



VET NEWS

March 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 17 St. Patrick's Day

BLUE STAR MOTHERS COLLECT DONATIONS

The Blue Star Mothers are continuing to solicit items to be sent to military serving overseas. They will be making another shipment in mid-March, 2007.

Popular items among the troops are DVDs, hand-held video games, orange listerine, twizzlers, Slim Jims, dried fruit (apples, raisins, bananas, pineapple, apricots, etc.), Ziploc bags (sandwich and one gallon size), large Braun coffee filters, teriyaki & spice beef jerky, small cereal multi-boxes, Old Spice brand body wash & clear gel deodorant, fingernail brush, hand sanitizers, Mike & Ike candy, fruit cups, pop tarts, chocolate, vanilla & tapioca pudding snack packs, tuna lunch packets, and cookies—any kind.

If you know some military person who would like to receive a package or if you can help through donations of these items or by providing a donation to assist them, contact the Blue Star Mothers at 808-6485 or 206-6088 or contact the VA office.

Dear members of the Midlands Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America,

Dear Blue Star Mothers:

I just received the "care package" you recently sent and I want to express my sincere thanks. Despite the fact that our morale here is generally good and we feel we are making a positive difference, we're reminded every day of the ugly reality of war. We deal with it by staying busy (Although, we don't really have a choice!) and by simply putting one foot in front of the other. So, when something genuinely good

happens, we appreciate it all the more. The arrival of your package is indeed something good; not just because of the contents, but for the love and support that the package represents. So, thank you.

For your viewing pleasure, I'm attaching a photo of soldiers from Headquarters, 151st Field Artillery of the SC Army National Guard. This was taken last month following a ceremony where we were awarded the combat patch of the 1st Cavalry Division. Note the South Carolina flag flying proudly in front of the headquarters of the Multi National Division-Baghdad. We're proud to serve. Duty above all!



Jim Griese, COL, FA, Commanding

PEARL HARBOR PATRIOTIC CONCERT

The Lexington High School Band has been invited to Honolulu, Hawaii to perform a patriotic concert on the pier of the USS Battleship Missouri at Pearl Harbor on March 16th.

To show our support a Hawaiian luau will be held March 3 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington as a fundraiser/ kickoff party for the trip. Because this is going to be an education trip, we would like you, as WWII veterans, to attend the luau as our guests. We want the band members to have an opportunity to honor you and to thank you for your service to our country. We are particularly interested in having Pearl Harbor survivors attend, but all WWII veterans are welcome. If you would be interested in attending this party as our guest, please contact Sidney Gatch at 951-9153, so a spot can be reserved at the luau table. Thank you again for your service.

HEROES AND LEGENDS: A TRIBUTE TO ALL FALLEN VETERANS OF LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 1



**Tom Comerford
welcomes Code
Talkers**



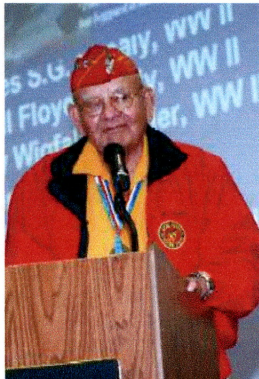
Senator Jake Knotts presents certificates



**Gary Baker:
Greetings &
Proclamations**



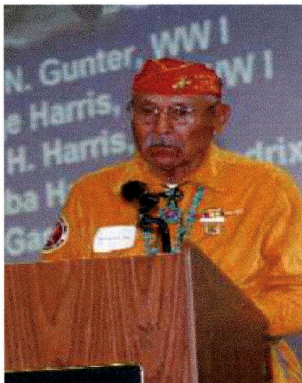
**Presentation of Congressman Floyd
Davidson Spence Portrait**



**Keith M. Little
Navajo Code
Talker**



Ribbon Cutting by Spence Family



**Samuel N. Tso
Navajo Code
Talker**



**Bert Dooley, Deborah, David, Zack,
and Ben Spence**

**LADIES' AUXILIARY MILITARY
ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART
GAMECOCK UNIT 402**



Vice President and Membership Chairman, Ms. Teresia Hayes (right), performed the installation ceremony installing new member, Mrs. Joyce Cook (left), into the Ladies' Auxiliary Military Order of the Purple Heart Gamecock Unit 402 on January 23, 2007.

Mothers, wives, widows, sisters, daughters, stepdaughters, granddaughters, and direct lineal female descendants and legally adopted female descendants of persons who were awarded the Purple Heart are eligible for membership.

Ladies interested in becoming members should contact Ms. Hayes at: 803-408-1478, or President, Mrs. Rhunette Haywood, at 803-4391779.

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post 6 on Pickens Street in Columbia.

THE USS NEW YORK

It was built with 24 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Center. It is the fifth in a new class of warship and designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. It will carry a crew of 360 sailors and 700 combat-ready Marines to be delivered ashore by helicopters and assault craft.

Steel from the World Trade Center was melted down in a foundry in Amite, LA to cast the ship's bow section. When it was poured into the molds on September 9, 2003, "those big rough steelworkers treated it with reverence," recalled Navy Capt. Kevin Wensing, who was there. "It was a spiritual moment for everybody there."

Junior Chavers, foundry operations manager, said that when the trade center steel first arrived, he touched it with his hand and the "hair on my neck stood up." "It had a big meaning to it for all of us," he said. "They knocked us down. They can't keep us down. We're going to be back..."

The ship's motto? "Never Forget"



**Gary R. Baker continues as Veterans'
Affairs Officer**

The Lexington County Legislative Delegation has re-appointed Gary R. Baker as Veterans' Affairs Officer for the next two years.

Mr. Baker has many plans for helping veterans of Lexington County.

If you have any questions or need help, please call him at: 803-785-8401.



KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL

U. S. veterans of the Korean War are now eligible to wear a medal initially offered to them more than 50 years ago, but never issued. The medal was originally offered by the Republic of Korea Defense Minister Seong Tae Cho in 1951 to United Nations forces serving in Korean and adjacent waters.

At the time U.S. law prohibited the U.S. military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed that in 1954, but by then most U.S. service members eligible for the medal had returned home.

In 1998 the government of the Republic of Korea renewed its original offer of the ROKWSM to U. S. military personnel. On August 20, 1999, the Defense Department approved the acceptance and wear of the medal. Approximately 1.8 million U.S. veterans of the Korean War are eligible to receive it. Next of kin to eligible deceased veterans can also apply for the medal.

To wear this medal on U.S. military uniforms, U.S. military personnel must have:

- Served between the outbreak of hostilities, June 25, 1950, and the date the armistice was signed, July 27, 1953;
- Been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days, and
- Performed their duty within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent thereto or in an aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations.

To apply, veterans must provide a copy of their DD-214 or a corrected version of that document, a DD-215. National Guard members must provide their statement of service equivalent, "NGB Form 22."

Because the order of precedence for non-U.S. service medals and ribbons is determined by

date of approval, the ROKWSM should be worn after the Kuwait Liberation Medal, which was the last foreign medal approved for wear by U.S. military personnel. For the majority of Korean War veterans the medal will be worn after the United Nations Medal, or the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal if they served during that conflict.

Mail your request to the proper department. Do not send your original DD-214; make a copy.

Army

Commander
U.S. Army Human Resources Command
Republic of Korea War Service Medal Office
Hoffman II Attn: AHRC-PSO-ROK-KWSM
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0473

Navy/Marines

Navy Personnel Command
9700 Page Ave., Rm. #5409
Attn: Dena Martin
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Air Force

HQ AFPC/DPPPRK
550 C. Street W., Suite 12
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4612



ROK KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL

Complete Request I, or II, below, then follow directions in III.

VETERAN'S REQUEST

I. I served in the country of Korea, its territorial waters, or its airspace during the period 25 June 1950 to 27 July 1953. I enclose a **copy** of a source document, including my Social Security Number/Military Service Number, which proves my service in Korea. I understand that the enclosed **copy** of my source document will not be returned and, since this is a Foreign Service award, the KWSM will only be issued once.

Please mail my Korean War Service Medal to:

(Print First Name, Middle Initial, & Last Name)

(Legibly Print Service Number)

(Print Address & Street Name)

(Print Branch of Service When in Korea)

(Print City, State & Zip Code)

(Veteran must sign here and date)

(Provide complete telephone number)

NEXT-OF-KIN (NOK) REQUEST

II. As the spouse (father, mother, brother, sister, eldest son, eldest daughter) and primary next-of-kin, I request a Korean War Service Medal for my deceased/incapacitated husband's (father's/mother's or brother's/sister's) military service in the country of Korea, its territorial waters, or its airspace during the period 25 June 1950 to 27 July 1953. I enclose a **copy** of a source document (will not be returned to you), with his/her Social Security Number/Military Service Number, which proves his/her service. I understand this is a Foreign Service award and it will only be issued once.

Please mail the Korean War Service Medal to:

(Print First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name & Relationship
to Veteran, e.g., widow, brother, daughter, etc.)

(Legibly Print Veteran's Service Number)

(Print Address & Street Name)

(Print Branch of Service When in Korea)

(Print City, State & Zip Code)

(NOK must sign here and date)

(Provide complete telephone number)

PHISHING PHRENZY

Phishing expeditions--identify theft attempts using phony e-mails sent to gain Social Security, credit card and bank account information--have doubled in the last two years. Thieves are using new lures, impersonating banks less often and attracting victims with phony sweepstakes or retail offers. And they're going "spear phishing"--targeting consumers with incomes of \$100,000 or more.

To avoid getting caught, don't open e-mails from anyone you don't know or even from "recognized" businesses you don't deal with. Call your bank or credit card company if you receive e-mails asking you to update your account information online. Don't make online purchases via your primary e-mail account; instead, establish a free account on Hotmail or Yahoo that doesn't use your real name in the address. (Sid Kirchheimer, *ARRP Bulletin*, February, 2007)

READ TO ME

Do you know someone who has vision problems or is unable to read standard print? A free service provides tape-recorded articles from more than 100 publications.

The Choice Magazine Listening program, created by the nonprofit Lucerna Fund, offers eight hours of articles, short stories, poetry and interviews selected from current publications like *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Playboy*, the *New Yorker* and *Vanity Fair*.

The cassette tapes, which go out to subscribers every other month, require a four-track player. Eligible listeners can get a free one from the Library of Congress.

For details, go to: www.choicemagazinelisting.org or call 1-888-724-6423 toll free. (Barbara Basier, *AARP Bulletin*, February 2007)

PURPLE HEART HALL DEDICATED

In November, the *National Purple Heart Hall of Honor* was officially opened at the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site in Vails Gates, NY. The \$7 million Hall, containing some 12,000 stories from veterans, pays tribute to America's 1.7 million wounded veterans.

Operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the 7,500-square-foot facility contains a gallery, exhibit area and education center, among other features.

If you are interested in contributing photographs, letters or artifacts, write: *National Purple Heart Hall of Honor*, P.O. Box 207, Vails Gate, NY 12584 or call (845) 561-1765.



WALTER REED HOSPITAL CLOSING

After more than 100 years, the famed Army hospital will merge with the naval medical facility in Bethesda, MD in 2011. The Base Realignment and Closure Commission cited Walter Reed's location, the age of its facilities and the lack of room for expansion as reasons to close the hospital. Opened in 1909, it sits on 113 acres between Georgia Avenue and 16th Street in northern Washington, D.C.

The Pentagon estimates it would cost \$988.8 million to move Walter Reed's facilities to Bethesda, but would save \$301.2 million over the next 20 years. The merger will create a "world-class flagship facility" for current and future generations of wounded veterans. (Anthony Principi, VA secretary 2001-2005)

LAUS DEO

A little history lesson you may already know. One detail that is not mentioned, in DC, is that there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument. With all the uproar about removing the ten commandments, this is worth a moment of your time.

On the aluminum cap, atop the Washington Monument are displayed two words: Laus Deo. No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there.

Once you know Laus Deo's history, you will want to share this with everyone you know. But these words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the United States of America.

Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words. Out of sight, and one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world.

So, what do these two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say "Praise be to God!"

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles l'Enfant . . . a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north. The Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west.

A cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of church and state was not, is not, in the Constitution. So read on. How interesting, and no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who bother to notice.

Praise be to God! Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings, the memorial

stones share a message. On the 12th landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6. Praise be to God!

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848, deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society.

Washington's prayer for America: "Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Laus Deo!



WANT TO DO A GOOD DEED?

Volunteers to drive the DAV van to transport needy veterans to the VA hospital:

- Once a week
- Every other week
- Once a month

Pick up an application at the Lexington County VA Office at 605 West Main Street, Lexington, SC 29072: 803-785-8400.

**BEWARE OF FAKE
SO-CALLED VETERANS
ORGANIZATIONS**

You may have seen a van or received telephone calls soliciting money with the spiel they're giving telephone cards to our military men and women.

They may have a legally rented location and be operating under a blanket organization with some eye-catching title. So, beware to whom you give your donations.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE
OF LEXINGTON COUNTY
605 West Main Street, Suite 101
Lexington, SC 29072
(803) 785-8400**

MARCH OUTREACH PROGRAM

March 6th	8-12	Batesburg-Leesville
March 13th	9-12	Chapin
March 20 th	8-12	Swansea

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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