

**Veterans Affairs Office  
of Lexington County**



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**VET NEWS**

October 2008

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**OCTOBER Dates To Remember**

- Oct. 7th War on Terror Began (2001)
- Oct. 12th Columbus Day (Traditional)
- Oct. 13th U.S. Navy Established (1775)
- Oct. 13th Columbus Day (Observed)
- Oct. 13th Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting—7 PM
- Oct. 16th National Boss's Day
- Oct. 24th United Nations Day
- Oct. 27th Navy Day
- Oct. 31st Halloween



**REMAINS OF 4 SOLDIERS FROM 1846 FOUND  
IN NORTHERN MEXICO**

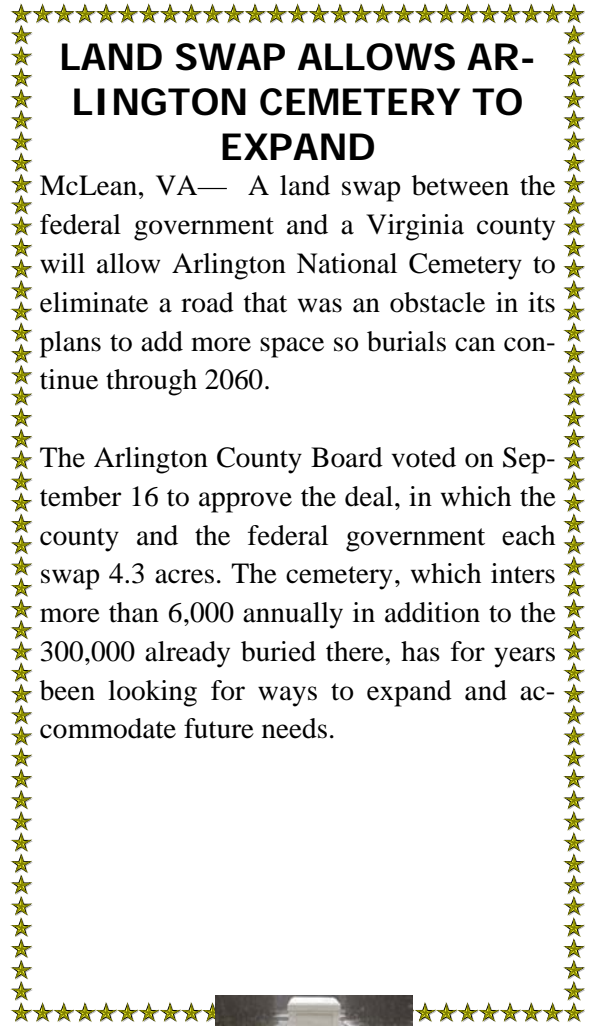
Mexican archaeologists have found the remains of what appear to be four U.S. soldiers who died in 1846 during the **Mexican-American War**, the government announced recently. Experts said skull and bone measurements, as well as two half-dollar coins and other artifacts found at the site of the Battle of Monterrey in northern Mexico, indicate the bodies belong to U.S. war casualties.

Mexico's national archaeological agency said the skeletal remains were uncovered in digs between 1996 and 2008, but were apparently not previously announced. It had long been believed that the site contained a mass grave of Mexican casualties, but no Mexican soldiers have been found there, according to Rogelio Caballero, of the government's National Institute of Anthropology and History.

"There are plans to perform DNA tests. Attempts are being made to identify the soldiers' families and descendants," Caballero said, noting that many of the U.S. soldiers involved in the battle were from Tennessee and Mississippi. U.S. forces defeated Mexican troops in Monterrey. The 1846-48 war ended in a Mexican defeat that, along with Texas' independence struggle, cost Mexico half of its territory.

The new discoveries offer hope that the casualties of a long-ago war—both Mexicans and Americans—may finally be repatriated.

[Source: [armytimes.com](http://armytimes.com), July 21, 2008]



**LAND SWAP ALLOWS AR-  
LINGTON CEMETERY TO  
EXPAND**

McLean, VA— A land swap between the federal government and a Virginia county will allow Arlington National Cemetery to eliminate a road that was an obstacle in its plans to add more space so burials can continue through 2060.

The Arlington County Board voted on September 16 to approve the deal, in which the county and the federal government each swap 4.3 acres. The cemetery, which inters more than 6,000 annually in addition to the 300,000 already buried there, has for years been looking for ways to expand and accommodate future needs.



**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:**



**"Congressmen who willfully take actions during wartime that damage morale and undermine the military are saboteurs and should be arrested, exiled, or hanged."**

**Abraham Lincoln - 1863**

# NEWS FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART (MOPH)

**ATTENTION:** Mothers, wives, widows, sisters, daughters, step-daughters, granddaughters and direct female lineal female descendants from birth and legally adopted female descendants of persons awarded the Purple Heart, and women awarded the Purple Heart in their own name.

Women interested in becoming Members of the Ladies Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Inc., are invited to an information meeting concerning Local Unit 402, located in Columbia, SC.

For information on the date and time of the next meeting, please contact: **Mrs. Rhunette G. Haywood**, Membership Officer, 803-438-1779



**LADIES  
AUXILIARY**  
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART



## Armed Forces Monument Update

The Batesburg-Leesville Armed Forces Monument is preparing to enter **phase two**. Phase one featured fundraising, resulting successfully selling of nearly 150 bricks. The next phase includes the laying of a concrete foundation.

If you would like to order a brick or make a donation, don't wait too long. The monument is scheduled for dedication on Veterans Day 2008, November 11th.

Contact Trey Anthony at **803-532-2847**.

## **DRIVERS STILL NEEDED**

Due to the increasing demand for DAV van transportation, drivers are still needed. If you could serve in this way, whether for one day a week, or one day a month, please call our office at **785-8400** to receive an application.

## 9-11 Monument Dedicated in Lexington

On the seventh anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks, a monument to memorialize those killed was unveiled in Lexington.



The 24-foot tall monument was designed and built by Randall Hammonds of West Columbia. Leadership Lexington County Class of 2007 spearheaded the effort. According to Mr. Hammonds, it took between 15,000 and 17,000 man hours from conception to the monument's completion/

Located just east of the Lexington County Judicial Center on Main Street, the monument is a representation of the famous scene where the NYC firefighters raised the flag among the ruins of the twin towers.

A crowd of over 300 watched as the huge American flag that covered the monument was slowly raised, revealing the broken framework that was once the World Trade Center. "Amazing Grace" was played by local bagpipe musician William Dubose.

Once that flag was raised, three Lexington County firefighters in turn-out gear raised a smaller flag as part of the monument. "Taps" was played during this portion of the ceremony.

The emotional nature of this ceremony was evidenced by those in the crowd who shed tears during the event. An overcast day also lent a sense of solemnity to the dedication ceremony.



**WE HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE**





## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEER VAN DRIVERS

*PART FOUR IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS*

**CHARLES DAVIS**

*[Mr. Davis has been a Lexington County DAV van driver since December 2007.]*

**Q: Where are you from originally?**

**A:** I was born in Norwich, Connecticut.

**Q: If not a native, what brought you to Lexington County and how long have you lived here?**

**A:** After completing high school, I joined the Marines, which brought me to South Carolina. I have called South Carolina my home ever since. I have lived in Beaufort, Allendale, Orangeburg and Irmo prior to moving to Lexington, where I have now lived for 12 years.

**Q: Tell us about your family.**

**A:** I married a South Carolina girl, Mary Frances, and we have one son. We have also been blessed with a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, one boy and one girl.

**Q: Are you a Veteran?**

**A:** I served for over four years with the U.S. Marine Corps, from 1961 to 1966. I was with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Forces in Vietnam in 1965.

**Q: What is your current or former occupation, if retired?**

**A:** I retired from the S.C. Highway Patrol after 30 years of service, retiring having achieved the rank of Lieutenant.

**Q: What are your hobbies and interests?**

**A:** My wife and I love to travel, having traveled extensively throughout the United States and foreign countries. Hobbies include reading, sports and assisting my wife with her gardens. I have special interest in the teams from the University of South Carolina and Clemson.

**Q: What would be your most memorable van driving experience?**

**A:** In general, it is rewarding to see the appreciation of the van riders we serve.

**Q: Please share something our readers might be surprised to know about you:**

**A:** I have always been an avid reader and a student of both our economy and finance. I am particularly interested in the Stock Market.



**Favorite Southern Expression?**

"Mercy me."

**Favorite Historical Quote?**

"I cannot live without books." -  
Thomas Jefferson (June 1815)

**Favorite Military Quote?**

"Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful)

Mr. Davis' birthday is October 25th... Please join us in wishing him a very **HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!!!**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

# SPOUSAL SUPPORT *KEY* IN PTSD RECOVERY

U.S. Department of Defense Military Health System  
(August 14, 2008)

Post Traumatic stress disorder is an issue for many service members. It can be hard on the family too. PTSD may interfere with relationships and change family life, but with knowledge and understanding, the spouse of a service member suffering with PTSD can help him or her in their recovery.

Knowing the affects of PTSD may help a spouse in understanding what he or she is going through. PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can occur after one experiences a traumatic event. This is defined as a life-threatening occurrence such as military combat, natural disaster, terrorist incident, serious accident or violent personal assault.

For many people, PTSD symptoms begin as soon as three months after the onset events, but for many others, signs don't begin until years later. **Acute** PTSD lasts three months or less and **chronic** PTSD lasts more than three months. With delayed PTSD, symptoms first occur six or more months following the trauma. Some people get better within a short period of time, but others may have the illness for much longer.

Many people who go through a traumatic event don't get PTSD and it isn't clear why some people develop PTSD and others don't. How likely someone is to get PTSD depends on many factors, including the intensity of the trauma, whether the trauma resulted in the loss of a loved one or an injury, how close the individual was to the event, or even how much they felt they were or were not in control of the events.

People who suffer from PTSD often have nightmares and flashbacks reliving the experience. Other symptoms include:

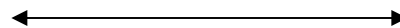
- Feeling afraid
- Feeling a loss of control
- Difficulty sleeping
- Feeling detached or withdrawn
- Substance abuse
- Memory problems

PTSD symptoms can be complicated and occur with related disorders such as depression. The symptoms can become severe enough to significantly impair daily life. The person may lose the ability to function normally in society or family environments. There are many ways a spouse can help a member deal with PTSD, including:

- ◇ Offer to accompany him or her to doctor's visits, and help keep track of medicine and therapy. Be there for support
- ◇ Encourage them to talk about the trauma and be understanding if he or she doesn't feel like talking.
- ◇ Give them space, but remind them that help is available if they need it.
- ◇ Plan activities together: talk a walk, go for a bike ride, or do some other physical activity together. Exercise is important for health and helps clear the mind.
- ◇ Encourage contact with family and close friends. A support system will help in stressful times.

With proper treatment, PTSD effects can be minimized or eliminated. Today there are several treatments available for PTSD. Medications may be effective; they are typically the same medications described for depression.

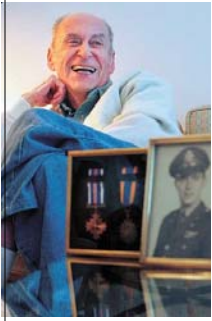
Get more information about PTSD treatment from a military treatment facility or by contacting a local VA hospital or Vet Center. Active duty military should seek help from a military treatment facility.



**Locally**, service men or women who are experiencing difficulty should contact the **Columbia Vet Center** at 803-765-9944 or the **Dorn VA Medical Center**. Assistance and counseling are available in our area.



## FOCUS:WWII HONOR FLIGHT VETERAN IRV LE-



Irv Levine didn't think about the amulet until it was gone. His grandmother gave a kemeye, a cameo blessed by a rabbi, to each of her six grandsons who went off to war in 1941. "Insurance," she called them. Levine's was in a pouch sewn in his flight suit, with his dog tags and \$100 worth of rupees, which might buy his way to safety if he crash-landed in the Burma jungle.

In 1944, after his 50th bombing mission in the China-Burma-India Theater, Levine got a one-week breather. The Army sent a rare replacement pilot to fly in his place. The young, eager pilot arrived before his gear so he pulled on Levine's flight suit, including the cameo, fired up the B-25 and promptly was shot down over the impenetrable morass of jungle in the Naga Hill country.

"It was his first mission," said Levine, 87, a Cleveland native who now lives in northeast Richland County. "I never even got to say hello."

**Capt. Irving W. Levine survived 72 missions** in the sometimes overlooked but miserably deadly CBI Theater, as it was called. That was more than twice the number of missions that air crews in England flew before cycling home. "We didn't get many replacements," he said. "They went to Europe. We just kept flying."

Levine is one of 100 veterans who will be on the inaugural **Honor Flight** to the nation's capital Nov. 15 to visit the National World War II Memorial. Levine's daughter Deborah Brett will accompany him on the flight. "To share this with him will be wonderful," she said. Levine said his reaction will be "subdued, when I remember the people who did not return."

The plight of air crews in Levine's 490th Bomb Squadron, 10th Air Force, in the CBI was especially harsh. Airstrips were cut out of the raw jungle. There were no showers, but there were malaria and snakes, not to mention the Japanese Zeros or the ack-ack — anti-aircraft fire — over Rangoon. "We would have animals on the airfield," Levine said. "Water buffalo, which are very nice tasting, actually." Personal hygiene disappeared. Alcohol and drug abuse were rampant. The men were afflicted with every imaginable type of skin disease in the putrid jungle. No one was immune.

And there was the crushing boredom, interrupted only by the terror of flying "over the hump" to bomb bridges along the Japanese supply line in the area, the infamous Burma Road. Of the 202 men in Levine's squadron, 101 returned home, he said.

"All we did was drink, sleep and fly," he said. "They would give you a day off after a mission if you lived. Then you drank and slept until they called you again."

The rules were different, too. An airman based in England had to fly 35 missions before going home. In Italy, 50. In CBI, you flew until you couldn't fly anymore, or until you were injured, killed, went crazy, or succumbed to jungle diseases or drinking or drugs. Opium and heroin were prevalent. Booze was issued to soldiers to boost morale, a practice unheard of today.

"You flew until the flight surgeon said you weren't fit for combat," Levine said. "I finally got out because I drank too much and smoked too much. ... I'm lucky I'm not an alcoholic today."

Like many Midwestern boys, Levine caught the flying bug watching barnstormers like **Wiley Post** and **Jimmy Doolittle**. He once paid \$14 — a handsome sum then — to fly eight minutes with a barnstormer who had come to his grandparents' hometown, Pittsburgh. A few months later, in July 1941, Levine joined the Army to learn to fly.

When the Japanese bombed **Pearl Harbor** that December, Levine's squadron was sent to India to hunt for submarines in the Indian Ocean. From there, they went to Burma to support British and Chinese ground troops.

The squadron's primary targets were bridges on the Burma Road, earning the group the nickname "Burma Bridge Busters." But they also braved ack-ack over the Japanese base of Rangoon, the Burmese capital. "We pounded Rangoon," Levine said.

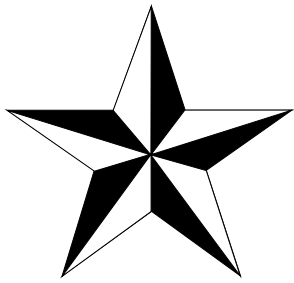
After one particularly tough flight over the city, Levine followed a friend's crippled B-25 back to base. It exploded in flames on impact with the runway. "I couldn't bring myself to look at the funeral pyre, knowing who was in it," he said, choosing instead to land at another airstrip. "I knew all of them. It was a complete crew: Three enlisted men, a navigator and a pilot."

When ruled out of further service by the flight surgeon in 1945, Levine and his crew were sent to Casablanca for several weeks to recover and clean up. "We were filthy," he said. "We had been living like animals. Our fingernails were like fangs. We all had diseases. We had to become human again before we could go home."

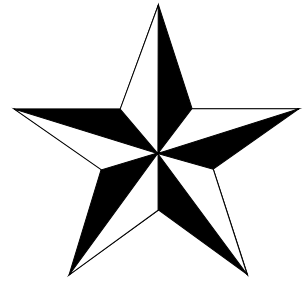
Levine was moved to a Florida hospital to recover from malaria, where he met his future wife Shirley, a Red Cross worker. They moved to Pittsburgh, went into the furniture business and had three children, and recently moved to Columbia to be near their daughter.

Why hasn't Levine seen the memorial? "Been too busy living, I guess."

[Information taken from news reports]



**LEXINGTON COUNTY  
VETERANS' PARADE**



Sunday, November 9, 2008  
North Lake Drive and South Lake Drive  
Downtown Lexington

**PARADE BEGINS AT 3:00 P.M.  
(No entry fee)**

**COME HELP HONOR OUR VETERANS !!  
Grand Marshals: Vietnam Veterans**

**A memorial service will be held at the Veterans'  
Monument following the parade**

**SPONSORED BY:**

**LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 7  
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
LADIES AUX. MOPH CHAPTER 402  
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART CHAPTER 402  
TOWN OF LEXINGTON  
VFW POST 8738**

**For More Information Contact:  
Sharon Willis [swillis@lex-co.com](mailto:swillis@lex-co.com)  
Gary Baker or Barbara O'Connor 785-8400**

**2008 County of Lexington Veterans' Day Parade Application**  
**Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.**

**\*\*\* PLEASE READ GROUP DROP OFF INSTRUCTIONS \*\*\***

Name of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e., truck, car, float, tractor trailer - include the length of your entry)

Number Participating: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Additional Information for Your Entry Here:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Applications To:**

County of Lexington Veterans' Day  
Parade Committee  
Attn: Sharon Willis, Chairperson  
212 South Lake Drive  
Lexington SC 29072

**For More Information Contact:**

Sharon Willis swillis@lex-co.com  
Gary Baker 803-785-8400  
Barbara O'Connor 803-785-8400

**ENTRY IS FREE! DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS OCTOBER 31, 2008**

**\*\*\*\*\*ALL MARCHING BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE BUS PARKING LOT OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. PLEASE DROP OFF ALL MEMBERS OF THE BAND AND ROTC IN THE REAR BUS PARKING LOT. (Please enter off of North Lake Dr, to Corley Street then left on School Street. This will take you to the rear of school parking lot.) BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL LINE UP AND ENTER THE PARADE FROM THE DRIVEWAY OF THE PARKING LOT. THANKS\*\*\*\*\***

**PARADE ROUTE:**

START AT 116 AZALEA DRIVE IN FRONT OF LEXINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. TURN LEFT ON TO NORTH LAKE DRIVE - CONTINUING DOWN NORTH LAKE DRIVE CROSSING MAIN STREET TO SOUTH LAKE DRIVE. CONTINUE DOWN SOUTH LAKE DRIVE, TURNING LEFT ON FORT STREET, AND ENDING AT LEXINGTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOTS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP PUT OUT THE PARADE STAKES BEFORE THE PARADE AND TO HELP WITH THE BAND & ROTC GROUPS BEHIND THE SCHOOL . THANK YOU AGAIN AND TO ALL OF OUR VETERANS... THANK YOU!!!**

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

PRSR STD  
U S POSTAGE PAID  
LEXINGTON, SC  
PERMIT NO. 90

**OCTOBER OUTREACH  
PROGRAM DATES**

Oct. 7th      9-12      Batesburg/Leesville  
Oct. 14th    9-12      Chapin

**TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TROOP SENDOFF**



Reba says  
"thank  
you" and  
come home  
safely!



Denise,  
Ann and  
Rhonda  
say their  
goodbyes



Gary  
Baker  
and  
Ray-  
mond  
Caugh-  
man  
provide  
peanuts, a handshake and a THANK YOU!

Ladies from **Clayton Rawl Farms** serve up the collard dip

Got my  
stress  
relief  
doll—  
Ready  
to roll!



"Thank  
You!"  
HUGS  
and  
hand-  
shakes



Ann shares a moment with a special soldier, **Danny**, whose brother was killed in 2005—yet who is on his way to Iraq

"DANG  
IT"  
DOLLS  
>>>>>



*BOILED PEANUTS, COLLARD DIP...A DECIDEDLY LEXINGTON COUNTY STYLE SENDOFF*