



LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

November/December 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

At-A-Glance Calendar/From the Director	2
Aid & Attendance for Pension & Service Connected Benefits	3-4
Wreaths Across America	6-7
History of Veterans Day	8-9
Veterans Day Free Offers & Discounts	10-13
Driver Improvement Program	15
Ways to Receive Temporary 100% through the VA	16-17
Featured Medal	18



Lexington, SC.

YOUR VA OFFICE STAFF

ED LUNDEEN

ELUNDEEN@LEX-CO.COM

DIRECTOR

JENNIFER HENDRIX

JHENDRIX@LEX-CO.COM

DEPUTY DIRECTOR/
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

KATHY DEBERRY

KDEBERRY@LEX-CO.COM

BENEFITS COUNSELOR

MARGARET K. BOGGESS

MBOGGESS@LEX-CO.COM

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESS

VETERANSAFFAIRS@LEX-CO.COM

605 WEST MAIN STREET,
SUITE 101

LEXINGTON, S.C. 29072

TELEPHONE: (803) 785-8400

FAX: (803) 785-0115

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Lexington Main Office: 785-8400

From Batesburg/Leesville: 332-8400

From Chapin: 941-0231



A Note from the Editor... The Veterans News is now a bi-monthly issue.

**At A Glance Calendar
November/December**

Weekly on Tuesdays/November	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @12 noon
Friday, November 1st	Chapin Outreach
Sunday November 3rd	Lexington County Veterans Parade @ 3pm Daylight Savings Time Ends
Tuesday November 5th	Election Day
Thursday, November 7th	Gaston Outreach Wall of Heroes Dedication @ Agape Senior in West Columbia from 6 -7:30pm
Friday, November 8th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Saturday, November 9th	Dang-It Doll Workshop @ Cayce Masonic Lodge from 10am-3pm
Monday, November 11th	Veterans Day County Offices Closed/No Van Columbia Veterans Parade in downtown Columbia at 11am
Tuesday, November 12th	Speaking Engagement @ Gilbert Middle School County Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 13th	Korean War Ceremony @ Lexington County Council Chambers - 10:30am
Friday, November 15th	Midlands Job Fair @ SC National Guard complex on Bluff Road from 9am-12noon
Thursday, November 28th	Thanksgiving Day County Offices Closed/No Van
Friday, November 29	County Offices Closed
Weekly on Tuesdays/December	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @12 noon
Thursday, December 5th	Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday, December 6th	Chapin Outreach Volunteer Van Driver Luncheon from 12-2pm
Saturday, December 7th	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Tribute to Veterans and Pearl Harbor @ Cayce Museum starting at 6pm
Sunday, December 8th	West Metro Christmas Parade @ 5:30pm
Tuesday, December 10th	County Council Meeting
Friday, December 13th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Saturday, December 14th	Wreaths Across America @ Ft. Jackson Cemetery starting at 12 noon
Saturday, December 21st	Winter Begins
Monday, December 23rd - Friday, January 3rd	No Van
Tuesday, December 24th	Christmas Eve/County Offices Closed
Wednesday, December 25th	Christmas Day/County Offices Closed
Thursday, December 26th	County Offices Closed
Wednesday, January 1st	New Years Day/County Offices Closed

Purple—Holidays/Special Days	Brown—County Council Meetings
Blue—Outreach dates	Pink—Special Events throughout the County
Red—County Offices Closed, No van scheduled, and Special Notices	Orange—Special event, Director Out of Office
Black—Director's appearances in the County	Green—Lexington County Veterans Group Meetings



As the last issue of our newsletter for this year, I want to thank all of you who comment and contribute to it. We take great pride in it and Jennifer does a great job of compiling and editing the contents.

November is a special month for me because during this month I celebrate family, Veterans, Thanksgiving and all of these are important to me. November is also the month I married my wife 32 years ago, this is hard to believe! We became parents and grandparents in November and though I have had many titles throughout my career, Dad and Granddad are the two I treasure the most.

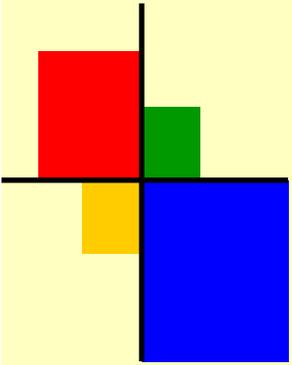
Veterans Day is always a special event for our office and we enjoy the Veterans Parade on the first Sunday of November at 3pm each year. We hope to make it bigger and better every year. Please mark your calendars for this fantastic event! We also enjoy attending as many Veterans Day events at local schools as we can. These are always enjoyable.

Thanksgiving is a time for us to set aside and give thanks for all of God's blessings. I am thankful for my position as your County Veterans' Affairs Officer and for my staff who get the job done every day. I could not do what I do without their professionalism and assistance. I am thankful for this all year, but especially in November.

We have a new Benefits Counselor, Kathy DeBerry and we are delighted to have her join our team. She comes from the Lexington County Library system and is off to a great start in assisting us in helping Veterans and their survivors. Please stop in or call her and welcome her to the team!

December is another favorite as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and I hope all of you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Thanksgiving!

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!



AID AND ATTENDANCE FOR PENSION AND SERVICE-CONNECTED BENEFITS

A veteran can receive housebound or aid and attendance benefits through the VA. One is if you are a 100% service-connected Veteran; the other is through the non-service connected pension program.

For service-connected Veterans

If a Veteran is service-connected at the 100% rate and is housebound, bedridden, or is so helpless as to need the aid and attendance of another person, then payment of additional Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) can be considered. The amount of SMC will vary depending on the level of disability.

For non-service connected Veterans

Veterans or surviving spouses who are eligible for VA pension and are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person may be eligible for an additional monetary payment. Veterans and survivors who are eligible for a VA pension and require the aid and attendance of another person, or are housebound, may be eligible for additional monetary payment. These benefits are paid in addition to monthly pension, and they are not paid without eligibility to Pension.

Since Aid and Attendance and Housebound allowances increase the pension amount, people who are not eligible for a basic pension due to excessive income may be eligible for pension at these increased rates. A Veteran or surviving spouse may not receive Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound benefits at the same time.

Aid & Attendance (A&A)

The Aid & Attendance (A&A) increased monthly pension amount may be added to your monthly pension amount if you meet one of the following conditions:

- ◇ You require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment
- ◇ You are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment
- ◇ You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity
- ◇ Your eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less

Continued on page 4

Aid and Attendance for Pension and Service-Connected Benefits (continued from page 3)

Housebound

This increased monthly pension amount may be added to your monthly pension amount when you are substantially confined to your immediate premises because of permanent disability.

To apply for either of these benefits:

You may apply for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits through our office or by writing to the VA regional office where you filed a claim. If the regional office of jurisdiction is not known, you may file the request with any VA regional office. You should include copies of any evidence, preferably a report from an attending physician, validating the need for Aid and Attendance or Housebound type care. The report should have sufficient detail to determine whether there is disease or injury producing physical or mental impairment, loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to the wants of nature, and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable. Whether the claim is for Aid and Attendance or Housebound, the report should indicate how well the applicant gets around, where the applicant goes, and what he or she is able to do during a typical day. This can be a statement from the attending physician or a VA form 21-2680 (examination for housebound status or permanent need for regular aid and attendance). In addition, it is necessary to determine whether the claimant is confined to the home or immediate premises. This can be a statement from the facility or a VA form 21-0779 (request for nursing home information in connection with claim for aid and attendance).

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

-John Fitzgerald Kennedy



Lexington Interfaith Community Services (LICS) is looking for items for their holiday baskets. Whether you box/bag/basket or just bring the items, there is always a need. The deadline for the Thanksgiving basket is 11/18 and the Christmas basket deadline is 12/16. LICS is located at 216 Harmon Street, Lexington, SC 29072. If there are any questions, they can be reached at 803-957-6656.

The list of items:

- * Ham or Turkey (frozen or canned)
- * Canned Sweet Potatoes
- * Collards
- * Stuffing Mix
- * Cranberry Sauce
- * Cornbread Mix
- * Green Beans
- * Dessert Mix (with frosting if needed)
- * Notes and prayers to the family are always welcome.



Prints for Sale

We have several copies of the Veterans Memorial and Gibson Pond prints for sale in our office. The Gibson Pond print is 32x24 and the Monument print is 24x15. Both are suitable for framing. The cost is \$10.00 each. The proceeds will be placed in our Veteran's Fund and/or Van Fund. Your donation is tax-deductible and a receipt can be provided. Come by the office to have a closer look at the prints. Please stop by our office M-F from 8 to 5 to purchase one or more of these beautiful prints!



Looking for Volunteer Van Drivers

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



County Council Needs You!

Veterans are needed to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at County Council meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. County Council meetings start at 4:30pm, so you would need to be present around 4:15pm. Contact the office at 803-785-8400 if you are interested.



OUTREACH DATES AND TIMES

Please be aware that our outreach dates and times have changed. The correct dates and times are listed below. Appointments are strongly encouraged.



Batesburg/Leesville Outreach -
2nd Friday of the month at the
Batesburg/Leesville Library
from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Chapin Outreach - 1st Friday
of the month at the Chapin
Library from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.



Gaston/Swansea Outreach -
1st Thursday of the month at
the Gaston Library from 10
a.m. to 12 noon

Cayce/West Columbia Outreach
has been cancelled effective immediately due
to poor response.



In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and others who had helped with their annual Christmas wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America™, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. This nonprofit organization continues the Arlington tradition as part of its mission to Remember, Honor and Teach.

In 2012, Wreaths Across America and our national network of volunteers laid over 420,000 memorial wreaths at over 800 locations in the United States and beyond. We accomplished this with help from 1382 fundraising groups, many corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands. Our annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery is known as the world's largest veteran's parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veteran's homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to Remember, Honor and Teach.

Proceeds place a wreath at one of the participating cemeteries; help support our fundraising partners, educational and veteran's services outreach. Please note that **all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.**

We welcome all to join us at any Wreaths Across America ceremony. 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 8, 2013

Start of World's Longest Veterans Parade from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery and participating locations

Monday, December 9, 2013 12:00noon

State House wreath-laying ceremony at Veterans Memorial SC State House grounds

Saturday December 14, 2013 12:00noon

Fort Jackson National Cemetery 4170 Percival Rd. Columbia SC 29229

Parking will be at the Blue Cross Blue Shield parking lot on Percival Rd. and shuttle buses will bring you into cemetery starting at 10:00am the morning of the ceremony

Simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies at over 850 locations all across the country and beyond.

For more information email [**waajtjackson@yahoo.com**](mailto:waajtjackson@yahoo.com) or call (803) 739-2774



Wreath Sponsorship Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, 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. Be sure to show the Group ID and Location ID on the online form.

For every 2 wreaths purchased on this form, we will receive a 3rd. one free

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Sponsoring Group ID Number: __SCNDV001

Location ID: __SCFJNC_____
(located on our website under locations tab)

Name of Cemetery: Fort Jackson National Cem.

(please select one cemetery per group)

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 / pk		
WAA Patch	\$3.00 each		
		Grand Total	

****SORRY- WE CAN NOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS****

In Honor of:

Please provide email of "In Honor Of" recipient, or mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor.
 (if you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

Email: _____
Mailing: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.

Branch of Service: _____
Rank: _____
State: _____

Please make checks payable to:

Wreaths Across America TM
 PO Box 3356
 West Columbia, SC 29171

Questions? Please call Carol Davis (803) 739-2774 or email waftjackson@yahoo.com

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

History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first “Veterans Day Proclamation” which stated: “In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans’ organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.”



Soldiers of the 353rd infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58am, on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect

Continued on page 9

History of Veterans Day (continued from page 8)

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays:

Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, and Howard W. Watts

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

DANG-IT DOLL REMINDER

There will be a Dang-It Doll workshop on Saturday, November 9, 2013, from 10:00am until 3:00pm at the Cayce Masonic Lodge. The Lodge is located at 1701 12th Street, Cayce, SC 29033. The Lodge Brothers will be preparing their famous hot dog lunch.

There will not be a workshop in December, so it's important to get lots of dolls made at this workshop to fill the doll requests and ship them in time for Christmas. Grab a friend and come and join in the stuffing and decorating of the dolls so they can bring smiles and stress relief to our service men and women.

To date, over 100,780 Dang-It Dolls have been shipped all over the world. There are volunteers ranging in age from 5 years to 90 years old. There is something for everyone to do. The more the merrier.

Mark your calendars for the January workshop on Saturday, January 11, 2014, at the Cayce Masonic Lodge.

If there are any questions, contact Carol Davis with Operation Military Stress Relief Dolls, Inc., at 803-739-2774.



2013 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts

Two things to always remember during Veterans Day when using any of the free meals or discounts listed below:

- 1 - 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.
- 2 - Participation, always call ahead to verify locations, times, and participation.

Discounts at Restaurants

Applebee's – free meal, Nov. 11: Applebee's is again offering a free meal to military Veterans and active-duty service members on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2013. There will be 7 entrées to choose from, beverage and gratuity not included. Military ID or proof of service required. Find locations at <http://applebees.com/>.



Chili's – free meal, Monday, Nov. 11 (2013). Chili's is offering all military Veterans past and present their choice of one of 6 meals. This offer is available from 11am – 5pm on November 11, 2013 at participating Chili's in the U.S. only. Dine-in from limited menu only; beverages and gratuity not included. Veterans and active duty military simply show proof of military service. Visit their website to find locations.

Golden Corral – Free meal, Monday Nov. 11: The 13th annual Golden Corral Military Appreciation Monday dinner will be held on Monday, November 11, 2013 from 4 pm to 9 pm in all Golden Corral Restaurants nationwide. The free "thank you" dinner is available to any person who has ever served in the United States Military. If you are a Veteran, retired, currently serving, in the National Guard or Reserves, you are invited to participate in Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday dinner. For more information visit <http://www.goldencorral.com/military/>.

FATZ - On this Veteran's Day, 11/11/2013, Veterans and Active Duty military can enjoy a free entrée up to a \$15 value. No purchase required! Also, each Veteran will receive a \$2 coupon for use on his or her next visit. Choose from our many delectable entrées like: Certified Angus Beef® sirloin (Thick, juicy and full of flavor) or World Famous Calabash Chicken (Fresh tenders marinated 24 hours, hand-breaded to order).

Shoney's - Veterans Day Free All-American Burger (Monday, November 11, 2013)

Shoney's will be having a Veterans Day free meal in 2013 that consists of a free All-American Burger. This is for Veterans as well as active duty military. Proof of military service is required and it's for dine-in only.

O'Charley's - Veterans Day Free Meal (Monday, November 11, 2013) Veterans and active duty military can stop into an O'Charley's location and get a free meal from their new \$9.99 menu on Monday, November 11. You'll need to bring military ID or proof of service for this free meal.

Red Robin - Veterans Day Free Meal (Monday, November 11, 2013) Veterans and active duty military can stop into their local Red Robin on Monday, November 11 to get a free Red's Tavern Double burger and Bottomless Steak Fries. Be sure to bring your military ID to take advantage of this Veterans Day freebie.



Olive Garden - Veterans Day Free Meal (Monday, November 11, 2013) Olive Garden is having a Veterans Day free meal for all Veterans on Monday, November 11, 2013. Offer good for Veterans and active duty military, November 11th during regular business hours. Veterans can choose a free entree from a special menu. All these entrees come with freshly baked garlic breadsticks and choice of unlimited soup or salad.

Continued on page 11

2013 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts (continued from page 10)

Hooters – Free Meal, Nov. 11 (2013). Hooter's is serving up a free meal to military veterans all day on Veterans Day. Offer good for all veterans and active duty military personnel. Get 10 Free Wings – Boneless or Regular, drink purchase required. Offer valid at participating Hooters only; open to all active duty and military Veterans with valid military ID or proof of military service. For more information, visit, www.HootersVeteransDay.com.



Krispy Kreme – Free doughnut - Available only at participating Krispy Kreme stores. Offer available to all active-duty, retirees & Veterans on November 11th. Be sure to call ahead to verify your local Krispy Kreme is participating.

Little Caesars Pizza - Little Caesars is honoring the men and women of the United States Armed Forces this Veterans Day by providing Veterans and active military members with a free Crazy Bread® with proof of military status or proof of service at participating stores nationwide. Find a location near you.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants – free lunch or dinner, Nov 11, 2013, McCormick & Schmick's is celebrating their 13th annual Veteran's Appreciation Event on Sunday, November 10th. Veterans will be able to choose a complimentary lunch or dinner entrée. Veterans must provide proof of military service. Be sure to contact your local McCormick & Schmick's as this is valid at participating restaurants only. Also, Space is limited and reservations are highly recommended. For more information visit: [M&S Veterans Appreciation Event](#).

Outback Steakhouse – A week of Free Bloomin' Onions and Cokes Nov. 11, 2013. Outback Steakhouse is honoring America's military Veterans by offering active duty military and Veterans a free Bloomin' Onion and a Coca-Cola product during the week leading up to Veteran's Day. This offer is available to Military Personnel who have one of the following forms of identifications: U.S Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), DD form 214 Veterans Organization Card (i.e., American Legion and VFW), Photograph in Uniform, Wearing Uniform. For more information, visit, <http://outback.com/companyinfo/veteransday.aspx>.

Subway – Free Six Inch Sub, November 11, 2013. Select SUBWAY® Restaurants will offer a FREE six inch sub or flatbread to military Veterans on Veteran's Day. This offer is valid only on November 11, 2013 at participating local SUBWAY® restaurants, Military ID or proof of service required. Note: SUBWAY® Restaurants are franchises, so this offer may not be available everywhere. Please call ahead for participation and times.

Texas Roadhouse – free lunch, Nov. 11 (11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.). Every Texas Roadhouse location across the country will participate in the free lunch event to honor the men and women of our armed forces. Offer good for All Veterans – including all active, retired or former U.S. military. ID Required. See the Texas Roadhouse Veterans Day page for more information.



T.G.I. Friday's – Buy one, get one free—Nov. 11, 2013. Valid for all US Military personnel and Veterans. Must wear uniform (if permitted by your service) or present military ID or other proof of service. Only valid at participating locations for anyone with an old or current military ID. More details on TGIFridays.com.

Uno Chicago Grill - Nov. 11 (2013) Veteran's Day Discount: 19.43% discount on their food and non-alcoholic beverages purchases from 11/7 through 11/11. Why 19.43%, do you ask? That is the year UNO invented deep dish pizza. Offer good for all military, for Veterans and active duty military. ID or proof of service required: Show up in uniform (if your service permits), provide military ID, show a picture of yourself in uniform, or have other ID showing proof of service

Continued on page 12

2013 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts (continued from page 11)

Home Depot and Lowe's Military Coupon Updates

Home Depot Military Discount - The Home Depot is offering all active duty personnel, reservists, retired military, Veterans and their families a 10 percent discount off their purchases in honor of Veteran's Day. The offer is valid on purchases of up to \$2,000 for a maximum of \$200 and is available at The Home Depot stores, The Home Depot Design Center locations, Yardbirds and EXPO Design Center locations. The 10% military discount is available everyday for active duty and retirees, but not all Veterans. Home Depot makes this offer available to all Veterans on most military holidays. You can also find Home Depot discounts online.



Lowe's Military Discount - Lowe's Companies, Inc. will offer all active, reserve, honorably discharged, retired military personnel and their immediate family members a 10 percent discount on in-store U.S. purchases made during the Veterans Day holiday. The discount is available Nov. 11, 2013. The discount is available on in-stock and special order purchases up to \$5,000. To qualify, individuals must present a valid military ID or other proof of service. Excluded from the discount are sales via Lowes.com, previous sales, and purchases of services or gift cards. Like Home Depot, Lowes offers this discount daily to active duty military members, but not to Veterans. However, they extend the offer to military Veterans on military holidays. You can also find exclusive discounts at Lowes.com.

Free Park Admissions for Veterans Day

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 2013, 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 - Colonial Williamsburg offers free weekend-long admission tickets to active-duty military, reservists, retirees, Veterans, and their immediate dependents from Nov. 11, 2013. The complimentary ticket includes admission to Colonial Williamsburg exhibition sites, art museums, and most daytime programs, as well as free parking and use of the shuttle bus system. Tickets are only available at on-site ticket sales locations. Tickets are also available to families of deployed servicemembers. Tickets available on the following dates: Nov. 11-13.



Fee Free Day at National Parks - To honor America's service men and women, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that areas managed by the National Park Service would not charge entrance fees for Veteran's Day weekend – November 11, 2013. Over 100 national Parks will be participating in this event.

Historic Jamestowne – 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 – 28 (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.

Continued on page 13

2013 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts (continued from page 12)

Pro Football Hall of Fame – Free Admission. Annual Veterans Day Salute, November 07, 2013, 09:00 AM – 05:00 PM. Any Veteran or member of the armed forces and their spouse or a guest will be admitted free of charge to the Hall of Fame for a day-long recognition of US Military veterans. Members of the Blue and Gold Star Mothers will also be eligible for free admission. There will be a special ceremony beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Hall of Fame's NFL Films Theater.

San Jacinto Monument and Museum (La Porte, TX) - November 7-13: Free admission to the theatre, Observation Floor, and the special exhibit to all Veterans and their families.

Veteran's Day Discounts – Retail Stores & More

Here are some additional Veteran's Day Discounts. In all cases, be sure to provide proper ID or proof of service. In addition, some of these stores are franchises, so verify participation before assuming the discount is in place.

Big Lots – 10% off your entire purchase with valid military ID.

Cabela's - Cabela's is giving their standard employee discount to all US military Veterans, active duty military, Guard/Reserves, law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel on Nov. 10-11. Discount varies from 5% to 20%, depending on the item.



Dollar General - 10% discount on entire purchase on Veteran's Day. Offer good for all active-duty military, retirees, Veterans, Guard/Reserve, & immediate family members. The coupon can be found in the store circular, or by asking an employee. Also good online from Nov 11-13, use Coupon Code VETERANS DAY. More info.

Car wash - Thousands of car washes around the country are offering vets a free car wash on Veterans Day. Find a list at Grace for Veterans, which helped veterans receive 101,537 FREE Washes on Veterans Day in 2010.

Jos. A. Bank Specials: Veterans Day Sale- 1 Day Only! All Suits On Sale- 2nd for \$47 Mix 'n Match. 40% Off All Dress Shirts, Sportshirts, Ties & Sportswear. Free Shipping on Orders \$195+. Valid: November 11. JoS. A. Bank Veterans Day Sale Orders.

K-Mart - Exclusive Early Veterans Day Sale – Nov. 10th! EXTRA 5-10% off Almost Everything with coupon code VETERANS DAY. Friday & Saturday Specials + EXTRA 5-15% off & FREE Shipping orders of \$49 with coupon code HOLIDAY.

Sports Authority – 15% off all purchases. All Veterans and Military personnel please stop by your local Sports Authority store to receive 15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE on 11.11.13 ONLY! Please show proper identification or proof of service at check-out to receive this special offer.



Sport Clips – Veterans Day National cut-a-thon and Help A Hero Program. Sport Clips is the official haircutter of the VFW and will donate \$1 from every haircut during the National Cut-a-Thon to VFW's Operation Uplink, which provides free phone time to active-duty military personnel and hospitalized Veterans. Sports Clips stores also offer a Heroes discount which includes active and retired military. Find a location near you.

Free Hugo® Canes for Veterans - Sam's Club® locations nationwide will distribute 36,000 Hugo® canes free of charge on November 9th, 10th, 11th, 2013 to U.S. military Veterans in need of mobility assistance. Limited quantities available, while supplies last. Sam's Club® Membership is not required, but proof of military service may be required. For more information, visit HugoSalutes.com.



Red, White and Blue

He Lay Where He Had Fallen.
Enemy Fire Had Brought Him Down.
He Knew His Life Was Over,
As He Lost All Sight and Sound.

He Knew a Peaceful Sleep,
Amidst the Raging Guns of War,
But for Him the Fight Was Over.
He'd Gave His All..And More.

Oh, He Was Not Alone.
Others Have Fallen Too.
And Time Will Not Erase the Fact...
They Fell for Me and You.

We Owe These Men and Women,
For They Never Got Any Older.
We Didn't Even Know Them.
To Most of Us They Were..Unknown Soldiers.

So Rest in Honored Glory,
Each and Every One of You.
You Gave All You Had to Give...
For Freedom and the Red, White and Blue.

Walk and Pray with the Labyrinth

November 11, 12, 13, 2013
**Lexington United
Methodist Church**
**309 East Main Street,
Lexington**

November 11—Salute to our men and women in the armed services at 12:10pm—Veterans and those currently serving will be recognized and prayers will be offered for their well-being.

Labyrinth open from 8:30am—5:00pm

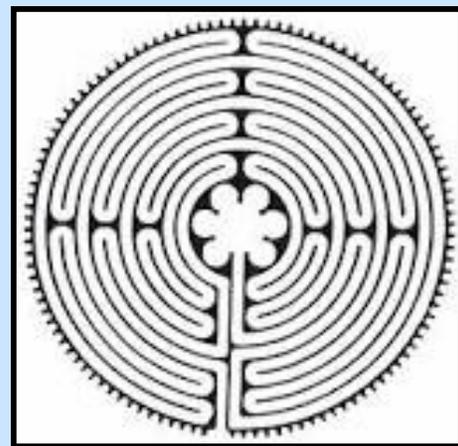
November 12—Taizé Prayer Service and Labyrinth orientation at 12:10pm

Walk the Labyrinth 8:30am—5:00pm

November 13—Orientation for church and community friends at 12:10pm and 6:10pm

Labyrinth open from 8:30am to 8:00pm

For more information call: 803-359-6938



*Wishing
Everyone a
Happy Thanksgiving*





Driver Improvement Program



Rehab services with Dorn VA Medical Center, in Columbia, SC, will be offering an eight-hour Defensive Driving course to all eligible Veterans on Friday, November 15th, 2013.

The Defensive Driving course may be good for a four-point reduction from one's driving record. The course will last from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm and there is no charge for the class (similar courses in the community range in cost from \$55—\$85).

To be eligible for this course, the Veteran must be enrolled at the Dorn VA Medical Center, and be in possession of a valid South Carolina driver's license.

Some car insurance companies allow for a 5-10% decrease in premiums if the insured has completed his driver improvement course. It is advisable that the Veteran check with his or her insurance company prior to taking the course to ensure whether or not that particular insurance company grants this discount.

To register for this course, contact Alan Simmerson at 803-776-4000, ext 7052



Lexington County Veterans Group

All Lexington County Veterans are invited to attend the weekly meetings. The group meets weekly on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 2:00 pm in the auditorium at 605 West Main Street, Lexington, SC. The group meets for Health Issues and PTSD counseling with a licensed Counselor.

Our Veterans also participate in various social activities such as group lunches, group dinners with wives/significant other, boat trips on Lake Murray, participation in the Lexington County Veterans parade, and other general group tours.

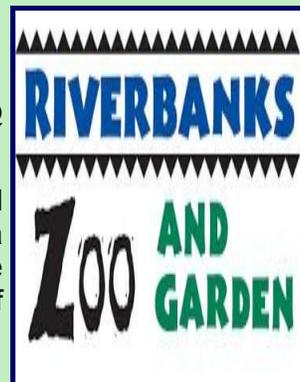
For further information, please contact the Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office @ 803-785-8400.



Free Admission

Monday, November 11 @ 9:00am-5:00pm

Active duty and retired military personnel with a military ID card receive free admission in honor of Veterans Day.



Many of the area schools are holding Veterans Day programs. Contact your area schools for more information.



Ways to receive temporary 100% through the VA

Convalescence

Temporary Rating (Surgery/Immobilization)

A temporary 100% rating is for convalescence based on surgery or immobilization of a joint by a cast without surgery for a service-connected disability. The temporary 100% rating may continue for one to three months depending on individual circumstances. Extensions up to an additional three months may be granted in severe cases.

Eligibility Requirements

You must be a Veteran.

You must have had a surgical or other treatment performed by a VA or other approved hospital or outpatient facility for a service-connected disability.

Evidence Requirements

The evidence must show the surgery or treatment was for a service-connected disability, **AND** the surgery required convalescence of at least one month, **OR** the surgery resulted in severe postoperative residuals, such as incompletely healed surgical wounds, stumps of recent amputations, therapeutic immobilizations, house confinement, or required the use of a wheelchair or crutches, **OR** one major joint or more was immobilized by a cast without surgery.

If the surgery or procedure was at a VA facility, simply tell us when you apply and we will obtain the records for you.

Example

A Veteran has a left knee condition rated 30% disabling. His VA physician has discussed the knee's deterioration and they have decided to operate. Since the success of the surgery won't be known for three months following the one week of hospitalization, the Veteran is granted a temporary 100% evaluation for three months, and his disability compensation is increased accordingly.

Hospital Treatment

Temporary Ratings (Hospitalization)

Veterans who are hospitalized for more than 21 days for a service-connected disability may receive a temporary 100% disability compensation rating.

Eligibility Requirements:

You must be a Veteran

You must be hospitalized for more than 21 days in a Department of Veterans Affairs or an approved hospital for a service-connected disability, **OR**

Be under hospital observation at Department of Veterans Affairs expense for a service-connected disability for a period in excess of 21 days.

Evidence Requirements:

Evidence such as a discharge summary that shows the length of hospitalization to be more than 21 days, **AND** that the hospitalization is or was due to a service connected disability, **AND** that the hospitalization is or was in an approved VA hospital.

If the hospitalization is at a VA facility, simply tell us when you apply and we will obtain the records for you.

Example

A Veteran is considered 40% disabled for his service-connected diabetes mellitus is taken by ambulance to a VA hospital after lapsing into a diabetic coma. He recovered, but required over 21 days of hospitalization due to the coma and infection. His rating was raised to 100% due to hospitalization and then returned to 40%.

Individual Unemployability

Individual Unemployability is a part of VA's disability compensation program that allows VA to pay certain Veterans disability compensation at the 100% rate, even though VA has not rated their service-connected disabilities at the total level.

Eligibility Requirements:

You must be a Veteran

You must have at least one service connected disability rated at least at 60%, **OR**

Two or more service connected disabilities at least one disability ratable at 40% or more, with a combined rating of 70% or more.

You must be unable to maintain substantially gainful employment as a result of service-connected disabilities (marginal employment, such as odd jobs, is not considered substantial gainful employment for VA purposes).

Continued on page 17

Ways to receive temporary 100% through the VA (continued from page 16)

Evidence Requirements:

Evidence of at least one service connected disability **AND** that the service-connected disability or disabilities are sufficient, without regard to other factors, to prevent performing the mental and/or physical tasks required to get or keep substantially gainful employment **AND** that one disability is ratable at 60 percent or more, **OR** if more than one disability exists, one disability is ratable at 40 percent or more with a combined rating of 70 percent or more.

Under exceptional circumstances this benefit may be granted with a lower disability rating than noted above provided the evidence shows the service-connected disability or disabilities present such an exceptional or unusual disability picture, due to such factors as marked interference with employment or frequent periods of hospitalization, that applying the normal disability requirements is impractical.

Example 1

A Veteran has a service-connected heart condition evaluated as 60% disabling. She has been able to work without difficulty until last year, when she began to experience chest pain with any exertion.

Her physician recommended that she retire as soon as possible. She subsequently filed a claim for increased disability compensation. Evidence regarding the Veteran's work history and education were reviewed by the Rating Team. As it confirmed the Veteran was "individually unemployable" due to her service-connected disability, entitlement to compensation at the rate payable to a 100% disabled Veteran was granted.

Example 2

A Veteran served as a medic in Vietnam and stepped on a land mine severing his right leg below the knee. He wears a prosthesis that allows him good mobility.

He had a great deal of difficulty readjusting to civilian life and was recently diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Service connection was established for both disabilities. The ratings for these disabilities are 40% and 50%, respectively. The combined disability rating is 70%.

He applied for individual unemployability because he has not been able to maintain gainful employment for many years. His only income during the last two years has come from a neighbor who pays the Veteran to watch his dogs while he's out of town. The evidence established that his service-connected disabilities render him unemployable.

Based on this finding, the Rating Team granted entitlement to compensation at the rate payable to a Veteran rated 100% disabled.

Pre-stabilization Ratings

A pre-stabilization rating is a temporary initial rating normally given to Veterans who were recently separated from service and have an unstable disability and are most likely in need and least likely to be self-sufficient. Pre-stabilization ratings may be granted at the 50% or 100% rate, depending on the severity of the disability. They continue for a 12-month period following discharge from service.

Eligibility Requirements

You must be a Veteran

You must have been separated from military service with an unstable, significantly disabling service-connected disability at the time of separation that will continue for an indefinite period.

Evidence Requirements

The evidence must show:

You separated from active military service, **AND** you have an existing unstabilized condition stemming from any disease or injury that is service-connected (This will normally be part of a Service Treatment Record.), **AND** your disability has been significantly disabling at the time of separation and will continue for an indefinite period.

Example

A Veteran was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease and received a medical discharge from service. The treatments, completed before she left service, appeared to be very positive as the cancer was in remission. She was told to contact her local VA medical center for follow-up and any further treatment of her condition, if needed. The claim for compensation resulted in a pre-stabilization rating of 100% for one year from the date of discharge.

How to Apply for any of the above benefits:

Our office can assist you with these benefits, **OR**

Apply online using eBenefits, **OR**

Work with an accredited representative or agent, **OR**

Go to the nearest VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you.

Featured Medal:

Vietnam Campaign Medal

The Vietnam Campaign Medal is a military campaign medal of the former country of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam). Established in 1966, it was awarded to members of the United States, Australian, and New Zealand military forces serving six months or more in support of Republic of Vietnam military operations. The medal was the most commonly bestowed foreign military award to the United States Armed Forces personnel at the time.

The Vietnam Campaign Medal may also be awarded to any service member who, while serving outside the geographical limits of the Republic of Vietnam, provided direct combat support to the Republic of Vietnam armed forces for a period exceeding six months. For those members who were wounded by an enemy force, captured by the enemy in the line of duty, or killed in action, the Vietnam Campaign Medal is automatically awarded regardless of total time served in Vietnam.

The medal is issued with a device known as the 1960 Bar. The bar displays the date of 1960 followed by a dash and a blank space. The unusual appearance was caused by the government of the Republic of Vietnam stating that the 1960 bar would show the dates of the Vietnam War from start to finish, with the ending date placed on the 1960 bar after the South Vietnamese had triumphed over North Vietnam (the Democratic Republic of Vietnam). Since South Vietnam fell, and the government ceased to exist, an ending date for the 1960 Bar was never established



***Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
from your VA office staff.***



Ed, Jennifer, Kathy, and Margaret



For information and questions, please check out our webpage at
www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptRZ/va/Pages/index.aspx

We have also moved the
Veterans Service Organizations in Lexington County to the webpage.

Coming in the Next Issue...

CRSC and CRDP (Concurrent receipt) and Military Retirement and VA Benefits