



# LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

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

March 2012

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### Director's Corner

Plans are becoming finalized on our VA Benefits Seminar and Health Screening on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm. We invite any and all to come for all of the presentations or some of them. I promise you this event will be worth your time. The Health Screenings are all free and sponsored by Palmetto Health and Medical Services of America.

I am still continuing my travels around the county to monthly meetings at Veteran Service Organizations and enjoying these visits. It is a pleasure to meet people in their home organization and show the pride they have in their buildings and events. I am a member of the American Legion in Gilbert, Veterans of Foreign Wars in Lexington, Disabled American Veterans in Leesville and the Marine Corps League in West Columbia. I am proud of these organizations and what they represent. I encourage you to join one; we have pamphlets, brochures and meeting information in our lobby for nearly all of these organizations.

Please stop by our office and purchase a print of the Veteran's Monument or Gibson's Pond for \$10 each. We have a picture of each in this issue and hope you will purchase one for you or someone else.

Lastly, I hold a Veteran's Advisory Meeting on the second Monday of the month quarterly at 7pm in my office. I encourage Commanders to send a representative from your Veteran Service Organization for updated information on VA programs and benefits. The next meeting is April 9<sup>th</sup>.

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!



**AT-A-GLANCE**  
**March**

- Thursday, March 8th      Shepherd's Center Briefing,  
Lex. Meth. Church  
9:30 to 11:30am
- Saturday, March 10th      Dang-it Doll Workshop  
Cayce Masonic Lodge  
10am to 4pm
- Sunday, March 11th      Daylight Savings Time  
Begins
- Tuesday, March 13th      Chapin Outreach  
9 to 12pm
- Saturday, March 17th      St. Patrick's Day
- Tuesday, March 20th      Spring Begins  
VA Health Benefits Seminar  
@ VAMC Dorn  
9 to 12:30pm  
Vietnam Veterans of  
America Chapter 303  
@ Pickens St, Cola  
7 to 9pm

Purple—Holidays  
Blue—Outreach dates  
Red—County Offices Closed/No van scheduled  
Black—Ed's appearances in the County  
Pink—Special Events throughout the County



The VA Office Staff (from left to right)  
Mandy Cooper, Janet Smith, Jennifer  
Hendrix, and Ed Lundeen



**Lexington, SC.**

**YOUR VA OFFICE STAFF**

- ED LUNDEEN**  
DIRECTOR
- JENNIFER HENDRIX**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
- JANET SMITH**  
VETERANS SPECIALIST
- MANDY COOPER**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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SUITE 101  
LEXINGTON, S.C. 29072  
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**MARCH DATES FOR  
OUTREACH PROGRAM**

March 13th: 9-12      Chapin Town Hall

**TOLL-FREE  
TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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

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

★ **New Office Policy** ★

**You must call the office to schedule an appointment for outreach in Batesburg and Chapin. Walk-ins will be seen after appointments if time permits.**



# Survivors' & Dependents' Benefits

## Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

For a survivor to be eligible for Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC), the Veteran's death must have resulted from one of the following causes:

- 1 - A disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on active duty or active duty for training.
- 2 - An injury, heart attack, cardiac arrest, or stroke incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on inactive duty for training.
- 3 - A service-connected disability or a condition directly related to a service-connected disability.



DIC also may be paid to certain survivors of Veterans who were totally disabled from service-connected conditions at the time of death, even though their service-connected disabilities did not cause their deaths. The survivor qualifies if the Veteran was:

- 1 - Continuously rated totally disabled for a period of 10 years immediately preceding death; or
- 2 - Continuously rated totally disabled from the date of military discharge and for the last 5 years immediately preceding death; or
- 3 - A former POW who died after September 30, 1999, and who was continuously rated disabled for a period of at least one year immediately preceding death.

There is also a program called Parents' DIC. The VA provides an income-based monthly benefit to the surviving parent(s) of a servicemember or Veteran whose death was service-related. When countable income exceeds the limit set by law, no benefits are payable. The spouse's income must also be included if living with a spouse. A spouse may be the other parent of the deceased Veteran, or a spouse from remarriage. Unreimbursed medical expenses may be used to reduce countable income. Benefit rates and income limits change annually. DIC ends at midnight of the date of remarriage if a widow is under age 57, after age 57, the marital status does not affect this benefit.

## Death Pension



The VA provides pensions to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of a deceased Veteran with wartime service. To be eligible, spouses must not have remarried and children must be under age 18, or under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, or have become permanently incapable of self-support because of disability before age 18. The Veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have had 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, or a service-connected disability justifying discharge. Longer periods of service may be required for Veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, or October

16, 1981, if an officer. If the Veteran died in service but not in the line of duty, the death pension may be payable if the Veteran completed at least two years of honorable service.

## Burial and Memorial Benefits for Survivors

The Department of Veterans Affairs offers several burial and memorial benefits for eligible survivors and dependents. These benefits may include internment at a state or national Veterans cemetery, plot, marker and more.



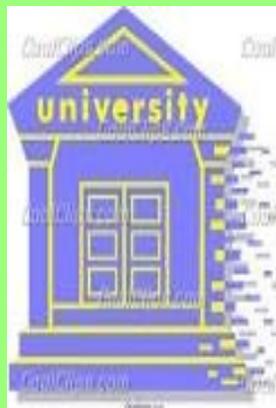
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## Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance

The VA provides educational assistance to qualifying dependents as follows:

- 1 - The spouse or child of a servicemember or Veteran who either died of a service-connected disability, or who has a permanent and total service-connected disability, or who died while such disability existed.
- 2 - The spouse or child of a servicemember listed for more than 90 days as currently Missing In Action (MIA), captured in the line of duty by a hostile force, or detained or interned by a foreign government or power.
- 3 - The spouse or child of a servicemember who is hospitalized or is receiving outpatient care or treatment for a disability that is determined to be totally and permanently disabling, incurred or aggravated due to active duty, and for which



the servicemember is likely to be discharged from military service.

Surviving spouses lose eligibility if they remarry before age 57 or are living with another person who has been held out publicly as their spouse. They can regain eligibility if their remarriage ends by death or divorce or if they cease living with the person. Dependent children do not lose eligibility if the surviving spouse remarries. The period of eligibility of Veterans' spouses expires 10 years from either the date they became eligible or the date of the Veterans' death. VA may grant an extension. Children generally must be between the ages of 18 and 26 to receive educational benefits, though extensions may be granted. The period of eligibility for spouses of



servicemembers who died on active duty expires 20 years from the date of death. This is a change in law that became effective December 10, 2004. Spouses of servicemembers who died on active duty whose 10-year eligibility period expired before December 10, 2004, now have 20 years from that date of death to use educational benefits. Effective October 10, 2008, Public Law 110-389 provides a 20-year period of eligibility for spouses of Veterans with a permanent and total service-connected disability rating effective within 3 years of release from active duty.

## VA Home Loan Guaranty

A VA loan guaranty to acquire a home may be available to an unmarried spouse of a Veteran or servicemember who died as a result of service-connected disabilities, a surviving spouse who remarries after age 57, or to a spouse of a servicemember officially listed as MIA or who is currently a POW for more than 90 days. Spouses of those listed MIA/POW are limited to one loan.



## "No-Fee" Passports



"No-fee" passports are available to immediate family members (spouse, children, parents, brothers, and sisters) for the expressed purpose of visiting their loved one's grave or memorialization site at an American military cemetery on foreign soil. For additional information, write to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500, 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201, or telephone 703-696-6897, or visit the website at [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)

**Lexington County  
Veterans Affairs**

**Thursday,  
April 5, 2012**

**1:00 to 5:00pm**

**Auditorium at  
605 West Main St  
Lexington, SC**

**Contact the  
Lexington  
County Veterans  
Affairs Office at  
803-785-8400  
for more  
information.**

*Please join us for this event*

## **Veterans Benefits Seminar & Health Screenings**



The event is open to the public and to any employee of the County who wants information on the multitude of programs offered by the Department of Veteran's Affairs. The Health Screenings consist of blood pressure checks, diabetic checks, PSA tests, and will be offered free of charge.

### ***Sponsored by:***

- Lexington County Veterans Affairs
- VA Medical Center
- Lt. Governor's Office on Aging
- Palmetto Health Center
- Medical Services of America
- Lexington Interfaith Community Services

***Did you know that 1 in 10 people in Lexington County is a Veteran?***

# Honor Flight Q & A

**What is Honor Flight of South Carolina?** Honor Flight of South Carolina is part of the Honor Flight Network, which takes World War II Veterans to Washington, D.C., to see and experience their WWII memorial. A chartered flight takes the Veterans to our nation's capital for a one-day tour. In addition to visiting the WWII memorial, Veterans see the Korean, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials and monuments. The Veterans are special guests at Arlington Cemetery where they observe the Changing of The Guard at the Tomb of The Unknowns.

**When is the next trip?** The next scheduled Honor Flight, sponsored by The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, will depart Columbia, S.C. on April 11, 2012. The flight leaves Columbia by 8 a.m. and returns around 8 p.m.

**Who is eligible?** Any American Veteran who served in the armed forces during World War II who has not previously been on an Honor Flight. Preference will be given to members of electric cooperatives and their families, but all Veterans are urged to apply.

**How are South Carolina's electric cooperatives participating in Honor Flight?** Electric co-ops in S.C. have donated the money to make this trip possible.

**How much does the trip cost?** There is no cost to Veterans. The flight is funded through donations by South Carolina's electric cooperatives.

**Can I go if I have special medical needs?** Yes. Arrangements can be made for most special needs, including wheelchair bound and oxygen dependent individuals. Several physicians will be on the flight to assist the Veterans throughout the day. We encourage all Veterans to apply.

**Can my spouse participate?** No. However, Veterans may have a guardian. Guardians are the caretakers of the Veterans for the day. Spouses are not permitted to be guardians, but other family members are.

**Can another member of my family participate?** Yes. A child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or other family members or friends are encouraged to apply to be guardians.

**How can I apply?** You may mail in the application printed in the January edition of *South Carolina Living Magazine*, or you can apply online at [scliving.coop](http://scliving.coop).

**Do I have to provide my own transportation to the airport?** Yes. The flight will depart from the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. You will be responsible for your own transportation to and from the airport.

**How many seats are available on the trip?** There is room for approximately 100 Veterans on the flight.

**When will I know if I have been chosen?** Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Honor Flight personnel will contact you soon after your application is received.

**If I am not chosen for the flight, will I be able to attend a future trip?** Yes. There will be another Honor Flight in May of 2012. We will do everything we can to make sure you are a part of that trip. Honor Flight's goal is to give every WWII Veteran the chance to participate.



**I'd like to make a donation to Honor Flight of South Carolina. How do I do that?** Make your check payable to **Honor Flight of South Carolina** Mail Check to: Honor Flight of South Carolina, PO Box 292421, Columbia, SC 29229

**What is the application deadline?** There is no deadline; we will accept applications until the plane is full. However, please submit an application at your earliest convenience to ensure you have a spot on the flight. A family member is welcome to submit an application on your behalf if you are unable to do so.

**How can I get more information about the trip?** You may visit [honorflightsc.com](http://honorflightsc.com), or contact Betsy Hix with The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc., at [betsy.hix@ecsc.org](mailto:betsy.hix@ecsc.org) or (803) 739-3024.



## HONOR FLIGHT APPLICATION

Honor Flight and the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina recognize America's World War II heroes for your sacrifice and achievements by flying you to Washington, DC to see YOUR memorial at no charge. This Honor Flight is scheduled for April 11, 2012. The one-day trip departs Columbia Airport at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 7:00 p.m. Honor Flight's mission is to ensure every WWII Veteran is given the opportunity to experience this special tribute for your service to our country. **Please submit application by March 1, 2012.**



Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (Month/Day/Year)

Official Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nick Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ (Evening) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ (Cell) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Operating Force (Fleet, Division, Brigade, etc..) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank at time of retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity during WWII: Atlantic \_\_\_\_ Pacific \_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL INFORMATION:** Information about your medical needs will NOT disqualify you. It permits the physicians and nurses accompanying the flight to prepare and support any needs you may have. Honor Flight and the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina will not share your medical information.

**Do you use mobility equipment?** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**Might you need a wheelchair at any time during the trip?** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**Please list any drug allergies:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have a history of seizures?** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If yes, type: \_\_\_\_\_

*If your last seizure occurred within the last five years, you MUST discuss this trip with your physician prior to submitting this application.*

**Do you use oxygen?** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

*You must submit your physician's prescription for your oxygen for the flight at the time you submit this application. Honor Flight of South Carolina will provide the oxygen based upon the prescription.*

**If you use a Nebulizer,** you MUST discuss this trip with your physician prior to submitting this application. A prescription for the nebulizer must accompany this application. Honor Flight of South Carolina will provide a portable machine if you do not have one.

**If you have a urostomy or colostomy bag,** you will need to bring an extra as a precaution.

**Did You Know...** The Department of Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has a new online form to make it easier for grieving family members to report the deaths of military retirees. Instead of having to call and wait on hold for several minutes to report the death of a retiree, the survivor can go to [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil) and click on Retired Military & Annuitants at the top of the screen. Then on the left side of the screen click on Survivor's and Beneficiaries and then click on Report a Retiree's Death. Just follow the instructions to get to DFAS form 9221. Once DFAS is notified they will stop the retiree's pay to prevent an overpayment and establish any benefits the survivor may be entitled to.



## DID YOU KNOW...



The Lt. Governor's Office on Aging has an informational website with links and contact information for seniors. The website is: <https://scaccess.communityos.org/cms/>

Refill VA scripts -  
Download your military and  
health records at home -  
See all your appointments, labs  
and more ONLINE



[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)

My Health, My Care: 24/7 <sup>Online</sup> Access to VA

Contact:

[BETH.LAMB@va.gov](mailto:BETH.LAMB@va.gov)

Prints for Sale



Veteran's Monument across from  
the Administration Building

\$10.00 each



Gibson's Pond in Lexington

*We have several copies of both of these prints for sale in our office. The cost is \$10.00 each. The proceeds will be placed in our Veteran's Fund and/or Van Fund. Your donation is tax deductible and a receipt can be provided if you wish. To have a closer look at the prints, we have framed copies in our lobby. Please stop by our office M-F from 8 to 5 to purchase one or more of these beautiful prints!*

### Looking for Volunteer Van Drivers

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



# VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IN LEXINGTON COUNTY

## AMERICAN LEGION

**Post #7**-Lexington: Meets the first Saturday of the month (except before a holiday) at 1900.

Address is: American Legion Road, Lexington.

**Post #61**-Batesburg Leesville: Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 2000.

Address is: South Hendrix Street, Leesville.

**Post #79**-West Columbia: Meets the first Monday of the month at 1930.

Address is: 700 B Avenue, West Columbia

**Post #90**-South Congaree: Meets the first Thursday of the month at 1900.

Address is: Hwy. 302 near South Congaree.

**Post #130**-Cayce: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 1830.

Address is: Naples Avenue, Cayce.

**Post #142**-Gilbert: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1900.

Address is: Hwy. #1 Gilbert.

**Post #156**-Sandy Run: Meets the fourth Monday of the month.

Address is: Pine Plain Road outside of Gaston, just off Old Sandy Run Road.

**Post #174**-Irmo: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 801 Piney Woods Road, Columbia

**Post #193**-Chapin: Meets the second Thursday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 102 Lexington Ave., Chapin.

**Post #217**-Lexington: Meets the second Thursday of the month at 1930.

Address is:

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

**Chapter #4**-West Columbia: Meets the second Monday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

**Chapter #13**-West Columbia: Meets the second Saturday of the month at 1300.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

**Chapter #20**-West Columbia: Meets the third Saturday of the month at 1100.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

**Chapter #28**-West Columbia: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1800.

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

**Chapter #51**-Leesville: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 1900.

Address is: South Hendrix Street, Leesville.

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**Post #3695**- Cayce: Meets the of the month at

Address is: 1743 Middle Street, Cayce

**Post #6740**-Lake Murray: Meets the of the month at

Address is: 950 Rock N Creek Road, Leesville.

**Post #8738**-Lexington: Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 424 Cedarcrest Drive, Lexington.

**Post #9037**-Pelion: Meets the third Monday of the month at 1930.

Address is: 505 Canal Drive, Pelion.

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

**Detachment #1141**-West Columbia: Meets the second Thursday of the month at 1900 .

Address is: 511 Violet Street, West Columbia.

## BLUE STAR MOTHERS

**Midlands Chapter**-Lexington: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 1800.

Address is: 424 Cedarcrest Drive, Lexington.

## AMVETS

**Post #2**-West Columbia: Meets the of the month at

Address is: 1778 D Avenue, West Columbia.

## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

**Chapter #402**-Columbia: Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 200 Pickens Street, Columbia.

## NAVY SEABEES

**SCX #2**-West Columbia: Meets the second Monday of the month at 1900.

Address is: 179 Lynn Street, West Columbia.

## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

**Chapter #303**, Sandlappers-Columbia: Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 1900

Address is: 200 Pickens Street, Columbia

## PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

**VA Regional Office**-Columbia is the nearest chapter.

Address is: 6439 Garner's Ferry Road, Columbia



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# ◆ Honor and Support Your South Carolina Veterans ◆ 2012 Palmetto Patriots' Ball

The Blue Star Mothers of the Midlands are hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Palmetto Patriots' Ball on May 19, 2012 at the Medallion Center in Columbia, SC.

The event will raise money to support our South Carolina Veterans.

For more information, please visit [www.palmettopatriotsball.org](http://www.palmettopatriotsball.org).



**Saturday, May 19, 2012**  
**The Medallion Center - Columbia, SC**  
**Reception and Silent Auction 5:30 / Dinner and Dancing 6:30**  
**Semi-Formal or Military Dress**  
**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Mike Huckabee**  
**Former Governor, Presidential Candidate and**  
**Host of FOX News' "Huckabee" & Daily ABC Radio Broadcast**  
**Show**

## Veteran Service Organizations in Lexington County

Continued from page 9

### We Need Your Help...

This is a list of the Veteran Service Organizations in Lexington County that we are aware of. Also, we have included meeting days, times and locations. Please help us in verifying the information we have and including any we don't have. If you know of any Veteran organization that is not on our list, please give us a call or email with the information and we will update the list.



### Mark your calendars!



***The 2012 Lexington County Veterans Parade is scheduled for Sunday, November 4th at 3pm in downtown Lexington. Please mark your calendars to join us for the 10th Annual Parade.***

***The next Veteran's Advisory Meeting is scheduled for April the 9th at 7pm in our office.***



*Coming in the Next Issue...*

*Individual Unemployability Benefits*