

**Veterans Affairs Office
of Lexington County**



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VET NEWS

February 2011

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FEBRUARY DATES FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Feb. 1st: 9-12 Batesburg-Leesville
Feb. 8th: 9-12 Chapin

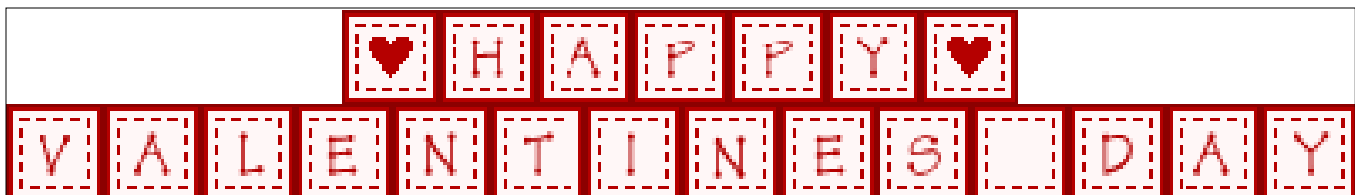
Please call the office to schedule an
appointment.

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Feb. 2nd	Groundhog Day
Feb. 8th	Boy Scout Day
Feb. 12th	Abraham Lincoln Birthday
Feb. 14th	Valentine's Day
Feb. 21st	Presidents' Day
Feb. 22nd	George Washington Birthday
Feb. 24th	Flag Day



REMINDER

The Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office will be closed on February 21st in observance of Presidents' Day. The DAV van **will not** run on this day.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master."

-President George Washington

TIME TO SUBMIT THOSE ANNUAL REPORTS!

Anyone who receives an Eligibility Verification Report (EVR) or Medical Expense Report should call our office as soon as possible to schedule an appointment for the completion of these forms.

Once your appointment is set, please gather the following information relating to your 2010 **expenses:**

- ◇ Computer printout from pharmacy itemizing medication expenses
- ◇ Paid receipts for doctor/hospital expense, glasses and eye exams, hearing aids, dental care, over-the-counter drugs
- ◇ Itemization of total mileage accumulated while traveling to/from doctors, hospital, pharmacy
- ◇ Private Medical Insurance premiums

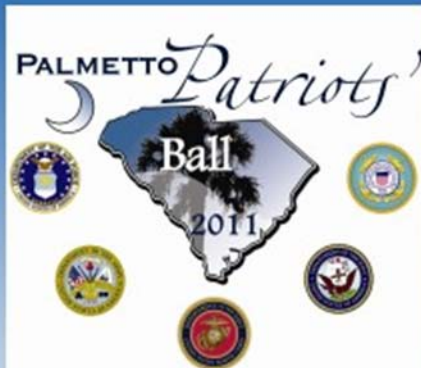
Also bring with you items relating to your **INCOME**, such as your Social Security 2011 award statement, checking/savings account information, IRA/stocks/bonds/mutual funds from 2010. Method of payment information for aid and attendance payment (if applicable) should be provided to us as well.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will **not consider** canceled checks as proof of payment, nor will Explanation of Benefits Statements (EOB) or prescriptions qualify as proof of expense. These forms should be **postmarked** by March 1, 2011 to avoid interruption of compensation payments.

Final Regulation to Aid Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange in Korea

Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea will have an easier path to access quality health care and benefits under a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) final regulation that will expand the dates when illnesses caused by herbicide exposure can be presumed to be related to Agent Orange. Under the final regulation published in the Federal Register, VA will presume herbicide exposure for any Veteran who served between **April 1, 1968, and August 31, 1971**, in a unit determined by VA and the Department of Defense to have operated in an area in or near the Korean DMZ in which herbicides were applied.

SAVE THE DATE...



2011 Palmetto Patriots Ball

Date: May 14, 2011



Keynote Speaker

**Lt. General Russel Honore'
US Army (Ret)**

Mission Statement:

The Blue Star Mothers of South Carolina look forward to your support and attendance at this 3rd annual Palmetto Patriots' Ball to celebrate and to benefit the Service Members, Veterans and their families in South Carolina.

The goal of this event is to allow us all to convey our pride and gratitude to our Active and Retired Members of the United States Armed Forces. We know this event will leave an indelible impression on those who attend. Those present will take home a renewed sense of pride and gratitude for the Service Members and Veterans of South Carolina.

We will recognize those who have dedicated their lives to protect our country and preserve and secure the blessing of our Liberty as we honor the South Carolina Veterans of all Military Branches.

You will visit with current and past members of our armed services. Then join together to reflect and honor our fallen service men and women. We will pause to lift up in prayer those who have not yet returned home to us.

Join us for an elegant meal with fellow South Carolinians as you are moved by our speakers and the level of patriotism that will encompass you.

There will be a silent Auction and door prizes with all proceeds being donated to this year's selected beneficiaries.

The Palmetto Patriots' Ball is hosted by the Blue Star Mothers of South Carolina, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 charity. Contributions are tax deductible under applicable laws.



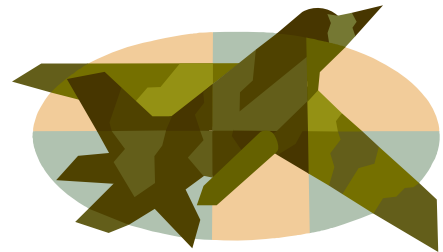
HONOR FLIGHT CONCERT

A special tribute to all WWII Veterans will be held on April 3, 2011 at the Township Auditorium in Columbia, SC. The Glen Miller Band will be the featured entertainment. WWII Veterans will be admitted FREE. Tickets will be available for all family and friends.

NEXT HONOR FLIGHT SCHEDULED FOR

April 27, 2011

For more information:
www.honorflightsc.com



"To care for him who shall have borne the battle,
and for his widow, and his orphan."

- Abraham Lincoln

WE SALUTE OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



Joint Base Charleston - Air Base will be host to the Thunderbirds on 9 April 2011. There will be a list of performers and events on-line at charlestonairexpo.com. Check back often to see how this year's show will unfold!



POEM HONORING OUR FLAG AND THOSE WHO SERVE

Poem written by Terry Odessa Paris

I remember each day at school before class was to start
We would stand beside our desk and place our hand over our heart.
We would "PLEDGE" to this material of RED, WHITE and BLUE...
Then we would sing "AMERICA" and be seated when we were through.
I was very young then and didn't quite understand...
That this material I "PLEDGED" to was the symbol of this land
(Well) as I grew older and became somewhat wise...
I learned what it stood for and the reasons that it flies
It represents our "FREEDOM" for which many others have sought...
It "SALUTES" those who have given themselves in the battles that were fought...
Each day I proudly display my flag for all others to see...
That this is my way to "SALUTE" those who have maintained these rights for me!!!
*Terry dedicated this poem to her father Johnny C. Hill, Retired 1st Sgt., and to all the men and women
who have served and those who continue to serve this great country.*

VA Pension Program

Veterans with low income may be eligible for monetary support if the veteran had 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. The discharge from active duty must have been under conditions other than dishonorable.

Payments are made to qualified veterans to bring their total income, including other retirement and/or Social Security Income, to a level set by Congress. A veteran cannot have high net worth, generally less than about \$80,000.

Pension with Aid & Attendance income limits are \$19,736.00 per year for a single veteran or \$23,396.00 for a veteran with one dependent. Un-reimbursed medical expenses may reduce countable income (Medicare premium, supplemental insurance, and cost of care at a facility).

The Housebound income limit is \$14,457.00 per year for a single veteran or \$18,1206.00 for a veteran with one dependent.

The limit for a veteran who is not in need of Housebound or Aid and Attendance is \$11,830.00 per year or \$15,493.00 for a veteran with one dependent.

Widows may also qualify if the veteran had the required wartime service and the widow meets the net worth and income limits. The annual pension income limit is \$7,933, but increases to \$9,696 for housebound and \$12,681 for aid and attendance.