



# LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

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

November/December 2018



Lexington, SC.

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**At a Glance Calendar  
November/December**

For a list of events in Lexington County for November & December

See page 21 Happenings Around Lexington County

Weekly on Tuesdays in November

Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting from 10am to 12 noon

Thursday, November 1st

Gaston Outreach

Friday, November 2nd

Chapin Outreach

Sunday, November 4th

Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Lexington Veterans Parade

Tuesday, November 6th

Election Day

Thursday, November 8th

Veterans Day Recognition Program at SC State University

Saturday, November 10th

Dang-it Doll Workshop  
For more information, see page 10

Sunday, November 11th

Veterans Day

Monday, November 12th

County Offices Closed

Tuesday, November 13th

County Council Meeting

Thursday, November 22nd

Thanksgiving Day  
County Offices Closed

Friday, November 23rd

County Offices Closed

Tuesday, November 27th

County Council Meeting

Weekly on Tuesdays in December

Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting from 10am to 12 noon

Sunday, December 2nd

Hanukkah begins at sundown

Thursday, December 6th

Gaston Outreach

Friday, December 7th

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
Chapin Outreach

Tuesday, December 11th

County Council Meeting

Friday, December 14th

Batesburg/Leesville Outreach

Saturday, December 15th

Wreaths Across America  
For more information, see page 27

Friday, December 21st

Winter Begins

Monday, December 24th

Christmas Eve  
County Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 25th

Christmas Day  
County Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 26th

Kwanzaa Begins  
County Offices Closed

Monday, December 31st

New Year's Eve

**From the Director...**

As we gear up for Veterans Day activities both in our County and the Midlands, we are mindful of the service of all Veterans. We are grateful for their sacrifice and that of their family. We are honored to serve them every day. This large issue is chock full of discounts, free meals, free entertainment and free or reduced hotel stays for Veterans to honor the Veterans Day holiday. Please share this information with Veterans or those still serving on active duty that you may know.

Our Lexington County Veterans Parade will be at 3pm on Sunday, November 4 and we would love to have a large crowd to honor our Veterans. Our grand marshal this year is the South Carolina National Guard. Last year was a great parade with great weather. The parade marches down Main Street, Lexington and ends at the County Administration building and Veterans Monument on South Lake Drive and is always a highlight of the year. Normally, a patriotic ceremony is held at the Veterans monument immediately after the parade and the public is invited.

Enjoying the journey,

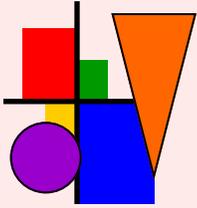


**CALENDAR KEY**

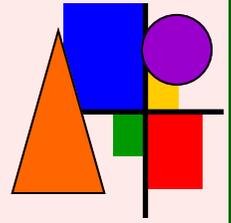
**Purple**—Holidays/Special Days  
**Blue**—Outreach dates  
**Red**—County Offices Closed, and Special Notices  
**Black**—Director's appearances in the County

**Brown**—County Council Meetings  
**Pink**—Special Events throughout the County  
**Orange**—Director Out of Office  
**Green**—Lexington County Veterans Group Meetings





# *Survivor's Benefits*



## **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation**

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

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



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

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

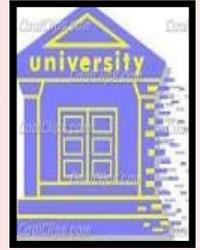
There is also a program called Parents' DIC. The VA provides an income-based monthly benefit to the surviving parent(s) of a service member or Veteran whose death was service-related. When countable income exceeds the limit set by law, no benefits are payable. The spouse's income must also be included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



## **Death Pension**

The VA provides pensions to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of a deceased Veteran with wartime service. To be eligible, spouses must not have remarried and children must be under age 18, or under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, or have become permanently incapable of self-support because of disability before age 18. The Veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have had 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, or a service-connected disability justifying discharge. Longer periods of service may be required for Veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, or October 16, 1981, if an officer. If the Veteran died in service but not in the line of duty, the death pension may be payable if the Veteran completed at least two years of honorable service.

Continued on page 4



### **Burial and Memorial Benefits for Survivors**

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

### **Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance**

The VA provides educational assistance to qualifying dependents as follows:

1 - The spouse or child of a service member or Veteran who either died of a service-connected disability, or who has a permanent and total service-connected disability, or who died while such disability existed.

2 - The spouse or child of a service member listed for more than 90 days as currently Missing In Action (MIA), captured in the line of duty by a hostile force, or detained or interned by a foreign government or power.



3 - The spouse or child of a service member who is hospitalized or is receiving outpatient care or treatment for a disability that is determined to be totally and permanently disabling, incurred or aggravated due to active duty, and for which the service member is likely to be discharged from military service.

Surviving spouses lose eligibility if they remarry before age 57 or are living with another person who has been held out publicly as their spouse. They can regain eligibility if their remarriage ends by death or divorce or if they cease living with the person. Dependent children do not lose eligibility if the surviving spouse remarries. The period of eligibility of Veterans' spouses expires 10 years from either the date they became eligible or the date of the Veterans' death. The VA may grant an extension. Children generally must be between the ages of 18 and 26 to receive educational benefits, though extensions may be granted. The period of eligibility for spouses of service members who died on active duty expires 20 years from the date of death. This is a change in law that became effective December 10, 2004. Spouses of service members who died on active duty whose 10-year eligibility period expired before December 10, 2004, now have 20 years from that date of death to use educational benefits. Effective October 10, 2008, Public Law 110-389 provides a 20-year period of eligibility for spouses of Veterans with a permanent and total service-connected disability rating effective within 3 years of release from active duty.

### **VA Home Loan Guaranty**



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

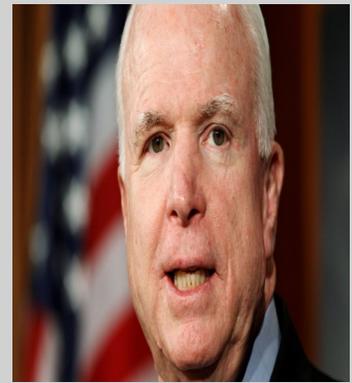
### **"No-Fee" Passports**

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



War is awful. Nothing, not the valor with which it is fought nor the nobility of the cause it serves, can glorify war. War is wretched beyond description and only a fool or a fraud could sentimentalize its cruel reality. Whatever is won in war, it is loss the veteran remembers.

-John McCain



**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE  
ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH!**



**November is National  
Diabetes Awareness  
Month!**

**Diabetes  
Awareness  
Month**

**December is National  
AIDS Awareness Month!**

**AIDS  
AWARENESS  
MONTH**



**“Why I Served Series”**

Our County Public Information Officer, Harrison Cahill, has started a “Why I Served Series.” He would like to record some video stories of Veterans explaining why they served. If you are interested or know of a Veteran who would be, please call Harrison at (803) 212-5553 or email him at [hcahill@lex-co.com](mailto:hcahill@lex-co.com) to set this up. He records the interviews in our new conference room, where you will have privacy and can take your time in being interviewed. Harrison usually pares down these interviews to three to five minute videos that are shown on the Lexington County Facebook page.



**Are you a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one?**

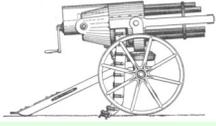
Connect with the Veterans Crisis Line to reach caring, qualified responders with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Many of them are Veterans themselves.

**Call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1 or text 838255.**

The Veterans Crisis line is a free, anonymous, confidential resource that's available to anyone, even if you're not registered with the VA or enrolled in VA healthcare. The Veterans Crisis Line does not charge for texting to 838255, but message and data rates may apply.

# ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

*Did you know that the following events occurred during the months of November & December?*



**November 4, 1862** – Richard Gatling patented his first rapid-fire machine gun.



**November 6, 1860** – Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16<sup>th</sup> President and the 1<sup>st</sup> Republican.

**November 9, 1989** – The Berlin Wall was opened up after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War. The 27.9 mile wall had been constructed in 1961.

**November 10, 1775** - The US. Marine Corps was established as part of the US. Navy.



**November 11, 1938** – Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" was first performed

**November 12, 1929** - Grace Kelly was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



**November 15, 1864** – Union troops under the direction of General William T. Sherman burned Atlanta.

**November 19, 1863** – President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg address.



**November 22, 1963** – President John F. Kennedy was fatally shot while riding in a motorcade in downtown Dallas, Texas.

**December 5, 1933** - The 18th Amendment (Prohibition Amendment) to the US Constitution was repealed.



**December 7, 1941** – The US Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was bombed. This started the US involvement in WWII.

**December 14, 1799** - George Washington died at Mount Vernon.

**December 15, 1939** – The world premiere of "Gone with the Wind".



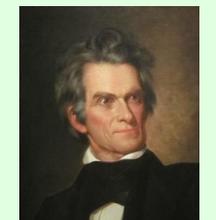
**December 16, 1773** – The Boston Tea Party occurred.

**December 20, 1860** - South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union in a prelude to the American Civil War.

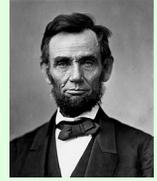


**December 21, 1945** - General George Patton died in Germany following a car accident.

**December 28, 1832** - John C. Calhoun became the first American ever to resign the office of vice president.



**December 31, 1879** – Thomas Edison provided the first public demonstration of his incandescent lamp in his lab at Menlo Park, NY.



## Lexington County Veterans Group

All Honorably Discharged Lexington County Veterans are invited to attend the weekly meetings. The group meets weekly on Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 noon in the auditorium at 605 West Main Street in Lexington. The group meets for Health Issues and PTSD counseling with a licensed counselor.

On the second Tuesday of each month, they meet at a different local restaurant for food and fellowship. Check their website for the location.

The Veterans group also participates 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.



## Veteran Wives Support Group

**Meets 1st Friday of each month**

**2 to 4pm**

**Crossroads Counseling Center**

**130A Whiteford Way**

**Lexington, SC 29072**

*For further information, please visit their website at [lex-coveteransgroup.com](http://lex-coveteransgroup.com) or contact our office at 803-785-8400.*



Many area schools are holding Veterans Day Programs. Contact your local school for more information.



## November is National Pomegranate Month!



## December is National Pear Month!



# CHAMPVA

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a health benefits program in which the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) shares the cost of certain health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. CHAMPVA is managed by the VHA Office of Community Care (VHA CC) in Denver, Colorado, which



processes CHAMPVA applications and medical claims, determines eligibility and authorizes benefits.

To be eligible for CHAMPVA, the beneficiary cannot be eligible for TRICARE. CHAMPVA provides coverage to the spouse or widow(er) and to the children of a Veteran who: is permanently and totally disabled (P&T) because of an adjudicated service-connected disability, or died as a result of an adjudicated service-connected disability or who at the time of death was rated P&T, or died while in an active duty status and in the line of duty, not due to misconduct. The term “active duty” may include periods of inactive duty for training.

Effective October 1, 2001, CHAMPVA benefits were extended to beneficiaries age 65 and older. To be eligible, you must also meet the following conditions:

- If the beneficiary was 65 or older prior to June 5, 2001, and was otherwise eligible for CHAMPVA, and was entitled to Medicare Part A coverage, then the beneficiary will be eligible for CHAMPVA without the need for Medicare Part B coverage.
- If the beneficiary turned 65 before June 5, 2001, and had Medicare Parts A and B, the beneficiary must keep both parts to be eligible.
- If the beneficiary turned age 65 on or after June 5, 2001, the beneficiary must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to be eligible.

In most cases, CHAMPVA pays similar to Medicare/TRICARE rates. CHAMPVA has an outpatient deductible (\$50 per person up to \$100 per family per calendar year) and a cost share of 25% up to the catastrophic cap (up to \$3,000 per calendar year).

A 25% allowable cost share should be collected from the patient except when the patient has other health insurance. If the patient has other health insurance (OHI), then CHAMPVA pays the lesser of either 75% of the allowable amount after \$50 calendar year deductible is satisfied, or the remainder of the charges. If the beneficiary has other health insurance (OHI), the OHI should be billed first. The explanation of benefits should then be submitted with the claim for reimbursement to CHAMPVA. By law, CHAMPVA is always the secondary payer except to Medicaid, Indian Health Services, State Victims of Crime Compensation Programs and supplemental CHAMPVA policies.

A federal law passed on June 5, 2001, effective October 1, 2001, expanded CHAMPVA benefit coverage to eligible family members and survivors of qualifying Veteran sponsors. CHAMPVA will pay after Medicare and any other insurance, such as Medicare HMOs and Medicare supplemental plans, for health care services and supplies. CHAMPVA does not pay Medicare Part B premiums.



For more information:

Mail: VHA Office of Community Care CHAMPVA PO Box 469063, Denver, CO 80246-9063

Phone: 1-800-733-8387, Monday-Friday 8:05 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time

Email: Follow the directions for submitting email via IRIS at <https://iris.custhelp.com/app/ask>

## The History of The Boston Tea Party

Controversy between Great Britain and the colonies arose in the 1760s when Parliament sought, for the first time, to impose a direct tax on the colonies for the purpose of raising revenue. Some colonists, known in the colonies as Whigs, objected to the new tax program, arguing that it was a violation of the British Constitution. According to Whigs, colonists could only be taxed by their own colonial assemblies. When new taxes were levied in the Townshend Revenue Act of 1767, Whig colonists again responded with protests and boycotts.



In September and October of 1773, seven ships carrying East India Company tea were sent to the colonies: four were bound for Boston, and one each for New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston. In the ships were more than 2,000 chests containing nearly 600,000 pounds of tea. Americans learned the details of the Tea Act while the ships were in route, and opposition began to mount. Whigs, sometimes calling themselves Sons of Liberty, began a campaign to raise awareness and to convince or compel the consignees to resign. In every colony except Massachusetts, protesters were able to force the tea consignees to resign or to return the tea to England.

When the tea ship *Dartmouth*, arrived in the Boston Harbor in late November, Whig leader Samuel Adams called for a mass meeting to be held on November 29, 1773. British law required the *Dartmouth* to unload and pay the duties within twenty days or customs officials could confiscate the cargo (i.e. unload it onto American soil). Two more tea ships, the *Eleanor* and the *Beaver*, arrived in Boston Harbor. On December 16, roughly 5,000 to 7,000 people out of a population of roughly 16,000 had gathered around the Old South Meeting House. After receiving a report that Governor Hutchinson had again refused to let the ships leave, Adams announced that "This meeting can do nothing further to save the country."



That evening, a group of 30 to 130 men, some dressed in the Mohawk warrior disguises, boarded the three vessels and, over the course of three hours, dumped all 342 chests of tea into the water. Whether or not Samuel Adams helped plan the Boston Tea Party is disputed, but he immediately worked to publicize and defend it. He argued that the Tea Party was not the act of a lawless mob, but was instead a principled protest and the only remaining option the people had to defend their constitutional rights. By "constitution" he referred to the idea that all governments have a constitution, written or not, and that the constitution of Great Britain could be interpreted as banning the levying of taxes without representation.

In Britain, even those politicians considered friends of the colonies were appalled and this act united all parties there against the colonies. The British government felt this action could not remain unpunished, and responded by closing the port of Boston and putting in place other laws known as the "Intolerable Acts." These were intended to punish Boston for the destruction of private property, restore British authority in Massachusetts, and otherwise reform colonial government in America. The Intolerable Acts were viewed as a violation of constitutional rights, natural rights, and colonial charters, and united many colonists throughout America, exemplified by the calling of the First Continental Congress in September 1774.

According to historians, the term "Boston Tea Party" did not appear in print until 1834. Before that time, the event was usually referred to as the "destruction of the tea". The issue was never about the tax but how the tax was passed without American input.

The Boston Tea Party Museum is located on the Congress Street Bridge in Boston, Massachusetts. It features reenactments, a documentary, and a number of interactive exhibits. The museum features two replica ships of the period, the *Eleanor* and the *Beaver*. Additionally, the museum possesses one of two known tea chests from the original event, part of its permanent collection.



## 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 sigh 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.*

## County Council Needs You!

Veterans are still 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 please be present around 4:15pm.

Contact the office at 803-785-8400, if you are interested.

The office would like to thank Matthew Fogle, Ed Lundeen and Arthur Campbell.

These individuals volunteered their time to say the Pledge of Allegiance during the months of September & October.



**THANKS**



Appointments are strongly encouraged to meet with our Veterans Benefits Counselors. You can call 803-785-8400 to schedule an appointment.



## Dang-it Dolls Workshops

Saturday, November 11th,  
from 10am to 2pm  
Cayce Masonic Lodge,  
1701 12th Street, Cayce, SC.

The Lodge Brothers will be preparing their famous Hot Dog Lunch for everyone.

*There will be no workshop in December.*

Grab a friend and come join in with the stuffing and decorating of the dolls so we can bring smiles and stress relief to our service men and women. To date, with your help, we have shipped over 200,000 Dang-it Dolls all over the world.

We have volunteers ranging in age from 5 years to 90 years old.

There is something for everyone to do and this is the one place where **THE MORE THE MERRIER** really counts.

Just a reminder, Wal-Mart is only carrying minimal amounts of the Morning Glory stuffing in their stores, but it can be ordered from them on-line and shipped free to the store for a little less than the price we were paying. This is the only stuffing we use for the dolls as the other brands are too soft and silky for our purpose. A 5 pound box costs approximately \$13.00. **We can always use stuffing donations. We are also in need of funds to ship the dolls.** Any help you can give will be appreciated. The average cost of shipping a box of 25 to 30 dolls is \$35.00.

For more information, contact Carol Davis at omsrd@yahoo.com.

# TRICARE

TRICARE is the Department of Defense's premier health care program serving 9.4 million active duty service members, retired service members, National Guard and Reserve members, family members and survivors worldwide. As a TRICARE beneficiary, you have access to the health care you need wherever you are.



TRICARE brings together military hospitals and clinics with a network of civilian providers to offer you medical, pharmacy and dental options that meet your changing needs.

TRICARE is the worldwide health care program for uniformed service members and their eligible family members. (Uniformed service members includes active duty and retired members of the: U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, the commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.) Depending on your eligibility, you can choose among TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Select, TRICARE for Life (TFL) or certain optional premium-based plans. Most TRICARE medical program options include comprehensive health care coverage and a pharmacy benefit.

Registering and maintaining up-to-date information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is essential for determining TRICARE eligibility. Only sponsors (or a sponsor-appointed individual with a valid power of attorney) can add family members to DEERS. Family members age 18 and older may update their own contact information in DEERS. Visit [www.tricare.mil/deers](http://www.tricare.mil/deers) for more information.

Your TRICARE benefit is the same regardless of where you are, but there are different customer service contacts for whether you are stateside or overseas. Each region is managed by a contractor who partners with the Military Health System to provide you with health, medical and administrative support including customer service, claims processing and prior authorizations for certain health care services. Your regional and overseas contractors are your main resource for TRICARE benefit information and assistance.

For more information on TRICARE go to [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

## VA and DOD senior leaders commit to aligned electronic health records system rollout

The U.S. Secretaries of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Defense (DOD) signed a joint statement September 26, 2018 pledging that their two departments will align their plans, strategies and structures as they roll out a new electronic health records (EHR) system that will allow VA and DOD to share patient data seamlessly. Signed by Defense Secretary James N. Mattis and VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, the joint statement reinforces both departments' commitment to ensuring the successful transition from a legacy patient-data system to a modernized one that will continue to support active-duty service members, Veterans and their families.

The VA signed a contract with Cerner Corporation on May 17, 2018 to replace the VA's 40-year-old legacy Veterans Integrated System Technology Architecture (VistA) health care records technology over the next 10 years with the new Cerner system, which is in the pilot phase at DOD. Collaborating with DOD will ensure that the VA: understands the challenges encountered as DOD deploys its EHR system called Military Health System GENESIS (MHS GENESIS); adapts an approach by applying lessons learned to anticipate and mitigate known issues; assesses prospective efficiencies to help deploy faster; and delivers an EHR that is fully interoperable. For more information about VA's Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization, go to [www.ehrm.va.gov](http://www.ehrm.va.gov).

# What is a Veteran?

Some Veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg, or perhaps another sort of inner steel; the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem.

You can't tell a Veteran by looking.

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times by the four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She or he is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back AT ALL.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket, palsied now and aggravatingly slow, who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier, a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot, **"THANK YOU"**.

# 2018 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: Second, always call ahead to verify locations, times, and participation. Many of the listed companies are franchises and may have different policies.

***We will do our best to keep this page updated as we find new information.***

## Discounts at Restaurants

54th Street Grill - Veterans and active duty military get a free entree on November 11.

Applebee's – Veterans and active duty military receive a free meal from a limited menu on November 11.

Arooga's - Veterans and active duty military get a free meal from a fixed menu on November 11.

Bakers Square - Veterans and active duty military get a free breakfast from a set menu on November 11.

Bar Louie – On November 11, Veterans and active military personnel get a free appetizer or entree.

Ben's Soft Pretzels - Veterans receive a free Jumbo Soft Pretzel at participating locations on November 11.

BJ's Restaurant - Active duty military and Veterans receive a complimentary entree under \$12.95 on November 11.

BLT Steak - On November 11, parties of two or less receive a 50% discount and parties of three or more receive a 25% discount for veterans and active duty military.

Bob Evans - Veterans and active military personnel receive a free meal from a select menu on November 11.

Bonanza Steakhouses - Active duty and retired military get a free buffet on November 11.

Bonefish Grill – Veterans and active duty service members receive a free Bang Bang Shrimp appetizer on November 11<sup>th</sup>.



Boston Market - Active duty or retired military personnel and their families can receive one free brownie or cookie with any purchase on November 11.

Bubba's 33 - Veterans and active members of the military get a free lunch on November 11.

Buffalo Wild Wings - Veterans and active duty military personnel receive one small order of wings and a side of fries free on November 11 all day.

Burntwood Tavern - Veterans and active military get a free lunch or dinner on November 11.

Calhoun's - Veterans and active duty military get a free meal on November 11.

Continued on page 14

## 2018 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts continued from page 13

California Pizza Kitchen – Veterans and active military receive a complimentary entrée from a special menu on November 11.



Carraba's – Veterans and active duty service members receive a free appetizer of your choice on November 11.

CentraArchy Restaurants - Veterans and active duty service members get a free entrée and 25% off to their accompanied family on November 11 at participating restaurants.

Chevys Fresh Mex - On November 11 from 11am-10pm, all active and retired military personnel can select one complimentary item from a special Veterans Day menu.

Chicken Salad Chick - On November 11, Veterans and active duty military receive one sandwich or scoop of their choice of chicken salad, one side, a pickle spear, a cookie and a drink.

Chili's – Veterans and active duty military receive a free meal from a special menu on November 11.

Chipotle - Active duty military, Reserves, National Guard, Veterans and spouses get a buy-one-get-one (BOGO) deal from 3:00 p.m. to close on November 11.

Chuck E. Cheese's - Active and retired military members can enjoy a free individual 1-topping pizza on November 11.

Cici's – Veterans and active duty members receive a free buffet that includes pizza, salad, desserts and more on November 11.

City Barbecue - Veterans and troops get a free sandwich platter on November 11.



Claim Jumper - On November 11, all Claim Jumper locations will provide Veterans with a complimentary meal from a special menu.

Country Cookin - Veterans receive a free meal from 2 pm – 8 pm on November 11.

Cracker Barrel - Veterans get a complimentary slice of Double Chocolate Fudge Coca-Cola Cake on November 11.

Dairy Queen – Veterans and active duty military receive a free Blizzard treat on November 11.

Denny's – Active, inactive and retired military personnel get a free Build Your Own Grand Slam on November 11, from 5am to noon.

El Torito - Active and retired military personnel can select one complimentary item from a special menu on November 11 from 11am-10pm.

Famous Dave's - On November 11, former and current military personnel will receive a free Two Meat Combo.

Farmer Boys - Veterans and active duty military receive a free Big Cheese burger on November 11.

FATZ – Veterans and active duty military receive one free world famous Calabash Chicken entrée.

Continued on page 15

## 2018 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts continued from page 14

Fazoli's - Veterans get a free Build Your Own Pasta Bowl on November 11.

Figaro's Pizza - Veterans and active duty service members get a complimentary medium 1-topping pizza on November 11.

Firebirds Wood Fired Grill - Active duty military and Veterans get a free lunch or dinner entrée on November 11.



Fogo de Chão - Veterans and active duty personnel will receive 50% off their meal on November 11, and up to three additional guests will receive 10% off their meals.

Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steak Burgers – Veterans and active duty service members receive a free combo meal card on November 11.

Friendly's - Friendly's is treating Veterans and active military to a free breakfast, lunch or dinner from a limited menu on November 11.

Glory Days Grill - Veterans get a free appetizer on November 11.

Golden Corral – Golden Corral Restaurants' Military Appreciation Night free dinner will be available on November 14 from 5 to 9pm. Military retirees, Veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserves are all welcome.

Green Mill Restaurant and Bar - Veterans and active duty military get a free meal on November 11.

Hickory Tavern - Veterans and active duty military get 50% off all food and non-alcoholic beverages all day on November 11.

Hickory Tavern – Veterans and active duty military get 50% off all food and non-alcoholic beverages all day on November 11.

Hooters – Hooters invites all Veterans and current service men and women to enjoy a free meal, up to \$10.99 in value with any drink purchase, by presenting a military ID or proof of service at any locations across the country.



Houlihan's - Active military and Veterans receive one free entrée, valued up to \$15, with purchase of an additional entrée on November 11.

Hurricane Grill and Wings - Veterans and active duty personnel get a complimentary entrée and non-alcoholic beverage on November 11 from a limited menu.

Hy-Vee - Veterans and active duty military members get a free breakfast buffet on November 11.

IHOP - On November 11, participating IHOP Restaurants offer Veterans and active duty military free Red, White and Blue pancakes from 7am to 7pm.

IKEA - Veterans get a free entrée from November 7 through 11.

Continued on page 16

## 2018 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts continued from page 15

JJ's Red Hots - Veterans and active duty get a free meal including unlimited hot dogs, sausages, sides and non-alcoholic drinks all day on November 11.

K&W Cafeteria – Anyone with a valid military ID can have a free meal on November 11, which includes meat, vegetables, bread and a refillable drink.

Krispy Kreme – Veterans and active duty military receive a free doughnut and a free small coffee on November 11.

Krystal - All guests with their military ID may receive a complimentary breakfast Sausage Biscuit from opening until 11 am on November 11.

LaMar's Donuts - Veterans and active duty military get a free donut and 12 oz. coffee at participating locations on November 11.

Little Caesars Pizza - Veterans and active military members with a free \$5 Hot-n-Ready lunch combo on November 11 at participating stores nationwide.

Longhorn Steakhouse – Active duty military, Veterans and their families get a complimentary appetizer or dessert on November 11. Guests that dine with a Veteran will also receive 10 percent off their meal.

Max & Erma's – On November 11, participating Max & Erma's locations are offering Veterans and active military personnel a free Best Cheeseburger in America.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants – On November 6, participating McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants will offer a complimentary entrée to Veterans and Gold Star Families from a special menu.

Menchie's – All active and retired military personnel will receive a free 6oz frozen yogurt on November 11.

Mimi's Cafe - All Veterans and active duty military will receive a complimentary entrée with the purchase of any non-alcoholic beverage on November 11. On November 12 and 13, Veterans and active duty military receive their choice of breakfast, lunch or dinner entrees on the 'Veterans Day' menu for \$5.99.



Mission BBQ - Veterans and active duty military get a free sandwich and a slice of cake on November 11.

Native Grill & Wings - Veterans and active duty service members receive any menu item up to \$11.99 free all day on November 11.

Ninety Nine Restaurant and Pub - On November 11 from 11 am to 4 pm, Veterans and active military get a free lunch with purchase of an entree.

O'Charley's – Veterans and active duty service members get a free meal on November 11.

Olive Garden – Active duty military, Veterans and their families get a free entrée from a special menu on November 11.

Continued on page 17



## 2018 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts continued from page 16

On the Border – Veterans and active duty military can enjoy a free meal from the “create your own combo” menu on November 11.



Outback Steakhouse – All active and retired service members receive a free Bloomin' Onion and a beverage on November 11. Outback is also offering active and former service members 15% off their meals November 12 through December 31.

Perkins - Active duty military and Veterans get a free Magnificent Seven meal on November 11.

Pizza Schmizza - Veterans and active duty service members get a free slice of pizza on November 11, between 1 and 4 pm.

Ponderosa Steakhouse - Active duty and retired military get a free buffet on November 11.

Primanti Bros. - Veterans and active duty military get a free sandwich from 4 pm to close on November 11.

Quaker Steak & Lube – Veterans and active duty military receive a free meal on November 11.

Red Hot & Blue - Veterans receive a free entrée with the purchase of a second entrée on November 9, 10 and 11. Coupon required.

Red Lobster – Veterans, reserve and active-duty military personnel receive a free appetizer or dessert from a limited menu on November 10 and 11.

Red Robin – Veterans and active duty military get a free Red's Tavern Double Burger with Bottomless Steak Fries on November 11.

Rib Crib - Veterans and active military personnel receive a free meal on November 11.

Rock and Brews - Veterans and active military personnel receive a complimentary pulled pork sandwich on November 11.



Rosebud Restaurants - All currently serving and retired Veterans get half off a second entrée purchase for lunch with the purchase of an entrée on November 11.

Ruby Tuesday - Veterans, active duty and reserve service members get a free appetizer on November 11.

Sheetz – Veterans and active duty military personnel get a free 6 inch turkey sub, regular size fountain drink and a carwash at all Sheetz locations on November 11.

Shoney's – Shoney's will offer a free All-American Burger to Veterans and active duty service members on November 11.

Spaghetti Warehouse - From November 11 through November 13 buy one entrée and get the second entrée free. Coupon required.

Continued on page 18

## 2018 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts continued from page 17

Steak 'n Shake – Veterans and active duty military receive a free breakfast skillet & coffee from 6am to 11am on November 11.

Sticky Fingers - Veterans and active military get a free pulled pork sandwich with baked beans and coleslaw all day on November 11.

*free*

Stir Crazy - Veterans and active duty military get a free chicken or steak fresh market bar on November 11.

Tap House Grill - Active, inactive and retired military personnel get a complimentary meal on November 11.

Texas Roadhouse –Texas Roadhouse locations nationwide will offer Veterans a free lunch on November 11 from 11am to 2pm. Offer is good for active duty, retired and former US military.

T.G.I. Friday's – Veterans and active duty military get a free lunch on November 11 from 11am to 2pm.

Tijuana Flats – Veterans and active duty military receive a free meal on November 11.

Travel Centers of America - Military Veterans who are CDL holders receive a free meal with beverage on November 11.

Twin Peaks - Active duty and Veterans get a free menu item from their Annual Veterans Day Appreciation Menu on November 11.

Uno Chicago Grill – Veterans and active duty military receive a free entrée or individual pizza with an entrée or pizza purchase of equal or greater value on November 11.



Village Inn - Veterans and active military personnel receive a free Inn-Credible V.I.B. Breakfast on November 11.

White Castle - Veterans and all members of the military receive a free combo meal on November 11.

Wienerschnitzel - Veterans and active duty military receive a free Chili Dog, small fries and a 20oz drink on November 11

World of Beer - All Veterans and current service members receive a free select draught beer on November 11.

Yard House - Veterans and active duty military receive a complimentary appetizer on November 11.

### Retail Stores and More

AARP - Get 20 percent off membership for veterans and their families.

Alfred Angelo - Military brides get a free wedding gown on Veterans Day. Must make an appointment for Nov. 11 to qualify.

Amazon.com - Get 20 percent off select clothing on Veterans Day using the promotion code: 20veterans.

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## 2018 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts continued from page 18

Army Corp of Engineers Recreation Areas - Free use at more than 2,400 recreation areas nationwide for Veterans and active-duty service members and their families.

Bellhops - Veterans and active-duty service members can order free service for moving and lifting jobs that will take place between November 13 and December 15.

Bed, Bath & Beyond – 20% off in store purchases, November 10 - 11

Big Lots – 10% off all purchases on November 11 for Veterans, active duty, reservists and their dependents.

Brides Across America - Military brides can get a wedding dress during the month of November through the Brides Across America program. The group partners with salons across the nation. You must register online.

Dell - Military members get 15 percent off on select PCs and electronics from Veterans Day through November 15.

Dollar General - Get 11 percent off on November 11 if you are a veteran or active duty military.

Great Clips - A free haircut for military members and for those not in the military, a card for a free haircut to give to military members.

Home Depot - Get a 10 percent discount with military ID.

Jockey - Veterans, active-duty and families get 25 percent off using the promo code MILITARY.

JDog Junk Removal & Hauling - Half-off services for Veterans if you book before Nov. 11.

JC Penney - Twenty percent off for Veterans and active-duty military on in-store purchases.

La-Z-Boy Furniture Gallery - An additional 5 percent off the Veterans Day sale for active-duty, Veterans, retirees and reservists.



Lowes Home Improvement - Ten percent off for anyone who has served in the military with proof of service.

Meineke - All Veterans receive a free Basic Oil Change at participating Meineke locations. [newegg.com](http://newegg.com): Get 10 percent off through Tuesday, November 10.

Publix - Active and retired military personnel and family members receive a 10 percent discount on Veterans Day. Proof of service required.

Rack Room Shoes - Ten percent off for retired and active-duty service members for your the entire purchase on Veterans Day.

Red Roof Inn - Retired and active-duty service members get 15 percent off a stay during the month of November.



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## 2018 Veteran's Day Free Meals and Discounts continued from page 19

Sleep Number - Save \$500-\$700 on selected Sleep Number mattress sets.

Sports Clips – Veterans and active duty US service members can stop in on November 11 to get a free haircut.

Under Armour - Retired and active-duty service members get 15 percent through November 12.

# Free!

### Free Park Admissions for Veterans Day

Colonial Williamsburg – Veterans, service members and dependents of currently deployed troops can get free admission tickets to the park from November 7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>.

Free Entrance Into National Parks – This freebie is in honor of Veterans Day but everyone can take part in it. Over 100 national parks will waive admission fees on November 11<sup>th</sup> in honor of Veteran's Day.

Knotts Berry Farm– Knott's Berry Farm continues its tradition of honoring the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. military, both past and present, with free admission during its 25th annual Military Tribute. The free-admission offer applies to all U.S. Veterans, retired and active military personnel and one guest. Up to six additional tickets may be purchased at Knott's Ticket Booths for only \$24 each from November 2 through 21 and for \$29 each from November 22 through January 4, 2015. U.S. Veterans, retired and active military personnel must present military ID or proof of U.S. military service at Knott's ticket booths to receive the complimentary tickets. Veterans, retired and active military personnel must be present.

Seaworld Parks - Veterans and active-duty military receive discounts or free admission. Seaworld properties include SeaWorld Orlando, SeaWorld San Antonio, SeaWorld San Diego, Busch Gardens Tampa, Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Sesame Place Langhorne. The program does not include Discovery Cove in Orlando or Aquatica, SeaWorld's Waterpark.

Veteran Ticket Foundation – Get free tickets to sporting event, movies, shows and more by visiting [www.vettix.org](http://www.vettix.org).



**No-cost  
flu shots**  
for VA-enrolled veterans?  
Just walk into your local Walgreens.

***Now through  
the end of  
March 2019!!***

# Happenings Around Lexington County

## During the Months of November & December

Friday, November 2nd  
through  
Saturday, November 3rd

**Pelion Peanut Party**  
Pelion, SC  
For more information visit their website at [sc.pelionpeanutparty.com](http://sc.pelionpeanutparty.com).



Sunday, November 4th

**Lexington County Veterans Parade - 3pm**  
For more information contact Sharon Willis @ 803-785-1454.



Saturday, November 10th  
through  
Sunday, November 12th

**SC Gun & Knife Show**  
Jamil Shrine Center, 206 Jamil Road, Columbia.  
Sat. 9 - 5 & Sun. 10 - 4. For more information call 803-463-9377 or visit their website at [sc.gunshows.com](http://sc.gunshows.com).



Saturday, November 17th  
through  
Sunday, December 30th

**Lights Before Christmas at Riverbanks Zoo**  
5 to 9pm. (closed 11/22, 12/24 & 12/25) For more information visit their website at [riverbanks.org/events/lights-before-Christmas](http://riverbanks.org/events/lights-before-Christmas).



Wednesday, November 21st  
through  
Monday, December 31st

**Holiday Lights on the River at Saluda Shoals**  
(closed 11/22, 12/24, & 12/25)  
NOTE - the entrance is off of St. Andrews Road.  
6 to 10pm. For more information visit their website at [iric.net/holiday-lights](http://iric.net/holiday-lights).



Thursday, November 29th  
through  
Sunday, December 1st

**Christmas in Cayce**  
For more information visit their website at [cityofcayce-sc.gov/festivals.asp](http://cityofcayce-sc.gov/festivals.asp).

Friday, November 30th  
through  
Sunday, December 2nd

**Town of Lexington's Snowball Festival**  
Parade with be in Sunday, 12/ 2 - 3:00pm.  
For more information contact Jennifer Dowden, Events & Media Coordinator for the Town of Lexington at 803-356-8238.



Saturday, December 8th

**Lexington Leisure Center Christmas Sampler**  
9 to 3pm. For information call 803-957-7828 or visit their website at [lcrac.com](http://lcrac.com).



Saturday, December 8th

**Tri-City Leisure Center Christmas Peddler**  
9 to 3pm. For information call 803-939-9309 or visit their website at [lcrac.com](http://lcrac.com).



Saturday, December 8th

**West Metro Holiday Parade of Lights**  
Starts at 5:30pm. For more information contact the Cayce/West Columbia Chamber at 803-794-6504.



# List of Common Allowable (Recurring) Medical Expenses for an Initial Claim Application

The list below shows recurring VA allowable medical expenses for the initial claim application for pension benefits. The list is not all-inclusive and must be unreimbursed by insurance. They must be paid for by the applicant and are used to reduce outside income that exceeds the VA income limit.

1. Medicare Part B Premiums
2. Medicare Part D Premiums
3. Insurance Premiums for supplemental medical insurance
4. Home Health Services
5. Assisted Living Facility Services
6. Nursing Home Services
7. Long Term Care Insurance
8. Medical Monitoring Program (like Life Alert)



There is a new number to call for billing issues through the VAMC for any private health care that was fee based out. That number is 1-877-881-7618 9am to 5pm EST.



## "THANKSGIVING"

The year has turned its circle,  
 The seasons come and go.  
 The harvest is all gathered in  
 And chilly north winds blow.  
 Orchards have shared their treasures,  
 The fields, their yellow grain,  
 So open wide the doorway-  
 Thanksgiving comes again!



*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## Did You Know...



**Veterans can obtain advance directives through the Dorn VAMC. For more information contact Cheryl Geddings at 776-4000 ext. 4084.**



## CHANGES TO PENSION BENEFITS

Effective October 18, 2018, the VA has amended the law that affects pension benefits. The basic changes are outlined below.

The VA now considers net worth to be assets plus annual income and they cannot exceed \$123,600 combined. Unreimbursed medical expenses are still factored the same way if the client goes past this amount and used to reduce their net worth under this amount. If the expenses do not reduce their net worth under this amount, they will be denied a benefit. The benefit that will be awarded is still calculated the same way based on income and out of pocket medical expenses.

In addition, the VA now does a three-year look back on assets sold or given away, as well as money given away to anyone. This look back will determine if the client sold or gave away anything in order to get below \$123,600 to qualify for VA pension benefits. The VA will check this through the IRS, Social Security or other computer matching programs.

For the first time the VA is admitting there is a net worth cap and there is a look back on assets and income. If you have questions or concerns, contact the VARO at 1-800-827-1000.



The 39th Annual City of Columbia Veterans Day Parade will be held on Monday, November 12th. This event will start at 11am. For more information, visit their website at [columbiasc.chambermaster.com/events](http://columbiasc.chambermaster.com/events).

## SC Hunting and Fishing Licenses for Disabled Veterans



Residents of SC may apply for a disability license by mail or in person at a DNR Regional Office. Offices are located in Columbia, Charleston, Clemson, Florence, York, and DNR at the Market, located at the SC State Farmer's Market in West Columbia. In order to qualify for a disability license you must be declared disabled and receiving disability benefits from one of the following agencies:

- Federal Civil Service
- Medicaid or Railroad Retirement
- SC State Retirement System
- Social Security Administration
- Veterans Affairs (the VA)

In order to qualify for a Disability license you must have been a SC resident for 365 days. DNR must have a completed application, a photocopy of your SC driver's license or SC state issued ID card and current proof (dated within the past 12 months) stating you are disabled and receiving benefits.

The license will be valid for 3 years and includes privileges of hunting, big game, WMA permit, migratory waterfowl permit and fresh and saltwater fishing.

For more information, you can contact DNR at 803-734-3833 or by visiting their website at [dnr.sc.gov/regs/pdf/disabilitylicense.pdf](http://dnr.sc.gov/regs/pdf/disabilitylicense.pdf).

## Slow-Cooker Sweet Potatoes with Applesauce

Serves 6

### Ingredients

6 medium (2 pounds) sweet potatoes or yams, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes  
1 1/2 cups applesauce  
2/3 cup packed brown sugar  
3 Tablespoons butter or margarine, melted  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 cup toasted chopped nuts

### Steps

1. Place sweet potatoes in 2 to 3 1/2 quart slow cooker. Mix remaining ingredients except nuts; spoon over potatoes.
2. Cover and cook on low heat setting for 6 to 8 hours or until potatoes are very tender. *Note* - cooking times may vary, depending on slow cooker.
3. Sprinkle with nuts.



# Mission Lexington

## 2018 Holiday Basket Wish List

Ham or Turkey (frozen or canned)  
Canned Sweet Potatoes  
Canned Collards  
Stuffing Mix  
Cranberry Sauce  
Cornbread Mix  
Green Beans  
Dessert Mix (Complete kit)



We will begin to give these to clients  
Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 1  
Christmas: Monday, December 3

Questions? Anna Smith  
[anna@missionlexingtonsc.org](mailto:anna@missionlexingtonsc.org)  
803-957-6656 x 228

*You may pack a basket or box and bring it completed,  
or simply bring the items and we will prepare. Feel free  
to add a personal note or prayer for the family.*

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" - Matthew 25:40*

216 HARMON STREET, LEXINGTON SC 29072  
803 957 6656 | 803 957 3414 fax | [www.missionlexingtonsc.org](http://www.missionlexingtonsc.org)



# Dorn VA hospital getting \$114 million in new buildings & renovations

The W.J.B. Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia has been undergoing a massive \$114 million construction and renovation program to improve patient care, parking and security. It is the largest update for the medical center since the five-story main hospital was built in the late 1970s.

The dozen or so projects will continue throughout this year, include more parking, a new police station and fencing, new clinics, extensive modifications to the main hospital and renovation of the historic former nurses quarters, one of the original 1932 buildings. The program also includes four new community-based outpatient clinics in Sumter, Orangeburg, Rock Hill and Florence. The new facilities will be twice to four times the size of the present clinics.

The new facilities are needed because of the influx of new post 9/11 patients and the trend of more retirees moving south or migrating here to spend the winter. The number of patients using the facility has increased by 3.5 percent over the past two years and female patients have increased by 13.6 percent. The Dorn hospital treats 83,918 patients now. That number is expected to rise to nearly 90,000 by 2022.

Today, Columbia is the third largest Veterans' hospital in the Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Alabama region. It ranks behind Atlanta (112,614 patients) and Salisbury, N.C., (87,299). Charleston is number 4 with 74,533 patients. There is more demand for primary care services and surgical needs, and more and more people who are interested in coming here in the winter. To care for those additional patients, Dorn plans to add more than 500 new staffers. It has approximately 2,500 staffers today and is expected to swell to over 3,000 in the next five years.



Veterans Day is an official United States public holiday, observed annually on November 11th, that honors military Veterans, that is, persons who served in the United States Armed Forces. Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored only World War I Veterans. In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of Veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American Veterans of **all** wars. It also coincides with other holidays, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, celebrated in other countries to mark the anniversary of the end of World War I.





**DID YOU KNOW...**



Copies of all of our newsletters can be found on the Lexington County website at [lex-co.com/departments/veteransaffairs/newsletters](http://lex-co.com/departments/veteransaffairs/newsletters).

The newsletters are listed on the site by year.



## About Our Office

On March 22, 1945 the SC General Assembly adopted a bill creating a VA office in each of the state's 46 counties. The Lexington County VA Director is appointed by the Lexington County delegation. This office is employed by Lexington County; not the Federal VA. The Lexington County Veterans' Affairs Office is an advocate for Veterans and their surviving dependents. We provide the assistance needed in applying for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and for VA medical care. The Lexington County VA Office assists former and present members of the US Armed Forces and their dependents in preparing claims. Types of benefits include but not limited to: service connected disabilities and non-service connected pension; death pension benefits; burial; medical care; educational assistance, including vocational rehabilitation; guaranteed home loans; government life insurance and other benefits. We are not trained in Social Security or Department of Defense Benefits but can assist with some of these forms. Our office also provides off-site appointments at three of the County libraries once a month and we can provide home visits on a case by case basis.

**OUTREACH DATES AND TIMES**

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

**Chapin Outreach** is the 1st Friday of the month at the Chapin Library from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. 

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

*Appointments are strongly encouraged.  
Call the office at 803-785-8400 to schedule a time.*

**There will be no outreach in Batesburg/Leesville in November.**

**The VA has a website anyone can access for all VA questions, SEP user guides, regulations, policies, laws and any other VA resources. The website is:**

**[www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov)**

**Website**



## WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

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 2017, Wreaths Across America and our national network of volunteers laid over 1,400,000 memorial wreaths at nearly 1200 locations in the United States and beyond. We accomplished this with help from over 2800 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 09, 2018

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

#### Monday, December 10, 2018 12:00 Noon at the SC Veterans Memorial

Located on the Assembly Street side of the Statehouse grounds

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

#### Saturday December 15, 2018 12:00 Noon

Fort Jackson National Cemetery 4107 Percival Rd. Columbia, SC 29229

Parking will be at the Blue Cross Blue Shield parking lot across from the cemetery. We will have shuttle buses to bring you to and from the cemetery starting at 10:30am the morning of the ceremony. There will be limited handicap parking in cemetery with proper identification.

For more information visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org), or call Carol Davis (803) 467-4482  
You can also email [waajtjackson@gmail.com](mailto:waajtjackson@gmail.com)



# WREATHS *across* AMERICA

## 2018

### Wreath Sponsorship Form

\*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December.

**FORT JACKSON NATIONAL CEMETERY 3 FOR 2 SPONSORSHIP FORM**

Wreaths may be purchased online at [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.com](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.com) Please use Cemetery Code SCFJNC and Organization Code SC0015

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**  
**Wreaths Across America TM**  
PO Box 3356  
West Columbia, SC 29171  
Questions? Please call 803-467-4482  
Thank you for your Sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Do we have permission to publicize your name as a sponsor?

Yes OR  No, I wish to remain Anonymous

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual- 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card- If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship-see "In Honor" section below. *Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included.	\$2.00		
Family- 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business- 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate- 100 Wreaths	\$1,500.00		
		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 note that all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: SCFJNC Fundraising Group ID: SC0015

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**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Cash \$: \_\_\_\_\_ Total\$: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # Checks: \_\_\_\_\_ Reconciled: \_\_\_\_\_

MO \$: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

GEN: \_\_\_\_\_

# VA and U.S. Digital Service Launch New Web Tool to Help Veterans Track their Benefits Appeals

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S Digital Service announced their launch of an improved Appeals Status tool to increase transparency and enable Veterans to track the progress of their benefits claims appeals.

The tool, which went live March 21 on VA's Vets.gov website, will allow Veterans to access detailed information about the status of their benefits appeals and will include alerts about needed actions, as well as estimates of how long each step of the process takes.

Some Veterans who have previewed the new tool said it had given them hope and helped them understand that the process might take longer than expected.

## News Tidbits from the VA & Dorn VAMC

The VA has released a Spanish version of the application for health benefits, as part of the VA's effort to simplify and improve the health care, enrollment process for Veterans. The new language version implements the VA Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans' recommendation to provide Spanish versions of the application and instructions. The form is available at VA medical facilities and online at [va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-EZ\\_Spanish.pdf](http://va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-EZ_Spanish.pdf).



The VAMC Dorn has a new Women's Veterans Hotline.

That number is 1-855-VAWOMEN (8296636). That number operates Monday - Friday 8am to 10pm and Saturday 8am to 6:30pm EST.



Nationally, there are over 9.1 million Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. VA healthcare is the largest department within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### County Offices will be closed on the following dates:

Monday, November 12th - *Veterans Day Observed*

Thursday, November 22nd - *Thanksgiving Day*

Friday, November 23rd - *Day after Thanksgiving*

Monday, December 24th - *Christmas Eve*

Tuesday, December 25th - *Christmas Day*

Wednesday, December 26th - *Day after Christmas*

Tuesday, January 1st - *New Year's Day*

**CLOSED**



## ***Featured Medal:***

# **Humanitarian Service Medal**

The Humanitarian Service Medal is a military service medal of the United States armed forces which was created on January 19, 1977 by President Gerald Ford under Executive Order 11965. This medal is awarded to any member of the United States military (including Reserve and National Guard members) who distinguish themselves by meritorious participation in specified military acts or operations of a humanitarian nature. This medal is presented as an individual service medal. The activities for which the Humanitarian Service Medal may be authorized are designated by the United States Department of Defense. Such activities include natural disaster relief, evacuation of non-combatants from a hostile area, or humanitarian support to refugees. This medal may *not* be awarded for services rendered in domestic disturbances involving law enforcement, equal rights demonstrations, or protection of property. This medal may also not be presented if either the Armed Forces Service Medal or Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was presented for the same period of service.

The Humanitarian Service Medal is retroactive to April 1, 1975. Multiple awards of the medal are authorized with service stars denoting additional awards.



Picture of the Humanitarian Service Medal and Ribbon.

**Happy Holidays  
from the staff of Lexington County Veterans Affairs.**

**Ed Lundeen,  
Jennifer Hendrix, Kathy DeBerry,  
Jennifer Parler and Mary Kay Hatchell**

**Wishing everyone a  
Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa.**

***Coming in the  
Next Issue...***

**Fiduciary,  
Volunteer Services,  
&  
VA life insurance**

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
2019**