

**Veterans Affairs Office
of Lexington County**



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VET NEWS

June 2011

JUNE DATES FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

June 7th: 9-12 Batesburg-Leesville
June 14th: 9-12 Chapin

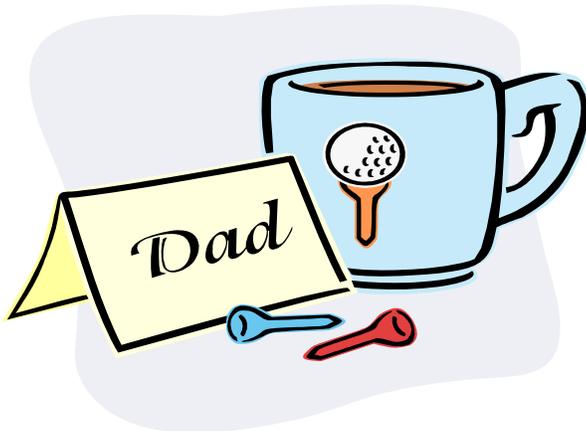
**Please call the office to schedule an
appointment.**

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

6th D-Day (1944)
14th Flag Day
U.S. Army founded (1775)
19th Father's Day
21st Summer Begins
22nd Pledge of Allegiance
recognized by Congress (1942)
GI Bill Signed Into Law (1944)
25th Korean War Began (1950)



REMEMBER DAD ON JUNE 19TH

WELCOME ABOARD...

We would like to welcome Janet Smith to our staff. She has taken Jennifer Hendrix's position and is our new Veterans Specialist. We are glad to have her.



"The Pledge of Allegiance" - by Senator John McCain

As you may know, I spent five and one half years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment, the NVA kept us in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell. In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room.

This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change and was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home.

One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian. Mike came from a small town near Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old.

At 17, he enlisted in the US Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School. Then he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967. Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of the opportunities this country and our military provide for people who want to work and want to succeed.

As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing.

Mike got himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed on the inside of his shirt.

Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup, we would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in that stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched our cell, as they did periodically, and discovered Mike's shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed it.

That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all of us, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours. Then, they opened the door of the cell and threw him in. We cleaned him up as well as we could.

The cell in which we lived had a concrete slab in the middle on which we slept. Four naked light bulbs hung in each corner of the room.

As I said, we tried to clean up Mike as well as we could. After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath that dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was my friend, Mike Christian. He was sitting there with his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag. He was not making the flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us to be able to Pledge our allegiance to our flag and country.

So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world.

You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

LOOKING AHEAD:

The Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office will be closed on July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

The DAV Van will not run on July 4th.

DRIVERS STILL NEEDED

Due to the increasing demand for DAV van transportation, drivers are still needed. If you could serve in this way, whether for one day a week, or one day a month, please call our office at **785-8400** to receive an application.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

**“Never give in - never, never,
never, never, in nothing great or
small, large or petty, never give in except
to convictions of honour and
good sense.**

**Never yield to force; never
yield to the apparently overwhelming
might of the enemy.”**

-

Winston Churchill



HIDDEN WOUNDS

South Carolina Non-profit, Hidden Wounds, Successful First Year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Ashley Randall

Date: Feb. 15, 2011 Public Relations Director

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ashley@hiddenwounds.org

South Carolina Non-profit, Hidden Wounds, Reports Successful First Year

COLUMBIA, SC – Hidden Wounds successfully completed its first year of operations on Jan 1. Under the direction of Anna Bigham, founder and executive director and Chris Younts, co-founder and chief financial officer, and through the efforts of a core group of volunteers, Hidden Wounds was able to assist 68 veterans, more than one per week.

“The greatest weapon we have is the ability to help each other and our first year has been a time of hard work and significant growth,” said Anna Bigham, founder and CEO.

This growth was only possible through a critical partnership with Give an Hour and donations from 414 private donors totaling \$45,727. Hidden Wounds was also able to assist with the benefits counseling of approximately 50 veterans at the Midlands Transitional Retreat Center in Lexington.

“It is a privilege to honor the many who have served our nation,” said Anna. “We were truly blessed to have tremendous support from the community during our first year. It is our hope that this support continues to grow as we strive to serve more veterans in the coming year.”

Hidden Wounds has established a well-rounded Board of Directors to help guide their mission in the coming year and distant future. Board of Directors members are as follows: Anna Bigham, Chris Younts, Dylan W. Goff, Barbara Livingston, Capt. Charlie Hall, Lisa Milano, Thad Viers, Roxanne Wilson, Col. Steven Shugart and Bill Dukes.

According to the latest numbers available from the Veteran’s Administration (2008), there are over 408,000 veterans in South Carolina. Of the 1,049,540 service members currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom, 18,000 are from South Carolina. Hidden Wounds successes in its first year are just the beginning of an on-going critical mission.

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Hidden Wounds is a non-profit 501(c)(3), founded in January 2010 by Anna Bigham. The organization’s mission is to help heroes battle the invisible war at home through providing immediate and emergency psychological treatment for veterans and military personnel suffering from PTSD, TBI, and other psychological post war challenges. (www.hiddenwounds.org)

SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. (AP) -- The Third Army opened its [high-tech](#) headquarters at Shaw Air Force Base to support America's 200,000 soldiers operating in 20 nations.

Military and political leaders from [South Carolina](#) and Georgia attended Friday's ribbon-cutting on the South Carolina base, opening the doors to the \$100 million headquarters built on a 50-acre site amid scrub pine forests.

Lt. Gen. William Webster said the Third Army had accomplished an [amazing](#) feat of engineering and construction in making a move during the same time it had overseen the Army's shift of troops and supplies from Iraq to Afghanistan. The Army has called that operation the largest logistical operation since World War II.

The move brings 1,200 military personnel and their families from Atlanta's Fort McPherson, ordered closed in the Pentagon's 2005 base closure round.



(Source WLTX.com May 20, 2011)

Remembering the “Forgotten War”...Korea

The Korean War was one of several military conflicts that occurred during the Cold War, as the United States and its allies attempted to stop the spread of communism. This conflict began on June 25, 1950, when North Korea invaded South Korea. Prior to the end of the Second World War, North and South Korea had been a single country known as Korea. After the war, Korea became two countries, where North Korea favored communism while South Korea preferred a more democratic and capitalistic system. By invading South Korea, North Korea hoped to reunite the two nations as a single country under communism.

With North Korea's invasion of South Korea, the United States sought permission from the United Nations to militarily support the South Korean government. The United Nations granted permission to the United States to send troops to the two Koreas to free South Korea from North Korea's military occupation. Although many of the soldiers sent to South Korea were members of the United States military, they were under the direct control of the United Nations. Because of this and because the United States never formally declared war on North Korea, many people contend that the Korean War should be called the Korean Conflict rather than referred to as a war. Technically, these people are right from the American perspective, yet North and South Korea were clearly engaged in a war. The American troops, as well as those from other countries, were hoping to free South Korea from communism and thus were participating in the Koreans' war.

With the arrival of United Nations forces, the South Koreans quickly drove the North Koreans back into North Korea. The South Koreans and United Nations forces did not simply stop with the North Koreans' withdrawal from South Korea. These forces continued to attack the North Korean military, hoping to free North Korea from communist control. By October 1950, the United Nations troops had driven North Korean forces to the border of China. Fearful that the UN soldiers intended to invade China, another communist nation, Chinese military forces crossed the Chinese-North Korean border and launched an attack against the United Nations troops. By early 1951, the Chinese had driven the United Nations troops to the 38th parallel, roughly the original border between

North Korea and South Korea. For the next two years a virtual stalemate existed around the 38th parallel. While each side launched numerous attacks against the other, neither side succeeded at dislodging its opponent. On July 27, 1953, both sides agreed to a ceasefire, essentially bringing the Korean War to an end. South Korea remained free from communism, and the original borders of these two countries remained essentially unchanged.

Many historians claim that the Korean War was a draw, with no clear victor. In essence, that is true. The United States, however, through the United Nations, did succeed in freeing South Korea from communism. At the same time, this victory was costly. Approximately one million South Koreans lost their lives in this conflict. A slightly larger number of North Koreans died, amounting to over eleven percent of this nation's entire population. More than fifty-four thousand Americans died, and another 100,000 soldiers suffered non-fatal wounds. At the end of the Korean War, more than eight thousand Americans were missing in action.

