

**VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE  
OF LEXINGTON COUNTY**



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# VET NEWS

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LEXINGTON, S.C. 29072

May 2005

## COUNTY OFFICE CLOSINGS

**The Veterans Affairs Office and other county offices will be closed on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 for Confederate Memorial Day and on May 30<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day.**

**The World War I Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial** lies on the southeast edge of the town of Waregem, Belgium, along the Lille-Gent AutoRoute E-17. It is located 175 miles north of Paris, France and 46 miles west of Brussels. The cemetery is within 30 miles of Brugge (Brugges) and Gent (Gand), the two largest cities in Flanders. Waregem may be reached by train from Brussels via Gent (Gand) in approximately one hour; from Paris, Gare du Nord, in about five hours via Rysel (Lille) and Kortrijk (Courtrai), and five and one-half hours via Brussels and Gent. Taxi service is available from the station in Waregem.

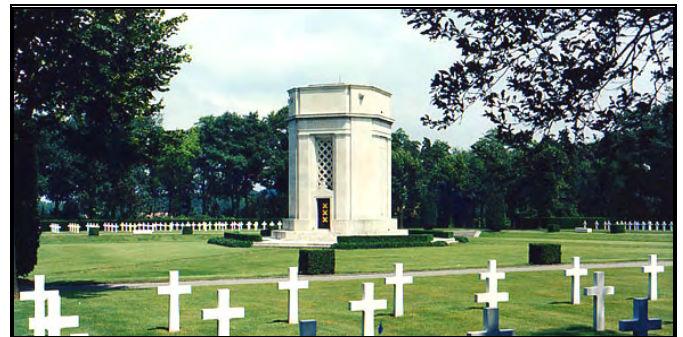
The cemetery occupies a six-acre site. Masses of graceful trees and shrubbery frame the burial area and screen it from the passing traffic. At the ends of the paths leading to three of the corners of the cemetery are circular retreats with benches and urns. At this peaceful location rest 368 American military dead, most of whom gave their lives in liberating Belgium in World War I. Their headstones are aligned in four symmetrical areas around the white stone chapel that stands in the center of the cemetery.

The altar inside the chapel is of black and white grand antique marble having draped flags on each side; above it is a crusader's sword outlined in gold.

The chapel furniture is of carved oak, stained black and white veining to harmonize with the altar.

On the side walls are inscribed the names of 43 of the Missing in Action who gave their lives in the service of their Country, but whose remains were never recovered or identified.

The cemetery is open daily to the public from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm except December 25 and January 1. It is open on host country holidays. When the cemetery is open to the public, a staff member is on duty in the Visitors' Building to answer questions and escort relatives to grave and memorial sites.



## MAY OUTREACH PROGRAM

May 3<sup>rd</sup>: 8-12, Batesburg-Leesville  
**May 9<sup>th</sup>: 9-12 Chapin**  
May 10<sup>th</sup>: Holiday  
May 17<sup>th</sup>: 8-12, Swansea

Please note the change of date for **May only** for the Chapin program due to the May 10<sup>th</sup> holiday.

## NEW PHONE NUMBERS

**The new phone numbers for the Lexington Veterans Affairs Office are:**

**(803) 785-8400 Main office**  
**(803) 785-0115 FAX**



## Normandy American Cemetery

### In Flanders Fields

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)  
Canadian Army

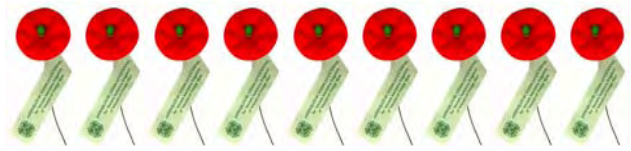
IN FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

## MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

Memorial Day programs are held at each American Battle Monument Cemetery. Each gravesite is decorated with the flag of the United States and that of the host country. Programs usually include participation by the U.S. Ambassador to the host country a reading of the President's Memorial Day Proclamation, speakers, the presentation of the National Colors, wreath laying ceremonies, and military bands and units.



## WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

Although the American Battle Monuments Commission is not responsible for planning events overseas, our cemeteries and memorials around the world may be the sites for many official commemorative events through September since 2005 is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. Requests for information about these events should be directed to:

- ❖ Website: <http://www.WWII Commemorative Events>
- ❖ E-mail address is: [wwii60th@hqda.army.mil](mailto:wwii60th@hqda.army.mil)

## VETS ON THE NET

The Virtual Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University now provides free access to more than 12,000 documents (one million pages) of official U.S. Marine Corps documents from 1954-1975. These materials are available to anyone with Internet access; there is no registration fee. For more information, contact Stephen Maxner, Archivist and Associate Director, The Vietnam Archive in Lubbock, TX at 806-742-9010. The archive website is [www.vietnam.ttu.edu](http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu) or e-mail: [steve.maxner@ttu.edu](mailto:steve.maxner@ttu.edu)



# Beaufort National Cemetery

1601 Boundary Street  
Beaufort, SC 29902-3947  
Phone: (843) 524-3925  
FAX: (843) 524-8538



## Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Closed federal holidays except Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

## Visitation Hours:

Open daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset.

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**Burial Space:** This cemetery has space available to accommodate casketed and cremated remains.

**Acreage:** 33.1

**Number of Interments Thru Fiscal Year 2004:** 22,762

## Directions from nearest airport:

The cemetery is located within the Beaufort city limits, 42 miles north of the Savannah Georgia Airport. From Savannah, take U.S. Highway 17 North to South Carolina State Highway 170. Take Highway 170 north to U.S. Highway 21 South. Cemetery is approximately one mile on the left on U.S. Highway 21 South, which is also Boundary Street.

## Military Funeral Honors

A heavily populated military community surrounds the cemetery; therefore, families of veterans can obtain Military Funeral Honors with little difficulty. Military Funeral Honors are provided by Charleston Air Force Base, Charleston, SC; Fort Steward Army Base, Savannah, GA; Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC; and Beaufort Naval Hospital, Beaufort, SC.

Beaufort National Cemetery is located in Beaufort County within the city of Beaufort, S.C. The cemetery is best distinguished by a landscape plan in which the burial sections are arranged in the shape of a half-circle with roads arranged like the spokes of a wheel.

The original interments in the national cemetery were men who died in nearby Union hospitals during the occupation and were initially buried in one of several places—among them East Florida and Hilton Head. About 2,800 remains were removed from cemeteries in Millen and Lawton, GA, and reinterred in the national cemetery; 117 Confederate soldiers are also buried here.

In May 1987, souvenir hunters using metal detectors on Folly's Island near Charleston discovered the remains of 19 Union soldiers. The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology identified the remains as members of the 55th Regiment and the 1st North Carolina Infantry. Both units were composed of black troops who fought with the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment. The 1989

Memorial Day program at Beaufort National Cemetery featured the reinterment of the remains of these 19 Union soldiers missing in action since 1863. The honor guard for the service was composed of actors from the cast of the movie "Glory," which was being filmed nearby.

Beaufort National Cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

### **Monuments and Memorials**

The Union Soldiers monument was erected in the 1870s to honor the 174 unknown Union dead buried at the cemetery; it is marble set on a brick base.

A large granite monument dedicated to "the Defenders of American Liberty Against the Great Rebellion" was erected during the 1880s.

In 1997, a memorial in honor of Confederate soldiers interred at the cemetery was installed.



### **Medal of Honor Recipients**

Private First Class Ralph H. Johnson, (Vietnam War) Company A, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF. Near Quan Duc Valley, Republic of Vietnam, March 5, 1968 (Section 3, Grave 21).

### **Other Burials**

Colonel Donald Conroy, "The Great Santini" is interred in Section 62, Grave 182.

Nineteen Union Soldiers of the all black Massachusetts 54th and 55th Infantry were removed from Folly Island, S.C., and reinterred here with full military honors on Memorial Day, May 29, 1989.

Master Sergeant Joseph Simmons, 25th Infantry Buffalo Soldiers, World War I and II, fought on three fronts in France, and was awarded the Legion of Honor Medal by the Republic of France (The French Legion of Honor Medal is equivalent to the United States Medal of Honor), died Sept. 24, 1999 (21 days prior to his 100th birthday). He is buried in Section 2, Grave 2.

Gerd Reussel, German World War II Prisoner of War, Section PB61, Grave 18.



**Congressional Medal of Honor**

Florence  
National Cemetery  
803 East National Cemetery Road  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 669-8783 or 0066  
FAX: (843) 662-8318



#### **Office Hours:**

Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Closed federal holidays except Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

#### **Visitation Hours:**

Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to sunset.  
Weekends 7:00 a.m. to sunset.

#### **Directions from nearest airport:**

The cemetery is located one mile west of Florence Airport. From the airport, turn left onto Frontage Road. Turn left onto Fairground Road. Turn right on National Cemetery Road. The cemetery is one mile on your right.

Florence National Cemetery is located in Florence County in the city of Florence, S.C.

The land for Florence National Cemetery was appropriated, and later purchased, from the estate of a local resident about a quarter-mile from the POW camp. Original interments were made in two separate burial grounds, one containing 416 remains and the other approximately 2,322 remains. Interments at the larger site were made in 16 trenches; in 1865, this site was designated a national cemetery and the remains from the smaller burial ground were dug up and reinterred there. Remains were also disinterred from the surrounding region of Darlington, Cheraw and the Marion Districts and transferred to Florence National Cemetery. The wooden headboards marking the trench graves were replaced by 2,167 marble "unknown" head blocks measuring 6 x 6 inches square and set approximately six inches apart. In 1955, all but five of these markers were replaced with 32 upright marble headstones at each end of the trenches.

Florence National Cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998.

#### **Monuments and Memorials**

A carillon was donated by the American Veterans as part of their international living memorial program, which began shortly after World War II.

#### **Medal of Honor Recipients**

Boatswain's Mate First Class James Elliott Williams, (Vietnam) U.S. Navy. Mekong River, Republic of Vietnam, October 31, 1966 (Section F, Grave 177).

#### **Other Burials**

Florena Budwin was the bride of a captain from Pennsylvania. After Captain Budwin joined the federal forces, his bride disguised herself as a man and donned a uniform, hoping to find her husband. She was captured near Charleston, S.C., in 1864 and sent to Florence in the autumn of that year. After arriving at the stockade with thousands of other Union troops, she took sick as the rations were meager and medical supplies scarce. While the camp physician was making a routine examination, he found that one of his patients was a woman. She was moved to separate quarters

and given food and clothing by the sympathetic women of Florence. When she recovered, she told a most remarkable story of how she had donned a federal uniform so as to serve by the side of her husband, that her husband had been killed, and that she was captured. After Florena grew strong, she stayed on at the prison as a nurse, and her devotion for her husband was bestowed on the hundreds of soldiers who were suffering from lack of food and medicine. A few months later, she fell sick a second time and did not recover. She died on Jan. 25, 1865 (Section D, Grave 2480).

## **BURIALS IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES**

No special forms are required when requesting burial in a VA national cemetery. The person making burial arrangements should have their funeral home contact the national cemetery in which burial is desired at the time of need. Scheduling can be done seven days a week for interments on Mondays through Fridays.

If possible, the following information concerning the deceased should be provided when the cemetery is first contacted:

- Full name and military rank;
- Branch of service;
- Social security number;
- Service number;
- VA claim number, if applicable;
- Date and place of birth;
- Date of retirement or last separation from active duty; and,

[Copy of any military separation documents](#), such as the Department of Defense Form 214 (DD-214).

The discharge documents must specify active military duty and show that release from active duty was under other than dishonorable conditions.

Viewing facilities are not available and funeral services cannot be held at VA national cemeteries, but a final committal service may be performed. For safety reasons, these committal services are held in committal shelters located away from the gravesite. Burial will take place following the committal service.

## **U.S. LIVING WILL REGISTRY**

Health care is important to everyone. Wherever you are, whatever the situation, you want to be sure you receive appropriate treatment. But even more importantly, you want your decisions to be honored.

The United States Supreme Court guarantees you the right to make those choices, even when you are too sick to make your wishes known. This right

gives you control and protects your dignity. But how can you be sure that your choices will be honored if you're incapacitated?

**Make your choices known in an advance directive.** An **advance directive** is a legal document in which you state how you want to be treated if you become very ill and there is no reasonable hope for your recovery. There are basically two kinds of advance directives.

1. A **living will** is a legal document in which you state the kind of health care you want or don't want under certain circumstances.

2. A **health care proxy** (or durable health care power of attorney) is a legal document in which you name someone close to you to make decisions about your health care if you become incapacitated. You can have both—a health care proxy naming a person to make the decisions, and a living will to help guide that person in making the decisions.

**In order for your advance directive to be useful, it has to be available. After all, your advance directive won't do you any good if no one can find it.**

**ENSURE THAT YOUR ADVANCE DIRECTIVE IS AVAILABLE WHEN YOU NEED IT, WHEREVER YOU ARE.** To make sure that your advance Directive is available to your family and doctors wherever and whenever it's needed use the U.S. Living Will Registry. Developed in consultation with attorneys who represent hospitals, the U.S. Living Will Registry is a nationwide service that stores your advance directive electronically and makes it available 24 hours a day to health care providers across the country when you're too sick to communicate your wishes. To learn more, go to:

[www.uslivingwillregistry.com/forms.shtm](http://www.uslivingwillregistry.com/forms.shtm)  
or call 1-800-LIV-WILL.

**Casualty Based Grant** – flat rate of \$1,000

Must include all rules listed in Status Based Grant.

Service member must submit documentation stating that they sustained a service-connected injury or illness.

Member's next of kin must submit a statement that the member was KIA, MIA or is a POW.

The requirement of 30 consecutive days or more of active military duty may be waived by the division upon receipt of written request indicating the circumstances justifying the waiver.

\* Grant may be received only one time for each active duty order.

The following members are ineligible:

Members who are unmarried or have no family members enrolled in DEERS (Need Based Grant and the Status Based Grant).

Personnel serving in Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) or similar full-time unit support programs unless called to Title 10 service.

Members, who, at any time before the disbursement of funds, receive a punitive discharge or an administrative discharge with service characterized as Under Other Than Honorable Conditions.

President Abraham Lincoln noted our duty as citizens "...to care for them who have borne the battle."

The South Carolina Military Family Relief Fund is an efficient and voluntary way for citizens on the home front to express their appreciation for National Guard members and reservists on the frontlines. *Please help.*

For an application please visit our website at <http://www.govoepp.state.sc.us/vetaff.htm> or call our office for assistance.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND**



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
DIVISION OF VETERAN'S AFFAIRS  
ATTN: SCMFRF COORDINATOR  
1205 PENDLETON STREET, SUITE 477  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201**

**803.734.0200  
803.734.0197 (FAX)**

## The South Carolina Military Family Relief Fund

The South Carolina Military Family Relief Fund (SCMFRF), signed into law in 2004 by Governor Mark Sanford, provides monetary grants to families of South Carolina National Guard members and South Carolina residents serving in the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve components who were called to active duty as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Many families of South Carolina National Guard members and Reservists face serious financial hardship, because the military pay of a service member can be far less than their civilian salary. Some families may see as much as a 70 percent drop in their household income when the service member is away.

SCMFRF grants are intended to help families defray the costs of food, housing, utilities, medical services, and other expenses that become difficult to afford when a wage-earner has temporarily left civilian employment to be placed on active military duty.

Beginning in 2005, donations will be accepted through a voluntary check-off on South Carolina individual income tax forms or through other grants and donations made to the fund.

### Status Based Grant – flat rate of \$500

Grant applicant must be a member of the South Carolina National Guard or a South Carolina resident serving in a U.S. Armed Forces Reserve component, or a family member of the Guardsman/Reservist and enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Proof of residency and/or familial relationship consists of information obtained from DEERS.

Service member was/is on active military duty for 30 consecutive days or more as a result of Sept 11, 2001.

Orders must state one of the following:

- Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom
- Executive Order #13223
- Any future operations as determined by the President or Governor of South Carolina

Rank must be no higher than O-3 or W-2 (based upon rank at time of mobilization). Proof of pay grades consists of information obtained from DEERS.

\* May receive a grant only one time in each fiscal year and only one time for each active duty order.

### Need Based Grant – up to \$2,000 (maximum)

Must include all rules listed in Status Based Grant.

Must submit monthly civilian AND military pay stub to show the service member sustained a 30% or greater decrease from his or her civilian salary.

Must submit proof of expenses or bills.

Must submit a signed statement on what the grant will be used for.

If custodial parent or guardian is applying on behalf of a member's dependent, then proof of guardianship must be provided.

\* No additional applications may be accepted within 180 days from receipt of any prior applications.

