



LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

May/June 2019



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At a Glance Calendar May/June

<p>For a list of events in Lexington County for May/June</p> <p>Weekly on Tuesdays in May</p> <p>Thursday, May 2nd</p> <p>Friday, May 3rd</p> <p>Friday, May 10th</p> <p>Saturday, May 11th</p> <p>Sunday, May 12th</p> <p>Tuesday, May 14th</p> <p>Saturday, May 18th</p> <p>Monday, May 27th</p> <p>Tuesday, May 28th</p> <p>Weekly on Tuesdays in June</p> <p>Saturday, June 1st - Friday, June 7th</p> <p>Tuesday, June 11th</p> <p>Friday, June 14th</p> <p>Sunday, June 16th</p> <p>Friday, June 21st</p> <p>Tuesday, June 25th</p>	<p>See page 21 - Happenings Around Lexington County</p> <p>Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting from 10am to 12 noon</p> <p>Gaston Outreach</p> <p>Chapin Outreach</p> <p>Confederate Memorial Day County Offices Closed</p> <p>Dang-it Doll Workshop - for more information see page 14</p> <p>Mother's Day</p> <p>County Council Meeting</p> <p>Armed Forces Day Palmetto Patriots Ball - for more information see page 10</p> <p>Memorial Day County Offices Closed See page 11 for a list of area Memorial Day events</p> <p>County Council Meeting</p> <p>Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting from 10am to 12 noon</p> <p>Annual NACVSO Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio</p> <p>County Council Meeting</p> <p>Flag Day</p> <p>Father's Day</p> <p>Summer Begins</p> <p>County Council Meeting</p>
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CALENDAR KEY

<p>Purple—Holidays/Special Days</p> <p>Blue—Outreach dates</p> <p>Red—County Offices Closed, and Special Notices</p> <p>Black—Director's appearances in the County</p>	<p>Brown—County Council Meetings</p> <p>Pink—Special Events throughout the County</p> <p>Orange—Director Out of Office</p> <p>Green—Lexington County Veterans Group Meetings</p>
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From the Director.

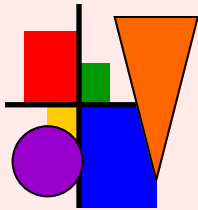
As spring is now among us with its warmer weather pollen, allergies and outside sports, let us be mindful of our children who are playing those sports. Speaking of one of them, baseball, Brook Healthcare of Chapin is again sponsoring their Veteran's event partnering with the Lexington County Blowfish. This is their third year sponsoring the event and it includes free game tickets for a Veteran and one guest along with free food and non-alcoholic beverages for both. A flyer on this event is included in this newsletter on page 7. Please contact Gail Dorroh for more information. They also need sponsors to purchase tickets in order for Veterans to attend for free. \$5.00 of each ticket is donated to a local Veteran's organization.

There are several local Memorial Day ceremonial events and we encourage you to attend one, if possible. Caughman-Harman Funeral Home, Lexington Chapel always hosts a moving event and has a guest speaker, which is open to the public. Their ceremony begins at 10am on Memorial Day (May 27) and afterward they provide a nice spread of food and drink. Fort Jackson National Cemetery also hosts an event at 9am on Memorial Day, which is open to the public. This year VFW Post 6740, located at 950 Rock N Creek Road in Leesville, hosts an emotional event. They are honoring three local Veterans who lost their lives fighting in South Vietnam. Their families have been invited and plan to attend. This event is also open to the public and I would like to thank my friend, Bob Caughman for spearheading this event.

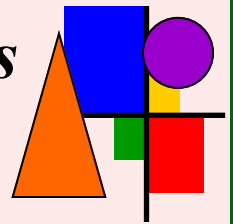
As we honor Memorial Day and those that lost their lives in defense of America, let us be reminded that freedom is not free. It is paid for with the sacrifice of our Armed Forces, past, present and future. Have a great summer!

Enjoying the journey,



100% Permanent & Total Benefits for Veterans



Veterans rated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be permanently and totally disabled (100% P&T) by reason of a service connected disability or disabilities may be eligible for some or all of the following 14 entitlements: (1) Disabled Veterans Special License Plate (V-tag); (2) Property Tax Exemption (two vehicles & home); (3) Military ID card (PX & commissary privileges); (4) Waiver of Premium for VA life Insurance; (5) Survivor's & Dependents Educational Assistance Program; (6) VA Medical Enrollment Benefits; (7) VA Dental Benefits; (8) CHAMPVA for Dependents; (9) South Carolina Education Assistance; (10) Use of Space-A-Travel; (11) Use of Armed Forces Recreational Centers; (12) Forgiveness of Certain Federal Student Loans; (13) Free Admittance to National Parks; and (14) Reduced Admission Price to SC State Parks. There are an additional three benefits that ALL Veterans are entitled to. They are: (1) Long-term Care in Certain Facilities; (2) Use of State VA Nursing Homes; and (3) SC Hunting & Fishing Licenses. The VA Regional Office (VARO) will provide a summary of benefits letter upon request. You will need to call the VARO at 1-800-827-1000 to obtain this letter prior to applying for these benefits and the letters will usually take five to seven working days. They may also be obtained from ebenefits.va.gov, but you must be enrolled before hand. You can also request property tax exemption letters for your home and vehicle from our office. These are signed by the County VA Director with a copy of your current rating decision. The summary of benefits letter must contain your name and current address, the date the VA regional office awarded you 100% P&T benefits, and be signed.

Disabled Veterans Special License Plates

Disabled Veteran Tag or "D" Tag:

This plate is a free and permanent license plate and is available to individuals who submit proper certification from the Veterans Administration. Applicants must complete DMV Form MV-37 Application for Military License Plate and provide a letter or other documentation from the U.S., Regional or County Veterans Administration certifying that he or she is a war time disabled Veteran who: (1) is entitled to compensation for the loss of use of one or both legs or arms, or (2) as a permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to a degree as to constitute virtual blindness and is entitled to a special monthly statutory award by reason thereof, or (3) is a SC Veteran classified as totally and permanently disabled due to service-connected disabilities as determined from the medical records on file with the VA. There is a limit of two plates per applicant; either two vehicle plates, two motorcycle plates or one of each. The applicant cannot have four plates. These plates allow for free parking at municipal parking meters (SC Code of Laws 56-5-2585) but DOES NOT allow parking in designated handicapped (wheelchair) parking spaces. In order to be able to park in a designated handicapped parking space, qualified disabled Veterans must have a Disabled Veteran Handicapped plate displaying a wheelchair emblem.



Disabled Veteran Handicapped Tag:

To obtain this plate, applicants must ALSO be certified permanently handicapped by a licensed physician on DMV form RG-007A Disabled License Plate and Placard Application and provide a prescription order from a licensed physician. There is a limit of two plates per applicant; either two vehicle plates, two motorcycle plates or one of each. The applicant cannot have four plates. This plate allows free parking at municipal parking meters (SC Code of Laws 56-5-2585) AND ALSO allows parking in designated handicapped (wheelchair) parking spaces.



Continued on page 4

100% Permanent & Total Benefits continued from page 3

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Vehicle Tax Exemption

In accordance to SC Law 56-3-110, no more than two personal motor vehicles owned or leased by a disabled Veteran for which special license tags have been issued by the SC Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) shall be exempt from state, county, and municipal taxes. A "D" tag is not required for the vehicle(s) to be tax exempt. The SC Department of Revenue will issue a Certificate of Exemption of Property for each vehicle.

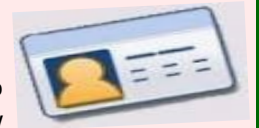


Home Tax Exemption

In accordance to SC Law 12-37-220, a dwelling and the lot (up to five acres) on which it is situated is exempt from real property taxes by state, county or municipality. The effective date of the tax exemption is dependent upon the ownership of the property on December 31st of the year prior to the Veteran being rated as permanent and totally disabled. The SC Department of Revenue will issue a Certificate of Exemption of Property and will forward it to the Lexington County Auditor's office.

MILITARY ID CARD

Unlimited exchange and commissary store privileges in the United States are available to a 100% service connected P&T disabled Veteran or 100% Veterans who have a future exam. The summary of benefits letter must contain the number of dependents that are listed on your award. Military ID cards may be issued to dependents age 10 or older. For locations to obtain this contact our office.



WAIVER OF PREMIUM FOR VA LIFE INSURANCE

Disabled Veterans rated 0% or greater are offered the opportunity to acquire Disabled Veterans Insurance to a maximum face amount of \$10,000. If 100% P&T the maximum face amount is \$20,000. A 100% P&T disabled Veteran may have premiums waived as long as the Veteran is under 65 years of age.



SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition. Benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. You may receive up to 45 months of education benefits, if you began using the program before August 1, 2018. If you began your program on August 1, 2018 or after, you have 36 months to use your benefits. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, some DEA beneficiaries may be eligible for up to 81 months of GI Bill benefits if they use the DEA program in conjunction with an entitlement from other VA education programs. For more information visit their website at: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/DEA.asp>



VA MEDICAL ENROLLMENT

If you have service-connected disabilities rated 0% to 100% disabling or are unemployable and paid at the 100% rate due to service-connected conditions, then you are eligible for enrollment in VA healthcare. For enrollment you will need to take a copy of your decision letter; DD214; and completed VA Medical form 10-10ez (Application for Health Benefits) to the nearest VA Medical Center.



VA DENTAL CARE

If you have service-connected disabilities rated 100% disabling or are unemployable and paid at the 100% rate due to service-connected conditions, then you are eligible for dental care through the VA healthcare system. This benefit is for Class I through Class IV dental care. Benefits include basic dental care, basic & major restorative and orthodontics. To qualify, you must first be enrolled in VA healthcare.



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100% Permanent & Total Benefits continued from page 4

CHAMPVA FOR DEPENDENTS

CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Veterans Administration) is a healthcare benefits program for: (1) Dependents of Veterans who have been rated by the VA as having a total and permanent disability; (2) Survivors of Veterans who died from VA-rated service-connected conditions, or who at the time of death, were rated permanently and totally disabled from a VA-rated service-connected condition; and (3) Survivors of persons who died in the line of duty, and not due to misconduct.

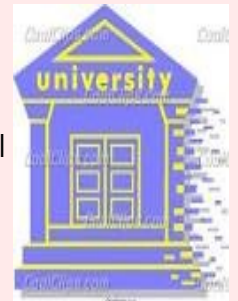


CHAMPVA is a separate healthcare program and **is not** healthcare at a VA medical center. You would need to call the CHAMPVA number at (800) 733-8387, to find a list of doctors in your area. Under CHAMPVA, the VA shares the cost of covered healthcare services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. The administration of CHAMPVA is centralized to the Health Administration Center in Denver, Colorado. In general, CHAMPVA covers most healthcare services and supplies that are medically and psychologically necessary. Upon confirmation of eligibility, applicants will receive program material that specifically addresses covered and non covered services and supplies. For more information contact the Health Administration Center at (800) 733-8387.

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

A child of a wartime Veteran, upon application to and approval by the South Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs, may be admitted to any state supported college, university, or post high school technical education institution free of tuition so long as his work and conduct is satisfactory to the governing body of the institution provided:

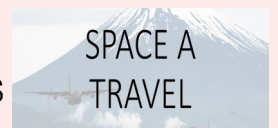
- the Veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entry into service and during service or has been a resident of this state for at least one year and still resides in this state, or
- if the Veteran is deceased, resided in this state for one year before his death, and
- provided the Veteran served honorably in a branch of the military service of the United States during a war period, and:
 1. was killed in action;
 2. died from other causes while in the service;
 3. died of disease or disability resulting from service;
 4. was a Prisoner of War as defined by Congress or Presidential proclamation during such war period;
 5. is permanently and totally disabled as determined by the VA
 6. has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor;
 7. has been awarded the Purple Heart Medal;
 8. is missing in action; or
 9. the applicant is the child of a deceased Veteran who qualifies under items 4 and 5.



For more information, eligibility requirements and a list of state supported institutions, obtain an application form from the County Veterans Affairs Office or write The Governor's Office, Division of Veterans Affairs, VA Regional Office, 6437 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209.

USE OF SPACE-A TRAVEL

A Veteran that is rated 100% P&T is entitled to Space-A travel in the continental US and US territories. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2018 authorizes this privilege. For more information, please visit their website at: <http://www.spacea.net/faqs/spacea-eligibility>.



USE OF ARMED FORCES RECREATIONAL CENTERS

A Veteran that is rated 100% P&T is entitled to the use of Armed Forces Recreational Centers in Orlando, Florida and Oahu, Hawaii. There are more facilities in both Germany and South Korea but they require additional eligibility. For more information, please visit their website at: www.armywr.com/travel/armed-forces-hotels-resorts.



Continued on page 6

100% Permanent & Total Benefits continued from page 5

FORGIVENESS OF CERTAIN FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS

Types of Loans Forgiven: William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program; Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program; Federal Perkins Loan (Perkins Loan) Program ; and TEACH Grant service obligation. Before your federal student loans or TEACH Grant service obligation can be discharged, you must provide information to the US Department of Education (ED) to show that you are totally and permanently disabled. The ED will evaluate the information and determine if you qualify for a total and permanent disability (TPD) discharge. You can submit documentation from the VA showing that the VA has determined that you are unemployable due to a service-connected disability. You can let the Nelnet Total and Permanent Disability Servicer know that you want to apply by phone or email. You can call Nelnet seven days a week at 1-888-303-7818 from 8am to 8pm EST. You can email them at disabilityinformation@nelnet.net.



FREE ADMITTANCE TO NATIONAL PARKS

You will be issued a Golden Access Passport. This pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity. For more information visit the National Park Service on the web at www.nps.gov/findapark/passess.htm.



REDUCED ADMISSION TO STATE PARKS

Any South Carolina resident who is a 100% P&T disabled Veteran may enter any state park at a reduced rate upon presentation of supporting disability documentation. The Veteran may also apply for a reduced fee "Palmetto Passport." Certain services may require an additional fee. For more information, call South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism at 803.734.0156, or visit them on the web at www.southcarolinaparks.com.



THREE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO ALL VETERANS:

LONG-TERM CARE IN CERTAIN FACILITIES

Veterans rated 70% disabled or higher by the VA qualifies for long-term care in certain facilities at no charge. For more information, please contact your VA medical center doctor and team social worker.



USE OF STATE VA NURSING HOMES

There are three facilities in South Carolina: the E. Roy Stone Veterans Pavilion, which is located in Columbia, the Richard Michael Campbell Veterans Nursing Home in Anderson, and the Veterans' Victory House in Walterboro. Admission to these facilities is limited to Veterans who have been separated from the U.S. Armed Forces under general or honorable conditions and qualify as South Carolina residents who are in need of skilled or intermediate nursing home care. For more information, please contact your VA medical center team social worker or visit the website at <http://va.sc.gov/nursing.html>.

SC HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

Veterans of SC may apply for a disability license by mail or in person at a Department of Natural Resources (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, or Department of Veterans Affairs. In order to qualify for a disability license you must have been a resident of SC 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 last 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. To obtain an application visit DNR's website at <http://dnr.sc.gov/regs/pdf/disabilitylicense.pdf>. Their contact number for licensing is (803) 734-3833).



BASEBALL TICKETS FOR VETS FUNDRAISER!



Brook Health Care, LLC
...meeting your everyday needs everyday

June 1st | 7:05PM First Pitch| Lexington County Baseball Stadium
474 Ball Park Road, Lexington, SC

\$15.00 per ticket gifts a local Veteran a ticket to the game honoring them with a wristband for an all you can eat buffet!

For each ticket sold, the Lexington County Blowfish are giving Brook Healthcare \$5.00 to donate to our choice of Veteran Organization. We have chosen to donate to Hidden Wounds, a South Carolina Outreach organization. Hidden Wounds is a non-profit that helps veterans battling combat stress at home.

You may purchase tickets for yourself or to send a Veteran to the game. Checks should be made directly to the Lexington Blowfish and sent to Brook Healthcare's office PO Box 484 Chapin, 29036. Tickets must be picked up at Brook Healthcare at 200 Clark St. Chapin, SC 29036. Receipts will be provided for your donation.

Any business, organization or individual who purchases 10 or more tickets will be acknowledged in our advertising.



Please Call Gail Dorroh, Community Relations for Brook Healthcare

Office: (803)-941-7231 Cell: (803)-924-4871

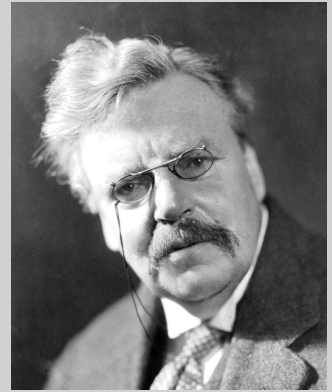
And thank you for supporting our South Carolina Veterans!

Did you know?

The VA has a new suicide hotline number. It is 1-855-948-2311.



“The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.”



– G.K. Chesterton



May is National Lupus Awareness Month!

June is National Child Vision 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 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 May & June?



May 1, 1931 - The Empire State Building officially opened.



May 4, 1494 - Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica during his second journey of exploration in the New World.



May 6, 1937 - The German airship, the Hindenburg, burst into flames following a trans-Atlantic voyage.

May 7, 1992 - The 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, prohibiting Congress from giving itself pay raises.

May 12, 1820 - British nurse and public health activist Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy.



May 14, 1607 - The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia.

May 17, 1875 - The first Kentucky Derby horse race took place at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky.



May 18, 1980 - The volcano, Mount St. Helens, erupted in southwestern Washington State.

May 20, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act opening millions of acres of government owned land in the west to "homesteaders".



May 21, 1881 - The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton.

May 27, 1837 - Legendary Wild West figure Wild Bill Hickok was born in Troy Grove, Illinois.

June 1, 1926 - Marilyn Monroe was born in Los Angeles, CA.

June 4, 1989 - The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China.



June 6, 1944 - D-Day, began as Allied forces landed in Normandy, France.

June 10, 1922 - Judy Garland was born in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

June 11, 1923 - American football coach Vince Lombardi was born in Brooklyn, New York.

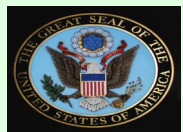


June 14, 1777 - John Adams introduced a resolution before Congress mandating a United States flag. This anniversary is celebrated each year as Flag Day.

June 18, 1983 - Dr. Sally Ride became the first American woman in space.



June 20, 1782 - The U.S. Congress officially adopted the Great Seal of the United States of America.

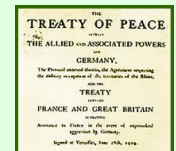


June 24, 1895 - Boxing champ Jack Dempsey was born in Manassa, Colorado.

June 25, 1876 - General George A. Custer attacked an encampment of Sioux Indians near Little Bighorn River in Montana. This became known as 'Custer's Last Stand'.



June 28, 1919 - The signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I.



The Midlands Chapter of Blue Star Mothers presents
the 10th Annual



A Salute to South Carolina Patriots
Saturday, May 18 2019
NCO Club Fort Jackson - Columbia

**Now is your chance to say thank you to South Carolina's
Military and Veterans by supporting and attending the
Midlands Chapter of Blue Star Mothers' Palmetto Patriots' Ball.**

The Palmetto Patriots' Ball is hosted by the Midlands Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. and is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization.

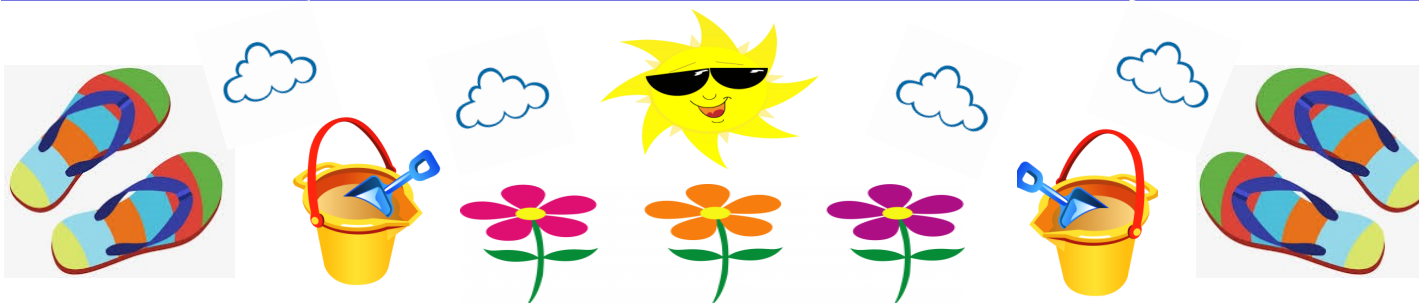
Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Independent Living and In Home Care

Nursing homes provide residential care for elderly or disabled people that often includes around-the-clock nursing care. A nursing home is a place for people who do not need to be in a hospital but cannot be cared for at home. Most nursing homes have nursing aides and skilled nurses on hand 24 hours a day. Nursing homes may also be referred to as convalescent care, skilled nursing or a long-term facility.

Assisted living is a service for people who need help with the activities of daily living (ADLs). Assisted living facilities are special facilities that span the gap between independent living and nursing homes. These facilities may be temporary or long-term housing. Staff members, including at least one medical professional (typically a certified nurse practitioner), are on call 24 hours a day in most AL residences. However, assisted living communities do not provide intensive hands-on care or skilled nursing care for older adults with serious mental or physical ailments.

Independent living facilities are an alternative to traditional housing, providing seniors who are in good health and maintain a fairly active lifestyle, a senior-focused community featuring specialized accommodation, services, and organized social activities. Independent living communities aim to make their residents' day-to-day lives a bit easier, thus enabling them to live on their own for as long as possible. The services Independent Living provides are aimed at minimizing seniors' daily responsibilities, not assisting with activities of daily living (ADLs). However, they do not have full-time staff dedicated to providing custodial or medical care.

In-home care, also known as homecare, is nonmedical care provided in the client's home. It includes custodial care for elderly people and assistance with activities of daily living such as eating, bathing and providing medication reminders.



Memorial Day Happenings

- 9am** Memorial Day Ceremony at Fort Jackson Cemetery. For more information contact the cemetery @ 866-577-5248.
- 10am** Memorial Day Ceremony at Fort Jackson Headquarters. This includes a 21 gun salute. For more information contact Fort Jackson Army Community Service @ 803-751-5256.
- 10am** Memorial Day Program at Caughman-Harman Funeral Home in Lexington. For more information see their flyer on page 20 or contact the funeral home @ 803-359-6118.
- 10 am** Honor & Remembrance Ceremony at Lake Murray VFW Post 6740. For more information see their flyer on page 15.



The History of the Empire State Building

On May 1, 1931, President Herbert Hoover officially dedicated New York City's Empire State Building, pressing a button from the White House that turned on the building's lights. Hoover's gesture, of course, was symbolic; while the president remained in Washington, D.C., someone else flicked the switches in New York.

The idea for the Empire State Building is said to have been born of a competition between Walter Chrysler of the Chrysler Corporation and John Jakob Raskob of General Motors, to see who could erect the taller building. Chrysler had already begun work on the famous Chrysler Building, the gleaming 1,046-foot skyscraper in midtown Manhattan. Not to be bested, Raskob assembled a group of well-known investors, including former New York Governor Alfred E. Smith. The group chose the architecture firm Shreve, Lamb and Harmon Associates to design the building. The Art-Deco plans, said to have been based in large part on the look of a pencil, were also builder-friendly: The entire building went up in just over a year, under budget (at \$40 million) and well ahead of schedule. During certain periods of building, the frame grew an astonishing four-and-a-half stories a week. The building has a roof height of 1,250 feet and stands a total of 1,454 feet tall, including its antenna. Its name is derived from "Empire State", the nickname of New York, which is of unknown origin.



At the time of its completion, the Empire State Building, at 102 stories and 1,250 feet high (1,454 feet to the top of the lightning rod), was the world's tallest skyscraper. The Depression-era construction employed as many as 3,400 workers on any single day, most of whom received an excellent pay rate, especially given the economic conditions of the time. The new building imbued New York City with a deep sense of pride, desperately needed in the depths of the Great Depression, when many city residents were unemployed and prospects looked bleak. The grip of the Depression on New York's economy was still evident a year later, however, when only 25 percent of the Empire State's offices had been rented.

The Empire State Building is an American cultural icon and has been featured in more than 250 TV shows and movies since the film King Kong was released in 1933. A symbol of New York City, the tower has been named as one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Empire State Building and its ground-floor interior have been designated as a city landmark by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.



In 1972, the Empire State Building lost its title as world's tallest building to New York's World Trade Center, which itself was the tallest skyscraper for but a year. Today the honor belongs to Dubai's Burj Khalifa tower, which soars 2,717 feet into the sky.



Everybody has a mother and absolutely no one is more special than

mom. Sure, dad is really important. And, grandparent's too. But moms, well they are just the greatest. Often taken for granted, they are always our strongest supporter. You can't do wrong in Mom's eyes. When you are hurt, or not feeling well....there is no one else that can help you more than Mom.

So go out and celebrate Mother's Day. First and foremost, spend time with her. If you absolutely cannot be there, take time for a long phone call. Flowers, cards, candy and gifts are all part of the day. But, mom wants some time with you far more than anything else.

A day to honor Dad. NO. Rather, it is a day to enjoy time with Dad and appreciate all he does for you. What Dad really wants is healthy, happy and successful kids. And, he wants you to spend a few moments with him on Father's Day. Today's life style is busy for both dads and kids. So, a little time with dad on Father's Day is just what he wants.

A Father is more than the biological paternal source of our being. It is the person who cares and provides for us. It is the man who helps to set the standards, the family values and the example. So, add to this group, step fathers and other men who willingly and eagerly accept and cherish the role. Whether biological, adopted or informally, if they are the father figure to you, give him some recognition today and don't hesitate to call him "Dad".



The VA National Cemetery Administration partners with Carry The Load to honor Veterans and their families

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that its National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is partnering with Carry The Load, a nonprofit organization that provides active ways to connect Americans to the sacrifices made daily by the U.S. military, Veterans, first responders and their families.

NCA will participate in Carry The Load's Memorial May awareness campaign, which covers 40 states, leading up to Memorial Day 2019. Participants will march or ride bicycles in an 11,500-mile national relay along three routes — East Coast, West Coast and Midwest — handing off an American flag every few miles. Each participant walks or rides to "carry the load" for a deceased military service member or Veteran, remembering them and honoring their sacrifice. Twenty-six VA national cemeteries in 17 states will serve as relay points for Carry The Load memorial marches.

The VA is delighted to partner with Carry The Load in this important initiative of honoring those who sacrificed for our freedom to ensure no Veteran ever dies and nowhere is the sacrifice made by our Veterans more evident than in our national cemeteries.

DID YOU KNOW... The VAMC Dorn has "Red Coat Ambassadors". They are there to help guide Veterans and families through the hospital. These are paid positions with the hospital. Generally, they are located in all the large waiting areas, entrances and throughout the hospital.



The April Showers Bring May Flowers





Appointments are strongly encouraged to meet with our Veterans Benefits Counselors. You can call 803-785-8400 to schedule an appointment. Please allow 48 hours for a return call.

Reminder

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 Gregory M. Charlton, Samuel E. Owns, Steve Massingale, and Ted Perry. These individuals volunteered their time to say the Pledge of Allegiance during the months of March & April.

THANKS



Lexington County Offices will be closed on the following days:

Friday, May 10th - Confederate Memorial Day

Monday, May 29th - Memorial Day



Dang-it Dolls Workshops

Saturday, May 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.

Come for an hour, or spend the day. All help is appreciated. If you are a student, and need community service hours for class credit, please keep us in mind.

THERE WILL BE NO WORKSHOPS IN JUNE, JULY & AUGUST!!

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. The average cost of shipping a box of 25 to 30 dolls is \$35.00.

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

Help us remember-

Three Comrades from Leesville/Lake Murray
KIA in Vietnam 1968-69

- PFC MARION LUTHER OXNER, USA, 11 SEP 68
- PFC ALVIN JOSEPH DERRICK, USMC, 3 FEB 69
- SP4 RANDY DEWITT OLIVER, USA, 1 MAY 69



**Also remembering 176 other Lexington County Heroes Who Have Laid
Down Their Lives in Foreign Military Service to America ~
World War I thru Operation Enduring Freedom**

Lake Murray VFW Post 6740
950 Rock 'N Creek Road
Leesville, SC 29070

Monday, May 27 ~ 10 am



A Time to Remember

**Memorial Day
is a time to remember,
to honor and show our respect
For all men and women
who gave up their lives
for the country they fought to protect.
Although we cannot
picture all of their faces
nor recognize each person's name,
we give thanks today for
those brave United States soldiers.
When called by our country, they came.**

*Class
of 2019*

***Congratulations to all
Lexington County Graduates
for their accomplishments
and hard work!!***

Direct Deposit

What is the fastest way to enroll or make a change to your Direct Deposit? The fastest way is to call 1-800-827-1000. They will be able to change it over the phone. To enroll you will need to know your routing and account number along with the amount that is being deposited. If you are changing your direct deposit, you will need to know your old routing and account number along with your new information.



Did you know...

Any National Guard member or Reservist who is entitled to retired pay for non-regular service or, would be entitled to retired pay for non-regular service, now has Veteran status. To see if you qualify for any benefits, check with your local VA regional office.



Memorial Day is officially celebrated on the last Monday during the month of May. Memorial Day is dedicated to service men and women who gave their lives for freedom and country. It is also a time to remember loved ones who have passed away. The roots of Memorial Day observance, goes back to 1865 and the end of the Civil War.

Memorial Day was traditionally held on the 30th of May. In 1971, Congress changed it to the last Monday, in order to afford a three day holiday weekend. Regardless of the date, we encourage you follow Memorial Day tradition: attend a parade, and visit a cemetery to honor and remember our servicemen and women. Take time to remember lost loved ones in whatever way you feel appropriate.

Did you Know? Memorial Day was first called Decoration Day. It was changed to Memorial Day in 1882.

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.



For further information, please visit their website at lex-coveteransgroup.com or contact our office at 803-785-8400.

Veteran Wives Support Group

Meets 1st Friday of each month

2 to 4pm

Crossroads Counseling Center

130A Whiteford Way

Lexington, SC 29072

The VA ensures Veterans have same-day access to emergency mental health care

As part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) efforts to provide the best mental health care access possible, the VA is reminding Veterans that it offers all Veterans same-day access to emergency mental health care at any VA health care facility across the country. Providing same-day 24/7 access to mental health crisis intervention and support for Veterans, service members and their families is the VA's top clinical priority. It's important that all Veterans, their family and friends know that help is easily available.

The VA's Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention is the national leader in making high-quality mental health care and suicide prevention resources available to Veterans through a full spectrum of outpatient, inpatient and telemental health services. Additionally, the VA has developed the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, which reflects the department's vision for a coordinated effort to prevent suicide among all service members and Veterans. This strategy maintains the VA's focus on high-risk individuals in health care settings, while also adopting a broad public health approach to suicide prevention.

Veterans in crisis or those concerned about one, should call the Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 and press 1, send a text message to 838255 or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net.

May is National Strawberry Month!



June is National Dairy Month!



FLAG DAY June 14th



Flag Day, is a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag, its designers and makers. Our flag is representative of our independence and our unity as a nation.....one nation, under God, indivisible. Our flag has a proud and glorious history. It was at the lead of every battle fought by Americans. Many people have died protecting it. It even stands proudly on the surface of the moon.

As Americans, we have every right to be proud of our culture, our nation, and our flag. So raise the flag today and every day with pride!

Care and handling of the American flag is steeped in tradition and respect. There is a right way and a wrong way to display the flag. This is called Flag Etiquette. The American flag should be held in the highest of regards. It represents our nation and the many people who gave their lives for our country and our flag. Here are the basics on displaying the American flag:

Properly Display Our Flag

- The flag is normally flown from sunrise to sunset.
- In the morning, raise the flag briskly. At sunset, lower it slowly. Always, raise and lower it ceremoniously.
- The flag should not be flown at night without a light on it.
- The flag should not be flown in the rain or inclement weather.
- After a tragedy or death, the flag is flown at half staff for 30 days. It's called "half staff" on land ,and "half mast" on a ship.
- When flown vertically on a pole, the stars and blue field , or "union", is at the top and at the end of the pole (away from your house).
- The American flag is always flown at the top of the pole. Your state flag and other flags fly below it.
- The union is always on top. When displayed in print, the stars and blue field are always on the left.
- Never let your flag touch the ground, never...period.
- Fold your flag when storing. Don't just stuff it in a drawer or box.
- When your flag is old and has seen better days, it is time to retire it. Old flags should be burned or buried. Please do not throw it in the trash.

Did you Know? There is a very special ceremony for retiring the flag by burning it. It is a ceremony everyone should see. Your local Boy Scout group knows the proper ceremony and performs it on a regular basis. If you have an old flag, give it to them. And, attend the ceremony.



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.



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.

Did You Know...



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



MEMORIAL DAY IS ONLY ONCE A YEAR
but our gratitude is endless.



Please join us for a special Memorial Day event in honor and celebration of those who have proudly served our country.



Memorial Day Service
May 27, 2018 10:00 AM
Caughman Harman Funeral Home
503 North Lake Drive, Lexington, SC 29072

Please join us for refreshments after the service

For more information or to RSVP, please contact
803-359-6118

Dignity

☩ LIFE WELL CELEBRATED ☩

Caughman Harman Funeral Homes
LEXINGTON * CHAPIN * WEST COLUMBIA
WWW.CAUGHMANHARMANFUNERALHOME.NET

Happenings Around Lexington County

During the Months of May & June

Saturday, May 4th

Pickin' & Piggin'

Saluda Shoals Park; 11am to 2:30pm
For more information, visit their website at icrc.net/pickin-piggin or call 803-731-5208.



Sunday, May 5th

Spring Open House

At the Lexington County Museum; 2 to 5 pm For more information visit their website at lex-co.com or call 803-359-8369.

**Spring
OPEN HOUSE**

Thursday, May 9th
through
Saturday, May 11th

SC Poultry Festival

Main Street, Leesville; 8am to 10pm
For more information, visit their website at scpoultryfestival.com.



Friday, May 10th
through
Friday, August 9th

Twilight in the Garden

Riverbanks Zoo Botanical Garden; Fridays only - 6 to dusk
For more information, visit their website at riverbanks.org/events or call 803-779-8717.



Saturday, May 11th

Lexington Wine Walk on Main

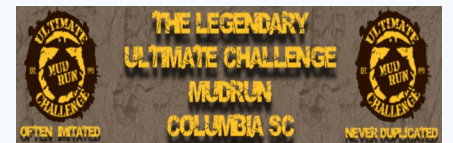
Icehouse Amphitheater, West Main Street; 6 to 10pm
For more information, visit their website at lexingtonwinewalk.com.



Saturday, May 18th

25th Annual Ultimate Challenge Mud Run

Valley Ridge Road, Gaston; 8:30am to 12pm For more Information visit their website at ultimatechallengemudrun.org or call 803-477-0541.



Thursday, May 30th
through
Saturday, August 3rd

Lexington Blowfish Baseball Season

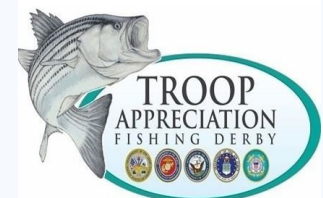
Lexington County Baseball Stadium; Games start at 7:05pm For more information, visit their website at gblowfishbaseball.com.



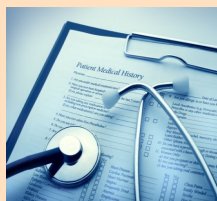
Wednesday, June 5th

Lake Murray Troop Appreciation Fishing Derby

Pine Island Country Club
For more information, visit their website at lakemurraycountry.com or call 803-781-6491.



News Tidbits from the VA & Dorn VAMC



The VA will release new capabilities this summer providing Veterans who receive care at the VA with the ability to access their personal medical data using the Health Records on iPhone feature from Apple. Veterans will see an aggregated view of their allergies, conditions, immunizations, lab results, medications, procedures and vitals in the Health app on their iPhone. Health Records on iPhone also brings together hospitals and clinics outside the VA with the existing Apple Health app. Veterans can see their available medical data from multiple providers, including the VA, whenever they choose. This new capability has been made possible through the recently announced Veterans Health Application Programming Interface (Veterans Health API). This Veterans Health API allows Veterans to access their health records within innovative applications on their mobile devices or in their web browser.

ANNUAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Veterans who wear or use a qualifying prescribed prosthetic or orthopedic appliance and/or prescription medication for a service connected disability or skin condition may be eligible for an annual clothing allowance. To be eligible, the appliance must wear or tear clothing, or medication must irreparably damage the Veteran's outer-garments. Effective December 16, 2011, Veterans who wear or use more than one qualifying prescribed prosthetic or orthopedic appliance and/or prescription medication for more than one service-connected disability or skin condition may be eligible for more than one clothing allowance. To be eligible for more than one clothing allowance, the qualifying appliances must wear or tear more than one type of article of the Veteran's clothing and/or medications must irreparably damage more than one type of the Veteran's clothing or outer-garment. Appliances such as an artificial limb, rigid brace, wheelchair, crutches or other appliance prescribed for the Veteran's service-connected disability are included. Non-rigid appliances, such as knee, ankle, or elbow sleeves are not included. Any medication prescribed for a service connected skin condition that causes permanent stains or otherwise damages the Veteran's outer garments is included. Clothing such as shirts, blouses, pants, skirts, shorts and similar garments permanently damaged by qualifying appliances and/or medications are considered in clothing allowance decisions. Shoes, hats, scarves, underwear, socks, and similar garments are not included.

The application form for the clothing allowance is VA Form 10-8678 APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE. Clothing allowance claims should be forwarded to the VA Medical Center (VAMC) or Outpatient Clinic (OPC) of jurisdiction, for the attention of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service.

To be eligible for the 2019 clothing allowance, the Veteran must be found to meet the eligibility requirements as of August 1, 2019. At the end of July 2019, computer generated letter/applications will be issued to Veterans whose records are set to require annual redetermination of clothing allowance eligibility. The 2019 clothing allowance payments for Veterans who have been authorized recurring payments and for others whose awards are input on or before the last processing cycle of August, will be issued from September 1st to October 31st. If you have not received your payment by October 31st, you should contact your local prosthetic representative. Payments authorized after the last processing cycle of August will be made by out-of-system payment processing and should go out about 7 - 10 days after authorization. The 2019 clothing allowance is \$817.48. Veterans who are receiving their compensation payments by direct deposit will receive the clothing allowance payment by direct deposit. Veterans without direct deposit will receive their clothing allowance payments by check to the same address as their compensation payments. A Veteran receiving military retired pay is not required to waive any portion of his/her retired pay to receive the clothing allowance.

World War II D-day Invasion June 6th



On this historic day in 1944, Allied troops invaded the beaches of Normandy, France. It is the largest amphibious assault in world history. This massive, bloody battle was the turning point of the war in the European theater.

On this day, 156,000 troops from the United States, Great Britain and Canada stormed five beaches. American troops landed on Omaha and Utah beach. At the same time, British troops landed on Gold and Sword beach. And, Canadian forces landed on Juno Beach. 4,000 Allied troops died on these beaches on D-Day, 2,000 of them were American.

Please take a moment of silence today, and thank the many soldiers who fought and died for our country on D-Day.



Summer

May Birth Month Flower: The Lily of the Valley

The fragrant lily of the valley signifies sweetness, humility, and a return to happiness.

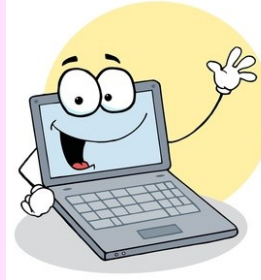


June Birth Month Flower: The Rose



The rose is considered a symbol of balance. The beauty of this flower expresses promise, hope, and new beginnings. It is contrasted by thorns symbolizing defense, loss, and thoughtlessness.

DID YOU KNOW...



Copies of all of our newsletters can be found on the Lexington County website at 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 May and no outreach at any location for the month of June.

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

Website

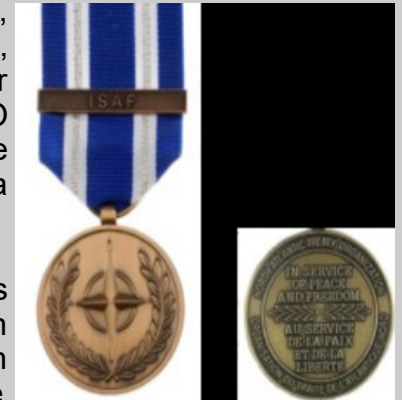
Featured Medal:

NATO Medal

The **NATO Medal** is an international military decoration which is awarded to various militaries of the world under the authority of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It is manufactured by Eekelers - Centini, International, of Hemiksem, Belgium. There are currently ten versions of the NATO Medal in existence, for service in Yugoslavia, Kosovo, the Republic of Macedonia, two for service during Article 5 operations (Eagle Assist, Active Endeavour), and four for Non-Article 5 NATO operations (ISAF, Balkans, NTM-Iraq, and Pakistan). In addition, there are corresponding clasps for operations such as ISAF, Kosovo, Yugoslavia, NTM-Iraq (NATO Training Mission-Iraq) and clasps designating Article 5, and Non-Article 5 designations. There is also a NATO Meritorious Service Medal, with a "Meritorious Service" clasp.

Non-Article 5 Medal

For U.S. Forces, eligibility for the Non-Article 5 Medal for the Balkans remains the same as those previous NATO medals with the exception of the dates of service. Those members entering the Balkan theatre on or after January 1, 2003 will be eligible for the Non-Article 5 medal. The service must be 30 days either continuous or accumulated. Aircrew members will accumulate one day of service for the first sortie flown during any day of the operation. Additional sorties on the same day will receive no further credit. The Balkans area is delineated as the political boundaries and airspace of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Yugoslavia (including Kosovo), the Republic of Macedonia, and Albania, based on the detailed description contained in the SFOR, KFOR, and TF Fox OPLANS. Service members who are entitled to more than one NATO medal during the same period will only be awarded one NATO Medal. The NATO chain of command will deem which medal is appropriate. This medal may also be awarded with the "ISAF" clasp for service in Afghanistan, as well as the "NTM-I" clasp for service in Iraq for NATO forces. For U.S. Forces the eligibility for the Non-Article 5 Medal for service with the ISAF are those who are members of units or staffs as set out in the Joint Operations Area taking part in operations in Afghanistan. The area of eligibility is delineated by the political boundaries of the International Security and Assistance Force. The service must be a minimum of 30 days either continuous or accumulated, from June 1, 2003 to a date to be determined. The British Government allows its soldiers to accept, but not wear the medal officially, unlike many other NATO member forces who allow their soldiers to wear the medal. On July 24 2012, The Department of Defense announced that NATO medals for operations in Libya and Africa have been approved for acceptance and wear by eligible U.S. service members and DOD civilian personnel.



Picture of the NATO medal

Coming in the Next Issue...

National Guard and Reservists Benefits,

VA life insurance, home loans