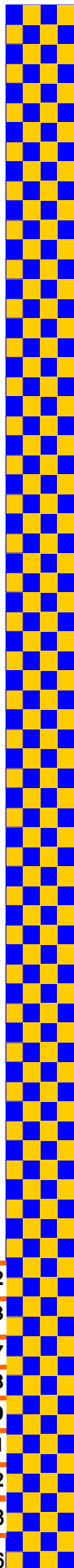




# LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

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

May/June 2015



Lexington, SC.

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## At A Glance Calendar May/June

Weekly on Tuesdays in May	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @ 12 noon
Friday, May 1st	Chapin Outreach
Thursday, May 7th	Gaston Outreach
Friday, May 8th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Saturday, May 9th	Dang-it Doll Workshop
Sunday, May 10th	Mother's Day
Monday, May 11th	Confederate Memorial Day County Offices Closed
Tuesday, May 12th	County Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 13th	Honor Flight
Saturday, May 16th	Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Celebration (see flyer on page 9)
Monday, May 25th	Memorial Day County Offices Closed Memorial Day Activities (see information on page 11)
Tuesday, May 26th	County Council Meeting
Friday, May 29th through Saturday, June 6th	Director out of office @ NACVSO conference
Weekly on Tuesdays in June	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @ 12 noon
Thursday, June 4th	Gaston Outreach
Friday, June 5th	Chapin Outreach
Tuesday, June 9th	County Council Meeting
Friday, June 12th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Sunday, June 14th	Flag Day
Tuesday, June 16th	Hiring Our Heroes Event (see information on page 11)
Sunday, June 21st	Father's Day
Tuesday, June 23rd	County Council Meeting
Friday, July 3rd	County Offices closed

Purple—Holidays/Special Days	Brown—County Council Meetings
Blue—Outreach dates	Pink—Special Events throughout the County
Red—County Offices Closed, No van scheduled and Special Notices	Orange—Director Out of Office
Black—Director's appearances in the County	Green—Lexington County Veterans Group Meetings

### From the Director...

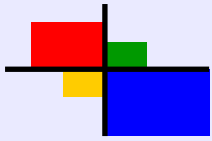
Each May our country commemorates Memorial Day and honors those that gave their lives for our freedom. A lot of stores have holiday sales to promote summer and many people flock to Myrtle Beach or other places to relax. Many Americans have forgotten what this day is all about but Veterans organizations and their members will never forget and always honor these brave Americans. Please note ceremonies at Fort Jackson, Fort Jackson National Cemetery and local ceremonies that honor this day. We have some mentioned in this issue and The State and Lexington Chronicle newspapers will list other ceremonies in the Midlands. I encourage everyone to attend a ceremony to honor Memorial Day.

I recently stood in the room where the U.S. Constitution was written by President James Madison at his home in central Virginia. As I stood there during the tour all I could think about was how powerful our Constitution is and is the very document that formed our government. I had no idea it was written in his home over the winter prior to the Constitutional Convention. I came away from his home with a new appreciation for what he did and for our government. I also visited the home of Thomas Jefferson, who wrote our Declaration of Independence and put our country on the path to fight for the freedoms we enjoy today. Both places are beautiful with lush green meadows and incredible views of the mountains. I stood in the room of the home where General Robert E. Lee and General Ulysses S. Grant signed documents to end the Civil War in Appomattox, Virginia. It gave me an appreciation for peace at a place where healing began in 1865 and for American history.

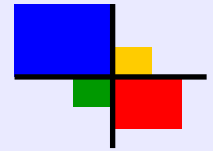
I hope you will get out and see some historical sites this summer and enjoy the freedoms we have as Americans and that you will honor Memorial Day.

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!



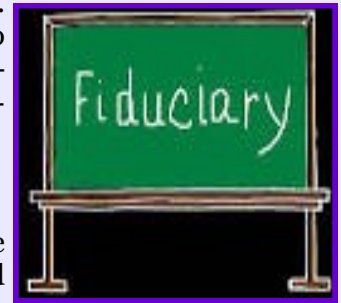


# VA Fiduciary Program



## WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FIDUCIARY PROGRAM?

The fiduciary program provides oversight of the VA's most vulnerable beneficiaries who are unable to manage their VA benefits because of injury, disease, the infirmities of advanced age, or under 18 years of age. The VA appoints fiduciaries to manage VA benefits for these beneficiaries and the VA has oversight of the VA-appointed fiduciaries to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the beneficiaries they serve. This appointment and oversight of fiduciaries is handled through fiduciary hubs. Currently, there are seven fiduciary hubs in the United States. We are lucky to have one at the Columbia VA Regional Office. This fiduciary hub handles the fiduciary claims for South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Approximately 28,000 claims are being processed through the Columbia fiduciary hub.



## WHAT IS A FIDUCIARY?

A fiduciary is an individual or entity who has been appointed by the VA to receive VA benefits on behalf of a beneficiary for the use and benefit of the beneficiary and the beneficiary's dependents.

## WHEN IS A FIDUCIARY NEEDED?

It is the VA's policy that every beneficiary has the right to manage his or her VA benefits. However, in cases where medical evidence indicates that the beneficiary cannot manage their VA benefits, the VA may decide that the beneficiary needs the assistance of a fiduciary. This determination may also be made based upon notice that a court has appointed a guardian for the beneficiary. The VA's decision that a beneficiary needs a fiduciary may be appealed to the Board of Veterans Appeals.

## WHAT IS THE FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENT PROCESS?

Prior to appointment of a fiduciary, the VA will assess the well-being and needs of the beneficiary and the beneficiary's dependents in light of their funds. This assessment or field examination is based, in part, upon a face-to-face meeting with the beneficiary at the beneficiary's home or place of residence.



An assessment or field examination, conducted by a VA field examiner, checks the qualifications of a proposed fiduciary to include, but is not limited to:

1. The willingness to serve and fulfill the responsibilities of a fiduciary.
2. A face-to-face meeting with the prospective fiduciary.
3. A credit history check.
4. A criminal background check.
5. Character witness interviews.

Currently, South Carolina has 12 field examiners, roughly one examiner for every four counties in the state.

In some cases, the VA may require the appointed fiduciary to submit annual accountings and/or obtain a surety bond. The VA instructs the fiduciary regarding the duties and obligations of the position, and provides information regarding the beneficiary's needs, to include recurring monthly bills.

After the initial appointment of a fiduciary, the VA conducts follow-up visits with beneficiaries and fiduciaries to monitor the beneficiary's well-being and fiduciary's performance. If the VA identifies unmet needs or adverse conditions, the VA may remove the fiduciary and appoint a new fiduciary for the beneficiary.



Continued on page 4

## VA Fiduciary Program continued from page 3

### WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED AT AN ASSESSMENT/FIELD EXAMINATION?

During the assessment/field examination, please have the following information available for review by the field examiner:

1. Photo Identification.
2. The source and amount of all monthly bills, recurring expenses and income for the beneficiary.
3. A list of all assets, to include bank accounts, owned property, stocks, bonds, life insurance, burial plans, for the beneficiary.
4. A list of all current medications for the beneficiary.
5. Name, phone number, and address of the beneficiary's primary care doctor
6. Name, phone number, and address of the beneficiary's next of kin.



### WHO MAY SERVE AS A FIDUCIARY?

In deciding who should act as fiduciary for a beneficiary, the VA will always select the most effective and least restrictive fiduciary arrangement. This means that the VA will first consider whether the beneficiary can manage their VA benefits with limited VA supervision under supervised direct pay. The VA will consider the choice of the beneficiary, this could be the beneficiary's spouse, family members, friends, or caregivers who are qualified and willing to provide fiduciary services for the beneficiary without a fee. As a last resort, the VA will consider appointment of a paid fiduciary.



### HOW DO I BECOME A FIDUCIARY?

If you are interested in serving as a fiduciary without a fee for a family member, friend, or person for whom you are a caregiver, please submit a request with the beneficiary's name, VA file number, and your name and contact information, to the VA Regional Office nearest you. You may obtain the address of the office nearest you by calling 1-800-827-1000.

If you are interested in being considered to serve as a fiduciary who may receive a fee, please submit your resume with a cover letter to the following e-mail address: [VA\\_Fiduciary@va.gov](mailto:VA_Fiduciary@va.gov). Please include your name, the name of your organization or business (if applicable), and your mailing and e-mail addresses with your request.

### WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

The determination that you are unable to manage your VA benefits does not affect your non-VA finances, or your right to vote.

You have the right to appeal the VA's decision finding that you are unable to manage your VA benefits. You also have the right to appeal the VA's selection of the fiduciary. If you disagree with the VA on either of these matters you may:

1. appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals by telling us you disagree with our decision and want the Board to review it, or
2. give us evidence we do not already have that may lead us to change our decision.

You may also request to have your ability to manage your VA benefits be re-evaluated, or to have a new fiduciary appointed, at any time. If you wish a re-evaluation, please submit your request in writing with any supporting medical evidence to the fiduciary hub of jurisdiction.



Continued on page 13

# IMPORTANT DAY VAN INFORMATION

**The van runs on Mondays and Wednesdays taking Veterans to appointments at DORN VAMC for their scheduled appointments between 9am and 1pm. Currently, we have only three van drivers and are running the van on a very limited schedule. If you need to schedule a ride on the DAV van, please call the office for availability.**



**If you can volunteer to drive the DAV van at least one day a month, contact the office at 803-785-8400.**



## 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



**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.

*Appointments are strongly encouraged. Call the office at 803-785-8400 to schedule a time.*

## 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.



The image features a stylized American flag with a weathered, wooden texture. The stars and stripes are rendered in a way that suggests they are painted or carved into a surface of aged wood. The text is overlaid in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**A SOLDIER DOESN'T FIGHT**

**BECAUSE OF WHAT IS**

**IN FRONT OF HIM..**

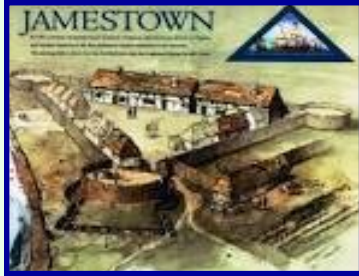
**HE FIGHTS BECAUSE HE**

**LOVES WHAT HE**

**LEFT BEHIND**

## *The History of Jamestown*

The founding of Jamestown, America's first permanent English colony, in Virginia in 1607 (13 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth in Massachusetts) sparked a series of cultural encounters that helped shape the nation and the world. The government, language, customs, beliefs and aspirations of these early Virginians are all part of the United States' heritage today.



The colony was sponsored by the Virginia Company of London, a group of investors who hoped to profit from the venture. Chartered in 1606 by King James I, the company also supported English national goals of counterbalancing the expansion of other European nations abroad, seeking a northwest passage to the Orient, and converting the Virginia Indians to the Anglican religion.

The *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed* and *Discovery*, carrying 105 passengers, one of whom died during the voyage, departed from England in December 1606 and reached the Virginia coast in late April 1607. The expedition was led by Captain

Christopher Newport. On May 13, after two weeks of exploration, the ships arrived at a site on the James River selected for its deep water anchorage and good defensive position. The passengers came ashore the next day, and work began on the settlement. Initially, the colony was governed by a council of seven, with one member serving as president.

Serious problems soon emerged in the small English outpost, which was located in the midst of a chiefdom of about 14,000 Algonquian-speaking Indians ruled by the powerful leader Powhatan. Relations with the Powhatan Indians were tenuous, although trading opportunities were established. An unfamiliar climate, as well as brackish water supply and lack of food, and conditions possibly aggravated by a prolonged drought, led to disease and death. Many of the original colonists were upper-class Englishmen, and the colony lacked sufficient laborers and skilled farmers.



The first two English women arrived at Jamestown in 1608, and more came in subsequent years. Men outnumbered women, however, for most of the 17th century.

Captain John Smith became the colony's leader in September 1608 (the fourth in a succession of council presidents) and established a "no work, no food" policy. Smith had been instrumental in trading with the Powhatan Indians for food. However, in the fall of 1609, he was injured by burning gunpowder and left for



England. Smith never returned to Virginia, but promoted colonization of North America until his death in 1631, and published numerous accounts of the Virginia colony, providing invaluable material for historians.

Smith's departure was followed by the "starving time," a period of warfare between the colonists and Indians and the deaths of many English men and women from starvation and disease. Just when the colonists decided to abandon Jamestown in Spring 1610, settlers with supplies arrived from England, eager to find wealth in

Virginia. This group of new settlers arrived under the second charter issued by King James I. This charter provided for stronger leadership under a governor who served with a group of advisors, and the introduction of a period of military law that carried harsh punishments for those who did not obey.

In order to make a profit for the Virginia Company, settlers tried a number of small industries, including glassmaking, wood production, and pitch, tar, and potash manufacturing. However, until the introduction of tobacco as a cash crop in about 1613 by colonist John Rolfe, who later married Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas, none of the colonists' efforts to establish profitable enterprises were successful. Tobacco cultivation required large amounts of land and labor and stimulated the rapid growth of the Virginia colony. Settlers moved onto the lands occupied by the Powhatan Indians, and increased numbers of indentured servants came to Virginia.



Continued on page 16

# VA Health Care

The Veterans Health Administration is America's largest integrated health care system with over 1,700 sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics, community living centers, domiciliaries, Vet Centers and various other facilities which serve 8.76 million Veterans each year. If you served in the active military, naval or air service and were separated under any condition other than dishonorable, you may qualify for VA health care benefits. Once enrolled, Veterans may receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country.



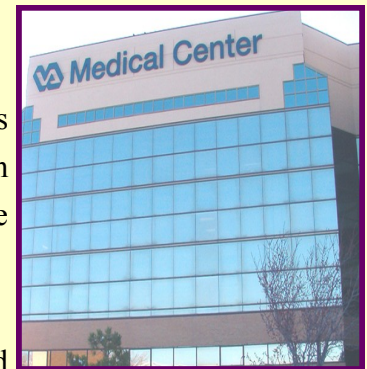
## Enrollment

The VA operates an annual enrollment system that helps to manage the provision of health care. The VA applies a variety of factors during the application verification process when determining a Veterans' eligibility for enrollment. Once a Veteran is enrolled, that Veteran remains enrolled in the VA health care system and maintains access to certain VA health benefits. Once your application is successfully processed, you will be assigned an enrollment priority group. The VA uses priority groups to balance demand for VA health care enrollment with their resources. Certain Veterans may be eligible for enrollment in more than one priority group. In that case, the VA will always place you in the highest priority group in which you are eligible. Under the VA Health Benefits Package, the same services are generally available to all enrolled Veterans. Once enrolled, you will receive a personalized Veterans Handbook, which will detail your VA health benefits and provide important information concerning your access to VA health care.



## VA Health Care for Women Veterans

Each VA Medical Center has a women Veterans programs manager who is designated to advise and advocate for women Veterans. They can assist women Veterans with accessing medical services from primary care to specialized care for chronic conditions or reproductive health.



## Apply for VA Health Care

The simplest way to apply for VA health benefits is by completing and submitting VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits. Veterans already enrolled in VA health care can update their information by completing VA Form 10-10EZR, Renewal Application for Health Benefits.



Veterans can enroll in VA health care by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST, at any VA health care facility or VA regional office. For additional information on VA health care, visit [www.va.gov/health](http://www.va.gov/health).



Fort Jackson's  
**Vietnam Veterans'**  
**Welcome Home Celebration**  
**Saturday, May 16, 2015**

Please join us at Hilton Field in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War by honoring our Vietnam Veterans and giving them a welcome home they never received.

**Events include:**

- ◆ 5K run (8 a.m.)
- ◆ Health Benefits Expo (9 a.m.)
- ◆ Parade (4 p.m.)
- ◆ Car Show
- ◆ Period Vehicles and Aircraft
- ◆ Vietnam Firebase
- ◆ "The Moving Vietnam Wall"
- ◆ Billy Currington Concert (7 p.m.)
- ◆ Fireworks

For more information call: (803) 319-6520  
Email: [FJVietnamVeteran2015@gmail.com](mailto:FJVietnamVeteran2015@gmail.com)



**VIETNAM**



## VA TRAVEL BENEFITS

If you meet the criteria below, you may be eligible for mileage reimbursement or special transport in association with obtaining VA health care services.

### *You Qualify If:*

1. You have a service connected (SC) rating of 30% or more, or
2. You are traveling for treatment of a SC condition, or
3. You receive a VA pension, or
4. Your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or
5. You are traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension examination.

### *You Qualify for Special Mode Transportation (Ambulance, Wheelchair van, etc.) if:*

1. Your medical condition requires an ambulance or a specially equipped van as determined by a VA clinician, and
2. You meet one of the eligibility criteria in 1 through 4 above, and
3. The travel is pre-authorized (authorization is not required for emergencies if a delay would be hazardous to life or health)

General travel is paid at \$0.415 (41.5 cents) per mile.

## Medical Expense Reports

For Veterans and Surviving Spouses not receiving the maximum Non-Service Connection Pension or Survivor Benefits, the VA may be able to pay you at a higher rate if you identify expenses the VA considers allowable. Medical and dental expenses paid by you may be deductible from the income VA counts when determining your benefit entitlement. Any medical or dental expense that you paid for a member of your household (self, spouse, child, etc.) for which you were not reimbursed may also be counted. Expenses may be listed on a VA Form 21P-8416 – **Medical Expense Report (MER)** - and submitted anytime for the previous year. For example: Medical Expense Reports for 2014 may be submitted anytime during the calendar year of 2015.

***You can contact our office now at 803-785-8400 to schedule your appointment for us to help you complete your 2014 MER.***

## Help Welcome Home Next Honor Flight — May 13, 2015



Come and help welcome back home the Veterans from the May 13th Honor Flight as they return to the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. Veterans usually start returning around 8pm to 8:30pm. If you are at the airport by 7:30pm you will be able to participate in the welcome home celebration.



# Fort Jackson News...

Fort Jackson in collaboration with the US Chamber of Commerce and the Columbia Chamber hosts a "2015 Hiring Our Heroes" event on June 16th at the Solomon Center on Fort Jackson from 10am to 2pm. This is a free event open to the military, transitioning service members, military spouses and the Veteran community. Job seekers are highly encouraged to register at <http://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/columbia-hiring-fair>.



## Memorial Day Happenings

9am Memorial Day Ceremony at Fort Jackson Cemetery. For more information contact the cemetery @ 866-577-5248.

10am Memorial Day Ceremony at Fort Jackson Headquarters. This includes a 21 gun salute. For more information contact Fort Jackson Army Community Service @ 803-751-5256.

10am Memorial Day Program at Caughman-Harmon Funeral Home in Lexington. For more information contact the funeral home @ 803-359-6118.

10am Memorial Day Program in the Town of Pelion to include the dedication of their Veteran's Memorial. This is adjacent to their town hall. For more information, contact Diane Rawl @ 803-206-1896.

### *In Flanders Fields*

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row by row,  
That mark our place;  
and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn,  
saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved,  
and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands  
we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep,  
though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

*By John McCrae*

# ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Did you know that the following events occurred during the months of May/June...



**May 1, 1707** - Great Britain was formed from a union between England and Scotland. The United Kingdom today consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



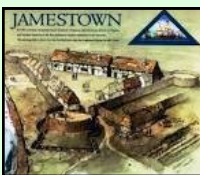
**May 4, 1494** - During his second journey of exploration in the New World, Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica.

**May 5, 1961** - Alan Shepard became the first American in space.

**May 6, 1937** - The German airship, the Hindenburg, burst into flames following a trans-Atlantic voyage.



**May 7, 1915** - The British passenger ship, the *Lusitania*, was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland. The attack hastened neutral America's entry into World War I.



**May 10, 1869** - The newly constructed tracks of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railways were first linked at Promontory Point, Utah, with a golden spike.

**May 14, 1607** - The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia.



**May 17, 1875** - The first Kentucky Derby horse race took place at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky.

**May 18, 1980** - Mount St. Helens volcano erupted in southwestern Washington State. This was the first major eruption since 1857.

**May 21, 1881** - The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton.



**May 27, 1937** - In San Francisco, 200,000 people celebrated the grand opening of the Golden Gate Bridge by strolling across it.

**May 30, 1783** - The *Pennsylvania Evening Post* became the first daily newspaper published in America.



**June 4, 1989** - The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China.

**June 6, 1944** - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France.



**June 14, 1777** - John Adams introduced a resolution before Congress mandating a United States flag. This anniversary is celebrated each year in the U.S. as Flag Day.

**June 18, 1983** - Dr. Sally Ride, became the first American woman in space.



**June 20, 1782** - The U.S. Congress officially adopted the Great Seal of the United States of America.

**June 25, 1876** - General George A. Custer, leading 250 men, attacked an encampment of Sioux Indians near Little Bighorn River in Montana. Custer and his men were then attacked by 2000-4000 Indian braves. Only one scout and a single horse survived 'Custer's Last Stand'.



**June 30, 1971** - The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was enacted, granting the right to vote in all federal, state and local elections to American citizens 18 years or older.



## 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.

The Veterans group also participates 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 at 803-785-8400.



## Dang-it Dolls Workshop

*The May workshop will be held on Saturday, May 9th at the Cayce Masonic Lodge, 1701 12th Street, Cayce, SC 29033 from 10am until 3:00PM.*

Mark your calendar as there will be no workshops until Saturday, September 12, 2015, same time and place. So grab a friend and come join in with the stuffing and decorating of the dolls so we can bring smiles and stress relief to our service men and women. To date, with your help, over 140,000 Dang-it Dolls have been shipped all over the world. We have volunteers ranging in age from 5 to 90 years of age. There is something for everyone to do and this is the one place where THE MORE THE MERRIER really counts.



## VA Fiduciary Program continued from page 4



The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act prohibits you from purchasing, possessing, receiving or transporting a firearm or ammunition if you have “been adjudicated as a mental defective or been committed to a mental institution.” In compliance with this act, the VA reports the names of incompetent beneficiaries to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), which then adds the names to a database called the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Gun dealers must check NICS for the name of a potential buyer before selling him/her a firearm. You may be fined and/or imprisoned if you knowingly violate this law. You may apply to the VA for relief of firearms prohibitions imposed by the law by submitting your request to the VA. The VA will determine whether such relief is warranted.

For more information, you may contact the Columbia fiduciary hub at: PO Box 9367, Columbia, SC 29209 or toll free at 1-888-407-0144 option 1.

“There are some who’ve forgotten why we have a military.  
It’s not to promote war, it’s to be prepared for peace.”

- President Ronald Reagan





FOR YOUR SERVICE

*let us serve you.*



Every Monday

All active, retired and reserve members of the military and their families receive these special discounts.

\$8.99 Dinner, \$5.99 Lunch  
Kids eat for \$1.99



Mondays only. Must show military ID. Good up to 4 family members including military member (active or reserve or retired). Kids\* being defined as 11 years of age or younger. At participating restaurants only. Limited time only. Beverage and Tax not included. Kids meal includes beverage. ©2014 Ovation Brands.

## VETERANS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Veteran Transportation Services (VTS) is a new program offered by the Dorn VAMC in Columbia. Our office at 605 West Main Street in Lexington,

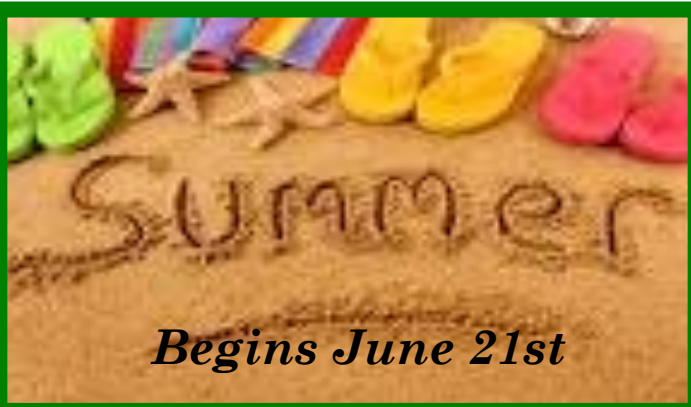


has been deemed a shuttle-stop for the "Park and Ride" service on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays only. These are the days that our van does not run. The shuttle runs 8am-4pm except on holidays and will be at our location at 7am. They will pick up in the emergency lane at the front of the building and leave promptly at 7:10am. A Veteran living within a 25 mile radius of the hospital are picked up at their home. Any Veteran with appointments at the VAMC Dorn may



ride; they can be handicapped, in a wheelchair or on oxygen. For more information on this new program, please contact Steven Torres at 803-776-4000 ext 6398.

**Please do not contact our office,**  
**all inquires should be directed to**  
**Mr. Torres.**



*Begins June 21st*



You are invited to a

## **Memorial Day Service**

“A hero is someone who has given his or her life  
to something bigger than oneself”  
~ Joseph Campbell

Monday, May 25, 2015

10:00am

Caughman-Harman Funeral Home  
503 North Lake Drive  
Lexington, SC 29072  
803-359-6118

Come help us remember those who gave  
their lives to fight for our freedom.

Light refreshments will be served following the Service

## ***Featured Medal:***

### **Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal**

The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) is a military award which was created under Executive Order 12830 by George H. W. Bush on January 9, 1993. The medal was designed by the Institute of Heraldry and was first issued in December 1993.

The MOVSM recognizes those members of the military (active duty, reserve and national guard) who perform substantial volunteer service to the local community above and beyond the duties required as a member of the United States Armed Forces. Such volunteer service must be made in a sustained and direct nature towards the civilian community, must be significant in nature to produce tangible results, and must reflect favorably on the military service and the United States Department of Defense. The definition of volunteer service is left intentionally vague, allowing for a wide variety of activities and volunteer duties which would qualify a service member for the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. Typical volunteer work includes Volunteer Emergency Services (like the Civil Air Patrol), Habitat for Humanity, soup kitchen work, etc.

The MOVSM is a bronze medal, 1 1/4 inches in diameter. The obverse bears five interlaced annulets behind a five-pointed star, surrounded by a laurel wreath. On the reverse is an oak sprig with three leaves and two acorns between the inscription *OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE* above and *UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES* below. The suspension and service ribbon consists of the following stripes: bluebird and goldenlight.



Picture of the  
Outstanding  
Volunteer Service

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The first documented Africans in Virginia arrived in 1619. They were from the kingdom of Ndongo in Angola, West Central Africa, and had been captured during war with the Portuguese. While these first Africans may have been treated as indentured servants, the customary practice of owning Africans as slaves for life appeared by mid-century. The number of African slaves increased significantly in the second half of the 17th century, replacing indentured servants as the primary source of labor.

The first representative government in British America began at Jamestown in 1619 with the convening of a general assembly, at the request of settlers who wanted input in the laws governing them. After a series of events, including a 1622 war with the Powhatan Indians and misconduct among some of the Virginia Company leaders in England, the Virginia Company was dissolved by the king in 1624, and Virginia became a royal colony. Jamestown continued as the center of Virginia's political and social life until 1699 when the seat of government moved to Williamsburg. Although Jamestown ceased to exist as a town by the mid 1700s, its legacies are embodied in today's United States.



***Coming in the Next Issue...Appeals and apportionments***