



LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

August 2012

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From the Director...

This time of year we usually think about school starting back, the beginning of football season and summer winding down. This office has been very fortunate with the help of a young man named Nathan Urbates, who attends my alma mater, Airport High School. Nathan has been volunteering in the office for most of the summer and has been a great addition to our team. We rarely get volunteers who want to help in the office and it was so refreshing to get a young man who wants to make a difference. He has agreed to continue volunteering over Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday periods because he is honored to help and we appreciate him and his willingness to serve. Did I mention that he also plays football for Airport?

I continue my rounds of visiting all Veteran Service Organizations in the county to give an update and also to meet as many of you as I possibly can. I am always honored to be among you and the food is always good. Our county is truly patriotic and I am proud to be from here.

We still have our prints for sale of Gibson Pond in Lexington and our Veteran's monument. You can purchase these to resell or give as a prize for contests or conference attendees. We appreciate those of you who have purchased them so far and look forward to more sales. We place the proceeds in our Veteran's fund to use for non-budgeted items in order to help more Veterans and surviving spouses.

I hope your summer has been great and you accomplished all your goals. I am, and continue to be, honored to serve as your Veterans Service Officer.



**Did you know...
August is National
Blueberry Month**

AT-A-GLANCE

August

Wednesday, August 1st	Air Force Day
Thursday, August 2nd	Operation Desert Shield (Persian Gulf) began 1990 Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday, August 3rd	Chapin Outreach
Saturday, August 4th	US Coast Guard Est. 1790
Sunday, August 5th	US Entered Vietnam War 1964
Tuesday, August 7th	Purple Heart Medal Est. 1782 and Purple Heart Recognition Day
Thursday, August 9th	Cayce/West Columbia Outreach
Friday, August 10th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Tuesday, August 14th	Japan Surrendered Ending WWII—1945
Sunday, August 19th	National Aviation Day
Thursday, August 30th	VA Presentation @ Oakleaf Village, Lexington from 6 to 8pm

- Purple—Holidays/Special Days
- Blue—Outreach dates
- Red—County Offices Closed/No van scheduled
- Black—Director's appearances in the County
- Pink—Special Events throughout the County
- Orange—Special event—Director Out of Office
- Dark Green—Special Notices

New Drivers License Information

The Governor signed into law to add a Veteran field to the SC driver's license.
There will be a statewide announcement in the fall concerning the changes.
More information will follow later.



Lexington, SC.

YOUR VA OFFICE STAFF

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AUGUST DATES FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

August 2nd - Gaston/Swansea Outreach

August 3rd - Chapin Outreach

August 9th - Cayce/West Columbia Outreach

August 10th - Batesburg/Leesville Outreach

TOLL-FREE

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Lexington Main Office: 785-8400

From Batesburg/Leesville: 332-8400

From Chapin: 941-0231

We are now emailing copies of the newsletter. Please contact the office to be added to the newsletter email list.

New Office Policy

You must call the office to schedule an appointment for outreach in all four areas. Walk-ins will be seen after appointments if time permits.

VA Life Insurance

We are going to talk about two types of VA life Insurance: Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance.

What Is Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI)?

Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance is life insurance for Veterans who have received a service-connected disability rating by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The basic S-DVI program, commonly referred to as "RH Insurance," 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 waiver is granted, totally disabled Veterans may apply for additional coverage of up to \$20,000 under the Supplemental S-DVI program. Premiums for Supplemental S-DVI coverage, however, cannot be waived.



Who Is Eligible?

You are eligible for S-DVI if:

- ◇ You were released from service under other than dishonorable conditions on or after April 25, 1951 **AND**
- ◇ VA has notified you that you have a service-connected disability **AND**
- ◇ You are healthy except for your service-related disability **AND**
- ◇ You apply within two years of being notified of your service-connected disability.

You are eligible for SUPPLEMENTAL S-DVI IF:

- ◇ You have an S-DVI policy **AND**
- ◇ The premiums on your basic coverage are being waived due to total disability **AND**
- ◇ You apply within one year of being notified of the waiver **AND**
- ◇ You are under 65 years of age.

REMINDER: Waiver of Premiums - you may be eligible for a waiver if you become totally disabled before your 65th birthday and remain disabled for at least six consecutive months. Premiums for Supplemental S-DVI can't be waived.)



How Much Does It Cost?

The cost varies depending upon age, type of plan (term or permanent), and the amount of coverage.

How Can You Apply?

You can apply by using the following forms:

- ◇ VA Form 29-4364 to apply for basic S-DVI
- ◇ VA Form 29-0189 to apply for Supplemental S-DVI (or you may submit a letter, over your signature, requesting Supplemental S-DVI)
- ◇ VA Form 29-357 to apply for a total disability waiver of S-DVI premiums



What Is Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)?

Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) provides for the conversion of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) to a renewable term life insurance policy. This policy is renewable every five years, regardless of health, and can be retained for life.

Continued on page 6

History of Air Force Day



Air Force Day was established on August 1, 1947, by President Truman "in recognition of the personnel of the victorious Army Air Forces and all those who have developed and maintained our nation's air strength." August 1 was chosen to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment, in 1907, of the Aeronautical Division in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army. Air Force Day came into being immediately after the signing of the National Security Act of 1947, although the status of the air element of the military was uncertain. Thus, although it was called Air Force Day, its first celebration was staged by the Army Air Forces and not by the U.S. Air Force.

Underlying the Air Force Day celebration was a need to increase "both official and public awareness of the priority of importance of air forces in any system of national security," according to Mr. Truman. "The great strategic fact of our generation is that the United States now possesses live frontiers -- the frontiers of the air -- and that the oceans are no longer sure ramparts against attack."

In his message to the nation on the first Air Force Day, Mr. Truman said, "I remind all of our citizens that the air power of the nation is essential to the preservation of our liberty, and that the continued development of the science of air transportation is vital to the trade and commerce of a peaceful world."

Air Force Day was last observed on August 1, 1949.

Prints for Sale

\$10.00 each



Gibson's Pond in Lexington



Veteran's Monument across from the Administration Building

We have several copies of both of these prints for sale in our office. The cost is \$10.00 each. The proceeds will be placed in our Veteran's Fund and/or Van Fund. Your donation is tax-deductible and a receipt can be provided if you wish. To have a closer look at the prints, we have framed copies in our lobby. Please stop by our office M-F from 8 to 5 to purchase one or more of these beautiful prints!

VA Now Accepting Applications for VRAP



Are you or do you know an unemployed Veteran? VA is now accepting applications for the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP is a joint program offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor. The program provides up to 12 months of benefits for training towards a high-demand occupation.

Veterans can take advantage of VRAP if they meet the following criteria:

- * At least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- * Currently unemployed
- * Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- * Not eligible for any other VA education benefit program
- * Not receiving VA compensation due to unemployability
- * Not enrolled in a federal or state job-training program

You must enroll in a VA-approved program of education that: is offered by a community college or technical school; provides training towards an associate's degree, non-college degree, or certificate; and leads to a high demand occupation. We will accept applications through October 1, 2013, or once we have 99,000 participants, whichever comes first. Apply online since participation is limited.

Visit the VRAP website at <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>, contact your VA Regional Office, or call the VBA Education Office at 1-888-442-4551 (prompts 1-2-1-0) for more information.



County Council Needs You!

Veterans are needed to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at County Council meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. County Council meetings start at 4:30pm, so you would need to be present around 4 to 4:15pm. Contact the office at 803-785-8400 if you are interested.

Looking for Volunteer Van Drivers

The van runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, taking Veterans to appointments at DORN VAMC for their scheduled appointments between 9am and 1pm. If you can volunteer to drive the DAV van at least 1 day a month, contact the office at 803-785-8400.



Remember... The kids are back in school



SC Dental Access Days

Dental care is either unavailable or an unaffordable luxury for many adults living in South Carolina. It is common to find residents with severe pain, discomfort, and embarrassment due to poor oral health. In order to address access to care for many indigent South Carolinians, the South Carolina Dental Association is planning to launch a dental access initiative, DAD, which will primarily focus on adults with the majority of care being extractions and restorative work. The project will take place in Columbia at the State Fairgrounds. Patients will be seen Friday, August 17th from 6:00 am - 6:00 pm and Saturday, August 18th from 6:00 am - 3:00 pm.



SAVE THE DATE...

The 2012 Lexington County Veterans Parade is scheduled for Sunday, November 4th at 3pm in downtown Lexington. Please mark your calendars to join us for the 10th Annual Parade.



Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



VA Life Insurance—continued from page 3

Who Is Eligible?

You are eligible to apply for VGLI if you are/were insured under SGLI **AND**:

- ◇ You are being released from active duty or the Reserves or were released within the last year and 120 days.
- ◇ You are a member of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or Inactive National Guard (ING).
- ◇ You are a reservist who suffered an injury or disability during active duty or inactive duty for training for a period of less than 31 days and became uninsurable at standard premium rates.

REMINDER: Application period – you can apply for VGLI within the first 120 days without evidence of good health. After the initial 120 days has elapsed you have an additional year to apply, but good health requirements must be met.

What Coverage Does VGLI Provide?

VGLI provides for the amount of SGLI coverage a member had in force at the time of separation from active duty or Reserves. VGLI is issued in multiples of \$10,000 up to a maximum \$400,000. VGLI can be converted at any time to an individual permanent (i.e., whole life or endowment) plan with 54 participating commercial insurance companies.

How Do You Apply For VGLI?

SGLI coverage continues at no cost to the member for 120 days after discharge, so VGLI will not take effect until the 121st day. VGLI applications are mailed to eligible members on three occasions:

- ◇ Generally within 60 days after separation
- ◇ Within 120 days after separation when SGLI free coverage period ends
- ◇ Before the end of the 16-month application period

Applications are mailed to the address shown on the member's DD Form 214 or equivalent separation orders. It is the member's responsibility to apply within the time limits even if the member does not receive an application in the mail. Applications for VGLI coverage should be mailed to:

The Office of Servicemembers'
Group Life Insurance
P.O. Box 41618
Philadelphia, PA 19176-9913

For more information contact our office, call the Insurance Center toll-free at 1-800-419-1473 or visit their web site at <http://www.insurance.va.gov>.

THE LEXINGTON VETERANS EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PRESENTS



Veterans Enrichment Fair

“Transitioning to civilian life”

SC WORKS
Lexington

Thursday, September 27, 2012

10am-4pm

**National Guard Armory
3528 Platt Springs Road
West Columbia, SC 29170**

Vendors include employers, healthcare & service providers, and education institutions

Partial list of companies participating

Department of Corrections	Blue Cross Blue Shield
Lexington Sheriff's Dept.	O'Neill Auto Parts
SLED	Prysmian Cables and Systems
Department of Public Safety	ECPI University
Waffle House Management	Mobile Vet Center Counseling
South East Frozen Foods	Tradesmen International
Apple One Staffing	Michelin Tires
Adecco	SC Commission for Blind
MRS Human Resource	Alvin S. Glen Detention Center
Shaw Group	Palmetto Health
SCANA	Aerotek
	Onin Staffing

**FREE Health Screenings
at the**

Veterans Enrichment Fair

Prostate Cancer Screening (PSA Blood Test)
African American men age 40 & over; all other men age 50 & over
Diabetes Screening (A1C Blood Test)
High Risk Men & Women Age 18 & over

Registration required: Call CARE CALL at 803-296-2273

Deadline to register is July 20th, 2012

Screenings provided courtesy of
Palmetto Health Office of Community Services

For more details visit

www.palmettohealth.org/communityservices



An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

All voice telephone numbers may be reached using TTY/TDD equipment via the South Carolina Relay Service at 711.

VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IN LEXINGTON COUNTY

AMERICAN LEGION

Post #7-Lexington: Meets the first Saturday of the month (except before a holiday) at 1900.

Address is: American Legion Road, Lexington.

Post #61-Batesburg Leesville: Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 2000.

Address is: South Hendrix Street, Leesville.

Post #79-West Columbia: Meets the first Monday of the month at 1930.

Address is: 700 B Avenue, West Columbia

Post #90-South Congaree: Meets the first Thursday of the month at 1900.

Address is: Hwy. 302 near South Congaree.

Post #130-Cayce: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 1830.

Address is: Naples Avenue, Cayce.

Post #142-Gilbert: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 4200 Veterans Road, Gilbert

Post #156-Sandy Run: Meets the fourth Monday of the month.

Address is: Pine Plain Road outside of Gaston, just off Old Sandy Run Road.

Post #174-Irmo: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 801 Piney Woods Road, Columbia

Post #193-Chapin: Meets the second Thursday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 102 Lexington Ave., Chapin.

Post #217-Lexington: Meets the second Thursday of the month at 1930.

Address is:

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Chapter #4-West Columbia: Meets the second Monday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

Chapter #13-West Columbia: Meets the second Saturday of the month at 1300.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

Chapter #20-West Columbia: Meets the third Saturday of the month at 1100.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

Chapter #28-West Columbia: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1800.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

Chapter #51-Leesville: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 1900.

Address is: South Hendrix Street, Leesville.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post #6740-Lake Murray: Meets the of the month at

Address is: 950 Rock N Creek Road, Leesville.

Post #8738-Lexington: Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 424 Cedarcrest Drive, Lexington.

Post #9037-Pelion: Meets the third Monday of the month at 1930.

Address is: 505 Canal Drive, Pelion.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Detachment #1141-West Columbia: Meets the second Thursday of the month at 1900 .

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

BLUE STAR MOTHERS

Midlands Chapter-Lexington: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 1800.

Address is: 424 Cedarcrest Drive, Lexington.

AMVETS

Post #2-West Columbia: Meets the of the month at

Address is: 1778 D Avenue, West Columbia.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Chapter #402-Columbia: Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 200 Pickens Street, Columbia.

NAVY SEABEES

SCX #2-West Columbia: Meets the second Monday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 179 Lynn Street, West Columbia.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Chapter #303, Sandlappers-Columbia: Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 1900

Address is: 200 Pickens Street, Columbia

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

VA Regional Office-Columbia is the nearest chapter.

Address is: 6439 Garner's Ferry Road, Columbia



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2012 LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS PARADE APPLICATION
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2012 @ 3:00PM
JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 10TH YEAR

NO ENTRY FEE, SIGN UP DUE BY OCTOBER 26th, 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

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 be emailed to you also. Contact Sharon at swillis@lex-co.com

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)



Enjoy a meal with us & we'll **GiveBack**

100% of the GiveBack amount is donated directly to your organization.

Ruby Tuesday is extremely proud to be part of your hometown and believes in giving back. As a fellow member of the community, we invite you to participate in...

Ruby Tuesday's Community **GiveBack** Program.

Grab your family and friends and join us at one of the locations below on **July 12, & August 2, 2012**. Please present this flyer to your server, and we will give back **20%** of the purchase to your organization.

HOW IT WORKS

(We apologize but we cannot accommodate coupon usage or other discounts in conjunction with our GiveBack Program.)



To make a reservation, simply call us or visit us online at rubytuesday.com

Organization's Name: **FREEDOM AND HOPE FOUNDATION**

Date of Visit: **July 12, & August 2, 2012**

Ruby Tuesday

For the nearest restaurant or a peek at the menu, visit rubytuesday.com

Participating Locations:

WEST COLUMBIA • 2504 AUGUSTA ROAD • 803-739-1302

SUMTER • 1155 BROAD STREET • 803-778-0771

SUMTER HWY • 7490 GARNERS FERRY ROAD • 803-783-4181

DUTCH SQUARE • 511 BUSH RIVER ROAD • 803-798-1243

LEXINGTON PLACE • 5464 SUNSET BOULEVARD • 803-358-0911

DEVINE STREET • 4600 DEVINE STREET • 803-790-8974

Featured Medal:

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal is a military award of the United States military which was created by Executive Order 13289 on March 12, 2003 by President George W. Bush. The award recognizes those military service members who have performed service in the War on Terror from September 11, 2001 to a date to be determined.

To receive the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a military service member must perform duty in a designated anti-terrorism operation for a period of either 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty. For those who were engaged in combat, killed, or wounded in the line of duty the time requirement is waived.

The initial authorized operation for the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal was the so called "Airport Security Operation" which occurred between September 27, 2001 and May 31, 2002. Additional operations, for which the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal is authorized, include the active military campaigns of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Future operations are at the discretion of United States component commanders upon approval from the United States Department of Defense.

The medal is a bronze color metal disc 1.25 inches in diameter. The obverse depicts an eagle with spread wings. On the breast of the eagle is a shield of thirteen vertical bars. In the eagle's right claw is an olive branch and in the left claw are three arrows. The eagle is surmounted by a terrestrial globe with the inscription above "WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE MEDAL." On the reverse is a laurel wreath on a plain field. The medal is suspended from an Old Glory Blue ribbon 1.375 inches wide and consists of stripes of golden yellow, scarlet and white.

Only one award of this medal may be authorized for any individual, therefore, no service stars are prescribed. Although qualifying circumstances would be extremely rare, battle stars may be applicable for personnel who were engaged in actual combat against the enemy involving grave danger of death or serious bodily injury. Only a Combatant Command can initiate a request for a battle star. This request will contain the specific unit(s) or individual(s) engaged in actual combat, the duration for which combat was sustained, and a detailed description of the actions against the enemy.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for the specific battle stars. To date (as of 2010) there have been no service or battle stars authorized for the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.



Picture of Global War on Terrorism Medal and Ribbon

Veteran Service Organizations in Lexington County

Continued from page 8

We Need Your Help...

This is a list of the Veteran Service Organizations in Lexington County that we are aware of. Also, we have included meeting days, times and locations. Please help us in verifying the information we have and including any we don't have. If you know of any Veteran organization that is not on our list, please give us a call or email with the information and we will update the list.

*Coming in the Next Issue...
Special Monthly Compensation*