

Veterans Affairs Office of Lexington County



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VET NEWS

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JANUARY DATES FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Jan. 4th: 9-12 Batesburg-Leesville
Jan. 11th: 9-12 Chapin

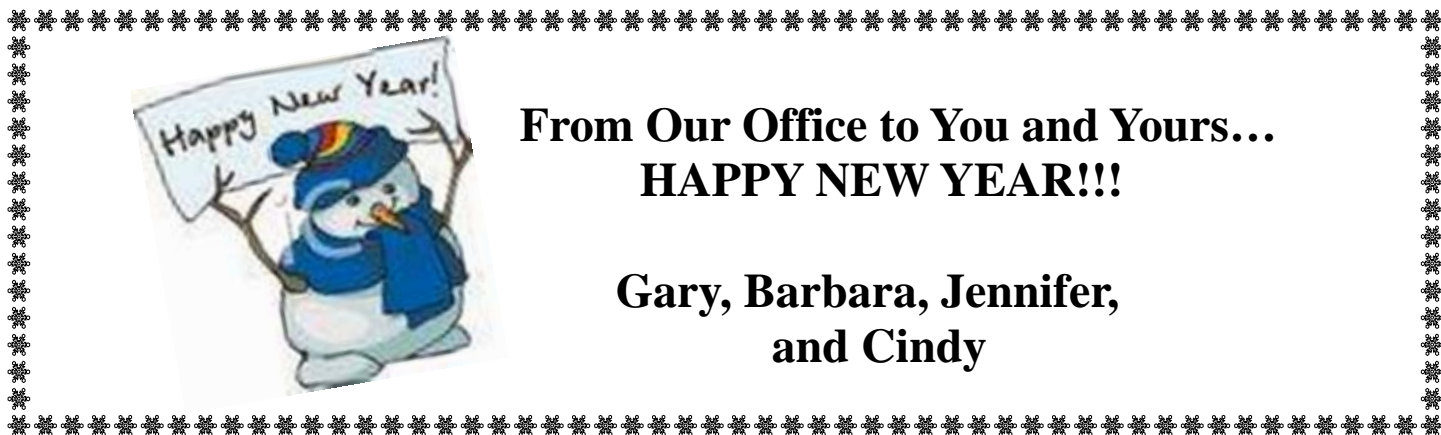
Please call the office to schedule an
appointment.

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Jan. 1st **New Year's Day**
Jan. 3rd **All County Offices**
 Closed
Jan. 17th **Martin Luther**
 King Day
 All County Offices
 Closed



**From Our Office to You and Yours...
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

**Gary, Barbara, Jennifer,
and Cindy**

REMINDER

The Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office will be closed on January 3rd in observance of New Year's Day and on January 17th for Martin Luther King Day. The DAV van **will not** run on these days.

LOOKING AHEAD...

All County Offices will be closed on February 21st in observance of Presidents' Day. The DAV Van WILL NOT be in service that day.

TIME TO SUBMIT THOSE ANNUAL REPORTS!

Anyone who receives an Eligibility Verification Report (EVR) or Medical Expense Report should call our office as soon as possible to schedule an appointment for the completion of these forms.

Once your appointment is set, please gather the following information relating to your 2010 **expenses:**

- ◇ Computer printout from pharmacy itemizing medication expenses
- ◇ Paid receipts for doctor/hospital expense, glasses and eye exams, hearing aids, dental care, over-the-counter drugs
- ◇ Itemization of total mileage accumulated while traveling to/from doctors, hospital, pharmacy
- ◇ Private Medical Insurance premiums

Also bring with you items relating to your **INCOME**, such as your Social Security 2011 award statement, checking/savings account information, IRA/stocks/bonds/mutual funds from 2010. Method of payment information for aid and attendance payment (if applicable) should be provided to us as well.

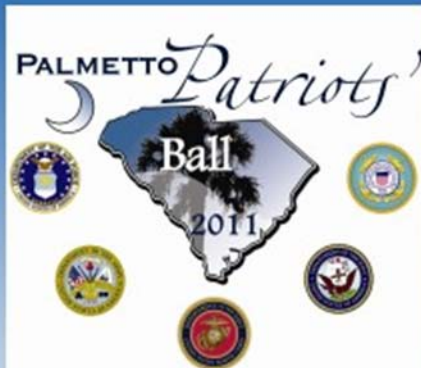
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will **not consider** canceled checks as proof of payment, nor will Explanation of Benefits Statements (EOB) or prescriptions qualify as proof of expense. These forms should be **postmarked** by March 1, 2011 to avoid interruption of compensation payments.

VA Provides Eye Glasses and Hearing Aids

Veterans who meet specific VA criteria have access to vision and hearing exams in addition to free eyeglasses and hearing aids. This benefit can save veterans hundreds. Veterans with any compensable service-connected disability, former POWs, Purple heart recipients, and certain housebound veterans are among those who qualify.

Visit this site to view the entire list of veterans who are eligible for VA eyeglasses and hearing aids:
<http://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-provided-eyeglasses-and-hearing-aids>

SAVE THE DATE...



2011 Palmetto Patriots Ball

Date: May 14, 2011



Keynote Speaker

**Lt. General Russel Honore'
US Army (Ret)**

Mission Statement:

The Blue Star Mothers of South Carolina look forward to your support and attendance at this 3rd annual Palmetto Patriots' Ball to celebrate and to benefit the Service Members, Veterans and their families in South Carolina.

The goal of this event is to allow us all to convey our pride and gratitude to our Active and Retired Members of the United States Armed Forces. We know this event will leave an indelible impression on those who attend. Those present will take home a renewed sense of pride and gratitude for the Service Members and Veterans of South Carolina.

We will recognize those who have dedicated their lives to protect our country and preserve and secure the blessing of our Liberty as we honor the South Carolina Veterans of all Military Branches.

You will visit with current and past members of our armed services. Then join together to reflect and honor our fallen service men and women. We will pause to lift up in prayer those who have not yet returned home to us.

Join us for an elegant meal with fellow South Carolinians as you are moved by our speakers and the level of patriotism that will encompass you.

There will be a silent Auction and door prizes with all proceeds being donated to this year's selected beneficiaries.

The Palmetto Patriots' Ball is hosted by the Blue Star Mothers of South Carolina, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 charity. Contributions are tax deductible under applicable laws.

WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY

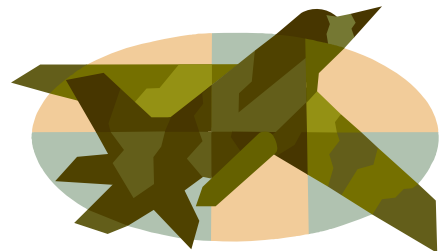


**World War II veterans Murray Price of Lexington, left and Russell Meyne of Irmo were on hand at the “We Love Our Country” Country Fair at the Shops at Flight Deck in Lexington on Saturday morning, November 13th. The event celebrated our country and the men and women that make us great, helping to raise money for The Honor Flight program to send World War II veterans to the WWII Memorial in Washington.
(source: Lexington Chronicle)**

NEXT HONOR FLIGHT SCHEDULED FOR

April 27, 2011

For more information:
www.honorflightsc.com



WE SALUTE OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

VAN DRIVER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

THANKS FOR
ALL YOU DO!

We said goodbye to Ed Gavin and wish him well. He is pictured here with Gary Baker receiving a certificate of appreciation. He will be truly missed.



Who Is A Veteran?

He is a son, or a father, or a grandfather and all the grandfathers before him who have served our country in peacetime and in war.

She is a daughter, or a mother, or a grandmother and all of the grandmothers before her who have served our country in peacetime and in war.

She is the nurse who held back her tears and smiled at the soldier who had his leg blown off and cried himself to sleep in a tent somewhere in hell.

He is the man wearing the Purple Heart who has just returned from two tours of duty in the Middle East and has yet to see his 25th birthday.

He might be the barroom loudmouth, whose frat boy behavior is far outweighed on the cosmic scales by hours of extraordinary courage under fire in a Vietnam jungle.

He is the prisoner of war who went away one person and returned another, or he did not come back at all. (There are still 90,000 MIA's from Korean and Vietnam wars.)

He is the hard-as-nails drill instructor that has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, clueless kids into Marines.

He is the cop on the beat and the firefighter on the truck who learned the meaning of "serve and protect" on battlefields in foreign countries.

He marches in parades wearing his ribbons and medals on his chest, carrying the words "duty, honor, country" in his heart.

He is the quartermaster and the cook, the clerk and the barber who will watch the medals and the ribbons pass them by.

He is the elderly guy in the check-out lane at the supermarket, shoulders now somewhat stooped, whose wife looks at him and still sees the handsome young man in uniform that she married so many years ago.

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

He represents the anonymous heroes in the Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at Arlington Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor died unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean depths.

From Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to the fields of France to World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, Bosnia and the Middle East, he is a soldier and a patriot, a guardian of liberty and a sword against darkness. He is the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

Thank you from the heart, veterans. We will not forget you, not ever.

Ruth Baldwin Williams

Swallow Cliff Chapter

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