one family at a time!"

Obtain needed repairs to your home through grant programs. The Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation & Weatherization Program is available to make repairs for low-medium income homeowners. Available to veterans or active duty members of any branch of the US Military that are currently serving, have served, or their surviving spouse!

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

INCOME GUIDELINES:

Must identify and verify all sources of income for each household member. Verification of income must be within 90 days of submission

OWN OR BUYING A HOME:

Must have thirty (30) days ownership.

STATEMENT FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTION:

Must submit last two (2) months of bank statements for all accounts.

COPY OF DEED:

Must be registered and recorded.

PROPERTY TAX:

Must be paid and current.

DD 214:

Or other proof of service.

Please contact Capital Rehab Management

George Lesesne: Phone - 803.238.4375 or email GeorgeLesesne@yahoo.com

Joyce Pue: Phone - 803.261.5772 or email Pues112@yahoo.com

This program is for Veterans, their surviving spouse or active duty members and does have income requirements. The grant money does not have to be repaid and is distributed on a first-come first-served basis each year. The grant allows for repairs such as roofing, windows, doors or HVAC. There is so much the grant can provide for low income Veterans and their surviving spouses to improve their homes, so please call George Lesesne or Joyce Pue at the numbers on the bottom of the flyer.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Did you know that the following events occurred during the months of September/October in history...



September 1, 1939 – Hitler's armies invaded Poland starting WWII in Europe.



September 7, 1963 - The Professional Football Hall of Fame was dedicated in Canton, Ohio.

September 5, 1997 – Mother Teresa died in Calcutta at the age of 87.

September 11, 2001 – The worst terrorists attack in US history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked and then crashed; killing nearly 3,000 people.



September 15, 1916 – Tanks were first used in combat.

September 16, 1976 – General Motors was founded in Flint, Michigan.

September 17, 1930—Construction began on the Hoover Dam.



September 18, 1947 – The US Air Force was established as a separate military service.



September 25, 1789 – The first US Congress proposed 12 Amendments to the Constitution, ten of which, comprising the Bill of Rights, were ratified.

October 1, 1908 – The Model T went on sale.

October 4, 1957 – The space race began as Russia launched the first satellite into orbit.



October 8, 1871 – The great fire in Chicago erupted.

October 13, 1775 – The US Navy was born.

October 14, 1947 – USAF Captain Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier.



October 20, 1818 – The US and Britain agreed to set the US/Canadian border at the 49th parallel.



October 21, 1917 – Jazz great Dizzy Gillespie was born in Cheraw, SC.

October 24, 1945 – The United Nations was founded.

October 28, 1919 – The Statue of Liberty was dedicated in New York harbor.



October 31, 1941 – Mt. Rushmore was completed after 14 years of work.



Falling Behind in Your Mortgage/ Worried about Foreclosure?

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGAL SERVICES

SC HELP- approved Housing Processing Agency

MAY BE ABLE TO HELP AT NO COST

Homeowners worried about foreclosure due to reduction in income caused by unemployment or underemployment, reduction in self-employment income, death of a spouse, catastrophic medical expenses or divorce May Be Eligible for one or more of the following programs administered by SC HELP:

MONTHLY PAYMENT ASSISTANCE :

pays mortgage up to \$36,000 or 24 months whichever comes first while homeowner is seeking employment and a return to self-sustainability

DIRECT LOAN "CATCH UP" ASSISTANCE:

pays up to \$36,000 on past due mortgage to bring current; provided, homeowner can now maintain pay monthly payments

•MPA & DLA are both 5 year forgivable loans if you continue to reside in property



COMBINATION OF MONTHLY AND DIRECT ASSISTANCE:

pays past due mortgage up to \$25,000 and makes monthly payments for a combined total of \$36,000

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR DEED-IN-LIEU OR SHORT-SALE:

provides \$5,000 grant to help transition families from homeownership to rental housing if:

1. Application with SC HELP completed FIRST
2. Permission for short-sale or deed-in-lieu of foreclosure granted by mortgage company
3. Money distributed AFTER execution of deed completed

How To APPLY

South Carolina Legal Services:

1 888 257 1988

Or

1 855 435 7472

Apply online at

www.SCHELP.gov



South Carolina
Legal Services

Balancing the Scales of Justice

Andrea E. Loney, Esquire
Executive Director
2109 Bull Street, P.O. Box 1445, Columbia, SC29201
Email: andrealoney@sclegal.org
Fax: 803-744-4191
www.sclegal.org

SC HELP
Mortgage help for homeowners.



South Carolina Legal Services

Balancing the Scales of Justice

Andrea E. Loney, Esquire
Executive Director
2109 Bull Street | P.O. Box 1445 | Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Email: andrealoney@sclegal.org Fax: (803) 799-9420
www.sclegal.org | www.lawhelp.org/sc | www.probono.net/sc



South Carolina Homeownership
and Employment Lending Program

300-C Outlet Pointe Boulevard
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
www.scmortgagehelp.com

Pre-Registration Information

South Carolina Homeownership and Employment Lending Program have been awarded \$295,431,200 in funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. South Carolina Legal Services will help you gather and submit the documents to apply for mortgage assistance.

1. Full name _____
2. Complete Mailing Address _____
3. Email Address _____ Telephone Number _____
Cell phone Number _____
4. Do you or the co-borrower own and live in the property as a primary residence? _____
5. Was your original first mortgage amount less than \$729,750? _____
6. What is the name of your mortgage company? _____
7. Is your mortgage current or delinquent? _____
8. Are you or the co-borrower unemployed? _____
9. If yes, are you getting unemployment compensation? _____
10. If you are no longer getting unemployment compensation, when did it stop? _____
11. If still employed, please give your anticipated date of termination or reduction in hours? _____
12. Have you or the co-borrower had a significant reduction in your income? _____
13. Why was the income reduced? _____

14. Are you able to complete an online application? _____

How to Apply:

Fax this Form to: 803 799 9420
Call:
SOUTH CAROLINA LEGAL SERVICES
1 888 257 1988
Or
855 HELP 4 SC
Submit an application at
www.SCHelp.com

Featured Medal: **THE AIRMAN'S MEDAL**

The Airman's Medal was established by Congress on July 6, 1960 to take the place of the Soldier's medal which, up until that time, had been awarded to Air Force personnel. The Soldier's medal was established by an Act of Congress on July 2, 1926, for award to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or of a friendly foreign nation, who while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States distinguished himself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. The degree of heroism, while of a lesser degree than that required for the Silver star, must be above the call of duty and clearly set the individual apart from his comrades. Award of this medal is not intended to be made solely on the basis of having saved a life. For acts of lifesaving, or attempted lifesaving, it is required that the action be performed at the risk of one's own life.

The Airman's Medal is worn after the Distinguished Flying Cross and before the Bronze Star. Additional awards of the Airman's Medal are denoted by oak leaf clusters.



Picture of
The Airman's Medal and
Ribbon.

Lexington County Veterans Group

All Lexington County Veterans are invited to attend the weekly meetings. The group meets weekly on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 2:00 pm in the auditorium at 605 West Main Street in Lexington. The group meets for Health Issues and PTSD counseling with a licensed Counselor.

Our Veterans also participate in various social activities such as group lunches, group dinners with wives/significant other, boat trips on Lake Murray, participation in the Lexington County Veterans parade and other general group tours.

For further information, please contact the Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office @ 803-785-8400.



Coming in the Next Issue...

VA Healthcare; EVRs and MERs; Travel Pay;
Veteran's Day programs and free offers; and more on the trip to Normandy.