

April – May - June  
2023



Lexington  
County  
Veterans' Affairs  
Office



"Serving those who served  
and sacrificed for America"

# Lexington County Veterans' News



As a department in Lexington County government, we value honesty, respect, and service to country, patriotism, sacrifice and personal excellence. We acknowledge, respect and honor all Veterans for their service to America no matter how, when or where they served. We proudly pledge ourselves to creating and maintaining a customer service environment for Veterans and their survivors. We hold ourselves accountable to our customers, partners and each other. We have a passion for Veterans and firmly believe that excellence is not a goal, it is the standard.

# From the Director

## Your VA Office Family

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Ed Lundeen

[elundeen@lex-co.com](mailto:elundeen@lex-co.com)

Director

Jennifer Parler

[jparler@lex-co.com](mailto:jparler@lex-co.com)

Veterans' Affairs Supervisor

Kathy DeBerry

[kdeberry@lex-co.com](mailto:kdeberry@lex-co.com)

Senior Benefits Counselor

Christy Rucker

[crucker@lex-co.com](mailto:crucker@lex-co.com)

Benefits Counselor

Brittany Gunter

[brgunter@lex-co.com](mailto:brgunter@lex-co.com)

Benefits Counselor

Annastasia Blake

[ablake@lex-co.com](mailto:ablake@lex-co.com)

Administrative Assistant

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605 West Main Street, Suite B  
Lexington, SC 29072

Telephone # 803-785-8400

Fax # 803-785-0115

A lot has happened with your County VA team since the last issue of our newsletter. We now have six full-time staff with the addition of Brittany Gunter as our new Benefits Counselor. She formerly worked for the County in Traffic Court for several years, and we are excited to have her onboard! Please stop by or call the office to welcome her.

Many of us attended Statewide VA training in March in Columbia and learned about new concepts and processes for claims as well as partnering with other County VA offices. We learned best practices from other County offices by sharing ideas and listening to each other. Also, this Conference elected yours truly as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the SC Association of County Veterans' Affairs Officers and I am honored and proud to serve in this new capacity. This position is an elected position that commences on July 1, 2023 and runs to June 30, 2025.

We participated in the Midlands Veterans Engagement Council and are proud to be on this team. We also presented VA benefits seminars at the Shepherd's Center and the Legacy Assisted Living Facility. These presentations were well attended and appreciated and we enjoyed doing them. We also visited with our Lexington County Veterans Group at their weekly meeting and it was so good to see and speak with them.

As we enter spring in South Carolina, we know the temperatures will heat up and the humidity will set in until the fall. Let us please be mindful of the American holiday that honors those Veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, Memorial Day. Caughman-Harman Funeral Home is hosting a very patriotic and moving ceremony this year for the first time since 2019. The ceremony this year is on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am in their Lexington Chapel at 503 North Lake Drive in Lexington. Fort Jackson and Fort Jackson Cemetery will also host Memorial Day ceremonies.

We will continue to strive to serve more Veterans and their families and continue to be an important part of the community. We are honored to serve and take great pride in the work we do and will continually seek opportunities to grow and learn more so we can better serve our Veterans and their families.

Lastly, at the Statewide VA training conference I mentioned earlier, yours truly was announced as the SC Association of County Veterans Affairs Officer of the year for 2022-23. I am deeply honored and humbled by this award and still can't believe it! I did not get this alone and thank God and my staff for all their work and I share it with them, they help make me look good every day. I don't serve Veterans for awards but humbly accept this prestigious accolade. I kind of look at it like winning the Super Bowl and no one wins that alone.

Enjoying the journey, *Ed Lundeen*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to “Ed”  
for winning VSO of the Year 2022-  
2023! And being elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
President at the South Carolina  
Association of County Veterans’  
Affairs Officers Spring Conference!





# What is Memorial Day?

- Memorial Day is a date on which to reflect on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.
- Started in the US after the Civil War to remember fallen Soldiers.
- Was originally named Decoration Day as it was not on any anniversary of any battle at the time.
- Originally only honored those lost in the Civil War, later on when World War I became a conflict, Memorial Day came to include all wars including, World War II, Vietnam War, Korean War, and the wars in the Middle East.
- One of the earliest commemorations was organized by newly freed African American Slaves in Charleston, South Carolina on May 1, 1865.
- Memorial Day did not become a Federal Holiday until the National Holiday Act of 1971, changing Memorial Day from May 30 to the last Monday in May every year.



## Memorial Day Ceremonies

Fort Jackson National Cemetery: May 30, 2023 the observance will take place at the Flag Plaza. The ceremony will include a wreath laying, a moment of silence, rifle salute, speeches and player of taps.

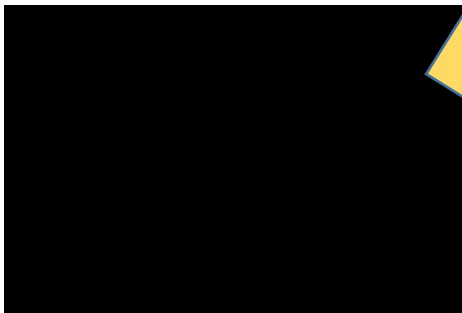
Fort Jackson Post HQ: Please check with Fort Jackson public affairs to make sure the ceremony is still happening. It normally starts at 10am.

Caughman Harman Funeral Home: The service will be May 29, 2023, 10-11:30am located at 503 N. Lake Dr. Lexington, SC 29072 and phone # 803-359-6118. Refreshments will be served following the service!

# Upstate students to lay wreath on Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Students at West Oak Middle School in Oconee County have been selected to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

"My understanding is there are hundreds of groups that try to do this every single day and we are one of the lucky groups that got selected," said Jason Ray, history teacher and field trip coordinator at West Oak Middle School. "We're extremely honored and excited.



Check out this video!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to say the pledge!

- John Hosey
- Derrick Riggs
- Mike Smith
- Robert Cook
- Mike Gordon

YouTube: West Oak Middle School students selected to lay wreath at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



Ed Lundeen will be at the libraries

below:

Gaston library – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month between 10am – 12pm

Chapin library – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month between 10am – 12pm

Cayce library – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month between 10am - 12pm

Batesburg library – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month between 10am – 12pm

**County Council Needs You!!**



Veterans are still 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 please be present around 4:15pm. Contact the office at 803-785-8400, if you are interested.

We Will Be **CLOSED**

Confederate  
Memorial Day on  
5/10/2023

And

Memorial Day on  
5/29/2023

**VetServe 2023:**  
Mark your calendar, national day of service is **April 21<sup>st</sup>**. Share your story of service on social media:  
<https://www.rallypoint.com/answers/vetserve2023-share-your-service-success-stories-below>

# **Caregiver Program**

## **VA Family Caregiver Assistance Program**

The VA recognizes the important role of family caregivers in supporting the health and wellness of Veterans. Find out if you may be eligible and how to apply for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC).

As of October 1, 2022, this program is now open to family caregivers of eligible Veterans of all eras. You may be eligible if you and the Veteran you are caring for meet all of these requirements.

You must be at least 18 years old. And at least 1 of these must be true for you:

- You are a spouse, son, daughter, parent, stepfamily member, or extended family member of the Veteran, or
- You live full time with the Veteran, or you are willing to live full time with the Veteran if the VA designates you as a family caregiver

All of these must be true for the Veteran you are caring for:

- The Veteran has a VA disability rating (individual or combined) of 70% or higher, and
- The Veteran was discharged from the U.S. military or has a date of medical discharge, and
- The Veteran needs at least 6 months of continuous, in-person personal care services

These are services the eligible Veteran needs from another person. They include care or assistance to support the Veteran's:

- Health and well-being
- Everyday personal needs (like feeding, bathing, and dressing)
- Safety, protection, or instruction in their daily living environment

The Veteran can appoint:

- 1 Primary Family Caregiver (the main caregiver), and
- Up to 2 Secondary Family Caregivers (people who serve as backup support to the primary caregiver when needed)

Eligible Primary and Secondary Family Caregivers can receive:

- Caregiver education and training
- Mental health counseling
- Travel, lodging, and financial assistance when traveling with the Veteran to receive care

Eligible Primary Family Caregivers may also receive:

- A monthly stipend (payment)

- Access to health care benefits through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)—if you do not already qualify for care or services under another health care plan
- At least 30 days per year of respite care for the Veteran

You and the Veteran will need to apply together and participate in an application process to determine if you are eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. You will both need to sign and date the application, and answer all questions for your role.

To apply fill out a joint Application for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (VA Form 10-10CG). Mail the form and any supporting documents to:

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers  
Health Eligibility Center  
2957 Clairmont Road NE, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30329-1647

You may apply in person by bringing your completed VA Form 10-10CG to your local VA medical center's Caregiver Support Coordinator, or

- Contact the Caregiver Support Line at [855-260-3274](tel:855-260-3274), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

The VA will follow up after they receive your application. If you need help with completing the application or if you would like to check the status of your application, call the VA at [855-488-8440](tel:855-488-8440), option 3. The VA is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.



# Good Conduct Medal



The **Good Conduct Medal** is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces. The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963; the Air Force Good Conduct Medal was temporarily discontinued from February 2006 to February 2009, followed by its subsequent reinstatement. The criteria for a Good Conduct Medal are defined by Executive Orders 8809, 9323, and 10444. The Good Conduct Medal, each one specific to one of the five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, is currently 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 punishment, 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 enlisted service member killed in the line of duty.

## *Navy Good Conduct Medal*

The Navy Good Conduct Medal is the oldest Good Conduct Medal, dating back to 26 April 1869. There have been a total of four versions of the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the first version of which was issued from 1870 to 1884. The original Navy Good Conduct Medal was also not worn on a uniform, but issued with discharge papers as a badge to present during reenlistment. The second version of the Navy Good Conduct Medal was issued between 1880 and 1884. The medal was considered a "transitional decoration" and was the first of the Good Conduct Medals to be worn on a uniform. The medal was phased out by 1885 and a new medal issued between 1885 and 1961. The new medal was a Good Conduct medallion suspended from an all red ribbon. **Enlistment bars**, denoting each honorable enlistment completed, were pinned on the ribbon as attachments. The current Navy Good Conduct Medal dates from 1961 and is issued to every active duty enlisted sailor who completes three years of honorable and faithful service since 1 January 1996; four years of service were required since 1 November 1963.



## Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal

The Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal was established on 20 July 1896. The medal was originally a ribbon and medal suspended from a clasp bearing the words "U.S. Marine Corps". The clasp was eliminated after 1935 and the medal has remained unchanged in appearance since that time. In 1953, the Marine Corps adopted bronze and silver 3/16-inch service stars to denote additional awards of the Good Conduct Medal, replacing enlistment bars showing each honorable period of service. Since 10 December 1954, members of the Marine Corps must have three consecutive years of honorable and faithful service in order to be eligible for the medal. The Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal is affectionately nicknamed, "The Good Cookie" by Marines.

## Army Good Conduct Medal

The Army Good Conduct Medal was established by Executive Order 8809, dated 28 June 1941, and authorized the award for Soldiers completing three years active service after that date. The criteria were amended by Executive Order 9323, dated 31 March 1943, to authorize the award for candidates having three years of service after 7 December 1941 or one year of service while the United States is at war. Executive Order 10444, dated 10 April 1953, revised the criteria to authorize the award for candidates having three years of service after 27 August 1940; one year of service after 7 December 1941 while the United States is at war; and for candidates having the first award for service after 27 June 1950 upon termination of service, for periods less than three years, but more than one year. The Good Conduct Medal is awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity in active Federal Military service. It is awarded on a selective basis to each soldier who distinguishes himself/herself from among his/her fellow Soldiers by their exemplary conduct, efficiency, and fidelity throughout a specified period of continuous enlisted active Federal military service. .

## Air Force Good Conduct Medal

The Air Force Good Conduct Medal is the last version of the Good Conduct Medal. The medal was authorized by Congress on 6 July 1960, but not created until 1 June 1963. Air Force personnel were issued the Army Good Conduct Medal between 1947 and 1963 and for those serving both before and after 1963, the Army and Air Force Good Conduct Medals could be worn simultaneously on an Air Force uniform. The Air Force Good Conduct Medal has remained unchanged in appearance since its original design over forty years ago. Additional awards of the Air Force Good Conduct Medal are denoted by bronze or silver oak leaf clusters. The criteria for award of the Air Force Good Conduct medal are as follows: It is awarded to Air Force enlisted personnel during a three-year period of active military service or for a one-year period of service during a time of war. Airmen awarded this medal must have had character and efficiency ratings of excellent or higher throughout the qualifying period including time spent in attendance at service schools, and there must have been no convictions of court martial during this period.

## Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal

The Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal was designed in 1923 and originally used enlistment bars as attachments, in the same manner as the Marine Corps and Navy Good Conduct Medal. In 1966, the Coast Guard began using bronze and silver 3/16-inch service stars to denote additional awards of the Good Conduct Medal.



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## WHO ARE WE

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Wish of a Lifetime (WOL) from AARP is a 501c3 non-profit and a charitable affiliate of AARP. We are an organization with a purpose and plan to create change for a population of individuals who are largely ignored. We see wish granting as a way to form a society in which we all want to age. Aging is one of the few truly universal experiences – let's make it a purposeful experience for all.

**Mission:** To shift the way society views and values our oldest generations by fulfilling seniors' dreams and sharing their stories to inspire those of all ages.

**Vision:** We envision a world in which society embraces aging and the inherent wisdom that accompanies it, where seniors are celebrated for their accomplishments and sacrifices, and where intergenerational connections are part of our daily lives.

### Criteria to Qualify for a Wish

- Age: 65+
- Personal Sacrifice – Have you exhibited personal sacrifice in your life?
- Tremendous Obstacle – Are there any barriers that you have faced or are currently facing?
- Connection – What is your personal connection to the wish request?
- Isolation – Are there signs of social, physical, and/or mental isolation in the applicant's life?

## WHAT WE DO

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To date, WOL has granted over 2,000 wishes. The wishes we fulfill are varied, highly unique and fit into one of these categories:

- **Renewing & Celebrating Passions** highlight the activities, experiences, or interests of the past. This may include performing on stage, riding a horse, or sailing.
- **Reconnecting Loved Ones** emphasizes the tremendous impact of social connection. Whether it be connecting with a pen pal, reuniting with a childhood friend, or meeting a great-grandchild for the first time.
- **Commemorating Service** honors individuals who have served their country by visiting a place that has a special meaning or reconnecting with a past service experience or person.
- **Fulfilling Lifelong Dreams** provides an opportunity to do something for the first time! Meeting a celebrity, flying in a hot air balloon, or attending a sporting event or concert.

### How to Submit a Wish

1. Take 15-20 minutes to talk with an older adult in your life about who they are and what they love.
2. Once you identify a wish submit an application to <https://wishofalifetime.org/submit-a-wish/application/>
3. That's it! The WOL team will complete the vetting process, execution, and scheduling of the wish if approved.

Submit an application <https://wishofalifetime.org/submit-a-wish/application/> or contact [volunteer@wishofalifetime.org](mailto:volunteer@wishofalifetime.org) for more information on how to join the movement!

No Late Charges!!

No Late Charges!!



## Programs

The Lexington County Library provides programming for all ages- storytimes, crafts, games and fun for everyone. Sign your teen up for an escape room, join a book club, attend a gardening seminar, or a tech talk on genealogy resources. View the full calendar of events at <https://lexcolibrary.com/programs/>

- **Libby-** Downlad this app to your phone or tablet and read your favorite magazines, ebooks, and listen to audiobooks.
- **Hoopla-** Download this app to your device and livestream movies, listen to music and audiobooks, read ebooks and your favorite graphic novels and comics.
- **SC State Park Pass-** With your Lexington County Public Library card, you can check out a State Park Pass and visit the 47 parks in South Carolina for FREE. Check out is for three weeks.
- **Delivery Services-** For anyone with limited access to the library, our free delivery services (to select areas) can help. Whether you need the latest book or the perfect movie for a rainy day, the Mobile Library delivers the resources you need. Contact us at (803) 785-2674.
- **Material by Mail-** If you have limited mobility, impaired vision or other disability, we have a service that makes getting library materials effortless and totally free- it's called Materials by Mail. So you can get all the books, movies and more you want without ever having to leave the house. And returning your Materials by Mail is a breeze- drop them in your mailbox, take them to a Post Office (no postage needed) or return them to any Lexington County Library branch or book drop. This service is available all year long, so you can always get reading materials delivered right to your door! Contact us at (803)785-2674.
- **Newspapers-** Read your local newspaper for free digitally through our online resource NewsBank.

Other sevices include:

- Meeting space/study space
- Computers
- Free Wi-Fi
- Faxing (\$1 per page)/Copying (.25 per page)
- Scanning to email-free
- Mobile printing (.25 per page)
- Notary Service- Free, call ahead to ensure a Librarian who is a notary is present



Go to <https://lexcolibrary.com/resources/online-resources/> to access the following databases that may be of interest.

# Need a Will done? You can Get one for FREE!!!

## 13 places that offer free wills or trusts for Veterans

[www.news.va.gov/111089/13-places-free-wills-trusts-veterans/](http://www.news.va.gov/111089/13-places-free-wills-trusts-veterans/)

1. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs- VA's Veterans Benefits Administration makes Financial planning and only will preparation services available at no cost to beneficiaries of service members' group life insurance, traumatic injury protection, family members' group life insurance and Veterans' group life insurance.
2. Military Pro Bono Project – The Military Pro Bono Project is managed by the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel. They accept case referrals on behalf of active-duty military personnel. All guidance from attorneys is offered pro bono, or for free.
3. Protect Our Defenders- For those who have faced discrimination or harassment in the military. Protect Our Defenders offers free legal services, guidance and aid. Protect Our Defenders helps people of all backgrounds with a variety of different needs, and it's free to reach out for assistance.
4. American Bar Association Veterans Legal Services- The American Bar Association is the Federal program that approves lawyers, and they created a program specifically for Veterans to help with a wide range of legal issues.
5. National Veterans Legal Services Programs- The National Veterans Legal Services Program has worked since 1981 to ensure that the government offers assistance to the nation's 22 million Veterans. Through individual representation, the NVLSP offers attorney services free of charge for those who qualify.
6. Veterans Justice Project NYC- For Veterans living in New York City, NY, the Veterans Justice Project provides legal services to low-income military Veterans, service members and their families.
7. Stateside Legal- Stateside Legal helps military members and their families find legal help on a state level. By indexing the three largest networks of legal aid for families, this comprehensive platform is easy and free to use.

## Online Will Makers or Services That Offer FREE Wills for Veterans

8. Cake Online Wills-Cake's own will tool is one of the best for creating an inexpensive will in just minutes. Created by attorney and estate planners. Use code THANKSVETS to save \$95 on your will, so you only pay \$1.
9. FreeWill- One of the trusted and well-known will makers is FreeWill. Always free, this simple tool is created by attorney to make wills more accessible to all. With specific help for guardianship, pet provisions, charitable donations and digital assets, this is a great choice.
10. GoodTrust- GoodTrust is another provider of attorney-crafted wills and advanced directives. Though their premium membership starts at \$96, Veterans are eligible to get access to GoodTrust Premium for 12 months of free estate planning including a will, medical directive, durable financial power of attorney, funeral directive, pet directives, and secure access to everything in a digital vault. You can use code VETERANSDAY2022 at checkout.
11. Do your Own Will- A less well-known option is Do Your Own Will. The free tool is easy to understand, and it only requires one simple questionnaire. You can add a living will, durable power of attorney, digital agent and more, making this very comprehensive.
12. Fabric- Fabric is another provider of online wills that offers a free option. With the additional option to purchase a life insurance policy. There's a mobile app available if you'd prefer to create a will on your phone instead.
13. VA's Servicemembers Group Life Insurance-If you're a beneficiary of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance through VA, you're eligible for financial planning and online will preparation for free. This enables beneficiaries to quickly prepare a will from home without using an attorney. You can access these services completely for free online through Financial Point Plus.



# WAS YOUR VIETNAM VETERAN'S LIFE CUT SHORT AFTER THEY RETURNED HOME?

## HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE THROUGH THE **IN MEMORY PROGRAM**

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Since the Vietnam War ended, thousands of Vietnam Veterans have suffered each year due to Agent Orange exposure, PTSD, suicide, cancer and other causes related to their service. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's In Memory program honors those who returned home from Vietnam and later died.

**The Wall that heals will be on display in  
Spartanburg, SC from November 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

Apply to honor your Veteran, through In Memory, by October 9<sup>th</sup> and their photo will be included as part of the mobile education center display when the wall that heals is on display in Spartanburg.

To apply online, visit [www.VVMF.org/In-Memory-Program](http://www.VVMF.org/In-Memory-Program)



## APPLICATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**When is the Application deadline?** The application and **ALL required documents** are due on **March 29, 2023** to be eligible for the 2023 program. Anything received after the deadline will be automatically rolled over into the 2024 application pool.

**Can I submit a Biography?** Please send as a separate sheet a typed biography of **no more than 300 words**. Please avoid handwritten bios, if possible. If the bio is longer than 300 words, VVMF may edit for length. The bio may include any information which you are comfortable with sharing.

**For Example:** John Smith was born on March 1, 1947 in Springfield, Wisconsin. He graduated from High School in 1965. John joined the Army in 1967 and did two tours in Vietnam serving as a flight engineer. On October 1, 1970 he married Jane Doe and they went on to have four children and three granddaughters. After leaving the Army, John worked as a maintenance mechanic for more than 30 years. He was a volunteer firefighter and an avid volunteer with the local VVA chapter and VFW post. He was incredibly proud of his service to his country. He had a wonderful sense of humor and was passionate in teaching his children and grandchildren new things. He enjoyed traveling whenever he could with trips to Mexico, Ireland, France, Texas, California, Florida, and Arizona. There was always room for golfing with friends and his wife. He passed away on October 7, 2010 due to Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma caused by exposure to Agent Orange during his service in Vietnam. John lived life to the fullest until the end and will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

**What will the Biography be used for?** The biography will be a part of the honoree's online personal remembrance page on the *In Memory* Honor Roll.

**Does "hometown" and "home state" refer to where the honoree was born or where they lived?** The home town/state should be the area where the honoree had the greatest connection. This could be where they were born or spent their formative years or where they retired – it's up to you. The home state you list is important because that is the only state where your honoree's name and photo will be on display when *The Wall That Heals* is on exhibit.

**What kind of photographs do you require?** We do not require photographs to honor your loved one through *In Memory*, but suggest you send in two clear, different photos. The photographs can be whatever you would like. For example: service photos, prom photos, wedding photos or photos from a family trip. We recommend that one photograph be from when the honoree was serving in the military and one that is more recent. Photos will be displayed as a part of the honoree's online personal remembrance page on the *In Memory* Honor Roll, on the printed personal tribute certificate and in the *In Memory* yearbook.

**How do I submit my photos?** If you are mailing in hard copies please send clear photographs - **preferably NOT a photocopy**. Please **do not send originals as we cannot return them**.

**What is the In Memory Yearbook?** The yearbook has the full list (including photos) of all of the honorees for the current year.

**Does the death certificate need to specifically show the veteran's cause of death was connected to their service?**

We understand that the death certificate does not always state the death was caused by Agent Orange exposure, PTSD or other illnesses related to their service. We do not require proof of service connection to honor a Vietnam veteran through the *In Memory* program.

**What is an example of a military document that shows Vietnam service?** DD-214, service records or other documents/awards. Example proof of service in Vietnam can be established showing receipt of Vietnam Service Medal (VSM), Vietnam Campaign Medal (VCM) and/or Vietnam Service Ribbon on a DD-214 or other military document.

# Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund IN MEMORY APPLICATION 2023

In Memory honors Vietnam veterans who returned home and later died, but whose deaths do not fit the Department of Defense parameters for inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall). Please understand that, while your loved one's memory and service will be honored; his/her name will not be added to The Wall.

**PERSON IN MEMORY HONORS:** (example: Smith Jr, John Allen)

Last Name Suffix (if applicable) First Name Middle Name

Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Vietnam Tour(s) (ie: 1968 – 1970): \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown \_\_\_\_\_ Home State \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Hometown can be the place that the honoree lived the longest or had the closest association with.

Honorees: Branch of Service (circle): A N F M C

Army Navy Air Force Marine Corps Coast Guard

Did the honoree suffer from any of the following? (Check all that apply):

PTSD related illnesses / events

Exposure to Agent Orange and similar chemicals

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION TO BE USED FOR THE ONLINE IN MEMORY HONOR ROLL**

Please attach as a separate sheet a typed biography of no more than 300 words. Please avoid handwritten bios, if possible.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT YOU**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Program? \_\_\_\_\_

**Along with this application, send a copy of the death certificate, a copy of a military document showing proof of service in Vietnam and two different clear photographs of the honoree. Do not send originals as we cannot return them.**

If you do not have military documentation showing service in Vietnam, you can request it online from the National Archives here: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/>

Please mail all materials to: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, 3000 Wilson Boulevard., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22201 Attention: In Memory Program

**THE DEADLINE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2023 PROGRAM IS MARCH 29, 2023 Questions? Please go to [www.vvmf.org/in-memory-program](http://www.vvmf.org/in-memory-program)**

# HONOR YOUR VIETNAM VETERAN'S SACRIFICE

# IN MEMORY

## PROGRAM



Plaque at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC



Giving honor to the one who sacrificed



The In Memory ceremony is held annually in Washington, DC



Honoree's personal page on the online In Memory Honor Roll

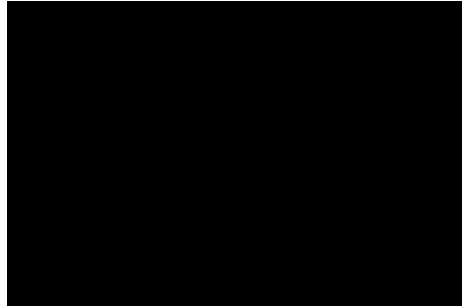


In Memory honorees on display at the Wall That Heals



## Veterans, Gold Star Families get free lifetime pass to national parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands

New pass provides free lifetime access and waived recreation fees for Veterans



YouTube: Free Lifetime Passes to U.S. National Parks

The Interagency Military Lifetime Pass waives entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites for **current military service members and their dependents, Veterans and Gold Star Families.**

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## **Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for free emergency health care**

Veterans in acute suicidal crisis will be able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit. This expansion of care will help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to Veterans in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

Eligible individuals, regardless of VA enrollment status, are:

- Veterans who were discharged or released from active duty after more than 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.

“Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve – no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they’re enrolled in VA care,” said **VA Secretary for Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough**. “This expansion of care will save Veterans’ lives, and there’s nothing more important than that.”



# *Lexington County Veterans Group*

All Lexington County Veterans are cordially invited to attend the weekly meeting. The group meets on Tuesdays from 10am-12pm at The American Legion Post 7. The address is 200 American Legion Drive (off Harmon St.) Lexington, SC 29072



Ed

Jennifer

Kathy

Christy

Brittany

Annastasia

Wishes everyone a

