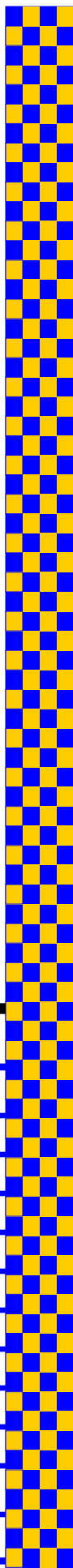




# LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

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

September/October 2016



Lexington, SC.

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**At A Glance Calendar  
September/October**

For a list of events in Lexington County for September & October

See page 17 - Happenings Around Lexington County

Weekly on Tuesdays in September

Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting from 10am to 12 noon

Thursday, September 1st

Gaston Outreach

Friday, September 2nd

Chapin Outreach

Monday, September 5th

Labor Day  
County offices closed/No DAV van

Friday, September 9th

VAMC Mental Health Summit  
See flyer on page 23

Saturday, September 10th

Dang-it Doll Workshop  
More information on page 16

Sunday, September 11th

Patriots Day

Thursday, September 15th

Blue Star Mothers PTSD Seminar  
See Flyer on page 18

Friday, September 16th

Tunnel to Tower 5K Walk/Run  
More information on page 10

Thursday, September 22nd

Autumn Begins

Tuesday, September 27th

Military Career & Resource Fair  
See flyer on page 21  
County Council Meeting

Weekly on Tuesdays in October

Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting from 10am to 12 noon

Thursday, October 6th

Gaston Outreach

Friday, October 7th

Chapin Outreach

Saturday, October 8th

Dang-it Doll Workshop  
More information on page 16

Monday, October 10th

Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 11th

County Council Meeting

Friday, October 14th

Lexington County Sr. Staff Retreat

Sunday, October 16th

National Bosses Day

Monday, October 24th

United Nations Day

Tuesday, October 25th

County Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 25th through

SCACVAO Fall Conference in Myrtle Beach

Friday, October 28th

Monday, October 31st

Halloween

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...**

With the hot, sultry summer weather behind us we look to the fall season and think of apples, pumpkins and cooler weather. Our family always enjoys traveling to Hendersonville, NC to pick apples at local farms. This is a great family event and also teaches our children the work that goes into apple harvesting.

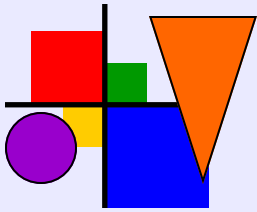
Our office has grown with a new position approved by County Council in late June. We are grateful to them for the confidence they have in our office and this will enable us to help more Veterans and their survivors. Our new benefits counselor is Jennifer Parler, who was previously our Administrative Assistant. Our new Administrative Assistant is Dana Forrester and we are delighted to have them as members of our team. Please stop by the office or call Dana and welcome her to our department.

Plans are moving along well for the renovation of our main building and our excitement has grown in looking over the plans for our new office complex. Construction is to begin in November after the general election and is expected to be completed sometime in June 2017. Our office will be located in the front of the building next to Voter Registration and we are very pleased with this. You will find a state of the art office with a big lobby and other appropriate office amenities. We look forward to this with great anticipation!

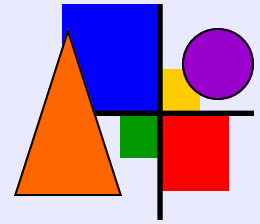
The Lexington County Veterans Group meets in the auditorium of our building most Tuesday's from 10am to 12 noon and all honorably discharged Veterans are welcome to attend or to join the group. They are a great group and perform a lot of community volunteer work as well as participating in patriotic ceremonies and events.

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!





# 100% Permanent & Total Benefits



Veterans rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be permanently and totally disabled (100% P&T) by reason of a service connected disability or disabilities may be eligible for some or all of the following entitlements. The VA Regional Office (VARO) will provide a summary of benefits letter upon request. You will need to call the VARO at 1-800-827-1000 to obtain this letter prior to applying for these benefits and the letters will usually take five to seven working days. You can also request property tax exemption letters for your home and vehicle from our office. These are signed by the County VA Director with a copy of your current rating decision.

## Disabled Veterans Special License Plates

### **Disabled Veteran Tag or “D” Tag:**

This plate is a free and permanent license plate and is available to individuals who submit proper certification from the Veterans Administration. Applicants must complete DMV Form MV-37 Application for Military License Plate and provide a letter or other documentation from the U.S., Regional or County Veterans Administration certifying that he or she is a war time disabled Veteran who: (1) is entitled to compensation for the loss of use of one or both legs or arms, or (2) as a permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to a degree as to constitute virtual blindness and is entitled to a special monthly statutory award by reason thereof, or (3) is a SC Veteran classified as totally and permanently disabled due to service-connected disabilities as determined from the medical records on file with the VA. There is a limit of two plates per applicant; either two vehicle plates, two motorcycle plates or one of each. The applicant cannot have four plates. The surviving spouse of a certified disabled Veteran may obtain or retain the license plate until remarried. These plates allow for free parking at municipal parking meters (SC Code of Laws 56-5-2585) but DOES NOT allow parking in designated handicapped (wheelchair) parking spaces. In order to be able to park in a designated handicapped parking space, qualified disabled Veterans must have a Disabled Veteran Handicapped plate displaying a wheelchair emblem.



### **Disabled Veteran Handicapped Tag:**

To obtain this plate, applicants must ALSO be certified permanently handicapped by a licensed physician on DMV form RG-007A Disabled License Plate and Placard Application and provide a prescription order from a licensed physician. There is a limit of two plates per applicant; either two vehicle plates, two motorcycle plates or one of each. The applicant cannot have four plates. The surviving spouse of a certified disabled Veteran may obtain or maintain this type of license plate until remarried if they are certified as disabled by a licensed physician. This plate allows free parking at municipal parking meters (SC Code of Laws 56-5-2585) AND ALSO allows parking in designated handicapped (wheelchair) parking spaces.



Continued on page 4

## **100% Permanent & Total Benefits continued from page 3**

### **SC Hunting and Fishing Licenses**

A permanently and totally disabled Veteran may obtain a statewide fishing and hunting license at no cost. This license includes the privilege of hunting big game, hunting on wildlife management area lands, state migratory waterfowl and saltwater fishing. It must be issued by the Department of Natural Resources and is valid for three years. To recertify, the disabled Veteran must furnish proof that he or she is currently receiving benefits.



### **PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

#### **Vehicle Tax Exemption**

In accordance to SC Law 56-3-110, no more than two personal motor vehicles owned by a disabled Veteran for which special license tags have been issued by the SC Department of Motor Vehicles shall be exempt from state, county, and municipal taxes. A "D" tag is not required for the vehicle(s) to be tax exempt. The un-remarried surviving spouse may keep a disabled Veteran tag on one vehicle and the vehicle will be exempt from taxes. The SC Department of Revenue will issue a Certificate of Exemption of Property for each vehicle.



#### **Home Tax Exemption**

In accordance to SC Law 12-37-220, a dwelling and the lot (up to five acres) on which it is situated is exempt from real property taxes by state, county or municipality. The un-remarried surviving spouse of the disabled Veteran receives this same tax exemption provided: (1) the house was jointly owned at the time of the Veteran's death, (2) the surviving spouse remains unmarried, and (3) the surviving spouse acquires ownership of the property. The effective date of the tax exemption is dependent upon the ownership of the property on December 31 of the year prior to the Veteran being rated as permanent and totally disabled. The SC Department of Revenue will issue a Certificate of Exemption of Property and will forward it to the Lexington County Auditor's office.

### **MILITARY ID CARD**

Unlimited exchange and commissary store privileges in the United States are available to a 100% service connected P&T disabled Veteran or 100% service connected Veterans who have a future exam, and spouses, surviving spouses and children 18 & under or 18-23 if still in school.



### **WAIVER OF PREMIUM FOR VA LIFE INSURANCE**

Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) is life insurance for Veterans who have received a service-connected disability rating by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The basic S-DVI program insures eligible Veterans for up to \$10,000 of coverage. Veterans who have the basic S-DVI coverage and are totally disabled are eligible to have their premiums waived. If a premium waiver is granted, policyholders may apply for additional coverage of up to \$30,000 under the Supplemental S-DVI program. Premiums for Supplemental S-DVI coverage, however, cannot be waived.



### **SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of: (a) permanently and totally service-connected disabled Veterans or (b) a Veteran who died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits.



Continued on page 5

## 100% Permanent & Total Benefits continued from page 4

### **CHAMPVA FOR DEPENDENTS**

CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Veterans Administration) is a healthcare benefits program for: (1) Dependents of Veterans who have been rated by the VA as having a total and permanent disability; (2) Survivors of Veterans who died from VA-rated service-connected conditions, or who at the time of death, were rated permanently and totally disabled from a VA-rated service-connected condition; and (3) Survivors of persons who died in the line of duty, and not due to misconduct.



Under CHAMPVA, the VA shares the cost of covered healthcare services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. The administration of CHAMPVA is centralized to the Health Administration Center in Denver, Colorado. In general, CHAMPVA covers most healthcare services and supplies that are medically and psychologically necessary. Upon confirmation of eligibility, applicants will receive program material that specifically addresses covered and non covered services and supplies.

Generally, applicants can expect to receive written notification from the Health Administrative Center within 45 days from the mailing of the application. To streamline the process, applicants are encouraged to complete the *Application for CHAMPVA Benefits*, VA form 10-10d in its entirety and to attach all required documents. As further explained on the application, required documents include a copy of each applicant's Medicare Card (if Medicare eligible) and a school certification for all applicant children between the ages of 18 and 23.

### **SC EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS**

A child of a wartime Veteran, upon application to and approval by the South Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs, may be admitted to any state supported college, university, or post high school technical education institution free of tuition so long as his work and conduct is satisfactory to the governing body of the institution provided:

- the Veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entry into service and during service or has been a resident of this state for at least one year and still resides in this state, or
- if the Veteran is deceased, resided in this state for one year before his death, and
- provided the Veteran served honorably in a branch of the military service of the United States during a war period, and:
  1. was killed in action;
  2. died from other causes while in the service;
  3. died of disease or disability resulting from service;
  4. was a Prisoner of War as defined by Congress or Presidential proclamation during such war period;
  5. is permanently and totally disabled as determined by the VA
  6. has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor;
  7. has been awarded the Purple Heart Medal;
  8. is missing in action; or
  9. the applicant is the child of a deceased Veteran who qualifies under items 4 and 5.



Eligibility - The child must be the child, step-child, or adopted child of a Veteran who meets the residency requirements, is twenty-six years of age or younger, and is pursuing any type of undergraduate degree.

# IMPORTANT DAV VAN INFORMATION

The van runs on certain Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays taking Veterans to appointments at DORN VAMC for their scheduled appointments between 9am and 1pm.



If you need to schedule a ride on the DAV van, please call the office for dates and space availability at 803-785-8400.

## **WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER VAN DRIVERS!!!**

If you are 18 or older or know someone who may be interested in volunteering to drive the DAV van at least one day a month, please contact the office at 803-785-8400.



There is a new number to



call for billing issues through the VAMC for any private health care that was fee based out.

That number is  
1-877-881-7618  
9am to 5pm EST.



There has been a delay in the start of construction for the parking garage at the Dorn VAMC in Columbia. The start of construction has been postponed until February 2017 and construction should take 10-12 months.

**POSTPONED**



# ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Did you know that the following events occurred during the months of September/October?



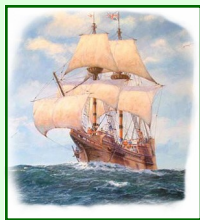
**September 1, 1939** - At 5.30 a.m., Hitler's armies invaded Poland starting World War II in Europe.



**September 4, 1609** - The island of Manhattan was discovered by navigator Henry Hudson.

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

**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 16, 1620** - The *Mayflower* ship departed from England, bound for America with 102 passengers and a small crew.

**September 22, 1776** - During the American Revolution, Nathan Hale was executed without a trial after he was caught spying on British troops on Long Island, his last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."



**September 23, 1991** - Armenia declared its independence from the Soviet Union.

**September 26, 1774** - American folk legend, Johnny Appleseed was born in Leominster, Massachusetts.



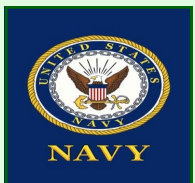
**September 30, 1955** - Actor James Dean was killed in a car crash in California at the age of 24.

**October 1, 1908** - Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.



**October 2, 1968** - California's Redwood National Park was established.

**October 9, 1940** - John Lennon, member of The Beatles, was born in Liverpool, England.



**October 13, 1775** - The United States Navy was born after the Second Continental Congress authorized the acquisition of a fleet of ships.

**October 16, 1701** - Yale University was founded in Killingworth, Connecticut (as the Collegiate School of Connecticut).



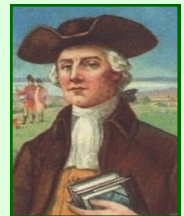
**October 20, 1818** - The U.S. and Britain agreed to set the U.S./Canadian border at the 49th parallel.

**October 26, 1825** - The Erie Canal opened as the first major man-made waterway in America.



**October 28, 1955** - Microsoft founder Bill Gates was born in Seattle, Washington.

**October 30, 1938** - The *War of the Worlds* radio broadcast panicked millions of Americans.



## *15th Anniversary of September 11, 2001*



On September 11, 2001, at 8:45 a.m. on a clear Tuesday morning, a Boeing 767 (American Airlines Flight 11) loaded with 20,000 gallons of jet fuel crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. The impact left a gaping, burning hole near the 80th floor of the 110-story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more in higher floors and all aboard the plane. As the evacuation of the tower and its twin got underway, television cameras broadcasted live images of what initially appeared to be a freak accident. Then, 18 minutes after the first plane hit, a second Boeing 767 (United Airlines Flight 175) appeared out of the sky, turned sharply toward the World Trade Center and sliced into the south tower near the 60th floor killing all aboard the plane. The collision caused a massive explosion that showered burning debris over surrounding buildings and the streets below. *America was under attack.*



As millions watched the events unfolding in New York, a Boeing 757 (American Airlines Flight 77) circled over downtown Washington, D.C., and slammed into the west side of the Pentagon at 9:45 a.m. Jet fuel from the plane caused a devastating inferno that led to the structural collapse of a portion of the giant concrete building. All told, 125 military personnel and civilians were killed in the Pentagon, along with all aboard the airliner.

Less than 15 minutes after the terrorists struck the nerve center of the U.S. military, the horror in New York took a catastrophic turn for the worse when the south tower of the World Trade Center collapsed in a massive cloud of dust and smoke. The structural steel of the skyscraper, built to withstand winds in excess of 200 miles per hour and a large conventional fire, could not withstand the tremendous heat generated by the burning jet fuel. At 10:30 a.m., the north tower of the World Trade Center collapsed. Close to 3,000 people died in the World Trade Center and its vicinity, including a staggering 343 firefighters and paramedics, 23 New York City police officers and 37 Port Authority police officers who were struggling to complete an evacuation of the buildings and save the office workers trapped on higher floors. Only six people in the World Trade Center towers at the time of their collapse survived. Almost 10,000 others were treated for injuries, many severe. Over 3,000 people were killed during the attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.



Meanwhile, a fourth plane, a Boeing 757 (United Flight 93) was hijacked about 40 minutes after leaving Newark International Airport in New Jersey. Because the plane had been delayed in taking off, passengers on board learned of events in New York and Washington via cell phone and Airfone calls to the ground. The passengers fought the four hijackers and are suspected to have attacked the cockpit with a fire extinguisher. The plane then flipped over and sped toward the ground at upwards of 500 miles per hour, crashing in a rural field in western Pennsylvania at 10:10 a.m. All aboard the plane were killed. Its intended target is not known, but theories include the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland or one of several nuclear power plants along the eastern seaboard.







## VA Launches Veterans Legacy Program

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the launch of the Veterans Legacy Program to memorialize Veterans' service and sacrifice through public educational programming. The program uses the rich resources found throughout VA national cemeteries, Soldiers' lots and monument sites.

"The Veterans Legacy Program is meant to bring to life the stories of Veterans buried in the VA national cemeteries through lesson plans, interactive maps and video vignettes," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert A. McDonald. "Behind every marker is a story—a story of what it meant to be a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine and Coast Guardsman at a particular moment in time. Our goal is to ensure that our nation does not forget their stories and their sacrifice." Using online educational products such as lesson plans, interactive maps and short video vignettes, the VA, through the Veterans Legacy Program, will engage the general public, students and educators. The VA launched this initiative earlier this year at two pilot sites: Beaufort National Cemetery in South Carolina and Riverside National Cemetery in California. Over the next several years, online educational products and programs will be developed for all the VA national cemeteries.



The VA has also formed a partnership with the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to co-sponsor a "Teachers Institute," a workshop for educators who will conduct research at the VA and the ABMC cemeteries. Information about the program may be found at [www.cem.va.gov/cem/legacy/](http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/legacy/). More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in the VA's 133 national cemeteries. The VA also provides funding to establish, expand, improve, and maintain 100 Veterans cemeteries in 47 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam and Saipan. For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, the VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. In 2015, the VA honored more than 353,000 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private cemeteries.

For more information about the history of VA national cemeteries, visit [www.cem.va.gov/history](http://www.cem.va.gov/history).

*"If men can develop weapons that are so terrifying as to make the thought of global war include almost a sentence for suicide, you would think that man's intelligence and his comprehension... would include also his ability to find a peaceful solution."*

*- General Dwight D. Eisenhower*



**Mark your calendar...**



**The 2016 Lexington County Veterans Parade will be held on Sunday, November 6th at 3pm.**

**For more information, see the parade application on page 14.**

I do not know your name~  
Nor for which battle you died.  
I do not know your home,  
Nor the tears that were cried.

I do not know where you rest~  
Nor the promises broken.  
I do not know your uniform  
And your fears lay unspoken.

But, I know your spirit exists~  
That your courage is admired,  
And your sacrifice is honored  
By each soul that's inspired.

And I offer you from my heart  
Thank you, to guardians unknown  
For offering yourselves for us all  
That we may keep freedom...  
Our home.



## September is National Blueberry Popsicle Month!!



## October is National Cookie Month!!



# RUN WALK HONOR OUR BRAVEST



Friday, September 16th, 2015  
At 6:30 pm  
Downtown Columbia

For more information visit their website at [www.tunneltotowers.org](http://www.tunneltotowers.org)

# VA Nursing Homes



A **Community Living Center** used to be called a nursing home. Unlike many nursing homes in the past, a Community Living Center resembles "home" as much as possible. There are activities for Veterans of all ages and there are family friendly places for visiting. Veterans are invited to decorate their rooms and pets are allowed to visit or live in the Community Living Center. Veterans may stay for a short time or, in rare instances, for the rest of their life. It is a place where Veterans can receive nursing home level of care, which includes help with activities of daily living (e.g., bathing and getting dressed), skilled nursing and medical care. The mission of a Community Living Center is to restore each Veteran to his or her highest level of well-being. It is also to prevent declines in health and to provide comfort at the end of life. Your eligibility is based on clinical need and setting availability. The VA will provide Community Living Center care if you meet certain eligibility criteria involving your service connected status, level of disability, and income. You must first be enrolled in the VA health system, and be medically and psychiatrically stable. A copay may be charged for CLC care based on your VA service-connected disability status and financial information. Contact your VA social worker/case manager to complete the *Application for Extended Care Benefits (VA Form 10-10EC)* to learn the amount of your copay. Community Living Centers provide these services: 24-hour skilled nursing care (e.g., help with a wound or IV care); restorative care; access to social work services; and geriatric evaluation and management. Some Community Living Centers also provide these services: mental health recovery care; special care for Veterans with dementia or other cognitive deficits; respite care; and palliative and hospice care for end of life.

Most of the 132 VA Community Living Centers are on or close to the campus of a VA medical center. Not all VA Community Living Centers provide all services, so contact your local VA medical center to find out what services are provided. Admission into a nursing home is an important decision for you and your family. There are many options available for extended care in the community. When community based services do not meet your needs, then admission to a Community Living Center/VA Nursing Home may be an appropriate option. Your physician or other primary care provider can answer questions about your health care and medical needs. If nursing home care seems right for you, your VA social worker can help you locate one and assist with making arrangements.



A **Community Nursing Home** is a place where Veterans can live full time and receive skilled nursing care any time of day or night. VA contracts with community nursing homes to care for Veterans. The Community Nursing Home program is offered in many communities so Veterans can receive care near their homes and families. Eligibility for a Community Nursing Home is based on clinical need and setting availability. The VA will only pay for Community Nursing Home care if you meet eligibility criteria involving your service connected status, level of disability, and income. If you do not meet these requirements, you will need to use your own resources to pay for nursing home care, which may include Medicare benefits and/or applying for Medicaid assistance if you cannot afford to pay. Talk with a VA social worker or case manager about your eligibility and to figure out a plan for paying for Community Nursing Home care services. Community Nursing Home care always provides: 24-hour skilled nursing care (such as wound care or help with IV medication); occupational and physical therapy; and access to social work services. Some Community Nursing Homes also provide: short term rehab services; hospice and palliative care for the end of life; and special care for dementia.

Continued on page 12

## VA Nursing Homes continued from page 11

Moving into a Community Nursing Home is an important decision for you and your family. It can help your caregiver identify their own needs and decide how much support they can offer to you. Having this information from your caregiver, along with the involvement of your care team and social worker, will help you reach good long term care decisions. Your physician or other primary care provider can answer questions about your medical needs. If a Community Nursing Home seems right for you, your VA social worker may be able to help you locate options in your community.

**State Veterans Homes** are facilities that provide nursing home, domiciliary or adult day care. They are owned, operated and managed by state governments. They date back to the post Civil War era when many states created them to provide shelter to homeless and disabled Veterans. To participate in the State Veterans Home program, the VA must formally recognize and certify a facility as a State Veterans Home. The VA then surveys all facilities each year to make sure they continue to meet VA standards. The VA does not manage State Veterans Homes. Your eligibility for State Veterans Homes is based on clinical need and setting availability. Each state establishes eligibility and admission criteria for its homes. Some State Veterans Homes may admit non-Veteran spouses and gold star parents while others may admit only Veterans. A recognized State Veterans Home may receive payments from VA to help defray the cost of care provided to Veterans. The cost to you varies by state. The VA does not pay for care for non-Veterans.

Talk with a VA social worker or case manager about the eligibility requirements of State Veterans Homes near you and to figure out a plan for paying for the care services. Each State Veterans Home provides nursing home, domiciliary or adult day health care. The State Veterans Home may also provide more than one of these services. State Veterans Homes are located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Some states have more than one State Veterans Homes. Thinking about moving into State Veterans Home is an important decision for you and your family.

Your physician or other primary care provider can answer questions about your medical needs. If a State Veterans Home seems right for you, your VA social worker can help you locate one and assist with making arrangements.

### Contact information for South Carolina State Veterans Homes:

Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home, 4605 Belton Highway, Anderson, SC 29621, 864 261-6734

Veterans' Victory House Nursing Home, 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro, SC 29488, 843 538-3000

E. Roy Stone Veterans Pavilion C.M. Tucker Center, 2200 Harden Street, Columbia, SC 29203, 803 737-5301.



From left to Right: Richard M. Campbell Nursing Home; Veterans' Victory House Nursing Home; and E. Roy Stone Veterans Pavilion C.M. Tucker Center.



## VA Expands Health Care

For Camp Lejeune Veterans

The VA issued a final rule to expand VA health care eligibility for Veterans affected by contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. Veterans who served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987, are eligible to receive no cost health care for 15 medical conditions that have been linked to the contaminated water. Previously, only Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune from January 1, 1957 were covered. Veterans who have been diagnosed with any of the 15 medical conditions may receive reimbursement for the cost of treatment if the care was provided on or after December 16, 2014, when the law expanding eligibility was signed. However, Veterans must submit a request for reimbursement no later than July 18, 2018. For more information on benefits and services for Camp Lejeune Veterans, visit: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune>.



This rule does not impact disability compensation benefits. The VA is still in the process of finalizing a rule to grant Camp Lejeune Veterans presumptive disability compensation for 8 of the 15 medical conditions found to be associated with exposure to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. However, Veterans who have been diagnosed with any of the 15 conditions should file a claim when possible to preserve the effective date.

## September is National Pain Awareness Month!



## October is National Physical Therapy Month!



## A Beautiful Fall

The leaves are changing and so is the weather  
It's time to put away the shorts and put on the sweater  
Halloween is near and Thanksgiving is coming  
My favorite time of year this is becoming  
'Tis the season of pumpkin and apple  
An ordinary time for loved ones to meet at the chapel  
I wish they appreciated the beauty of fall  
Then and only then they could see why it's the best season of all

# The History of Nathan Hale



Nathan Hale was born in Coventry, Connecticut, on June 6, 1755 to Richard Hale and Elizabeth Strong. In 1768, when he was 14 years old, he was sent with his brother Enoch, who was 16, to Yale College. Nathan graduated with first-class honors in 1773 at age 18 and became a teacher, first in East Haddam and later in New London.

After the Revolutionary War began in 1775, he joined a Connecticut militia and was elected first lieutenant within five months. The following spring, the army moved to Manhattan Island to prevent the British from taking over New York City. In September, General Washington was desperate to determine the location of the imminent British invasion of Manhattan Island. To that end, Washington needed a spy behind enemy lines. Hale volunteered on September 8, 1776, to go behind enemy lines and report on British troop movements. He was ferried across on September 12th. It was an act of spying that was immediately punishable by death and posed a great risk to Hale.

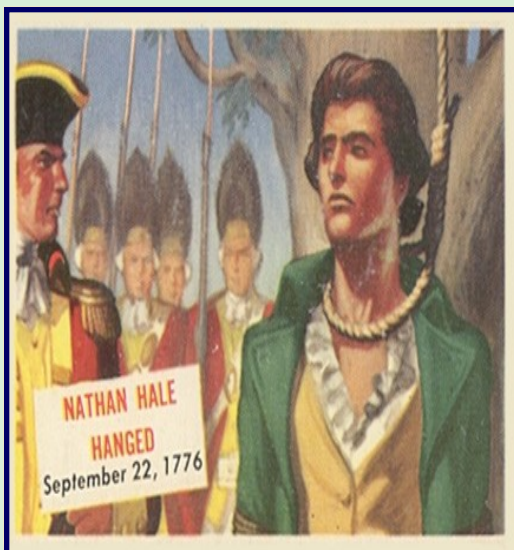
In an account of Nathan Hale's capture by Consider Tiffany, a Connecticut shopkeeper and loyalist, Major Robert Rogers of the Queen's Rangers saw Hale in a tavern and recognized him despite his disguise. After luring Hale into betraying himself by pretending to be a patriot himself, Rogers and his Rangers apprehended Hale near Flushing Bay in Queens, New York.

Hale reportedly was questioned by British General William Howe, at his headquarters at the Beekman House mansion in a rural part of Manhattan. Rogers provided information about the case and physical evidence was found on Hale. According to tradition, Hale spent the night in a greenhouse at the mansion. He requested a Bible; his request was denied. Sometime later, he requested a clergyman. Again, the request was denied.



**Beekman House Mansion**

According to the standards of the time, spies were hanged as illegal combatants. On the morning of September 22, 1776, Hale was marched along Post Road to the Park of Artillery, which was next to a public house called the Dove Tavern, and hanged. He was 21 years old.



By all accounts, Hale comported himself eloquently before the hanging. Over the years, there has been some speculation as to whether he specifically uttered the line: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." The line may be a revision of "I am so satisfied with the cause in which I have engaged that my only regret is that I have not more lives than one to offer in its service."

The story of Hale's quote began with John Montresor, a British officer who witnessed the hanging. Soon after the execution, Montresor spoke with the American officer William Hull about Hale's death. Later, it was Hull who widely publicized Hale's use of the phrase. Because Hull was not an eyewitness to Hale's speech, some historians have questioned the reliability of the account.

**2016 LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS PARADE APPLICATION**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2016 @ 3:00PM**

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 14TH YEAR**

**NO ENTRY FEE, SIGN UP DUE BY OCTOBER 21st, 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](mailto: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)



### Job Hunting?

The VA medical center and regional office is hiring Veterans.

Visit [USAjobs.com](http://USAjobs.com) for more information.

Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to 838255

## Support Matters.

**Veterans Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Confidential help for Veterans and their families

## Lexington County Veterans Group

***\*\*There has been a permanent change in the meeting time\*\****



All Lexington County Veterans are invited to attend the weekly meetings. The group meets weekly on Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 noon 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 Workshops

Saturday, September 10th and Saturday, October 8th from 10am to 3pm at the Cayce Masonic Lodge, 1701 12th Street, Cayce, SC.

There is something for everyone to do and this is the one place where **THE MORE THE MERRIER** really counts.



Attention Commanders of Veterans Service Organizations in Lexington County, our office is looking for a contact name and number for all American Legion posts, DAV chapters, VFW's, etc. Please contact our office with this information.



## DID YOU KNOW...



Since October of last year, the American Legion has submitted more FDC (Fully Developed Claims) or express claims than any other Veterans Service Organization in the country.



# Happenings Around Lexington County

## During the Months of September & October

Saturday, September 3rd  
through  
Monday, September 5th

37th Chapin Labor Day Festival & Parade  
For more information visit their website at  
[chapin-sc.com/visitors/festivals&events](http://chapin-sc.com/visitors/festivals&events).



Starts on  
Sunday, September 18th

CMC Rhythm on the River Concert Series  
Sundays 2 to 5pm  
For more information visit their website at  
[rhythmontheriversc.com](http://rhythmontheriversc.com).



Starts on  
Friday, September 23rd

Deceased Farms in Lexington (corn maze, etc.)  
382 Olde Farm Road, Lexington  
Thursday through Sunday nights  
For more information visit their website at  
[deceasedfarm.com](http://deceasedfarm.com) or call them @ 803-530-9434.



Friday, September 23rd  
Saturday, September 24th

Irmo Okra Strut  
For more information visit their website at  
[irmookrastrut.com](http://irmookrastrut.com) or call them @ 803-781-7050.



Starts on  
Friday, September 30th

Cayce/West Columbia Jaycees Hall of Horrors  
Thursday, Friday, & Saturday nights  
1153 Walter Price Street, Cayce  
For more information visit their website at  
[info@hallofhorror.com](http://info@hallofhorror.com) or call them @ 803-814-5858.



Friday, September 30th  
Saturday, October 1st

34th Gaston Collard & BBQ Festival  
For more information visit their website at  
[gastonsc.org](http://gastonsc.org) or call them @ 803-796-7725.



Sunday, October 2nd

9th Annual Congaree Bluegrass Festival  
Historic Columbia Speedway, Cayce  
For more information visit their website at  
[bluegrassfestivalguide.com/congaree](http://bluegrassfestivalguide.com/congaree).



Starts on  
Friday, October 9th

Gilbert House of Terror  
739 Harley Taylor Road  
Friday & Saturday nights with some Sunday nights  
For more information visit their website at  
[gilberthouseofterror@gmail.com](mailto:gilberthouseofterror@gmail.com)  
or call them @ 803-892-5396.



Wednesday, October 12th  
through  
Sunday, October 23rd

SC State Fair  
For more information visit their website at  
[scstatefair.org](http://scstatefair.org) or call them @ 803-779-3387.



Friday, October 21st  
through  
Friday, October 30th

Boo-At-The-Zoo  
From 6 to 9 pm.  
For more information visit their website at  
[riverbanks.org/events/boo-at-the-zoo](http://riverbanks.org/events/boo-at-the-zoo).



Shoulder to Shoulder

# **NO ONE STANDS ALONE**

Be willing to help



## **FOR ALL WHO KNOW & LOVE A SERVICE MEMBER...**

**Midlands Blue Star Mothers proudly  
present the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual PTSD Seminar**

### **“14 Elements of PTSD”**

**Care & Treatment for the Family & Friends**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Stephen Williams, Retired Air Force  
Combat Veteran**

**Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**6-8:00pm**

**VFW Post 8738 424 Cedarcrest Drive**

**Lexington SC**

**Admission is free & Refreshments served**

**For more information contact [info@bluestarmotherssc.com](mailto:info@bluestarmotherssc.com)**

## **VA Long Term Care Services**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pays for long-term care services for **service related disabilities** and for certain other eligible Veterans, as well as other health programs such as nursing home care and at-home care for aging Veterans with long-term care needs.

The VA also pays for Veterans who do not have service-related disabilities, but who are **unable to pay for the cost of necessary care**. Co-pays may apply depending on the Veteran's income level.

The VA has two more programs to help Veterans stay in their homes:

1. **The Housebound or Aid and Attendance Allowance Program.** This program provides cash to eligible Veterans with disabilities and their surviving spouses to purchase home and community-based long-term care services such as personal care assistance and homemaker services. The cash is a supplement to the eligible Veteran's pension benefits

2. **A Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services program (VD-HCBS).** This program was developed in 2008 for eligible Veterans of any age. The program provides Veterans with a flexible budget to purchase services. Counseling and other supports for Veterans are provided by the Aging Network in partnership with the Veterans Administration

Visit the Department of Veterans Affairs to view available programs and services or download a Veterans Benefits fact sheet. You can call the VA at 800-827-1000 to obtain information about services available in your area.

The U.S. Department of Treasury, in partnership with the SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority and SC Housing Corp., has made over \$295 million available to help eligible South Carolina homeowners avoid serious first mortgage delinquency and foreclosures.

### **Qualifications**

SC Help is intended to assist borrowers who are facing first mortgage delinquency or possible foreclosure. There is no household income limit, the property must be an owner occupied primary residence, applicants must have a minimum 24 months homeownership history and applicants do NOT have to be delinquent.

### **How to Apply**

Applicants are encouraged to apply electronically at: [www.schelp.com](http://www.schelp.com). Applicants without the internet may call 1-855-435-7472, toll free number for assistance. There is NO FEE required at any point during the SC HELP process.



### **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.

Thursday, October 20th is Ft. Jackson Day at the fair.

**The State Fair opens on  
Wednesday, October 12th and runs  
through Sunday, October 23rd.**

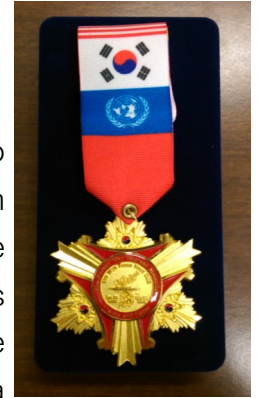




### DID YOU KNOW...

The VAMC Dorn now has a food pantry. Any Veteran in need may participate in the program. He or she must contact Voluntary Services and they will direct you to the food pantry. To contact Voluntary Services call (803) 776-4000 extension 6780.

### KOREAN WAR COMMEMORATION MEDAL



These medals were given out to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean war. The medal was commissioned and made by the South Korean government as a sign of appreciation and thanks for American soldiers. The lanyard of the medal depicts the flags of all the nations involved in the war and the medal itself contains a piece of the wire from the DMZ.

Do you know of a Korean War Veteran in Lexington County that hasn't received a Korean War Commemoration medal? If so, please have them contact or come by our office. If the Veteran is deceased, this medal can also be awarded to the surviving spouse. Our office has a few medals remaining to award, so it is first come first served.

### OUTREACH DATES AND TIMES



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

**Chapin Outreach** is the 1st Friday of the month at the Chapin Library from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.



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

**THERE WILL BE NO  
BATESBURG/LEESVILLE  
OUTREACH DURING THE MONTHS  
OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER**

*Appointments are strongly encouraged.*

*Call the office at 803-785-8400  
to schedule a time.*

### County Council Needs You!



Veterans are still 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 please be present around 4:15pm. Contact the office at 803-785-8400, if you are interested.

The office would like to thank Joseph Quig and Randal Wood. These gentlemen volunteered to say the Pledge of Allegiance for the months of July and August.

**THANKS**



**MILITARY  
CAREER  
&  
RESOURCE  
FAIR**

**Tuesday  
27 SEP 2016  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
SC NATIONAL GUARD  
West Columbia ARMORY  
3528 Platt Springs Road  
ALL BRANCHES WELCOME**

**Veterans, Active/Retired Service Members and Family Members** are invited to connect with local employers, state agencies, and organizations that provide military and veteran services.

Meet with **Service Member & Family Care** representatives in the following areas:  
Employment | VA Benefits | Behavioral Health | ID Cards | ESGR  
Family Assistance | Health & Wellness | Financial & Legal Guidance | Education



**Hosted by SC National Guard Service Member & Family Care**  
For more information, call 803.299.2911/5308/SCGuard.com

**Veterans  
Get Telephonic Health  
Care Application Option**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that it is amending its enrollment regulations to allow Veterans to complete applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a signed paper application. The change is effective immediately for Combat Veterans and will be effective July 5, 2016, for all Veterans. This phased implementation accelerates the VA's effort to enroll all Combat Veterans with pending applications as part of its ongoing Veterans Enrollment Rework Project. The VA is working to complete the review and rework of all pending health enrollment records for living and deceased Veterans this summer. By adding this telephone application option to the VA's regulations, the VA will now offer three ways to enroll. This change provides Veterans an even more convenient way to apply for enrollment, in addition to the paper VA Form 10-10EZ and online enrollment application process.



For more information, Veterans can contact the Health Eligibility Center Enrollment and Eligibility Division toll free at 1-855-488-8440.

**NEW  
SOUTH CAROLINA POW MEDAL**

South Carolina Veterans who were prisoners of war during a war time period are eligible to receive a new special state POW medal for their time in captivity. The POW medal was created by the Legislature in a June 2014 law that authorizes the Governor to present the award to South Carolina residents who are on federal POW lists. Any former POW who received an honorable discharge and is a South Carolina citizen can apply for the medal. Former prisoners from WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, or other conflicts are also eligible. Surviving spouses or descendants can also apply for the medal once.



If you live in Lexington County or know someone who does and they meet the above requirements, please call the Lexington County VA office at 803-785-8400 with their name and contact information.



**CLOSINGS...**

County offices will be closed on the following date:  
**Monday, September 5th for Labor Day.**



For basic information and questions,  
please check out our webpage at  
[www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptRZ/va/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptRZ/va/Pages/index.aspx)  
A list of the Veterans Service Organizations in Lexington County  
and copies of the newsletter are also on our webpage.

# **FIFTH ANNUAL VA COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT 2016**

VA Community Mental Health



Summit 2016

## ***SUICIDE PREVENTION AND ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES***

**An Event to bring those in VHA, DoD and the  
community together to collaborate in planning the  
best care for our Military Veterans.**

**September 9th, 2016, 9am – 3pm**

**Medallion Center**

**Columbia, South Carolina**

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Eric Hipple**

**Former NFL  
Quarterback**

**&**

**Author of  
*Real Men Don't  
Cry, A  
Quarterback's  
Inspiring Story of  
Tackling  
Depression and  
Surviving Suicide  
Loss.***

**Other Presentations**

**TBA**

**Please consider  
exhibiting in  
our Information Fair**

**Sponsored by the WJB Dorn  
VA Medical Center**

**Points of Contact:**

**Michelle Andra  
([michelle.andra2@va.gov](mailto:michelle.andra2@va.gov))**

**Amy LaClaire  
([amy.laclaire@va.gov](mailto:amy.laclaire@va.gov))**

## HELP NEEDED

Help is needed at Lexington Interfaith Community Services (LICS). They are in particular need for folks to assist at the donation door. They have staff members who would work with them and supervise.

This position entails customer service by greeting community members as they drive up to donate items, assisting them with carrying in their items, possibly giving receipts, and then sorting the items. It is physical work, but they can work around any slight limitations. Lifting is often required and they may also be asked to load items onto a truck.

If you are interested, contact: Kitti Clayton, Volunteer Coordinator, at 803-957-6656 ext: 227.



## News Tidbits from the VA

The VA's Veterans Choice Program has reached a key milestone in improving access to health care for



Veterans. More than two million appointments have been scheduled through the program.



The VA's Million Veteran Program (MVP) has reached an important milestone

when an Army Veteran from Montgomery, Alabama, became the 500,000th to voluntarily enroll in the research database program – making MVP the largest genomic database in the world.

The VA has announced that it is piloting a protocol to implement veterinary health benefits for mobility service dogs approved for Veterans with a chronic impairment



that substantially limits mobility associated with mental health disorders.



The VA has released its findings from the nation's most comprehensive analysis of Veteran suicide rates in the United States in

which VA examined more than 55 million Veterans' records from 1979 to 2014 from every state in the nation. The effort advances the VA's knowledge from the previous report in 2012, which was primarily limited to information on Veterans who used VHA health services or from mortality records obtained directly from 20 states and approximately 3 million records.. Compared to the data from the 2012 report, which estimated the number of Veteran deaths by suicide to be 22 per day, the current analysis indicates that in 2014, an average of 20 Veterans a day died from suicide.



## About Our Office

This office is employed by Lexington County not the Federal VA. The Lexington County Veterans' Affairs Office is an advocate for Veterans and their surviving dependents. We provide the assistance needed in applying for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and for VA medical care. The Lexington County VA Office assists former and present members of the US Armed Forces and their dependents in preparing claims. Types of benefits include but not limited to: service connected disabilities and non-service connected pension; death pension benefits; burial; medical care; educational assistance, including vocational rehabilitation; guaranteed home loans; government life insurance and other benefits. We are not trained in Social Security or Department of Defense Benefits but can assist with some of these forms.

**The VA has a website anyone can access for all VA questions, SEP user guides, regulations, policies, laws and any other VA resources. The website is:**  
**[www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov)**

**Website**



## ***Featured Medal:***

# **Cold War Victory Medal**

The Cold War Victory Medal is both an official medal of the National Guard and an unofficial military medal of the United States. It is awarded by the States of Louisiana and Texas, and in ribbon form only by the State of Alaska. In the medal's unofficial capacity it can be purchased, but not worn in uniform. It may be worn by any member of the United States military, or civilian employees of the federal government, who served in their positions honorably during the years of the Cold War, specifically September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991.

In accordance with section 1084 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1998, Congress commended the members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel who contributed to what the US government sees as their own historic victory in the Cold War, and authorized and instructed the then-Secretary of Defense, William Cohen, to prepare a certificate recognizing the Cold War service of qualifying members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense and other government agencies. The certificate became known as the Cold War Recognition Certificate available by request of the individual by all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War, which is defined as September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991.

In October 2001, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2002, which is signed into law on December 28, 2001 by President George W. Bush. In the NDAA approved by both houses and signed into law by the president, was a Sense of the Congress resolution that the Secretary of Defense should consider authorizing the issuance of a Campaign medal, to be known as the Cold War Service Medal, to each person who while a member of the Armed Forces served satisfactorily on active duty during the Cold War. The then Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, did not create such a medal.

At present the Cold War Victory Medal remains strictly commemorative and is unofficial other than for members of the Louisiana National Guard. The Cold War Victory Medal is also referred to as the *Cold War Commemorative Medal*, *Cold War Service Medal*, or simply as the *Cold War Medal*. There are no devices or attachments authorized for the Cold War Victory Medal.



Picture of Cold War Victory Medal and Ribbon.



***Coming in the Next Issue...***  
***Fiduciary; VA Healthcare vs. Medicare; Military Retirement/VA Benefits & Veterans Day Discounts.***