



# LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

*"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"*

January/February 2013

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**From the Director...**

Last year was an adventurous and exciting year for our office and we remain committed to caring for the greatest people in the world—our Veterans. We aspire to do much more in 2013 and fully increase the exposure of our office throughout this great county. We enjoy what we do and consider our work to be an opportunity to help those eligible for VA benefits.

We have a new addition to our team with the arrival of Melanie DaMoude, who serves as a benefits counselor. She came to us from a state position and is a Lexington County native that we are glad to have onboard with us. Please take an opportunity to call or visit the office to welcome her.

Our monthly newsletter is researched, proofread and well prepared with each issue and for a small office, this has become time consuming. With this issue we will move ahead with a bimonthly publication and prepare it with the same standards all of you have come to appreciate. Our publication months will be: January, March, May, July, September and November. If you have a feature story, benefit or program you would like more information on, please let us know. We welcome your comments and ideas for forthcoming issues and we will endeavor to keep it a quality publication.

On behalf of the Lexington County Veterans Affairs team, I wish all of you a happy, safe and prosperous 2013. May it be your best!

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!

## *A Note from the Editor...*

*The Veterans News will now be a bi-monthly issue.*

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

*AT-A-GLANCE*  
**CALENDAR**  
**January /February**

Thursday, January 3rd	Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday January 4th	Chapin Outreach
Thursday, January 10th	Cayce/W. Columbia Outreach
Friday, January 11th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Monday, January 21st	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day <b>County Closed</b> <b>No Van Scheduled</b>
Friday, February 1st	Chapin Outreach
Saturday, February 2nd	Groundhog Day
Thursday, February 7th	Gaston Outreach
Friday, February 8th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Thursday February 14th	Valentine's Day Cayce/W. Columbia Outreach
Monday, February 18th	President's Day <b>County Closed</b> <b>No Van Scheduled</b>
Thursday, February 21st	Speaking engagement @ Shepherd's Center in Lexington

- 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



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**JANUARY AND FEBRUARY DATES FOR  
OUTREACH PROGRAM**

- January 3rd - Gaston/Swansea Outreach
- January 4th - Chapin Outreach
- January 10th - Cayce/W. Columbia Outreach
- January 11th - Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
- February 1st - Chapin Outreach
- February 7th - Gaston/Swansea Outreach
- February 8th - Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
- February 14th - Cayce/W. Columbia Outreach

**TOLL-FREE  
TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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

***New Office Policy***

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

# Homeless Veterans

## Opportunities to return to employment

VA's **Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)** is comprised of three unique programs which assist homeless Veterans in returning to competitive employment: Sheltered Workshop, Transitional Work, and Supported Employment. Veterans in CWT are paid at least the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is the higher.

The **Homeless Veteran Supported Employment Program (HVSEP)** provides vocational assistance, job development and placement, and ongoing supports to improve employment outcomes among homeless Veterans and Veterans at-risk of homelessness. Formerly homeless Veterans who have been trained as Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists (VRSs) provide these services. Veterans can call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans hotline at 1-877-4AID-VET.



## Safe Housing

The **Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program** provides grants and per diem payments (as funding is available) to help public and nonprofit organizations establish and operate supportive housing and service centers for homeless Veterans.



**HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH) Program** is a joint effort between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA. HUD allocated nearly 38,000 "Housing Choice" Section 8 vouchers across the country. These vouchers allow Veterans and their families to live in market rate rental units while VA provides case management services. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord on behalf of the participating Veteran. The Veteran then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program.

The **Acquired Property Sales for Homeless Providers Program** makes all VA foreclosed properties available for sale to homeless provider organizations—at a 20 to 50 percent discount—to shelter homeless Veterans.

The **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program** provides grants and technical assistance to community-based, nonprofit organizations to help Veterans and their families stay in their homes.

Housing assistance for homeless Veterans and their families is available through several federal programs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH) partner to provide permanent, supportive housing and treatment services for homeless Veterans.

HUD allocated nearly 38,000 "Housing Choice" vouchers across the country, which allows Veterans and their families to live in market rate rental housing while VA provides case management services. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by the local public housing authority on behalf of the participating Veteran. The Veteran then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. The case management services facilitate the attainment of the Veteran's recovery goals. The HUD-VASH Program is for the most vulnerable Veterans, and provides special services for women Veterans, those recently returning from combat zones, and Veterans with disabilities.

## Health care

VA's **Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program** offers outreach, exams, treatment, referrals, and case management to Veterans who are homeless and dealing with mental health issues, including substance use. At more than 135 HCHV sites, trained, caring VA specialists provide tools and support necessary for Veterans to get their lives on a better track.

VA's **Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (H-PACTs) Program** provides a coordinated "medical home" specifically tailored to the needs of homeless Veterans that integrates clinical care with delivery of social services with enhanced access and community coordination. Implementation of this model is expected to address many of the health disparity and equity issues facing this population and result in reduced emergency department use and hospitalizations, improved chronic disease management, improved "housing readiness" with fewer Veterans returning to homelessness once housed.

VA's **Homeless Veterans Dental Program** provides dental treatment for eligible Veterans in a number of programs: Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment, VA Grant and Per Diem, Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (contract bed), and Community Residential Care. VA is working to expand dental care to all eligible Veterans within this program.

**Project CHALENG** (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) brings together providers, advocates, and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless Veterans and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action. This process has helped build thousands of relationships between VA and community agencies so that together they can better serve homeless Veterans.



Continued on page 4

## Homeless Veterans Continued...

### Mental health services


[Veteran Justice Outreach](#) provides eligible, justice-involved Veterans with timely access to VA's mental health and substance use services when clinically indicated, and other VA services and benefits as appropriate.

VA's Substance Use Disorder Treatment Enhancement Initiative provides substance use services in the community to aid homeless Veterans' recovery.

[The Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans Program](#) helps incarcerated Veterans successfully rejoin the community through supports including those addressing mental health and substance use problems.

[The Readjustment Counseling Service's Vet Center Programs](#) feature community-based locations and outreach activities that help to identify homeless Veterans and match homeless Veterans with necessary services.

### 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.

## JUST A REMINDER...

The office will be closed on January 21st and February 18th.

There will no van scheduled for those days.



Happy Valentine's Day

With tax season here, please note that you are given the opportunity to help Veterans or active duty service personnel in need of financial assistance.

On the South Carolina income tax forms, 1040, there is a place to request that some of your refund or some additional payment go to either the SC Military Family Relief Fund or the SC Veterans' Trust Fund.

The SC Military Family Relief Fund - This fund awards grants to families of members of the SC National Guard or Reserves who are called to active duty as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Grants are distributed based on need, status and service-connected injury or illness.

The SC Veterans' Trust Fund - This Trust Fund ensures that your voice is heard via supporting Veterans' programs designed to benefit veterans and their families. This Fund complements many State and Federal initiatives. It is managed by Veterans for Veterans.



## Prints for Sale

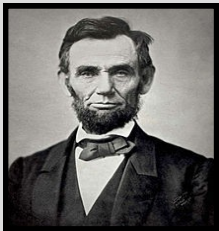


We have several copies of the Veterans Memorial and Gibson Pond prints for sale in our office. The Gibson Pond print is 32x24 and the Monument print is 24x15.



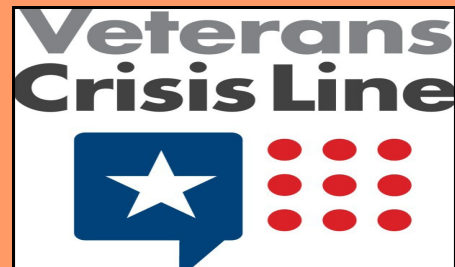
Both are suitable for framing. The cost is \$10.00 each. The proceeds will be placed in our Veteran's Fund and/or Van Fund. Your donation is tax-deductible and a receipt can be provided. Come by the office to have a closer look at the prints. Please stop by our office M-F from 8 to 5 to purchase one or more of these beautiful prints!

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."



-Abraham Lincoln

## 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.



**Appointments are strongly encouraged to meet with our Benefits Counselors.**

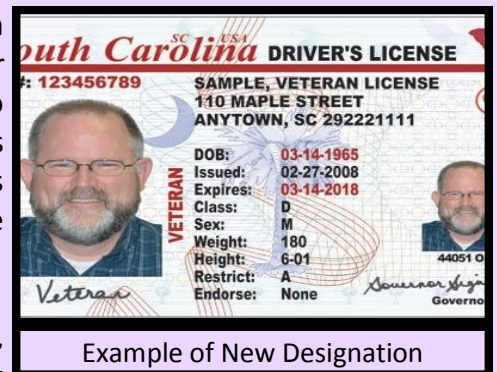
# New Drivers License Information

The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announced on September 7, 2012, the availability of a "VETERAN" designation on driver licenses, identification cards and beginner permits for individuals who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces.

The VETERAN designation applies only to individuals who served honorably as members of the United States Armed Forces. To apply, Veterans must present their Form DD214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), which indicates an honorable discharge. No other proof of service will be accepted. Military dependents, spouses, or civilian employees on military bases are not eligible.

The cost to add VETERAN designation to a driver license, identification card or beginner permit is \$1.00. If a customer adds the designation without changing or renewing his license, he will pay only the \$1.00 fee. However, if the customer conducts another license transaction, he will pay \$1.00 plus the required transaction fee. For example, a customer that adds the designation when he renews his 10-year driver license would pay \$25.00 plus the \$1.00 fee. A customer who changes his address and adds the designation would pay \$10.00 plus the \$1.00 fee. Each time a customer changes or renews his credential, he must pay an additional \$1.00 fee to add the designation.

Because state law requires documentation of military service, Veterans applying for the designation must visit a DMV office. To get the best service in the shortest amount of time, DMV recommends that customers visit the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Customers should also remember that the days before and after a holiday are extremely busy at DMV.



## Volunteers needed

### 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.



# SOUTH CAROLINA MILITARY PLATES

The South Carolina Military plates listed below are available through the SC DMV. You would need to complete a SC DMV form MV-37 and registration fees do apply.

## Army Distinguished Service Medal Plate

The Army Distinguished Service Medal plate is available to SC residents who have been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for the Army. Applicants must present official documentation certifying that he or she has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for the Army along with a completed Application for Military License Plate (MV-37). The cost for the plate is the regular registration fee and two plates may be issued per applicant. This plate is available by mail only.



## Bronze Star

The Bronze Star plate is available to SC residents who have been awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Applicants must present a form DD-214 or other official documentation certifying that he/she has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal along with a completed Application for Military License Plate (MV-37). The cost for the plate is the regular registration fee. This plate is available by mail only.



## Disabled Veteran

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) has 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 (See Disabled Veteran Handicapped Plate below for requirements).



## Disabled Veteran Handicapped

This plate is a free and permanent license plate and is available to individuals who submit proper certification from the Veterans Administration AND who are ALSO certified as permanently handicapped by their physicians. Applicants must submit a completed DMV Form MV-37 Application for Military License and a letter or other documentation from the U.S., Regional or County Veterans Administration certifying that he or she is a war time disabled Veteran who: 1) is entitled to compensation for the loss of use of one or both legs or arms, or 2) has 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. 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.



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### Disabled Veteran Motorcycle

The Disabled Veteran Motorcycle is a free and permanent license plate. Applicants must submit a completed DMV Form MV-37 Application for Military License and a letter or other documentation from the U.S., Regional or County Veterans Administration certifying that he or she is a war time disabled Veteran who: 1) is entitled to compensation for the loss of use of one or both legs or arms, or 2) has 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 Veteran Affairs. Limit two plates per applicant: either two vehicle plates, two motorcycle plates or one of each. The applicant cannot have four plates. There is no registration fee and the plate is available by mail only. This plate DOES NOT allow parking in designated handicapped parking spaces, unless it has a wheelchair decal. Applicants who are also certified permanently handicapped by a licensed physician on DMV form RG-007 Application for Disabled License Plate and Placard with an attached prescription order may receive a wheelchair decal for display on the Disabled Veteran Motorcycle plate that allows the individual to park in designated handicapped parking spaces. Motorcycles that bear a Disabled Veteran license plate (with or without a wheelchair decal) are exempt from the payment of municipal parking meter fees. (SC Code of Laws 56-5-2585)



### Gold Star Family

The Gold Star Family plate is available to immediate family members (parent, spouse, sibling or child) of fallen service personnel as certified by the Affidavit of Relationship on the application form. To apply for the plate you must present one of the following documents: DD-2064 D.O.D. Certificate of Death (Overseas) or a DD-1300 D.O.D. Report of Casualty. Each qualifying family member may receive, for vehicles registered in their name, a maximum of two plates. There is no fee for this plate.



### Korean War Veteran

The Korean War Veteran plate is available to SC residents who served on active duty during the Korean War. Applicants must present a form DD-214 or other official documentation certifying active duty service during the time period of June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1954, or provide certification of receiving the Korean War Service Medal along with a completed Application for Military License Plate (MV-37). The cost is \$20.00 every two years in addition to the regular registration fees. This plate is available by mail only.



### Medal of Honor

Applicants must submit a completed DMV Form MV-37 Application for Military License and present a letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs certifying that he/she is a recipient of the Medal of Honor. Two plates may be issued per applicant. This plate is free of charge. Vehicles that bear a Medal of Honor license plate are exempt from the payment of municipal parking meter fees. (SC Code of Laws 56-3-1855)



### National Guard

The National Guard plate is available to members of the Air National Guard, Army National Guard, Retired National Guard or State National Guard. When you apply for this plate, DMV will provide a label, which should be placed in top blue area of the plate that reflects guard status. You must present a military I.D. that reflects either current or retired status. Only three plates may be issued per applicant. The fee for this plate is the regular registration fee.



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### **Pearl Harbor**

The Pearl Harbor plate is available to residents who 1) were a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7, 1941; 2) were on station on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Hawaii time at Pearl Harbor, the Island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance not exceeding three miles; and 3) received an honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces. The fee is a regular registration fee plus an additional fee of fifteen dollars. All applications for Pearl Harbor survivor license plates must be verified by the Chairman of Pearl Harbor Survivors. Limit one plate per applicant.



South Carolina State

### **Prisoner of War**

Applicants require a statement from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs certifying that he/she was a prisoner of war in WWI, WWII, Korean Conflict or Vietnam Conflict. Only two plates may be issued per applicant. This plate is free of charge.



### **Purple Heart**

SC Purple Heart plates are available to SC residents who are Purple Heart recipients. Applicants must complete DMV Form MV-37 Application for Military License Plate and must submit a Form DD-214, Purple Heart Citation or a letter from the U.S., Regional or County Veterans Administration certifying that the applicant is a recipient of the Purple Heart. Applicants are limited to two Purple Heart plates, either two passenger vehicle plates, two motorcycle plates or one of each. The applicant cannot have four plates. There is no registration fee for the plate and the plate is available by mail only. 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. To park in a designated handicapped parking space, qualified Purple Heart recipients must have a Purple Heart Disabled plate displaying a wheelchair emblem (See Purple Heart Disabled plate below for requirements).



### **Purple Heart Disabled Plate**

SC Purple Heart Disabled plates are available to SC residents who are Purple Heart recipients and who are ALSO certified as permanently handicapped by their physicians. Applicants must complete DMV Form MV-37 Application for Military License Plate and must submit a Form DD-214, Purple Heart Citation or a letter from the U.S., Regional or County Veterans Administration certifying that he or she is a recipient of the Purple Heart. To obtain this plate, applicants must also be certified permanently handicapped by a licensed physician on DMV form RG-007 Application for Disabled License Plate and Placard with an attached prescription order. There is no registration fee for the plate and is available by mail only. Applicants are limited to two Purple Heart plates, either two passenger vehicle plates or two motorcycle plates or one of each. The applicant cannot have four plates. 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.



### **Purple Heart Motorcycle**

SC Purple Heart Motorcycle plates are available to SC residents who are Purple Heart recipients. Applicants must complete DMV Form MV-37 Application for Military License Plate and must submit a Form DD-214, Purple Heart Citation or a letter from the U.S., Regional or County Veterans Administration certifying that he or she is a recipient of the Purple Heart. Applicants are limited to two Purple Heart plates, either two vehicle plates or two motorcycle plates or one of each. There is no registration fee and the plate is available by mail only. This plate DOES NOT allow parking in designated handicapped parking spaces, unless it has a wheelchair decal. Applicants who are also certified permanently disabled by a licensed physician on DMV form RG-007 Application for Disabled License Plate and Placard with an attached prescription order may receive a wheelchair decal for display on the Purple Heart Motorcycle plate that allows the individual to park in designated handicapped parking spaces. Motorcycles that bear a Purple Heart motorcycle license plate (with or without a wheelchair decal) are exempt from the payment of municipal parking meter fees. (SC Code of Laws 56-5-2585)



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### Silver Star

The Silver Star plate is available to SC residents who have been awarded the Silver Star Medal. Applicants must present a form DD-214 or other official documentation certifying that he/she has been awarded the Silver Star Medal along with a completed Application for Military License Plate (MV-37). The cost for the plate is the regular registration fee. This plate is available by mail only.



### Support Our Troops

A portion of the fees collected for the Support Our Troops! license plate will be distributed to SupportOurTroops.org, a nonpartisan patriotic civilian-led organization 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which promotes support for and bolsters deployed troops (our neighbors) and their families, including care packages, morale and assistance, and special events. The fee for the plate is \$30.00 every two years in addition to the regular registration fee.



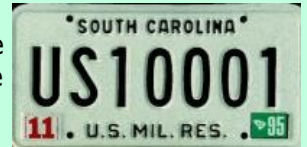
### U.S. Armed Forces Retired

Applicant must provide a Form DD-214, Retirement Order, copy of military I.D. reflecting retired status or other verification that applicant is a retired member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Only two plates may be issued per applicant. The fee is \$30.00 plus the registration fee.



### U.S. Military Reserve

The commanding officer must certify on the application that he/she is an active member and is currently serving in the U.S. Military Reserve. The fee for the plate is \$30.00 plus the registration fee.



### Veteran License Plate

The Veteran license plate is available to SC residents who have served in the United States Armed Forces active or reserved components. To apply for the plate, you must present your DD-214, indicating that you were honorably discharged, or Retired Military ID card, along with a completed Application for Military License Plate (MV-37). This plate is available for both passenger vehicles and motorcycles. Only two plates may be issued to vehicles registered in the name of the Veteran. The cost for this plate is the regular registration fee. No additional fees are required.



### Vietnam Veteran

Applicant must present a form DD-214 or documentation certifying that he/she was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal or that he/she served on active duty in Vietnam. The plate is only available to Vietnam War Veterans who served on active duty during the period of February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975. The fee is \$20.00 every two years plus the registration fee.



### World War II

The World War II special license plate is available to all World War II Veterans and their spouses for private motor vehicles registered in their name. Applicants must provide official documentation of their World War II service. The regular registration fee is the only required fee for this plate. (SC Code of Laws 56-3-8800) Applicants who meet the requirements for the World War II Veteran license plate AND are certified as handicapped with the RG-007A, Application for Disabled License Plate and Placard, and a prescription order may be issued a wheelchair decal to be displayed on the World War II License Plate.



This information is also found on the South Carolina DMV website at [www.scdmvonline.com](http://www.scdmvonline.com).



## Military Mentoring Program

### What is the Military Mentoring Program?

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Military Mentoring Program supports children in military families and engages active duty, reserve or retired military personnel as volunteer mentors. Our staff will carefully match mentors and mentees in long-term, one-to-one friendships and provide professional mentoring support for the volunteers, children and families throughout the life of the match. Backed by independent studies, Big Brothers Big Sisters holds itself accountable for helping children succeed in school, avoid risky behaviors, and gain confidence.

### Why We Do It

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia is committed to supporting our nation's military personnel and their families. We seek to provide strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change the lives of children and youth for the better. Our Case Managers and mentors are here to:

1. Strengthen the connection between military parents and children
2. Respect and reinforce family values
3. Promote the educational success of military children

A need also exists to engage military service members in civilian community service. Recent research found that 90% of Veterans want to serve other Veterans and military families and 86% want to serve at-risk youth.

### About the Program

Big Brothers Big Sisters programs are offered to families **at no cost**. Bigs (concerned and committed adult volunteers) and Littles (children age 9-16) come together in one of two programs:

1. **Community-based Mentoring:** Volunteer Bigs provide their Littles with 4-6 hours per month of one-to-one time and attention. In this program, the Bigs usually picks the Littles up at their home, takes them on an outing to share fun activities and then brings them home.
2. **Site-based Mentoring:** Bigs and Littles meet once a week to talk and have fun at a designated site, which may include facilities operated by Fort Jackson's Child, Youth and School Services, schools or select Boys & Girls Club locations.

### Get Involved

To volunteer or enroll a child, please contact Tanza Cooper or Emily Hebert by phone at (803) 691-5700 or by e-mail at [tanza@bbbsgc.org](mailto:tanza@bbbsgc.org) or [emily@bbbsgc.org](mailto:emily@bbbsgc.org).

# Support and Donate to the WAR DOG MEMORIAL FUND

## Veteran's Memorial Park ★



Veteran's Memorial Park in Columbia, S.C. where the S.C. Vietnam Memorial stands is the site for the proposed "War Dog Memorial". Funds and support are being raised to make this worthy tribute to all military working dogs a reality.

## S.C. Vietnam Monument ★



## Proposed South Carolina War Dog Monument ★



Military working dogs have fought alongside and saved the lives of thousands of American soldier's throughout our history. Many were killed in action . Those who fought alongside these dogs have long considered them their fellow soldier with great reverence. It is only fitting that a memorial honoring them be erected in their memory and those whom they saved and protected. Please donate today. For more info-

### Contact:

Allen Marshall: 803-252-6636 /

Johnny Mayo: 803-767-6756

Email: [K9heroes@att.net](mailto:K9heroes@att.net)

Website: [www.wardogmemorialfund.com](http://www.wardogmemorialfund.com)

**S.C. Memorial Park Fund / "War Dog Memorial Fund"  
c/o Smith Barney - PO Box 7277 - Columbia, SC 29202**

**\* All Contributions are Tax Deductible**

# ***Featured Medal:***

## **Korean Defense Service Medal**

The Korea Defense Service Medal is an American military award that was first created in 2002 when it was signed into law by President George W. Bush. The bill to create the proposal was introduced and championed by Rep. Elton Gallegly and Senator Ben "Night Horse" Campbell. In 2004, the Institute of Heraldry approved the final design and the medal became authorized for distribution.

The Korea Defense Service Medal (KDSM) is authorized for those members of the U.S. military who have served duty in the Republic of Korea after the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea. To qualify for the KDSM, a service member must have served at least thirty consecutive days in the Korean theater. The medal is also granted for 60 non-consecutive days of service which includes reservists on annual training in Korea.

Exceptions are made for the 30/60 days time requirement if a service member participated in a combat armed engagement, was wounded or injured in the line of duty requiring medical evacuation, or participated as a regularly assigned aircrew member in flying sorties which totaled more than 30 days of duty in Korean airspace. In such cases, the KDSM is authorized regardless of time served in theater.

The Korea Defense Service Medal is retroactive to the end of the Korean War and is granted to any service performed after July 28, 1954. The National Personnel Records Center is responsible for verifying entitlement of the KDSM to discharged members of the military who served in Korea prior to the creation of the KDSM.

As an official Department of Defense exception to policy, service members may be entitled to both the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the KDSM for participation in operations in Korea during the same timeframe between October 1, 1966 - June 30, 1974.



Picture of Korean Defense Service Medal and Ribbon



**For basic information and questions,  
please check out our webpage at  
[www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptRZ/va/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptRZ/va/Pages/index.aspx)**

**We have also moved the  
Veterans Service Organizations in Lexington County  
to our Webpage.**

### **The VA hospital is offering flu shots**

Seasonal flu shots are now available for all registered and enrolled Veterans. Veterans can receive the flu shot during their regularly scheduled Primary Care or Specialty Care appointments or Primary Care Walk-in visits. Walk-ins are accepted Monday through Friday (except for Federal Holidays) between the hours of 8am to 4pm.



***Coming in the Next Issue...State Benefits***