

# Veterans Affairs Office of Lexington County



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*Editor: Cindy Wise*

# VET NEWS

August 2010

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## AUGUST DATES FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

August 3rd: 9-12 Batesburg-Leesville  
August 10th: 9-12 Chapin

**Please call the office to schedule an  
appointment.**

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### TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

AUGUST 1ST AIR FORCE DAY  
AUGUST 2ND OPERATION DESERT SHIELD  
(PERSIAN GULF) BEGAN (1990)  
AUGUST 4TH US COAST GUARD ESTABLISHED (1790)  
AUGUST 5TH US ENTERED VIETNAM WAR (1964)  
AUGUST 7TH PURPLE HEART MEDAL ESTABLISHED (1782)  
NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY  
AUGUST 15TH V-J DAY/WORLD WAR II (1945)  
AUGUST 16TH NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY  
AUGUST 19TH NATIONAL AVIATION DAY

## \*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\*

THE LEXINGTON COUNTY DAV VAN WILL NOT BE IN SERVICE ON  
LABOR DAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH. THIS IS A HOLIDAY AND ALL COUNTY  
OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED.

### COULD YOU BE ONE OF OUR DRIVERS?

We appreciate the SERVICE provided by our current volunteer van drivers. However, due to the increasing volume of calls for this service, additional drivers are still needed. The Lexington County DAV van is transporting an increasing number of veterans to Dorn VA hospital each month, with our drivers logging over 1,000 miles per month. Whether 1 day a week or twice a month, all help is greatly appreciated. Please call

our office at  
**785-8400** or  
stop by for an  
application if  
you feel you  
could serve  
our veterans in  
this way.



### Veterans Readjustment Counseling

The office would like to welcome Tyrone Hart, a counselor with Veterans Readjustment Counseling from the Vet Center. He holds meetings in our building on the following days: Mondays at 4:00 and Tuesdays at 12:00 for the men and 12:00 on the 2nd Monday of each month for the women. He will also have individual, group, marital and bereavement sessions. His address is Vet Center, 1710 Richland St., Suite A, Columbia, SC 29201. He can be reached by phone at 803-765-9944 and by fax at 803-799-6267.

## VA Headstones & Markers Update 06:

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki announced 29 JUN that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is offering bronze medallions to attach to existing, privately purchased headstones or markers, signifying a deceased's status as a Veteran. "For Veterans not buried in a national or state Veterans cemetery, or those without a government grave marker, VA is pleased to offer this option that highlights their service and sacrifices for our country," said Secretary Shinseki. The new item can be furnished instead of a traditional government headstone or marker for Veterans whose death occurred on or after 1 NOV 90, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Under federal law, eligible Veterans buried in a private cemetery are entitled to either a government-furnished grave marker or the new medallion, but not both. Veterans buried in a national or state Veterans cemetery will receive a government headstone or marker of the standard design authorized at that cemetery.

The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches and 1 ½ inches in width. Each bronze medallion features the image of a folded burial flag adorned with laurels and is inscribed with the word "Veteran" at the top and the branch of service at the bottom. Next of kin will receive the medallion, along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the medallion to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum or columbarium niche cover. More information about VA-furnished headstones, markers and medallions can be found at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmtype.asp>. VA is currently developing an application form for ordering the medallion. Until it is available, applicants may use the form for ordering government headstones and markers, VA Form 40-1330. Instructions on how to apply for a medallion are found on the VA Web site at [www.cem.va.gov/hm\\_hm.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp).

Veterans with a discharge issued under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a VA national cemetery. Other burial benefits available for all eligible Veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or grave marker. The new medallions will be available only to Veterans buried in private cemeteries without a government headstone or marker. Families of eligible decedents may also order a memorial headstone or marker when remains are not available for interment.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than 3 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict -- from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan -- are buried in VA's national cemeteries on more than 19,000 acres. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the VA Web site on the Internet at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov) or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1(800) 827-1000. [Source: VA News Release 29 Jun 2010 ++]

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

***"The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out and meet it. "***

***Thucydides, Greek historian***

## **Korean War Vet Appreciation Letter**

The Invasion of Inchon, the Pusan Perimeter and the Chosin Reservoir are only a few of the fields of battle where Americans placed their lives on the line for democracy. Of nearly 390,000 Americans who served there, 36,000 gave their lives. The war was a military conflict between the Republic of South Korea, supported by the United Nations, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, backed by the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union. The situation escalated into open warfare when North Korean forces invaded South Korea across the border between the countries-the 38th parallel-on 25 JUN 50. An armistice was signed on 23 JUL 53, thus ending the first significant armed conflict of the Cold War; however, a formal peace agreement never has been signed.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the war, the Republic of Korea 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee has various plans to thank, honor and remember Korean War Veterans and their achievements. One of the projects is to send letters of appreciation from the President of the Republic of Korea to as many living Korean War Veterans as possible to express tribute and profound gratitude for their service and sacrifice that laid the foundations of peace and freedom enjoyed today by the people of Korea. Korean War veterans who want to receive the letter should fill out and submit an application form for an appreciation letter from the Republic of Korea President. To obtain forms and information on how/where to submit:

- Complete the PDF form at <http://eng.koreanwar60.go.kr/apply.asp>
- By internet click 'SUBMIT' upon completion.
- By mail complete and print the Application Form and send to:  
US Branch ROK 60th AKW Commemoration Committee,  
2450 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008
- Direct all questions to: [sweetewe@korea.kr](mailto:sweetewe@korea.kr)

(Source: Oregon VA News Release 15 Jun 2010)



**HEALTH FAIR AT SOUTHLAKE VILLAGE**  
**AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**  
**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

*We are going to have our annual Health Fair at Southlake Village on August 17<sup>th</sup>. We would like to invite everyone to attend. Some of our Vendors are:*

Health Promotion Consultant - Lexington Medical Center  
Hospice Care of Tri County  
Norman Nicholson – Senior Advisor – Lexington  
SC Access – Lieutenant Governor State of SC Office on Aging  
Amedisys  
Palmetto Health – Geriatrics  
Central Midlands Council of Governments/ Area Agency on Aging – Julie Davis  
Jean Bridges – Cayce AARP - Legislative Volunteer  
Brook Health Care, LLC  
Gary Baker – Director of Veteran's Affairs Lexington County  
Reliant Hospice  
Kiti Wake Baptist Church – TOPS Organization  
Alzheimer's Association  
Central Midlands Council of Governments/ Area Agency on Aging I-Care Program  
Belton – Free Hearing Test  
Edward Jones Investments  
Family Service Counselor/ Daisy Harmon  
Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital  
Steve Parrott – Retiree ease  
Home Health Care Director - Palmetto Health  
Comfort Keepers – Carol Waldo  
Regency - Hospice



**2010 Lexington County Veteran's Parade Application**  
**Sunday, November 7, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.**

**ENTRY IS FREE! DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS OCTOBER 15, 2010**

\*\*\*\*\* ALL MARCHING BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE PARKING LOTS OF BUSINESSES THAT ARE CLOSED ON SUNDAY IN THE BUTLER STREET AND MAIN STREET AREA. PLEASE USE CAUTION. PLEASE DROP OFF ALL MEMBERS AND YOU CAN PARK AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT FOR PICK UP. PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT TAKE UP SPACES AT MCDONALD'S FOR PARKING. THANKS, PARADE ROUTE WILL LINE UP AT HAYGOOD AND WEST BUTLER STREET, ENTER MAIN STREET TAKE A LEFT, GO DOWN MAIN STREET, TURN RIGHT ON SOUTH LAKE DRIVE AND THEN LEFT, ENDING AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT.

Name of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e., truck, car, float, tractor trailer - include the length of your entry)

Number Participating: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax : \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Applications To:  
Lexington County Veteran's  
Parade Committee  
Attn: Sharon Willis, Chairperson  
212 South Lake Drive Ste 302  
Lexington SC 29072

For More Information Contact:  
Sharon Willis 803-785-1454  
Cell # 803-237-9617  
Fax # 803-785-8300  
Veterans Affairs office 803-785-8400

\*\*\*\*\* Applications can be emailed to you also. Contact Sharon at [swillis@lex-co.com](mailto:swillis@lex-co.com)  
ONCE THE LINE UP FOR THE PARADE HAS BEEN DETERMINED YOU WILL RECEIVE A MAP AND LOCATION FOR YOUR PLACE IN THE PARADE. PLEASE ENTER THE PARADE LINE UP ROUTE FROM SOUTH CHURCH AND GO UP BUTLER STREET. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER FROM COLUMBIA AVENUE OR MAIN. TURNING FLOATS AND TRAILORS AROUND IS VERY DIFFICULT. HAYGOOD STREET MUST BE KEPT OPEN FOR THE LINEUP. IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL REQUESTS, PLEASE CALL ME AND I WILL DO MY BEST TO HELP, REMEMBER NOT EVERYONE CAN BE UP FRONT. MAIN STREET WILL BE CLOSED DOWN AT 2:45 SO PLEASE BE AT YOUR LOCATION BY 2:30. *THANK YOU FOR WANTING TO BE A PART OF THIS PARADE. SHARON*

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

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

**A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE  
FOR  
EVERY PURPLE HEART VETERAN ◊**

*By Barbara Youngblood Carr  
National Poet Laureate, Military Order of The Purple Heart  
(See bio on page 39.)*

The first Purple Heart medal was bestowed by  
General George Washington to  
his wounded men at Valley Forge.  
That medal is still proudly presented today  
To American soldiers wounded in battle's fray.

It honors those who served us all,  
Who fought for us when duty called.  
They left America's safe, warm womb,  
They suffered grievous combat wounds.  
In every battle and great World Wars  
Our veterans got their wounds and scars.  
No matter what their race or creed –  
All men spill red blood when they bleed.

So many veterans, when they're old  
And sick, go quietly when they go.  
Some die alone, their loved ones gone,  
They've been too lonely for too long.  
They served us gladly when we asked  
But now their serving days are past.  
Life's pleasures not within their grasp,  
They're tired and long for peace at last.

We've known so many, then and now  
With bodies bent, spirits unbowed.  
When phone calls come to say they've passed,  
We go hear bugles play their Taps.  
Another Patriot fades away,  
Receives His peace and rest today.