



LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

June 2012

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Director's Corner

Last month our country remembered Memorial Day with parades, services and ceremonies. The service at Caughtman-

Harman Funeral Home was a first-class event and I was honored to be there. It was well attended and well presented.

This month we celebrate Flag Day in remembrance of the United States Flag, the old red, white and blue. This day was started in 1885 by a 19 year old teacher in Wisconsin. Most Americans have no idea we celebrate Flag Day and have probably forgotten the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag that we learned in grade school. This day on the calendar will go unnoticed as they flip over to June 15th but Veterans, Veteran Service Organizations and active duty military do not allow this day to go unnoticed.

I remember the first time I saw the flag after I completed Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training in the Army and came home to South Carolina. Before this training, the flag, to me, was something I saw at school or the Post Office. I hardly ever noticed it as many Americans today don't notice either. Once I became a Soldier, I looked at the flag in a different way and revered and respected it for what and whom it represents. It means everything to me and I am proud to serve.

The U.S. flag represents freedom, justice and liberty for all Americans. It is a symbol of hope and pride for all of us and any who have ever worn the military uniform respect it deeply. I have served many tours overseas and we always paused every morning for the raising of the flag and every evening for the lowering of the flag. It was always a highlight of the day and we did it with honor and respect. I love that old flag and what she represents and have never looked at it the same as before I served in the Army. Please honor Flag Day on Thursday, June 14th.

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!



AT-A-GLANCE
June

Wednesday, June 6th	D-Day (1944)
Monday, June 11th	Director on leave
Tuesday, June 12th	Chapin Outreach
Thursday, June 14th	Flag Day Birthday of Army (1775)
Sunday, June 17th	Father's Day
Tuesday, June 19th	VA Health Benefits Seminar @ VAMC Dorn 10am—12 noon
Wednesday, June 20th	Summer begins
Friday, June 22nd	Pledge of Allegiance recognized by congress (1942)
Wednesday, June 27th	US entered into Korean War (1950)
Wednesday, July 4th	Independence Day County Closed No Van scheduled

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



Lexington, SC.

YOUR VA OFFICE STAFF

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**JUNE DATES FOR
OUTREACH PROGRAM**

June 12th Chapin 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 ap-
pointment for outreach in Batesburg and
Chapin. Walk-ins will be seen after ap-
pointments if time permits.**

Education Benefits for Veterans

The two most common education benefits for Veterans are Chapter 30—Montgomery GI Bill and Chapter 33—Post 9/11 GI Bill. Below are highlights of these two benefits.

Chapter 30—Montgomery GI Bill

Eligibility requirements are: Honorable discharge, high school diploma or equivalent, continuously served for at least 3 years, entered active duty for the first time after 6/30/1985.

Benefits include:

- ◇ provides up to 36 months of benefits **
- ◇ 10 years from discharge to use
- ◇ Payments are made directly to the Veteran from the first day classes start.
- ◇ Veteran must work with the school and pay tuition up front and then be reimbursed
- ◇ No housing allowance
- ◇ No book stipend

Chapter 33—Post 9/11 GI Bill

Eligibility requirements are: Honorable discharge and served on active duty at least 90 aggregate days beginning on or after 9/11/2001.

Benefits include:

- ◇ Provides up to 36 months of benefits **
- ◇ 15 years from discharge to use
- ◇ Tuition and fees paid directly to school
- ◇ Living allowance equal to basic allowance for housing amount payable an E-5 with dependents in the zip code of your school.
- ◇ Book stipend—\$1000/year based on enrollment

**This is 36 months of total benefits in any combination of education benefits.

To apply for these benefits, you will need to complete a VA form 22-1990. For more information or to apply for these benefits, please call the VA toll free at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551), visit their website www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov or call our office.

Changes in the Outreach Programs

These changes will take place starting July 1st.



Gaston/Swansea Outreach – 1st Thursday of the month at the Gaston Library from 10am to 1pm.

Chapin Outreach – 1st Friday of the month at the Chapin Library from 9am to 11am.



Cayce/West Columbia Outreach – 2nd Thursday of the month at the Cayce/West Columbia Library from 9am to 12noon.

Batesburg/Leesville Outreach – 2nd Friday of the month at the Batesburg/Leesville Library from 9am to 12 noon.



Appointments for outreach dates are greatly appreciated.
Please call the office to schedule.



Veteran's Monument across from the Administration Building

Prints for Sale

\$10.00 each



Gibson's Pond in Lexington

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!

The History Of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

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.



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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Featured Medal: *Bronze Star Medal*

The **Bronze Star Medal** (BSM, or BSV with valor device) is a United States Armed Forces individual military decoration that may be awarded for bravery, acts of merit, or meritorious service. As a medal it is awarded for merit, and with the "V" for valor device it is awarded for heroism. It is the fourth-highest combat award of the U.S. Armed Forces and the ninth highest military award (including both combat and non-combat awards) in the order of precedence of U.S. military decorations. Officers from the other federal uniformed services are also eligible to receive the award if they are militarized or detailed to serve with a service branch of the armed forces. The Bronze Star Medal was established by Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (superseded by Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962, as amended by Executive Order 13286, 28 February 2003). The Bronze Star Medal may be awarded by the Secretary of a military department or the Secretary of Homeland Security with regard to the Coast Guard when not operating as a service in the Navy, or by such military commanders, or other appropriate officers as the Secretary concerned may designate, to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States, after 6 December 1941, distinguishes, or has distinguished, himself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight—

- (a) while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;
- (b) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- (c) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The acts of heroism are of a lesser degree than required for the award of the Silver Star. The acts of merit or acts of valor must be less than that required for the Legion of Merit but must nevertheless have been meritorious and accomplished with distinction. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded only to service members in combat who are receiving imminent danger pay. The award may be made to each member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 6 December 1941, was cited in orders or awarded a certificate for exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy after 7 December 1941. For this purpose, an award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge is considered as a citation in orders. Documents executed since 4 August 1944 in connection with recommendations for the award of decorations of higher degree than the Bronze Star Medal cannot be used as the basis for an award under this paragraph.

The award that eventually became the Bronze Star Medal was conceived by Colonel Russell P. "Red" Reeder in 1943, who believed it would aid morale if there was a medal which could be awarded by captains of companies or batteries to deserving people serving under them. Reeder felt the medal should be a ground equivalent of the Air Medal, and proposed that the new award be called the "Ground Medal". The idea eventually rose through the military bureaucracy and gained supporters. General George C. Marshall, in a memorandum to President Franklin D. Roosevelt dated 3 February 1944, wrote "The fact that the ground troops, Infantry in particular, lead miserable lives of extreme discomfort and are the ones who must close in personal combat with the enemy, makes the maintenance of their morale of great importance. The award of the Air Medal has had an adverse reaction on the ground troops, particularly the Infantry Riflemen who are now suffering the heaviest losses, air or ground, in the Army, and enduring the greatest hardships."

The Bronze Star Medal was designed by Rudolf Freund of jewelry firm Bailey, Banks & Biddle. The Bronze Star is a bronze star 1½ inches (38 mm) in circumscribing diameter. In the center thereof is a 3/16 inch (4.8 mm) diameter superimposed bronze star, the center line of all rays of both stars coinciding. The reverse has the inscription "HEROIC OR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT" and a space for the name of the recipient to be engraved. The star is suspended from the ribbon by a rectangular shaped metal loop with the corners rounded. The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches (35 mm) wide and consists of the following stripes: 1/32 inch (1 mm) white 67101; 9/16 inch (14 mm) scarlet 67111; 1/32 inch (1 mm) white; center stripe 1/8 inch (3 mm) ultramarine blue 67118; 1/32 inch (1 mm) white; 9/16 inch (14 mm) scarlet; and 1/32 inch (1 mm) white. Additional awards of the Bronze Star Medal are denoted in the Army and Air Force by oak leaf clusters. The Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard issue award stars to denote subsequent decorations. The Valor device (or "V device") is authorized by all services and identifies the award as resulting from an act of *combat heroism* (as in the case of the Army and Air Force) or signifying that the medal was earned in combat (as in the case of the Navy), thus distinguishing it from meritorious achievement awards. However, an accumulation of minor acts of combat heroism does not justify an award of the Valor device. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded for valor, achievement and service. Combat service deserving a Bronze Star Medal, but not achieved in a particular valorous act, would warrant a meritorious (achievement) Bronze Star. The Valor device does not denote an additional award and only one such device may be worn on any ribbon.



Picture of the Bronze Star Medal and Ribbon

Mark your calendars!



Remembering the Columbia Army Air Base

Midlands author, Rachel Haynie will present her newly released book, **Cornfield to Airfield: A History of Columbia Army Air Base**, Monday, June 11, 6:00 p.m., at the B-L Branch Library. The Columbia Army Air Base, now home to the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, played a major role during WWII as a B-25 training center. Haynie's presentation will also include a short program on (then) Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle's daring raid on Tokyo, and its impact upon local history. This free program is open to adults over 18. Seating is limited. Call 532-9223 for reservations.

Remember the fathers who are away from their families.

What Makes a Dad
God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad
Author Unknown

Happy Father's Day



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.

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.



Veteran Service Organizations in Lexington County

Continued from page 6

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... Vocational Rehabilitation Program