



LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

February 2012

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Director's Corner

2012 has started with a hectic pace for the office as we prepare and plan for many activities this year. In this issue you will find details on how to purchase prints we have in the office of Gibson's Pond in Lexington and the Veteran's Monument across from the Administration Building. The proceeds will be placed in our Veteran's Fund and Van Fund and we encourage you to purchase these prints for yourself or as a gift. Both funds are explained below this column. We have both of the prints framed and placed in the lobby for you to see. Your donation is tax deductible and a receipt can be provided if you wish. Please stop by our office Monday-Friday from 8-5 to purchase these beautiful prints.

On Thursday, April 5th we are hosting a Veteran's Benefits Seminar and Health Screening in the Auditorium of our building from 1-5pm. This is a first of its kind and we are partnering with the VA Medical Center, Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging, LICS, Palmetto Health Center and the Medical Services of America. The event is open to the public and to any employee of the County who wants information on the multitude of programs offered by the Department of Veteran's Affairs. Assorted health screenings will be offered free of charge by Palmetto Health and Medical Services of America. A flyer will be released soon and distributed widely in order to spread the word and make the event successful. If it is successful another Seminar is planned for October.

With the addition of our new Secretary Mandy we have a solid team that is blending well. I am proud of our team and what we do but most importantly, who we do it for. Please give Mandy a call or stop by the office and welcome her to the team. Have a great February!

The Van Fund was created to pay the replacement cost of the DAV van that transports Veterans to their VA hospital appointments. It currently has 85,000 miles on it and this office would have to cover half the cost of a new one and that cost for us would be \$15,000. DAV covers the rest of the cost for the van and pays for all the repair and maintenance costs.

The Veteran's Fund was created to fund projects the VA office is unable to support through its operating budget. Some projects previously supported by this have been to help the Combat Group, the Van driver's annual luncheon and in helping homeless Veterans. All print sales will go into the fund of the buyer's choice.

**AT-A-GLANCE
FEBRUARY**

.....

Sunday, February 12th	Lincoln's Birthday
Monday, February 13th	Aid & Attendance briefing @ Lutheran Hospice, Cola. 12 noon
Tuesday, February 14th	Valentine's Day Chapin Outreach
Monday, February 20th	President's Day County Closed no van scheduled
Wednesday, February 22nd	Washington's Birthday
Monday, February 23rd	Aid & Attendance Briefing @ Oakleaf Village, Lex. 6pm

Mark your calendars!



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.



Just a Reminder...

The DAV van will not run on Monday, February 20th due to holiday closings.



Lexington, SC.

YOUR VA OFFICE STAFF

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**FEBRUARY DATES FOR
OUTREACH PROGRAM**

Jan. 10th: 9-12 Chapin Town Hall

*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

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

BENEFITS FOR PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED VETERANS

Veterans rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be permanently and totally disabled (100% P&T) by reason of service connected disability may be eligible for some or all of the following entitlements. The VA Regional Office will provide the four P&T letters upon request. You will need to call the VA Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000 to obtain these letters prior to applying for these benefits. The letters will usually take 5 to 7 working days.

Disabled Veterans Special License Plates

Disabled Veteran 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 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 U.S. or county Department of Veterans Affairs. Limit 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. This plate allows 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. Limit 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 the license plate until remarried. However, the surviving spouse must also be 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.



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, and state migratory waterfowl and of 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

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. Note: The surviving spouse may keep a disabled Veteran tag on one vehicle but the vehicle will not be exempt from taxes. SC Department of Revenue will issue a Certificate of Exemption of Property for each vehicle.



Home Tax Exemption

A dwelling and the lot on which it is situated is exempt from real property taxes. The 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.

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 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, 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 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.

MILITARY ID CARD

Unlimited exchange and commissary store privileges in the United States are available to a 100% service connected permanent and total 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.



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.

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 Department of Veterans Affairs from any cause;
 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.



WAIVER OF PREMIUM FOR VA LIFE INSURANCE

Disabled Veterans rated 0% or greater are offered the opportunity to acquire Disabled Veterans Insurance to a maximum face amount of \$10,000. A permanent and totally disabled Veteran may have premiums waived as long as the veteran is under 65 years of age.

Honor Flight Q & A

What is Honor Flight of South Carolina? Honor Flight of South Carolina is part of the Honor Flight Network, which takes World War II Veterans to Washington, D.C., to see and experience their WWII memorial. A chartered flight takes the Veterans to our nation's capital for a one-day tour. In addition to visiting the WWII memorial, Veterans see the Korean, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials and monuments. The Veterans are special guests at Arlington Cemetery where they observe the Changing of The Guard at the Tomb of The Unknowns.

When is the next trip? The next scheduled Honor Flight, sponsored by The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, will depart Columbia, S.C. on April 11, 2012. The flight leaves Columbia by 8 a.m. and returns around 8 p.m.

Who is eligible? Any American Veteran who served in the armed forces during World War II who has not previously been on an Honor Flight. Preference will be given to members of electric cooperatives and their families, but all Veterans are urged to apply.

How are South Carolina's electric cooperatives participating in Honor Flight? Electric co-ops in S.C. have donated the money to make this trip possible.

How much does the trip cost? There is no cost to Veterans. The flight is funded through donations by South Carolina's electric cooperatives.

Can I go if I have special medical needs? Yes. Arrangements can be made for most special needs, including wheelchair bound and oxygen dependent individuals. Several physicians will be on the flight to assist the Veterans throughout the day. We encourage all Veterans to apply.

Can my spouse participate? No. However, Veterans may have a guardian. Guardians are the caretakers of the Veterans for the day. Spouses are not permitted to be guardians, but other family members are.

Can another member of my family participate? Yes. A child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or other family members or friends are encouraged to apply to be guardians.

How can I apply? You may mail in the application printed in the January edition of *South Carolina Living Magazine*, or you can apply online at scliving.coop.

Do I have to provide my own transportation to the airport? Yes. The flight will depart from the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. You will be responsible for your own transportation to and from the airport.

How many seats are available on the trip? There is room for approximately 100 Veterans on the flight.

When will I know if I have been chosen? Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Honor Flight personnel will contact you soon after your application is received.

If I am not chosen for the flight, will I be able to attend a future trip? Yes. There will be another Honor Flight in May of 2012. We will do everything we can to make sure you are a part of that trip. Honor Flight's goal is to give every WWII Veteran the chance to participate.



I'd like to make a donation to Honor Flight of South Carolina. How do I do that? Make your check payable to **Honor Flight of South Carolina** Mail Check to: Honor Flight of South Carolina, PO Box 292421, Columbia, SC 29229

What is the application deadline? There is no deadline; we will accept applications until the plane is full. However, please submit an application at your earliest convenience to ensure you have a spot on the flight. A family member is welcome to submit an application on your behalf if you are unable to do so.

How can I get more information about the trip? You may visit honorflightsc.com, or contact Betsy Hix with The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc., at betsy.hix@ecsc.org or (803) 739-3024.



HONOR FLIGHT APPLICATION

Honor Flight and the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina recognize America's World War II heroes for your sacrifice and achievements by flying you to Washington, DC to see YOUR memorial at no charge. This Honor Flight is scheduled for April 11, 2012. The one-day trip departs Columbia Airport at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 7:00 p.m. Honor Flight's mission is to ensure every WWII Veteran is given the opportunity to experience this special tribute to your service to our country. **Please submit application by March 1, 2012.**



Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ (Month/Day/Year)

Official Name _____ Nick Name: _____

Address: _____ City & Zip Code: _____

Phone (Day): (____) ____ - ____ (Evening) (____) ____ - ____ (Cell) (____) ____ - ____

Occupation: _____ Branch of Service: _____

Operating Force (Fleet, Division, Brigade, etc..) _____

Rank at time of retirement: _____

Activity during WWII: Atlantic ____ Pacific ____ Both ____ Other _____

Hometown: _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION: Information about your medical needs will NOT disqualify you. It permits the physicians and nurses accompanying the flight to prepare and support any needs you may have. Honor Flight and the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina will not share your medical information.

Do you use mobility equipment? Yes ____ No ____

Might you need a wheelchair at any time during the trip? Yes ____ No ____

Please list any drug allergies: _____

Do you have a history of seizures? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, type: _____

If your last seizure occurred within the last five years, you MUST discuss this trip with your physician prior to submitting this application.

Do you use oxygen? Yes ____ No ____

You must submit your physician's prescription for your oxygen for the flight at the time you submit this application. Honor Flight of South Carolina will provide the oxygen based upon the prescription.

If you use a Nebulizer, you MUST discuss this trip with your physician prior to submitting this application. A prescription for the nebulizer must accompany this application. Honor Flight of South Carolina will provide a portable machine if you do not have one.

If you have a urostomy or colostomy bag, you will need to bring an extra as a precaution.

Did You Know... The Department of Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has a new online form to make it easier for grieving family members to report the deaths of military retirees. Instead of having to call and wait on hold for several minutes to report the death of a retiree, the survivor can go to www.dfas.mil and click on Retired Military & Annuitants at the top of the screen. Then on the left side of the screen click on Survivor's and Beneficiaries and then click on Report a Retiree's Death. Just follow the instructions to get to DFAS form 9221. Once DFAS is notified they will stop the retiree's pay to prevent an overpayment and establish any benefits the survivor may be entitled to.



DANG-IT DOLL Update

This is from an email that the office received from Carol Davis with Operation Military Stress Relief Dolls, Inc:



“I need to update you on some of our supply and shipping issues. I have just been notified by Marshall Dry Goods, our stuffing supplier, that as of 01/01/12 the cost of a 5 pound box of the stuffing we use is now \$20.00 per box. This includes the shipping cost. This is an increase of almost \$5.00 per box. Unfortunately or fortunately for us, depending on how you look at it, this is still cheaper than we can buy it in the stores and most stores here do not carry the Morning Glory in the quantities we need. The cost of

shipping has also gone up, therefore, our cost per doll has gone up to approximately \$7.50 per doll. This does include the cost of shipping based on shipping 50 dolls per box. We will work through this. I have faith everyone will pitch in to help with the cost so we can continue making and shipping the Dang-it Dolls to our service men and women.

We received a very nice donation a few weeks before Christmas that enabled us to ship all the requests we had at that time and buy 20 boxes of stuffing to start the new year. Unfortunately, that money is all gone now and we have requests for over 1200 hundred dolls needing to be shipped. We need to raise at least \$2500.00 over the next month and a half to take care of these requests and the ones that will continue to come in. Any help you, your church, or groups and organizations can do to help us will be appreciated.”



For additional information go to www.militarystressreliefdolls.com or contact Carol directly at omsrd@yahoo.com.

We Need Your Help...

We need your help Veteran Service Organizations in Lexington County! Below 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.

The new County Veteran's Service Officer is making his way throughout the county to visit each one of these and introduce himself and bring copies of our revamped newsletter. We also would like to include this information on our bulletin board in the lobby and on our web page at the county website. We want to help recruit for your organization and promote any events you have so please help us help you.

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:

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: Hwy. #1 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 1800 for chow, 1900 for meeting.

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.



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Miss Annie "Anne" Elizabeth Kaminer, 104, of Agape Senior Center, and formerly of Counts Ferry Road, Lexington, passed away Saturday, December 31, 2011. She was born December 30, 1907, in Manila, Philippines. She was homeschooled until she entered Lexington High School in the 11th grade and graduated in 1925. She graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1929 with an A.B. in education, with a major in Spanish and minors in history and English. She received her master's in romance languages in 1933 from USC. In 1935, she returned to the Philippine Islands where she taught for three years at The Brent School, a private Episcopal school. She taught at Newberry College from 1941-1943 and then decided to join the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) / Women's Army Corps (WAC) in which she served from 1943-46. Anne was a charter member of the Granby Chapter, NSDAR, where she was regent, treasurer and registrar. She was a member of American Legion Post #7, as well as a lifetime member of the Clan Ross Association, and a member of the Robert Burns Society, Lexington UDC Chapter #1920, the USC Alumni Association, and USC Centurion Club. She was formerly active in the Athena Club, the American Association of Teachers in Spanish and Portuguese, and was secretary of the Kaminer Reunion.

Anne celebrated her 100th birthday at her new home, Agape, where she was presented the prestigious Order of the Silver Crescent and the Palmetto Patriot Award. She had the honor of being named the 2011 Woman of Distinction by the Lexington Woman's Club. She is believed to be the oldest WWII Veteran in Lexington County.

MSG John Franklin Baker, Jr., US Army (Ret.), 66, died Friday, January 20, 2012. Born October 30, 1945 in Davenport, Iowa. He graduated from Moline High School in 1966, and later took courses at the University of Hawaii. Baker entered the U.S. Army in Moline, Illinois, serving as a private in "A" Company, 2nd Battalion of the 27th Infantry, known as The "Wolfhounds". He served 300 missions as a "tunnel rat" in Vietnam, a soldier who entered Viet Cong tunnels searching out the enemy and destroying their caches of war material. In Vietnam, Baker took part in Operation Attleboro which began in September 1966. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968.



Baker made the military his career, retiring in 1989 after serving twenty four years of service for a country that he loved. MSG Baker began working as a computer analyst at the Dorn Veterans Hospital in Columbia and retired after fifteen years of service. In 2008, the I-280 Bridge, connecting Davenport, Iowa with Rock Island, Illinois, was renamed the Sergeant John F. Baker, Jr. Bridge in his honor. In addition to serving as the Vice-President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, he served as a member on the Nation's Monuments and Cemeteries Committee. John was a member of the VFW, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, 25th Infantry Division Association and the 27th Infantry Regiment Historical Society. As a member of the National Infantry Association, Order of St. Maurice, he was a recipient of the Primicerius Award, which is the highest designation for those who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the Infantry. He was a highly decorated veteran to include; Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. John was appointed as a Special Deputy with the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

***If anyone knows of a Veteran that is 100 years of age or older, please contact the office.
We would like to do a special story on them.***

**Refill VA scripts-
Download your military and
health records at home-
See all your appointments, labs
and more ONLINE**



www.myhealth.va.gov

My Health, My Care: 24/7 ^{Online} Access to VA

Contact:

BETH.LAMB@va.gov

DID YOU KNOW...



The Lt. Governor's Office on Aging has an informational website with links and contact information for seniors. The website is: <https://sccess.communityos.org/cms/>

the sewing studio



12-hour Sewing Marathon

Lap Quilts for Veterans

February 11, 2012

8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

*Gymnasium at Palmetto Church of Christ
7000 Nursery Rd., Columbia, SC 29212*

"Sewing to win the race"

*Check out all the details and register at
www.thesewingstudio.biz*

*Contact: Becky Traynham 803-730-4343
Darlene Walton 803-622-0300
darwalton@bellsouth.net*

Fabric Furnished

*Sewers bring Sewing Machine, Scissors and
Thread
Support Team Members Needed*

Vietnam Veterans

Homecoming Celebration 2012

More than 216,000 North Carolina residents served in Vietnam, and some 1,600 made the ultimate sacrifice in that war. Now, the USO of North Carolina and Charlotte Motor Speedway, with support from the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters, will honor their service with an incredible Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration on March 31 for the military members and their friends and families.



Vietnam Veterans never received the type of homecoming celebration that today's troops receive as they return from service. To honor those who served and the military members who returned from combat, the USO of North Carolina is holding a long, overdue homecoming celebration. Hosted by the USO of North Carolina and Charlotte Motor Speedway, the Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration 2012 is set to be an unforgettable experience featuring live entertainment, displays and demonstrations, military salutes, and much more!

Veteran Service Organizations will be on-site to assist Veterans. Please bring your DD Form 214 so they can help, if needed.

Reserve your FREE ticket now! For all inquiries regarding this event, please email [welcomehomeinfo@uso-nc.org](mailto:welcomhomeinfo@uso-nc.org).

HIRING OUR HEROES

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's "Hiring Our Heroes" Hiring Fair scheduled for March 6, 2012 at Fort Jackson's MG Robert B. Solomon Center is committed to making this a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair a win-win for employers and Veteran/military spouse job seekers.

This Hero2Hired (H2H) sponsored hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment & Training Service (DOL VETS), Fort Jackson, The Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP), South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce Veterans Services (SCDEW), South Carolina National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, South Carolina Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces, Army Community Services and the State Media Company. These agencies are partnering to help veterans, guardsmen/reservists, and their spouses find meaningful employment.

March 6, 2012 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (opening ceremonies kick off at 9:45 a.m.)

MG Robert B. Solomon Center
Bldg 6510

6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd
Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

If you need assistance registering, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or for more information check out www.uschamber.com/veterans/events

Featured Medal: GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL



Picture of medals and ribbons—Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard

The **Good Conduct Medal** is one of the oldest military awards of the United States military. The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service". Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishments, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses. If a service member commits an offense, the three-year mark "resets" and a service member must perform an additional three years of service without having to be disciplined, before the Good Conduct may be authorized.

During times of war, the Good Conduct Medal may be awarded for one year of faithful service. The Good Conduct Medal may also be awarded posthumously, to any service member killed in the line of duty.

Service for the Good Conduct Medal **must** be performed on active duty; it is not awarded to members of the military reserve or National Guard for reserve duty (though reservists are eligible if they complete sufficient active service). The various services have established a Reserve Good Conduct Medal as a comparable award available to Reserve and Guard members who satisfactorily perform annual training and drill duty.

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.



These forms should be postmarked by **March 1, 2012** to avoid interruption of compensation payments

SAVE THE DATE...

On Thursday, April 5th, the office will host a Veterans Benefit and Health Screening Seminar in the Auditorium at 605 West Main Street, Lexington from 1-5 pm



Please come and join us!

◆ Honor and Support Your South Carolina Veterans ◆ 2012 Palmetto Patriots' Ball

The Blue Star Mothers of the Midlands are hosting the 4th Annual Palmetto Patriots' Ball on May 19, 2012 at the Medallion Center in Columbia, SC.

The event will raise money to support our South Carolina Veterans.

For more information, please visit www.palmettopatriotsball.org.



Saturday, May 19, 2012
The Medallion Center - Columbia, SC
Reception and Silent Auction 5:30 / Dinner and Dancing 6:30
Semi-Formal or Military Dress
Keynote Speaker:
Mike Huckabee
Former Governor, Presidential Candidate and
Host of FOX News' "Huckabee" & Daily ABC Radio Broadcast Show

Area Service Organizations - Continued from page

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.

PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR ASSOCIATION

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Chapter #303, Sandlappers-Columbia: Meets the
Address is:

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

VA Regional Office-Columbia is the nearest chapter.
Address is: 6439 Garner's Ferry Road, Columbia.

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA VETERANS ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN EX PRISONERS OF WAR

Palmetto Chapter-Columbia: Meets the
Address is:



Looking for Volunteer Van Drivers

The van runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, & 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.



Coming in the Next Issue...

Survivor Benefits