



LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

November 2011

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RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL FOR THE COUNTY OF LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, MEETING IN GENERAL SESSION THE 11TH DAY OF OCTOBER, TWO THOUSAND AND ELEVEN, ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING:

WHEREAS, Lexington County is home to almost 24,000 Veterans who have served throughout the world in the forces of the United States, the Reserves and the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, November 6, 2011 has been designated to celebrate Veteran's Day in Lexington County with a parade in the town of Lexington; and

WHEREAS, the United States celebrates and honors Veteran's Day on November 11, 2011; and

WHEREAS, these men and women have served with distinction and honor and deserve to be thanked and recognized for their service and sacrifice to the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Lexington County are encouraged to personally thank a Veteran in their family, church, workplace, civic organization, or school.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of Lexington County Council, do hereby proclaim the week of November 6-12, 2011 as ***THANK A VETERAN WEEK*** in Lexington County and extends its sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to these men and women for their selfless service, dedication and sacrifice to Lexington County, the state of South Carolina, and the United States of America.

AT-A-GLANCE NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 1

9 - 12 noon Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
7:30pm Lexington VFW Post 8738 meeting

Thursday, November 3

7:00pm Congaree AL Post 90

Saturday, November 5

7:00pm Lexington AL Post 7 meeting

Sunday, November 6

Daylight Savings Time Ends

3:00pm Lexington County Veterans Parade

Tuesday, November 8

Election Day

9 - 12 noon Chapin Outreach
7:00 pm Gilbert AL Post 142 meeting

Friday, November 11

Veterans Day

County Offices Closed

Thursday, November 17

7:00pm Leesville DAV Chapter 51 meeting

Thursday, November 24

Thanksgiving

County Offices Closed— (no van scheduled)

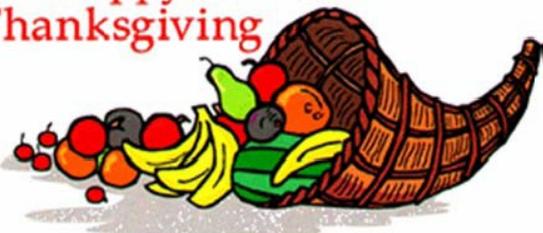
Friday, November 25

County Offices Closed

Monday, November 28

7:00pm Gaston AL Post 156 meeting

Happy
Thanksgiving



Director's Corner

November typically is a time for voting for political offices, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving.

Although there is no General Election this year there are a few offices in the county up for election. It is our constitutional right to vote and one my family and I take seriously. I hope you will get out and vote this month.

On a personal note, November is one of my most favorite times of the year. It is the month I married my wonderful wife Linda, our first child was born in November and our first grandchild. Some of the things I always look forward to this month besides those are:

- ◇ The briskness in the air as I first step outside of the house early in the morning.
- ◇ The beautiful color of the trees in my yard and the view on the ride to work.
- ◇ The Veteran's Day Parade in downtown Columbia, one of the best I have ever seen.
- ◇ The Clemson-Carolina football game and the rich tradition it brings among family and friends.
- ◇ Thanksgiving Day and a great meal and fellowship with family and friends, always thankful for them, my freedom and our troops who serve on active duty protecting that freedom.
- ◇ Turnip greens and how good they smell when they are being cooked and then seem to taste better after smelling them cook for a few hours.
- ◇ Sweet potatoes with cinnamon, sugar and butter on them.
- ◇ Pumpkin pies seasoned just right, I usually eat a whole one by myself and then my family and I fight over the extras.

Now I am hungry but hope some of these I mentioned brought back a memory for you. As I travel around the county visiting Veteran Service Organizations and Assisted Living Facilities, the people have been very kind and supportive of what we do in our office. I look forward to meeting many more Veterans and survivors and want you to know that it is an honor to serve Lexington County. Happy Veteran's Day and Happy Thanksgiving!

YOU ARE INVITED

The Lexington County Vietnam Combat Veterans extends an invitation to ALL Vietnam Veterans and their spouse/significant others to come together for a celebration of Thanksgiving and fellowship.

We are planning a covered dish luncheon to be held in the conference room of the Lexington County Auxiliary Administration Building, 605 West Main Street, Lexington, SC (Old Kroger Grocery Store) on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, between the hours of 11:30am and 2:00pm.

We are asking all who plan to attend to bring a covered dish food item if you can. If you would like to enjoy some good food and good company, please contact Ernest Jones at 803-750-6903 by Friday, November 11, 2011.



The above picture is from the October 25th County Council meeting where the "Thank A Veteran" Week resolution was presented to the office staff and Veterans from the community. Pictured above are (left to right): Council Chairman, Jim Kinard, Leo Craps, Fred Sons, Veterans Specialist, Janet Smith, Gene Wilbur, County VA Officer, Ed Lundeen, Assistant Director, Jennifer Hendrix, Mike Egan, Tom Lucas, Rolf Buchner, Edwin Murray, Redd Reynolds, and Council Vice-chairman Bill Banning.

2011 VETERANS DAY EVENTS

NOTE TO VETERANS: MANY OF THESE EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, HOWEVER, SOME OF THEM YOU MUST BE INVITED TO AND FOR ANY INVITED FUNCTION YOU MUST HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE TO OBTAIN A VISITOR'S PASS. PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION TO AN EVENT THAT IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

NOVEMBER 9, 2011

1:00pm-Congaree Elementary in South Congaree-Fort Jackson Band will perform.

NOVEMBER 10, 2011

7:30-Pleasant Hill Middle School hosts a free breakfast for invited Veterans.

8:00-9:00-White Knoll Elementary School hosts a Pancake for Patriots breakfast and Veterans will be presented with special readings and musical performances

8:30-Pineview Elementary Veterans Day Ceremony is held at Mount Hebron UMC.

7:00pm-White Knoll Middle School chorus presents "Our Flag Was Still There" a special Veterans Day concert. Admission is \$3. **Open to the public.**

7:00pm-Gilbert Primary School presents "The Spirit of America" a musical performance. **Open to the public.**

NOVEMBER 11, 2011

7-7:30-Sandhills Middle School Gym Pancake Breakfast and Ceremony-Swansea.

7:20-CrossRoads Middle School (Irmo) Breakfast for any family member of a student who is a Veteran, active duty military, firefighter or police worker.

8:00-CrossRoads Middle School (Irmo) Veterans Day Ceremony in the Gym.

8:00-Red Bank Elementary School has an assembly for Veterans in the community. The McEntire Air National Guard Base Honor Guard has a presentation and the students perform special music.

8:00-Lake Murray Elementary (**District #5**)-Third graders present *America's White Table* and read aloud a thank you letter to a Veteran. At 9:15 and 10:00 there will be a patriotic sing along for all students.

8:00 and 9:00am-Lake Murray Elementary School (**District #1**)-honors Veterans and current military personnel during two assemblies.

8:30-Carolina Springs Middle School presents a program to honor Veterans. Special music will be performed by the band and the drama students present *America's White Table*. Two special guest speakers, Sergeant Major Stanley Foreman and Master Sergeant Joseph Saelens, will address the school.

8:40-Gilbert High School honors Veterans and current military personnel with a special Veterans Day assembly. Guest speaker Mike Moyer, a GHS graduate and Veteran speaks to students about his experiences.

9:00-Pleasant Hill Elementary School pays tribute to friends and family members who have served or who are currently serving in our military with a special outdoor celebration.

9:00-Oak Grove Elementary School presents guest speaker Major General James Livingston, a Medal of Honor recipient.

10:00-Batesburg Leesville High School has a Veterans Day Ceremony in the Gym.

10:00-Chapin Elementary Veterans Day Assembly followed by a reception for Veterans and school personnel.

10:00-Gilbert Middle School-invites family members who are Veterans to their "Honoring the Brave Veterans Day" assembly. The event features special music and dance performances by students.

4:00pm-Dedication of Gilbert-Summit Veterans Monument at Senior Center in Gilbert. **Open to the public.**

6-8pm-Swansea High School Veterans Day Ceremony in the Commons Area. **Open to the public.**

White Knoll Middle School honors Veterans by reading *America's White Table* and illustrating this book.

Lexington Middle School honors Veterans by performing *America's White Table* with an illustration of the book

White Knoll High School invites family members who are Veterans to spend the day with the Junior ROTC class.

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED AND SACRIFICED

Agent Orange

Part of the United States' strategy in Vietnam was to conduct an herbicide program to remove foliage providing cover for the enemy. Agent Orange was the most widely used of the herbicide combinations sprayed. Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam were tested or stored elsewhere, including some military bases in the United States.

When & Where Agent Orange was Sprayed in Vietnam:

The U.S. military herbicide program in South Vietnam took place between 1962 and 1971. Herbicides were sprayed in all 4 military zones of Vietnam. More than 19 million gallons of various herbicide combinations were used. Agent Orange was the combination the U.S. military used most often.

Heavily sprayed areas included:

- * Inland forest near the demarcation zone
- * Inland forests at the junction of the borders of Cambodia, Laos, and South Vietnam
- * Inland forests north and northwest of Saigon
- * Mangrove forests on the southernmost peninsula of Vietnam
- * Mangrove forests along major shipping channels southeast of Saigon.



Eligibility for Disability Compensation:

Veterans may be eligible for disability compensation if they have a service-connected disability and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Presumed Exposure Based on Vietnam or Korea Service:

For the purpose of disability compensation, VA presumes that Veterans were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides if they served:

- * In Vietnam anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 (includes brief visits ashore or service aboard a ship that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam. Check VA's list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships that operated in Vietnam.
- * In or Near the Korean demilitarized zone anytime between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971. These Veterans do not need to prove that they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides to qualify for disability compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure (also called "presumptive diseases").

Exposure not Presumed:

A Veteran who believes he or she has a disease caused by herbicide exposure, but it is not a presumptive disease, must show an actual connection between the disease and herbicide exposure during military service. Veterans who do not meet criteria for presumed exposure to Agent Orange may be eligible for service-connection for related disabilities. This includes:

- * Blue Water Veterans who served on ships off the shore of Vietnam that did not operate on the inland waterways of Vietnam, or who did not set foot in Vietnam.
- * Veterans who served on or near the perimeters of military bases in Thailand during the Vietnam Era
- * Veterans who served where herbicides were tested and stored outside of Vietnam



They must show that they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service to be eligible for service-connection for presumptive diseases related to Agent Orange exposure. For diseases that are not presumptive, they must show that they were exposed to herbicides and that there is an actual connection between the disease and their herbicide exposure.

EXCEPTION: Blue Water Veterans with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma may be granted service-connection without showing inland waterway service or that they set foot in Vietnam. This is because VA also recognizes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as related to service in Vietnam or the waters offshore of Vietnam during the Vietnam Era.

List of Presumptive Diseases:

* Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy

A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides and resolve within 2 years after the date it began.

* AL Amyloidosis

A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs.

* Chloracne (or Similar Acneform Disease)

A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, chloracne (or other acneform disease similar to chloracne) must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides.

* Chronic B-cell Leukemia's

A type of cancer which affects white blood cells.

* Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)

A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.

* Hodgkin's Disease

A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen and by progressive anemia.

* Ischemic Heart Disease

A disease characterized by reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain.

* Multiple Myeloma

A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow.

* Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.

* Parkinson's Disease

A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement.

* Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides.

* Prostate Cancer

Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men

* Respiratory Cancers

Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.

* Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)

A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood, and lymph vessels, and connective tissues.

Agent Orange Registry Health Exam for Veterans:

VA's Agent Orange Registry Health Exam alerts Veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to Agent Orange exposure during their military service. The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively. This comprehensive health exam includes an exposure and medical history, laboratory tests, and a physical exam. A VA health professional will discuss the results face-to-face with the Veteran and in a follow-up letter.

Important points about registry health exams:

- * Free to eligible Veterans and no co-payment.
- * Not a disability compensation exam or required for other VA benefits.
- * Enrollment in VA's health care system not necessary.
- * Based on Veterans' recollection of service, not on their military records.
- * Will not confirm exposure to Agent Orange.
- * Veterans can receive additional registry exams, if new problems develop.

Continued on page 14

VFW Post 8738 Annual Golf Tournament

November 11th, 1921 is a memorable date in our American History. This is the date an Unknown Soldier was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. “Here rest in honored glory an American soldier known but to God”, who for decades has represented the honor and courage our military service members have so gallantly displayed during armed conflicts upon foreign soil around the globe.

November 11th, 2004 was also a memorable day for our Local VFW Post, which pales in comparison to the significance of the end to World War I or the entombment of our fallen comrades, but important to our comrades in Lexington County, South Carolina. This was the date of our first VFW Veterans Day Golf Tournament. The proceeds we receive from this annual event enable us to continue with programs for our Veterans at home and abroad, who are dependent upon our support. Your participation and/or sponsorship in this tournament were given in the past, and will graciously, be received in future golf tournaments.

This year we will be hosting our 7th Annual VFW Veterans Day Golf Tournament on Thursday, November 10th at Indian River Golf Course, 200 Indian River Drive, West Columbia S.C. Just like previous years, the proceeds of our tournament will go to the post programs that directly affect the Veterans in our community who have earned our respect and admiration by their selfless service to our Country. As we enter our 8th year of armed conflict in Iraq and 10th year in Afghanistan, your contributions are increasingly critical to our organization. We value your support in this time of our need.

ENTER YOUR TEAM TODAY



Veterans of Foreign Wars

LEXINGTON POST 8738 & LADIES AUXILIARY

7th ANNUAL

“GOLF TOURNAMENT”

“Indian River Golf Club”

West Columbia, South Carolina

November 10, 2011

CONTACT GENE WILBUR 803-608-9135 OR

JOE FIXL 803-413-2801



GOLD STAR SPONSOR

\$500.00

- Tournament Recognition
- Hole Sponsor (Sign)
- (1) Teams of Four
- Luncheon
- Cart Gift

SILVER STAR SPONSOR

\$350.00

- Hole Sponsor (Sign)
- (1) Team of Four
- Luncheon
- Cart Gift

BRONZE STAR SPONSOR

\$200.00

- Hole Sponsor (Sign)
- Luncheon

Make checks payable to:

VFW Lexington Post 8738

Mail to:

VFW Lexington Post 8738

P.O. Box 206

Lexington, SC 29071

**Thank you! On behalf
of all the Veterans
(Present and Retired)!**

BUSINESS SPONSORS:

Company Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone Number

PLAYER INFORMATION:

**INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS \$50.00 EACH
INCLUDES LUNCHEON & CART GIFT**



#1



#2



#3



#4

I am unable to play this year,
but would like to donate
\$ _____ to the VFW
Lexington Post 8738.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT:

* Captain Choice – Best Ball



*Shotgun Start

*Mulligan \$5.00 each:
Max (2) per player

Closest to Pin

Straightest Drive

Longest Drive

Trophies



1st, 2nd and 3rd
TOP TEAMS!

Door Prizes (ALL)

AGENDA:

Registration: 7:00 AM

Shotgun Start: 9:00 AM

Luncheon: 1:00 PM

Award Ceremony: 2:00 PM

***Please respond . No Later
Than:***

October 31st 2011

For more information contact

****Gene Wilbur 803-608-9135 ****

**** Joe Fixl 803-413-2801****



Wreaths Across America at Fort Jackson National Cemetery would like to invite all who wish to participate in the sales, promotion and/or the service itself, contact them at their email address: waajtjackson@yahoo.com

If your group or organization is trying to raise funds for a project, wreath sales for the Fort Jackson National Cemetery is an excellent way to do it. For every \$15.00 wreath you sale, your group or organization will receive \$5.00. If you are not fund raising and want to help insure every headstone at the cemetery receives a wreath, you may want to opt for the 3 wreaths for the price of 2 program. Either way, you are helping the Fort Jackson National Cemetery reach its goal.

For more information, to purchase a wreath, or to volunteer, please contact Carol Davis at (803) 739-2774 or email at waajtjackson@yahoo.com

2011 will mark the 20th anniversary of Worcester Wreath Company donating Maine wreaths to adorn the headstones of our Nation's Veterans at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition to 15,000 wreaths destined for Virginia, Worcester Wreath will again donate 7 ceremonial wreaths to over 410 State, National and local cemeteries across the Country. In 2009 wreath-laying ceremonies were coordinated in 24 foreign cemeteries and aboard Naval ships in all Seven Seas, this tradition continues into 2011.

In response to the many voices who wanted to share in the project, the non-profit Wreaths Across America organization was formed (EIN: 20-8362270) to expand the program by offering supporters the opportunity to sponsor a wreath. Our goal is to one day see every Veterans grave in the country covered to honor every Veteran during the holidays. In 2008 we expanded once again to give even more organizations the chance to help bring our goal to fruition by providing the opportunity to fund raise for their organizations needs along with helping Wreaths Across America gather sponsorships for wreaths.



Sponsorships are \$15 each. Proceeds place a wreath at one of the participating cemeteries, help support our fundraising partners, educational and Veterans services outreach, *Please note that **all** sponsorships are sent directly to the location and **no** wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.*

There is no stipulation for participation in these activities. We welcome all to join us at Wreaths Across America as the organization was formed to promote and coordinate sponsorship of wreaths for the other national, state and local cemeteries that have shown a desire to emulate the Arlington wreath-laying event. If you would like to participate or help bring sponsored wreaths to your local community, please contact us and we will help connect you with other groups already working in your area.

Schedule of Events

Sunday, December 4th, 2011

Start of World's Longest Veterans Parade from Maine to participating locations all across the Country

Monday, December 5th

State House wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and Puerto Rico

Saturday December 10th, 12:00 noon (EST)

Simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies at over 350 locations all across the World.



For more information visit www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org, or call 207-483-2039.

You can also email Marcy@wreathscrossamerica.org, Amy@waa08@yahoo.com or Wayne@wreathscrossamerica.org
Locally, you can contact Carol Davis at waajtjackson@yahoo.com or call (803) 739-2774



Tax ID 20-8362270

Wreath Sponsorship Form

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state and national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ (to receive our FREE email newsletter)

Sponsoring Group ID Number: SCNDV001

For every 2 Wreaths purchased on this form, we receive a third one free

Cemetery Designation: Fort Jackson National Cemetery, Columbia, SC

(please select one cemetery per group)

Cemetery ID Number: SCFJNC (located on our website under locations tab)

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual= 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Family= 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business= 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate= 100 Wreaths or more	\$15.00 each wreath		
WAA Pins (25 pins per pack)	\$10.00 / pack		
WAA Patch	\$3.00 each		
		Grand Total	

****WE DO NOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS****

Please make All checks payable to:

Wreaths Across America TM

P.O. Box 3356

West Columbia, SC 29171

Local Contact:

Carol Davis (803) 739-2774

Thank you for your Sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Please note that all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

FREE OFFERS

2011 VETERAN'S DAY BENEFITS

Two notes before jumping in:

◇ **Proof of Military Service.** First, most companies require some form of military ID – including a U.S. Uniform Services ID Card (active/reserve/retired), Current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), Photograph in uniform, be wearing uniform (if your service permits), Veterans Organization Card (e.g., American Legion and VFW), DD214, discharge paperwork, or other form of identification. Other restaurants and companies may only require a photo of you in uniform, or go by the honor system.

◇ **Participation.** Second, always call ahead to verify locations, times, and participation. Many of the listed companies are franchises and may have different policies. We will do our best to keep this page updated as we find new info.

Applebee's-All Veterans and active duty military eat free from a limited menu at Applebee's on Veterans Day (Nov. 11). There will be [7 entrées to choose from](#).



Chili's- Veterans and active duty dine for free from a special limited six item menu on Veterans Day.

Golden Corral- Golden Corral Restaurants' Military Appreciation Monday free dinner will be available on November 15, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Military retirees, Veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserves are all welcome.

<http://www.goldencorral.com/military/>.

Hooter's- Veterans and active duty eat free. The free entrees must be selected from a special Veterans Day menu.

Krispy Kreme- All active-duty, retirees & Veterans get a free doughnut on Veterans Day. Be sure to call ahead to verify your local Krispy Kreme is participating.

McCormick & Schmick's-(Participating McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants) restaurants offer a complimentary entree to Veterans from a special menu on a space available basis, online reservations are highly recommended. **CLOSEST LOCATION IS IN CHARLOTTE, NC** [M&S Veterans Appreciation Event](#).

Outback Steakhouse- Veterans and active-duty military get a complimentary Bloomin' Onion and non-alcoholic beverage on Veterans Day. <http://outback.com/companyinfo/veteransday.aspx>.

Subway-Select Subway locations offer a FREE six inch sub to Veterans on Veteran's Day. However, Subway restaurants are franchises, so this offer may not be available everywhere. Please call ahead.

TGI Friday's- Veterans and Service members buy one get one free from Nov 11-14. Contact your nearest location for more details on their Veterans Day BOGO offer.

Texas Roadhouse-Free meal from opening until 4pm. on Veteran's Day. Call ahead to your local restaurant for more information.

UNO Chicago Grill- UNO is offering a Buy One Get One free offer to Service members or Veterans with a military or veteran I.D. or in uniform or with a photo of themselves in uniform. The Veterans Day BOGO offer includes a free entree or individual pizza, with the purchase of an entree or pizza of equal or greater value.



DISCOUNTS

Dollar General- Veterans, Service members (Active, Guard, and Reserve), and their immediate families will receive a 10-percent discount with a Veterans Day coupon. The coupon may be found in store circular ads or by asking a sales associate.

FREE OFFERS CONTINUED

Home Depot- Offers a 10 percent discount (up to a \$500 maximum) to all active military, reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family members with a valid military ID. All other Veterans qualify for a 10 percent discount during Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day. [Learn more about the Home Depot Military Discount program.](#)



Lowe's- Lowe's offers a year-round 10 percent discount offer for all active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees and disabled Service members and their immediate families. All other Veterans receive the 10-percent discount on Veteran's Day, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. The discount is available on in-stock and special-order purchases of up to \$5,000. The offer can't be used on sales at Lowes.com, on previous sales or on sales of services or gift cards. You must present a valid military I.D. card to receive the discount.

FREE SERVICES

Bed and Breakfast for Vets In the third year of the program, B&Bs for Vets has organized over 485 (and counting) participating Bed and Breakfasts and Inns across the US and Canada which will be offering veterans a free night's stay on November 10th, the night before Veterans Day. This offer is available to both active duty military members and veterans with ID, but space is limited. Each Inn and B&B has at least one room available for this promotion and reservations must be made directly through the participating Inns and B&Bs. For more information visit [B&Bs for Vets](#).

Sam's Club-is giving away 36,000 Hugo canes November 9-11, 2011 for free to Veterans who need mobility assistance. A Sam's Club membership is not required but you will need to bring proof of military service. These are only available while supplies last. <http://www.hugosalutes.com/>

Sport Clips—FREE haircut to active-duty military & Veterans. Offer only available at [select locations](#). Please call to verify local participation.

FREE ADMISSION



Anheuser-Busch Parks—Anheuser-Busch Parks offers Active Duty Service Members free admission for them and up to 3 dependents to any of their parks once a year. Throughout 2011, members of the military and as many as three direct dependents may enter SeaWorld, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks with a single-day complimentary admission. The Here's to the Heroes program is only available to Any active duty, activated or drilling reservist, or National Guardsman. Eligible parks include: Adventure Island, Busch Gardens (Tampa Bay or Williamsburg), SeaWorld (Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio), Sesame Place, and Water Country USA. Not valid at Discovery Cove and Aquatica. Christmas

Town at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va. is not included as part of this program. For more information and to register, visit: [free admission summary](#), and [ticket application](#)

Colonial Williamsburg — free admission for Veterans and dependents from: [Nov. 11-13](#). <http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/visit/planYourVisit/ticketPlans/current-offers.cfm>

Historic Jamestown – Free Admission—The National Park Service commemorates Veterans Day with Fee Free days at Historic Jamestowne November 11-13. Free admission for everyone. [See events calendar](#).

Knotts Berry Farm Military Tribute Days – Free Admission. Knott's Berry Farm has an annual Military Tribute event in which they offer military members past and present by offering free park admission. This year the Military Tribute Days run from November 1 – 24 (Thanksgiving Day). Veterans or current serving military personnel plus one guest get in FREE with proper ID presented at Knott's turnstile (DD214, Veterans Administration Hospital ID or Active Military Service ID). Purchase up to six additional tickets for just \$17 each. [More info](#).



FEATURED MEDAL:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

The **Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)** is the second highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Army, for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force. Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree to be above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but not meeting the criteria for the Medal of Honor. The Distinguished Service Cross is equivalent to the Navy Cross (Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) and the Air Force Cross (Air Force).

The Distinguished Service Cross was established by President Woodrow Wilson on January 2, 1918. General Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the Expeditionary Forces in France, had recommended that recognition other than the Medal of Honor be authorized for the Armed Forces of the United States for valorous service rendered in like manner to that awarded by the European Armies. The request for establishment of the medal was forwarded from the Secretary of War to the President in a letter dated December 28, 1917. The Act of Congress establishing this award (193-65th Congress), dated July 9, 1918, is contained in 10 U.S.C. § 3742. The establishment of the Distinguished Service Cross was promulgated in War Department General Order No. 6, dated January 12, 1918.



The Distinguished Service Cross was originally designed by J. Andre Smith, an artist employed by the United States Army during World War I. The Distinguished Service Cross was first cast and manufactured by the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The die was cast from the approved design prepared by Captain Aymar E. Embury II, Engineers Officer Reserve Corps. Upon examination of the first medals struck at the Mint, it was considered advisable to make certain minor changes to add to the beauty and the attractiveness of the medal. Due to the importance of the time element involved in furnishing the decorations to General Pershing, one hundred of the medals were struck from the original design. These medals were furnished with the provision that these crosses be replaced when the supply of the second design was accomplished.

The Distinguished Service Cross was first awarded during World War I. In addition, a number of awards were made for actions before World War I. In many cases, these were to soldiers who had received a Certificate of Merit for gallantry which, at the time, was the only other honor for gallantry the Army could award, or recommend a Medal of Honor. Others were belated recognition of actions in the Philippines, on the Mexican Border and during the Boxer Rebellion. This decoration is distinct from the Distinguished Service Medal, which is awarded to persons in recognition of exceptionally meritorious service to the government of the United States in a duty of great responsibility.

Continued from page 7

AGENT ORANGE CONTINUED

To contact the VA about Agent Orange Registry Health Exams:

By Telephone

* Call your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator at Dorn VAMC: 803-776-4000 ext. 4710 or 6179

* TDD (for hearing impaired): 1-800-829-4833

In Person

* Go to your nearest VA health care facility and speak to the VA Environmental Health Coordinator: Dorn VAMC, 6439 Garner's Ferry Road, Columbia, 29209





Lexington, SC.

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FAX: (803) 785-0115

**NOVEMBER DATES FOR
OUTREACH PROGRAM**

Nov. 1st: 9-12 Batesburg-Leesville
Police Dept
Nov. 8th: 9-12 Chapin Town Hall

*Please call the office
to schedule an appointment.*

**TOLL-FREE
TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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

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

DIRECT DEPOSIT MANDATE

By March 1, 2013, everyone getting the following federal benefits by paper check must switch to electronic payments –**direct deposit** to a bank or credit union account or to the **Direct Express®** Debit MasterCard® card:

- ◇ Social Security
- ◇ Supplemental Security Income
- ◇ Veterans Affairs
- ◇ Railroad Retirement Board
- ◇ Office of Personnel Management
- ◇ Department of Labor (Black Lung)

Direct deposit is a fast and easy way to get your benefits. They will go directly into your checking or savings account. Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card is a Treasury-recommended prepaid debit card where no bank account or credit check is required.

If you want to get your federal benefit payments paid by **direct deposit** to your checking or savings account, you'll need your:

- ◇ Social Security number or claim number
- ◇ 12-digit federal benefit check number
- ◇ Amount of most recent federal benefit check
- ◇ Financial institution's routing transit number*
- ◇ Account number* and type (checking or savings)

(* This information is often on personnel checks. The first set of numbers is the routing number and the second set is the account numbers)

If you want to get your benefit payments through the **Direct Express®** card, you'll need your:

- ◇ 12-digit federal benefit check number
- ◇ Amount of most recent federal benefit check

You can call (800) 333-1795 for more information.

Cindy Wise has departed the Veterans Affairs office to pursue another full time position. Her last day was on October 21st. The office wishes her the best. Please be patient with the office during this time of transition.

Looking for Volunteer Van Drivers

The van runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, taking Veterans to appointments at DORN VAMC for their scheduled appointments between 9am and 1pm. If you can volunteer to drive the DAV van at least 1 day a month, contact the office at 803-785-8400.



Coming in the Next Issue...

Parade highlights and pictures, aid and attendance information and featured medal.