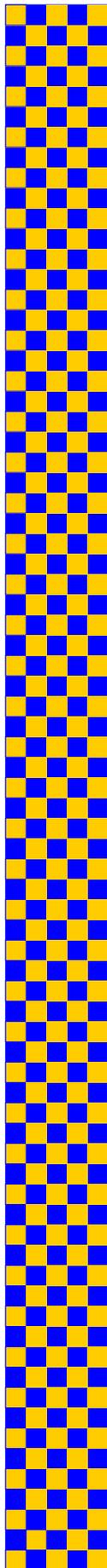




LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

September/October 2013



Lexington, SC.

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Mark your Calendar

The 2013 Lexington County Veterans Parade is scheduled for Sunday, November 3rd at 3pm in downtown Lexington. Please mark your calendars and join us for the 11th Annual Parade. Please see the parade information and application on page 12.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

At-A-Glance Calendar/From the Director	2
Fiduciary Program	3-4 & 18
History of Labor Day	6
VA Debt	7-9
Non Emergency Care in a Non-VA Facility	10-11
Parade Information and Application	12-13
Special Travel Information	15
Featured Medal	19-20

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

**At A Glance
Calendar
September/October**

Weekly on Tuesdays/September	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @12 noon
Tuesday, September 2nd	Labor Day County Offices Closed No Veterans Group Meeting
Thursday, September 5th	Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday, September 6th	Chapin Outreach Tunnel to Towers 5K run & walk, Columbia
Tuesday, September 10th	County Council Meeting @ 4:30pm SC Works Open House @ Lexington Office, 4-7pm
Wednesday, September 11th	Patriot Day
Thursday, September 12th	Belgian Waffle Breakfast Fundraiser, The Shepherd's Center of Lexington, @ 8:15-9:15am
Saturday, September 14th	Dang It Doll Workshop, Cayce Masonic Lodge, @ 10am-3pm
Tuesday, September 24th	County Council Meeting @ 4:30pm
Weekly on Tuesdays/October	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @12 noon
Thursday, October 3rd	Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday, October 4th	Chapin Outreach
Tuesday, October 8th	County Council Meeting @ 4:30pm
Wednesday, October 9th - Friday, October 11th	SCACVAO Fall Conference in Columbia (limited staff in office)
Wednesday, October 9th - Sunday, October 20th	SC State Fair
Saturday, October 13	US Navy established—1775
Monday, October 14th	Columbus Day
Wednesday, October 16th	National Boss Day
Tuesday, October 22nd	County Council Meeting @ 4:30pm
Thursday, October 24th	United Nations Day
Thursday, October 31st	Halloween
Sunday November 3rd	Lexington County Veterans Parade @ 3pm

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

From the Director...

Stand up! When I was growing up in Lexington County my grandparents and parents taught me that there are significant times

when a person should stand up to show respect for a person or an event. The first one that comes to mind is when people gather for the funeral of someone they knew or admired and once the family enters the church, all parishioners stand to show respect for the family. Another time to stand is when the bride enters the church to meet the groom, we always stand to show respect for the bride no matter what. Some churches require worshippers to stand when singing hymns or to stand when the Bible is read aloud.

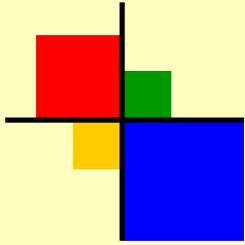
In the military, standing is very prevalent in almost any duties to be carried out for the day. When saluting a superior, a service person always stands and renders a crisp salute, can you imagine sitting down to salute someone? We stand in military parades, formations and in pulling security around our perimeter. We stand to get medical shots, get weighed and when a superior enters the room.

Standing is also performed in other facets of life besides church and in the military. Your County Council requires everyone in the chambers to stand while a Veteran leads the Pledge of Allegiance at each meeting and show respect for the American flag. Prior to football games across the county we always stand when the American flag is presented on the field and remain standing for the National Anthem. This shows respect for those who fought for our freedoms that we hold dear in our country.

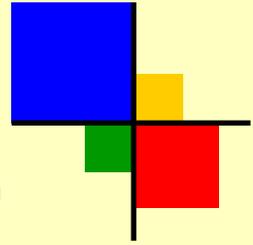
We stand when shaking hands with someone as we greet them; this shows respect for that individual and is good manners on our part. We stand in lines at the bank, Wal-mart, the grocery store and buying lottery tickets. We even stand when homeruns are hit, touchdowns are scored or when our team enters the field.

As your County Veterans Service Officer it is my duty to ensure the American flag, the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance and the song "Taps" are events where everyone, if able, **must** stand to show proper respect.

Continued on page 18



Fiduciary Program



Benefit Description

VA's Fiduciary Program was established to protect Veterans and other beneficiaries who, due to injury, disease, or due to age, are unable to manage their financial affairs. VA will only determine an individual to be unable to manage his or her financial affairs after receipt of medical documentation or if a court of competent jurisdiction has already made the determination.

Upon determining a beneficiary is unable to manage his or her financial affairs, VA will appoint a fiduciary. The fiduciary, normally chosen by the beneficiary, must undergo an investigation of their suitability to serve. This investigation includes a criminal background check, review of credit report, personal interview, and recommendations of character references. Only after a complete investigation is a fiduciary appointed to manage a beneficiary's VA benefits. The fiduciary is responsible to the beneficiary and oversees financial management of VA benefit payments. Generally, family members or friends serve as fiduciaries for beneficiaries; however, when friends and family are not able to serve, VA looks for qualified individuals or organizations to serve as a fiduciary.

What is the Fiduciary Program?

The purpose of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Fiduciary Program is to protect Veterans and beneficiaries who are unable to manage their VA benefits through the appointment and oversight of a fiduciary.

If you have been determined unable to manage your VA benefits, the VA will conduct a field examination to appoint a fiduciary to assist you.

The VA Field Examination

A VA field examination will be scheduled for the purpose of appointing a fiduciary to assist you in managing your VA benefits. During the field examination, please have the following information available for review by the field examiner:

1. Photo identification.
2. The source and amount of all monthly bills, recurring expenses (annual, bi-annual, quarterly, etc.), and income.
3. A list of all assets, to include bank accounts, owned property, stocks, bonds, life insurance, burial plans, etc.
4. A list of all current medications.
5. Name, phone number, and address of your primary care doctor.
6. Name, phone number, and address of your next of kin.

Selection Process

During the selection process, the VA will first seek to qualify the individual you desire to serve as your fiduciary.

The fiduciary selection is based on an assessment of the qualifications of the proposed fiduciary. When seeking a fiduciary the following individuals may be considered:

1. A spouse or family member
2. Court-appointed fiduciaries
3. Another interested party, or
4. A professional fiduciary

Continued on page 4

Fiduciary Program continued from page 3

An assessment of the qualifications of a proposed fiduciary includes, but is not limited to:

1. The willingness to serve and abide by all agreements
2. An interview with a VA representative
3. Credit report review
4. An inquiry into the criminal background, and
5. Interviews with character witnesses

What Are My Rights?

The determination that you are unable to manage your VA benefits does not affect your non-VA finances, or your right to vote or contract.

You have the right to appeal VA's decision finding that you are unable to manage your VA benefits. You also have the right to appeal VA's selection of the fiduciary. If you disagree with the VA on either of these matters you may:

1. appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals by telling us you disagree with our decision and want the Board to review it, or
2. give us evidence we do not already have that may lead us to change our decision.

You may also request to have your ability to manage your VA benefits be re-evaluated, or to have a new fiduciary appointed, at any time. If you wish a re-evaluation, please submit your request in writing with any supporting medical evidence to the Regional Office of jurisdiction.

The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act prohibits you from purchasing, possessing, receiving or transporting a firearm or ammunition if you have “been adjudicated as a mental defective or been committed to a mental institution.” In compliance with this act, VA reports the names of incompetent beneficiaries to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), which then adds the names to a database called the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Gun dealers must check NICS for the name of a potential buyer before selling him/her a firearm. You may be fined and/or imprisoned if you knowingly violate this law. You may apply to VA for relief of firearms prohibitions imposed by the law by submitting your request to the VA. The VA will determine whether such relief is warranted.

For more information on the Fiduciary program contact them by telephone at: (888) 407-0144. Select appropriate Fiduciary Hub when prompted.

Columbia Fiduciary Hub (Option 1): FL, GA, NC, SC

Columbia Fiduciary Hub
PO Box 9367
Columbia, SC 29209-9998

Indianapolis Fiduciary Hub (Option 2): CT, DE, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI

Indianapolis Fiduciary Hub
PO Box 441480
Indianapolis, IN 46244

Lincoln Fiduciary Hub (Option 3): KS, ND, NE, OK, SD, TX

Lincoln Fiduciary Hub
PO Box 5444
Lincoln, NE 68505-5444

Continued on page 18

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.

Please note: There will be no Batesburg/Leesville outreach in September or October.

The History of Labor Day

Labor Day: How it Came About; What it Means

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Founder of Labor Day

More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers. Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold." But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The First Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Labor Day Legislation

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year, four more states, — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

A Nationwide Holiday

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take, was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday proceeding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

Continued on page 9

VA Debt

Veterans, members of the Armed Forces and family members who incur debts as a result of their participation in most VA compensation, pension and education programs as well as home loans closed before January 1, 1990 receive letters from the Debt Management Center notifying them of their rights as well as their obligation to reimburse the Department of Veterans Affairs. If you have a debt with the VA, you may have questions



concerning payment plans, amounts offset from your benefit payments and what to do if payment of the debt would cause hardship.

Have you received a collection letter from the Department of the Treasury giving you 10 days to make payment in order to avoid further collection action?

If Treasury has sent you this letter, sending a payment directly to VA will delay posting of the payment and will not stop Treasury from adding fees to the amount you owe. Questions regarding Treasury collection should be directed to the telephone number on the Treasury collection letter.

Have you received a collection letter or phone call from a private collection agency or law firm regarding your VA debt?

This means the Department of the Treasury has referred your account for private collection. Sending payment directly to VA will delay posting of those payments to your account and will not prevent fees from being charged by the collection agencies or law firms.

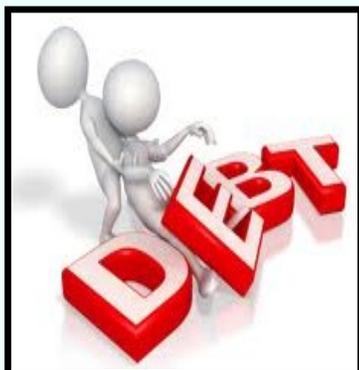
Do you have a question about a VA medical co-payment?

The Debt Management Center does not collect nor have information concerning medical billing statements. If you wish to make a VA medical co-payment go to <https://www.pay.va.gov/>. If you need help completing the co-payment form please call 1-866-400-1238.

Do you have multiple Post 9/11 G.I. Bill education debts? If you do, please follow these simple instructions:

IF YOU ARE PAYING BY MAIL: If you want to send one check for multiple debts, please enclose the remittance stub for each debt. The deduction code tells the VA which debt you are paying (advance payment, housing allowance, tuition and fees, etc.). If you do not have the collection letter, send a note listing the debts and the amount you want applied to each one.

IF YOU ARE PAYING BY PLASTIC CARD OR ACH DEBIT: Please pay each debt separately at the online payment site, <https://www.pay.va.gov/>. Anyone receiving monthly compensation, pension, or



education benefits should call the Debt Management Center before making an online payment. This way you can be sure you are not overpaying your debt in the event they have offset your other benefits.

Normal business hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., (Central Time). They experience their highest call volumes on Mondays and throughout the first week of each month. The best time to call Tuesday through Thursday between 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 P.M. and 1:15 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., (Central Time).

Continued on page 8

VA Debt—Continued from page 7

DMC contact information is 1-800-827-0648 or International callers 1-612-713-6415.

E-mail: dmc.ops@va.gov

Write: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Debt Management Center
P.O. Box 11930
St. Paul, MN 55111

Pay Online: <https://www.pay.va.gov/> to pay the amount you owe using major credit cards, your debit card or ACH Debit from your bank account.

Submit A Request for Waiver of Debt

What is a waiver?

When you request a waiver, you are requesting that the VA terminate collection action on a debt. If a waiver is granted in full or part, you will not be required to pay the amount that was waived.

What are the eligibility requirements for a waiver of a debt?

To be eligible for waiver considerations, you must be a Veteran, a payee or beneficiary including a fiduciary, a representative acting on behalf of a debtor such as a parent, sibling, or a representative of an estate in the case of a deceased payee.

How do you apply for a waiver of debt?

To apply for a waiver, you must submit the following items:

- Written letter that explains why you are requesting a waiver. The letter should explain why you feel you should not be held responsible for payment of the debt or why collection of the debt would be unfair and create a financial hardship.
- Completed and signed Financial Status Report form

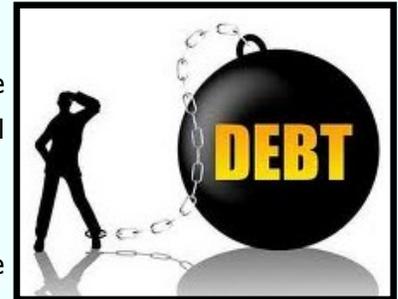
Mail your waiver and your completed and signed Financial Status Report form to:
US Department of Veterans Affairs
Debt Management Center
P.O. Box 11930
St. Paul, MN 55111

Can I request an oral hearing?

You have a right to request an oral hearing in conjunction with your waiver request. If you choose to have an oral hearing to present evidence before your request is considered, state so in your request for a waiver. If you request an oral hearing, you will be notified of the date, time, and location, prior to your waiver request being referred for consideration.

Are there time limitations associated with the waiver request?

- **Education, Pension and Disability Waiver Request** If you are requesting a waiver for an education, pension or disability compensation debt, you must submit your request within 180 days of the date you were originally notified of your debt.



Continued on page 9

History of Labor Day - Continued for page 6

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio, and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.



VA Debt—Continued from page 8

Loan Guaranty Waiver Requests For loan guaranty program debts, you have one year from the date you sign the certified mail receipt for the original notification letter.

Note: If the VA receives your request for waiver within 30 days of the day of notification, they will suspend any offset action from your current benefits until a decision regarding your request for waiver is rendered.

What does it mean when your waiver is granted?

If a waiver is granted in full or part, you will not be required to pay the amount that was waived. A waiver cannot be granted if the VA determines there is:

- Fraud
- Misrepresentation

Bad faith on your part that led to the creation of the debt

How are you notified of your waiver decision?

You will be notified in writing when a decision regarding your request for waiver is rendered.

- **Denied Waiver Request** If your request is denied, you will be notified in writing of your appeal rights.
- **Full Waiver Granted** If your request is granted in full, you will be notified in writing and no further collection action will be taken.

Partial Waiver Granted If a partial waiver is granted, you will be notified in writing of the balance and you will be provided appeal rights.

Note: If a balance exists on your account after waiver action is completed, you will be asked to contact the VA and make arrangements to pay your debt. If you are drawing VA benefits, action will be taken to begin offsetting those benefits to recoup any balance that was not waived.



Emergency Care in Non-VA Facilities



At some time in your life, you may need emergency care. When it is not possible for you to go to a VA medical center, you should go to the nearest hospital that has an emergency room. If you are in an ambulance, the paramedics will usually take you to the closest emergency room. Here is what you should know...

What is an emergency?

A medical emergency is when you have an injury or illness that is so severe that without immediate treatment, the injury or illness threatens your life or health.

How do I know my situation is an emergency?

Use your best judgment. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

If I believe my life or health is in danger, do I need to call the VA before I call for an ambulance or go into an emergency room?

No. Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room right away.

Do I need to notify the VA after an ambulance takes me to an emergency room, or when I am treated and released?

Yes. You, your family, friends or hospital staff should contact the nearest VA medical center as soon as possible—preferably within 72 hours, so you are better aware of services in which VA payment may be limited. Provide the VA with information about your emergency event and services being provided to you. Ask the VA for guidance on how they will consider reimbursing these emergency charges on your behalf, so you can plan accordingly.



If the doctor then wants to admit me to the hospital, must I obtain advance approval from the VA?

If the admission is an emergency—NO, although prompt notification of the VA is necessary.

If the admission is not an emergency—YES.

If a VA bed is available and I can be safely transferred, do I have to move to the VA hospital?

Yes. If you refuse to be transferred, the VA will not pay for any further care.

If I am admitted to the hospital as a result of an emergency, how much will VA pay?

This depends on your VA eligibility. The VA may pay all, some, or none of the charges. Ask your local VA medical center's patient benefits counselor about what is allowed under non-VA emergency care programs:

For service-connected conditions

For non-service-connected conditions

Will I have to pay for any part of my emergency care?

It is possible. Sometimes co-pays are required based on your VA enrollment. Sometimes the extent of healthcare services reimbursable by the VA are limited by federal law.

Will VA pay for the ambulance and any possible emergency room charges if I leave the emergency room before being treated by a doctor?

Possibly not. If you leave the emergency room prior to being treated by a physician, the VA may not consider claims for that emergency event. You may be liable for some or all resulting ambulance and emergency room charges, regardless of your Veteran eligibility.

Continued on page 11

Emergency Care in Non-VA Facilities—Continued from page 10

Does my enrollment in the VA Health Care System affect my eligibility for emergency care at VA expense?

Yes. Your local VA medical center's benefits counselor can explain how enrollment (or other special status categories) affect your eligibility .

If I have other insurance (TRICARE, Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross, etc.), will it affect whether claims for emergency services will be paid at VA expense?

Yes, it may. Your local VA medical center's benefits counselor can explain how other insurance can affect whether the VA can pay for your non-VA medical claims.



Will VA pay for emergency care if I am in jail?

No. The VA is prohibited, by federal law, from paying for the medical claims of incarcerated Veterans (or fugitive felons).

How long do I have to file a claim for reimbursement for emergency medical care?

File your claim with the nearest VA medical center quickly. Time limits of 90-days usually apply. Contact your local VA medical center's patient benefits counselor for more information on the timely filing requirements for non-VA care programs.

Will VA pay for emergency care received outside the United States?

Yes in certain cases. VA will only pay for emergency care outside the US if your emergency is related to a service-connected condition. For more information, contact the VA Health

Administration Center at (877) 345-8179 or consult this web site: <http://www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/fmp/fmp.asp>

The VA may be able to arrange and pay for the health care of eligible Veterans outside of VA medical facilities — but only in certain, limited circumstances.

1. When the Veteran meets eligibility criteria
2. When there is a medical need
3. When VA medical facilities (or 'sharing agreement' facilities) are not available

The VA's ability to pay for the medical care of Veterans provided by the community is regulated by federal law.

Non-VA medical care programs for eligible Veterans, include:

1. Fee Basis, pre-authorized health care for the medical needs of Veterans continued outside of the VA (38 U.S.C. 1703).
2. Fee Basis emergency health care, while usually not requiring pre-authorization, may be furnished by a non-VA provider when emergency criteria are met (38 U.S.C. 1725 & 1728).
3. Purchased care services, administered by Fee Basis, include community nursing home, home structural alterations for the disabled, and more — may be available to eligible Veterans.

For more information on the National Fee Program of Non-VA Medical Care go to www.nonvacare.va.gov



The office will be on a limited staff October 9 - October 11th due to training in Columbia.





**LEXINGTON COUNTY
11th ANNUAL
VETERANS PARADE**

Sunday, November 3, 2013
Main Street and South Lake Drive
Downtown Lexington

PARADE BEGINS AT 3:00 P.M.
(no entry fee)

A Memorial service will be held at the Veterans Monument following the parade

Grand Marshals: Gold Star Families

COME HELP HONOR OUR VETERANS!

SPONSORED BY:
Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office
American Legion Post 7
VFW Post 8738
Town of Lexington
Kirby Floats

*For More Information Contact:
Sharon Willis 785-1454
Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office 785-8400*

2013 LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS PARADE APPLICATION
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2013 @ 3:00PM
JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 11TH YEAR

NO ENTRY FEE, SIGN UP DUE BY OCTOBER 25th, PLEASE

(IF YOU MISS THE DEADLINE GIVE ME A CALL, EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN THIS PARADE)

ALL MARCHING BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE EMPTY PARKING LOTS OF BUSINESSES IN THE BUTLER STREET AND MAIN STREET AREA. PLEASE USE CAUTION! PLEASE DROP OFF ALL MEMBERS AND YOU CAN PARK AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT FOR PICK UP. PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT TAKE UP SPACES AT MCDONALD'S FOR PARKING.

PARADE ROUTE WILL LINE UP AT HAYGOOD AND WEST BUTLER STREET, ENTER MAIN STREET TAKE A LEFT, GO DOWN MAIN STREET, TURN RIGHT ON SOUTH LAKE DRIVE AND THEN LEFT, ENDING AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT.

Name & Description of Entry: _____

Special Request: _____

Entry Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (W) _____ (H) _____

Email address: _____ Fax : _____

Mail Applications To:

Lexington County Veterans Parade
Attn: Sharon Willis
212 South Lake Drive Ste 302
Lexington SC 29072

For More Information Contact:

Lexington Veterans Affairs Office 803-785-8400
Sharon Willis @ 803-785-1454
Cell # 803-237-9617
Fax # 803-785-8300

Applications can be emailed to you also. Contact Sharon at swillis@lex-co.com

EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE TO PLACE YOU IN THE LINEUP THAT SHOWCASES YOUR ORGANIZATION AT THE BEST POSSIBLE SPOT. ONCE THE LINEUP FOR THE PARADE HAS BEEN DETERMINED YOU WILL RECEIVE A MAP AND LOCATION FOR YOUR PLACE IN THE PARADE. PLEASE ENTER THE PARADE LINE UP ROUTE FROM SOUTH CHURCH AND GO UP BUTLER STREET. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER FROM COLUMBIA AVENUE OR MAIN. TURNING FLOATS AND TRAILERS AROUND IS VERY DIFFICULT. HAYGOOD STREET MUST BE KEPT OPEN FOR THE LINEUP. MAIN STREET WILL BE CLOSED DOWN AT 2:45 SO PLEASE BE AT YOUR LOCATION BY 2:30.

(A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE VETERANS MONUMENT FOLLOWING THE PARADE.)

**ALL OF THE VETERANS APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT
AND
THEY THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

NEED A FLOAT? CONTACT KIRBY FLOATS @ 803-359-3134.
(DISCOUNTS GIVEN TO VETERANS)

Just A Reminder...

Active and retired military personnel and their dependents with proper military ID will be admitted **FREE** the entire 12 days of the fair. This is in appreciation for their service to our country and its citizens.



Also, join in for a patriotic flag-raising ceremony each day of the fair at 12:00 noon near the South Gate as the State Fair salutes our military and the USA.

The State Fair opens on Wednesday, October 9th and runs through Sunday, October 20th.



"Democracy is, first and foremost, a spiritual force, it is built upon a spiritual basis - and on a belief in God and an observance of moral principle. And in the long run only the church can provide that basis. Our founders knew this truth - and we will neglect it at our peril."



- Harry S. Truman

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 2:00pm 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.



Special Travel Information for Veterans



Disney's Armed Forces Salute Military Discount Has Been Renewed For Another Year Through 27 September 2014

Disney World and Disneyland have a great military discount, the Armed Forces Salute. The Disney Armed Forces Salute offers Disney theme park tickets at over half off the regular price and Disney resort rooms at a 30% to 40% discount!

Are you eligible for the Disney Armed Forces Salute? Here is the list of who is eligible:

Current military members:

Active
Reserve
National Guard

Retired Military Members:

Active
Reserve
National Guard

100% Service Connected Disabled with the DAVPRM code on their military issued ID.

Spouses or Un-remarried Widows of the above, if the member is unable to go.

The Disney Armed Forces Salute offers special military tickets. These tickets are for a specified number of days and come in several varieties.

Qualified individuals may purchase up to a maximum of six theme park tickets during the period of the Disney Armed Forces Salute. These tickets are non-refundable and any days left on the tickets will expire at the end of the offer period.

Tickets purchased at military resellers and not direct from Disney must be activated prior to first use in person by the military member or spouse.

Walt Disney World in Orlando Florida

At Disney World you have three choices for your tickets:

1. The theme Park Hopper Option, which allows you to visit multiple parks on the same day
2. The Water Park Fun and More Option, which allows 4 entrances to a variety of non-theme Park Disney venues
3. Both the above options in one ticket

Disney World Armed Forces Salute Prices

Four-Day Park Hopper Tickets for \$169.00

Four-Day Water Park and More Tickets for \$169.00

Four-Day Park Hopper Tickets plus the Water Park and More Option for \$198.00

These tickets can be purchased at Shades of Green, your local Base Ticket Office, or Disney Theme Park ticket booths (Tax will be added at Disney ticket booths).

Block-out dates (Dates that these tickets may not be used):

20 - 31 December 2013 (No Theme Park or Water Park Use)

13 - 20 April 2014 (No Theme Park or Water Park Use)

4 July 2014 (No Magic Kingdom Use)



Relationship/Marriage Enrichment 1-Day Seminars

Warrior 2 Soul Mate-Reclaiming Your Relationship

September 14 or September 27, 2013

Dorn VA is offering PAIRS relationship enrichment one-day seminars. This short-course is a condensed version the same dynamic curriculum taught during the weekend Marriage Enrichment Retreats. The evidence-based course is designed to help couples in committed relationships develop & enhance effective ways of interacting with one another. Couples reclaim what military life, deployments, work, illness/injury, and other stressors in daily life have taken. Certified trainers provide a comfortable, safe environment guiding couples in building & maintaining healthier ways of living & loving even in stressful situations. The course includes specific learnable tools for successful communication for confiding/clarifying/complaining and effective problem solving. Cover expressing anger safely & fighting fairly for successful conflict resolution.

Seminar is free. Couples must attend all sessions to complete the abbreviated course and receive a certificate. No travel reimbursement is provided. No child care provided.



Registration: Full Names (Veteran & Partner)

&

Signatures: Both partners must sign the form in order to attend.

Veteran's address: _____

Veteran's Email: _____ Veteran's Phone: _____

Years/Months together or married: _____

Special accommodation needs: _____

Check one date. We wish to attend:

September 14th (Clarion Hotel, Columbia, SC) _____

September 27th (Medallion Center, Columbia, SC) _____

For more info call Stacey Davis at (803)776-4000, ext 7303 or Faela Maney, ext 7243.

Send registration form via email to stacey.davis@va.gov or fax to (803)647-5730

Mailing Address: Dorn VAMC-OEF/OIF/OND
6439 Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, SC 29209



US 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION



US 2ND RANGERS BATTALION



US 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION



US 4TH ARMORED DIVISION

Greetings,

In June 2014 I am planning to organize a trip to attend the ceremony of the 70th anniversary of D-Day at the St Laurent American WWII cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. I organized and conducted trips to attend the ceremony of the 40th anniversary of D-Day in 1984 and the 50th anniversary in 1994. On the 40th anniversary our tour went from Normandy through Paris to Bastogne. We were accompanied by members of ETV, who made a video of the tour. Both tours were memorable for all involved.



1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

It came to my mind that in 2014 it will be 70 years ago, June 6 that D-Day occurred. It will probably be the last one for veterans of the war in Europe and myself. I worked with AGRC in Carentan, Normandy in 1947, when the American casualties of the invasion were disinterred from the four temporary cemeteries and, according to the wishes of the next of kin, were either sent back to the US or were to remain in the American cemetery established in St Laurent, France for that purpose.

Some of the features of the tour will be: Round trip air fare, insurance, bus transportation, hotels and meals, visits Admission to ceremony. Placement of a South Carolina wreath at the monument; Visit to Ste Mere Eglise, where the 101st and 82nd parachutists landed; Pointe du Hoc (cliffs), where 235 2nd Ranger Battalion landed; other areas. Also accompanying the group are Columbia cardiologist and his wife, who is also a medical doctor; a nurse. A minibus will follow the tour bus in case of need.

The object of this preliminary letter is to establish the number of persons interested. I cannot tell you the price of the trip at this time. I am planning to apply for one grant or more to defray some of the expenses to keep the price as low as possible.

Please contact me at my address or my e-mail: jpalyok@overlord70.com If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,
Jeanne Y. Palyok
Phone: (803) 782-1904

US THIRD ARMY



US 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION



Director's Corner continued from page 2

My wife recently stood up and made a stand among her colleagues without even thinking about it. The National Anthem was playing on a video screen at the beginning of a training session and everyone sat there. She is the librarian and remarked everyone should be standing because after all, it is the National Anthem. Even though she was a military wife at one time, she made a stand that day despite the consequences and I told her I was proud of her.

My concerns as a retired Soldier and current Veterans Service Officer are that we seem to have lost the need to stand up and tell our children and grandchildren the reason to stand up. These kids seem to know all about cell phones, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr but do they know how or why we show respect to the American flag? Do they know to place their hand over their heart to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem? If they don't know, whose fault is it? We were taught this respect by our parents and grandparents and it is our duty to pass the respect on to other generations.

Lastly, when I was on the Honor Flight trip in May of this year, our final stop that day was at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. This ground is very sacred to me and the men and women resting there are all heroes. As the Non-commissioned Officer in charge gave the audience instructions on the changing of the guard, his final words as we listened were that we were to remain silent and standing for the ceremony. This made my heart leap as it is a show of respect not only for this ceremony but in everyday life. **Stand up!**

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!



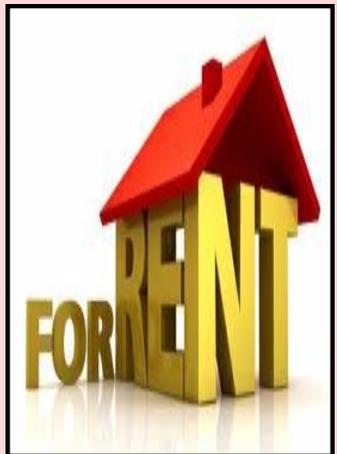
Fiduciary Continued from page 4

Louisville Fiduciary Hub (Option 4): AL, KY, MS, PR, TN, VA, WV
Louisville Fiduciary Hub
PO Box 3487
Louisville, KY 40201

Milwaukee Fiduciary Hub (Option 5): AR, IA, IL, LA, MN, MO, WI
Milwaukee Fiduciary Hub
PO Box 14975
Milwaukee, WI 53214-0975

Salt Lake City Fiduciary Hub (Option 6): AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY
Salt Lake Fiduciary Hub
PO Box 58086
Salt Lake City, UT 84158

American Legion Post 7 has notified us that their new roof is complete and that their building is now available to rent. For more details check out their website @ www.sclegionpost7.org.



Our Benefits Counselor, Melanie Damoude has left to pursue other opportunities. We wish her well.

Your Future is Our Job

Helping you through your journey to career discovery

SC WORKS

LEXINGTON



MIDLANDS WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: SC Works Lexington Open House
Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 4pm-7pm
201 Duffie Drive, Lexington, SC 29202

SC Works Lexington, the Midlands Workforce Development Board and local Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program would like to welcome the public, job seekers and employers alike, to an Open House event at our Lexington location. Join us Tuesday, September 10, 2013 from 4pm-7pm at 201 Duffie Drive, Lexington, SC 29202.

Due to the ever-evolving workforce and growing demands of employers seeking qualified candidates, we are providing the public with an insider's view to the services available through our community, partner resources and job search resources. These resources within the SC Works Lexington center and its sister locations in Richland and Fairfield Counties function as a vital element in assisting individuals with various employment-related goals like becoming self-sufficient and getting back into the workforce.

This event is open to all, no matter employment status, who would like to know more about their employment options and how the center is focused on bringing employers and job seekers together. Vendors consisting of center partners, community resources and employers will be present for a meet-and-greet with attendees. No registration or fees are needed to attend.

Learn more about the SC Works Lexington center, the Midlands SC Works system and WIA Program by visiting www.midlandsworks.org. Additional information on our Partners, and community and job search resources can also be found at this site.

For media inquiries, contact Steve Knight at sknight@midlandsworks.org / (803)815-0627 or Carrie Powell at cpowell@midlandsworks.org / (803)737-4471.

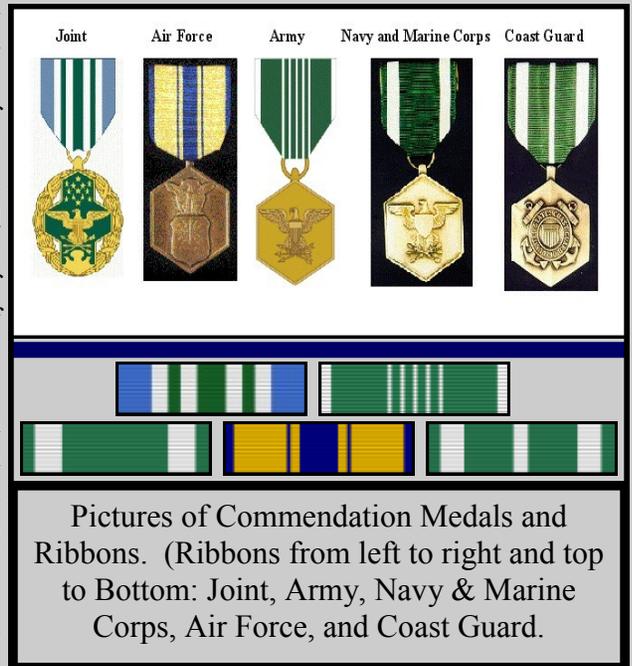
An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers may be reached using TTY/TDD equipment via the South Carolina Relay Service at 711. 08062013SKCP

Featured Medal:

Commendation Medals

The Commendation Medal is a mid-level United States military decoration which is presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service. For valorous actions in direct contact with an enemy, but of a lesser degree than required for the award of the Bronze Star Medal, the Commendation Medal with a "V" Device or Combat "V" may be authorized for wear on the service and suspension ribbon of the medal. Each branch of the United States Armed Forces issues its own version of the Commendation Medal, with a fifth version existing for acts of joint military service performed under the Department of Defense.

The Commendation Medal was originally only a service ribbon and was first awarded by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard in 1943. An Army Commendation Ribbon followed in 1945, and in 1949, the Navy, Coast Guard, and Army Commendation ribbons were renamed the "Commendation Ribbon with Medal Pendant." By 1960, the Commendation Ribbons had been authorized as full medals and were subsequently referred to as Commendation Medals.



Additional awards of the Army and Air Force Commendation Medals are denoted by bronze and silver oak leaf clusters. The Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and Coast Guard Commendation Medal are authorized gold and silver 5/16 inch stars to denote additional awards. The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized for wear on the Coast Guard Commendation Medal upon approval of the awarding authority. Order of Precedence is following the Bronze Star Medal but before the Prisoner of War Medal and all campaign medals. Each of the military services also awards separate Achievement Medals which are below the Commendation Medals in precedence.

The Army Commendation Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States other than General Officers who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army after 6 December 1941, distinguished themselves by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service. The medal may be awarded to a member of the Armed Forces of a friendly foreign nation who, after 1 June 1962, distinguishes themselves by an act of heroism, extraordinary achievement, or significant meritorious service which has been of mutual benefit to the friendly nation and the United States.

After the First World War, the Department of the Navy authorized the Navy Commendation Star as an attachment to the World War I Victory Medal. The star was identical to the Silver Citation Star, but not comparable, as the later recognized heroic combat actions, while the Navy Commendation Star denoted those who had been cited for meritorious achievement by the Secretary of the Navy.

An independent Navy Commendation Ribbon was established in November 1943, designated as the Navy Commendation Medal in September 1960, and renamed the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal in 1994, this decoration is awarded by operational commanders, requiring the signature of an admiral or general officer in the grade of O-7. This allows for interpretation of the criteria for which the medal may be awarded.

Continued on page 20

Featured Medal Continued from page 19

For instance, in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal is considered a somewhat higher decoration reserved for Department Head level officers at the O-4 level, senior Navy CPOs and senior Marine Corps NCOs at the E-8 and E-9 level and, following a full career, as a retirement award. In contrast, the awarding of the Army Commendation Medal in the U.S. Army and the Air Force Commendation Medal in the U.S. Air Force is not limited to senior service members, and can be awarded to junior NCOs in the grade of E-6 and below and junior officers in the grade O-3 and below.

The U.S. Marine Corps has always been issued the Navy's commendation medal and there is not a separate commendation medal intended only for Marines. This lack of difference was recognized in 1994 when Secretary of the Navy John Howard Dalton changed the name of the Navy Commendation Medal to the *Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal*.

The U.S. Coast Guard awards a separate Coast Guard Commendation Medal, with a ribbon similar in design to that of its Navy and Marine Corps counterpart. Initially established as the Coast Guard Commendation Ribbon in 1947, it was re-designated as the Coast Guard Commendation Medal in 1959. Criteria for its award has paralleled that of the Navy and Marine Corps.

The U.S. Air Force began issuing its own Air Force Commendation Medal in 1958 with additional awards denoted by oak leaf clusters. Prior to this time, USAF recipients received the Army Commendation Medal. It was not until 1996 that the "V" device was authorized on the Air Force Commendation Medal; prior to 1996, there was not a valor distinction in effect for the Air Force Commendation Medal. The Air Force Commendation Medal is worth three points under the Air Force promotion system.

The last of the Commendation Medals is the Joint Service Commendation Medal, which was created in 1963. This award is intended for senior service on a joint military staff and is senior in precedence to service-specific Commendation Medals. As such, it is worn above the service Commendation Medals on a military uniform. As a joint award, multiple awards are denoted with an oak leaf cluster regardless of service.



For basic 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... Compensation and Temporary 100% Benefits