

**Veterans Affairs Office
of Lexington County**



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Editor: Cindy Wise

VET NEWS

June 2010

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**JUNE DATES FOR
OUTREACH PROGRAM**

June 7th: 9-12 Batesburg-Leesville
June 14th: 9-12 Chapin

Please call the office to schedule an
appointment.

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



**Stop by to see Mr. Baker at the
Lexington County
Peach Festival in
Gilbert on July 4th.**



DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 6th D-Day Anniversary (1944)
June 8th Primary Elections
June 14th Flag Day
June 20th Father's Day
June 21st Summer Begins
June 25th Korean War Began (1950)
July 4th Fourth of July
Peach Festival in Gilbert
July 5th **County Offices Closed**
No Van
July 12th Veterans Advisory Committee

Lexington County Veteran's Day Parade
 Sunday, November 7, 2010 - 3:00

 More details and application to follow
 shortly.

Memorial Day Program

On Monday, May 31 starting at 10 am, a special Memorial Day Program will be held at Caughman Harman Funeral Home, Lexington location, honoring and remembering our deceased veterans. Lexington's own, Redd Reynolds will emcee for the program which will include patriotic music, special remembrances, and speeches. Major General Robert E Livingston, Jr., member of the SC Army National Guard, is the featured speaker.

Vietnam War Anniversary Commission

The Department of Defense is setting up the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Commission. The commission is Congressionally mandated and chartered by the Department of Defense to plan and conduct this commemorative program which may include activities and ceremonies to achieve the following objectives:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War; and
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

The Commission's activities will last until 2025 and will involve Vietnam War Commemoration programs conducted by the federal government, state, and local governments, and international, commercial and private organizations.

[Source: TREA Washington Update 7 May 2010 ++]

Special Thanks

On April 24, 2010, Pisgah Lutheran Church in cooperation with operation INASMUCH provided free labor for individuals needing help with yard work or small chores around their home. Operation INASMUCH is the SC Lutheran's day of community service. These services were provided to individuals in the community who were not members of their church. Projects were started early in the morning and had to be a half to $\frac{3}{4}$ day project. Members of the church helped one veteran family with the cleaning out of the garage and outbuilding. Another team helped the widow of a veteran with yard work and the cutting down of some trees and limbs in her yard. Thanks to Pisgah Lutheran Church for helping these families.



Thanks

Change of Address and/or Contact Information

Keep your information current. Notify the correct agency to update your contact information.

For SC claims: VARO, 6437 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209
1-800-827-1000

For NSC Pension/Death Pensions: PMC, P.O. Box 42000, Philadelphia, PA 19101
1-877-294-6380

For Healthcare: DORN VAMC, 6439 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209
803-776-4000

I WANT YOU...
TO VOTE!

June 8th is the primary election for contested races. This is an important day to make decisions regarding those who will be representing us for the next few years. Voting is an issue that veterans have prided themselves on preserving. Our troops in Iraq now are setting the stage for democratic government there. It seems appropriate that we should take the necessary time out of our schedules to participate in this right which many other people have died fighting for and which many here take for granted. Get out and vote and get your family and friends to vote also, now and in November.



Remember the fathers who are away from their families.

What Makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad

Author Unknown

The History Of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially *established* by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

NON-SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY PENSION

Non-Service Connected Disability Pension is a Department of Veterans Affairs benefits program that provides financial support to wartime veterans having limited income. The amount payable under this program depends on the type and amount of income the veteran and family members receive from other sources. Monthly payments are made to bring a veteran's total annual income (including other retirement and Social Security income) to an established support level set by Congress.

Veterans with low income who are permanently and totally disabled, or who are age 65 and older, may be eligible for monetary support if they have 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. The discharge from active duty must have been under conditions other than dishonorable.

NSC Pension with Aid & Attendance income limits are: **\$19,736** per year for veteran alone or **\$23,396** per year for veteran with one dependent. The Housebound income limits are: **\$14,457** per year for veteran alone or **\$18,120** per year for veteran with one dependent. The limit for a veteran who is not in need of Housebound or Aid and Attendance is: **\$11,830** per year or **\$15,493** per year for veteran with one dependent.

Unreimbursed medical expenses may reduce countable income (EX: Medicare premium, supplemental insurance, and aid & attendance costs).

The VA shall deny payment of pension to a veteran when the corpus of the estate is such that under all circumstances, including consideration of the annual income, it is reasonable that some part of the corpus of such estate be consumed for the veteran's maintenance. Combined net worth must be below \$80,000.

A list of documents that will be needed to support your request for VA benefits.

DD 214 (Report of Separation)

Copy of Marriage License (If more than one marriage, certified copy of divorce or death certificate for each)

Certified copy of Death Certificate

Certified copy of Birth Certificate for dependent children & Social Security Numbers

Social Security Award Letter of all persons in household

Earning Statements for all persons in Household (Gross Earnings)

Other Annuity or Retirement Income (Gross Amount)

Dividends and Interest

Amount of Stocks, Bonds, and Bank Deposits

Value of Real Estate (other than home)

Name of Hospital or Drug Insurance Company & Amount of Monthly Premium

SSI Amount (if in receipt)

In the case of veteran/widow who requires the daily personal health care service of a skilled provider without which they would require hosp/nursing home care; a doctor's statement is needed to include nature of disabilities.

In the case of an individual in Assisted Living: a statement is needed on their letterhead. The statement needs to include, but not limited to:

Date of Entry

Level of care required (skilled or intermediate)

Nature of Disabilities (IE cancer, heart condition, etc.)

This statement must be signed by "an officer" of the corporation, and must include cost per day, plus doctor's and laundry service.

Voided check to checking or savings account. (If granted, VA will direct deposit 1st of the month)

Current bank statement

Reimbursement of Travel Costs

Certain veterans may be provided special mode travel (e.g. wheelchair van, ambulance) or reimbursed for travel costs when traveling for approved VA medical care. Reimbursement is paid at 41.5 cents per mile and is subject to a deductible of \$3 for each one-way trip and \$6 for a round trip; with a maximum deductible of \$18 or the amount after six one-way trips (whichever occurs first) per calendar month. Two exceptions to the deductible are travel in relation to a VA compensation or pension examination and travel requiring a special mode of transportation. The deductibles may be waived when their imposition would cause a severe financial hardship.

Eligibility: The following are eligible for VA travel:

1. Veterans whose service-connected disabilities are rated 30 percent or more.
2. Veterans traveling for treatment of service-connected conditions.
3. Veterans who receive a VA pension.
4. Veterans traveling for scheduled compensation or pension examinations.
5. Veterans whose gross household income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate.
6. Certain veterans in certain emergency situations.
7. Veterans whose medical condition requires a special mode of transportation, if they are unable to defray the costs and travel is pre-authorized. Advance authorization is not required in an emergency if a delay would be hazardous to life or health.
8. Certain non-veterans when related to care of a veteran (attendants and donors).



Honor Flight - September 1, 2010

Information at www.honorflightsc.com

803-582-8826