

Veterans Affairs Office of Lexington County

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EDITOR: *Debbie Myers*



VET NEWS

September 2007

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DIRECTOR

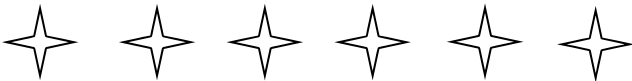
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Dates To Remember

- Sept. 3rd Labor Day-
County Offices **Closed**
- Sept. 11th Patriot Day
- Sept. 11th Terrorist Attacks on
U.S. (2001)
- Sept. 17th Constitution Day
- Sept. 23rd Autumn Begins



DORN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

The DORN VAMC now has a 24/7 Emergency Department. This is an emergency care facility only and will not provide after-hours non-emergency care.

If DORN VAMC is used for your primary medical care, advise your family members and/or EMT personnel that you wish to go to DORN VAMC for emergency treatment.

However, veterans needing immediate emergency care should advise family members and/or EMT personnel to take you to the **nearest** emergency medical facility.

Veterans must then notify DORN VAMC within 72 hours of admission that they have been treated in another facility. Dorn will contact the facility regarding any need for transfer to Dorn, payment for emergency services, etc.



NEW 24 HOUR HOTLINE

Veterans going through an emotional crisis can now turn to a new 24-hour hot line for help. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has opened a **toll-free** hotline staffed with mental health professionals to take the calls. That toll-free number is **1-800-273-8255**.



AGENT ORANGE & HYPERTENSION

A new report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) finds suggested but limited evidence that exposure to **Agent Orange** and other herbicides used during the Vietnam War is associated with an increased chance of developing high blood pressure in some veterans.

The report is the latest update in a congressionally mandated series by the IOM that reviews every two years the evidence about the health effects of these herbicides and the type of dioxin—TCDD— that contaminated some of them. The committee that wrote the report also concluded that there is suggestive but limited evidence that AL amyloidosis is associated with herbicide exposure. Characterized by the accumulation of protein deposits in and around organs, this rare condition affects one in 100,000 people annually in the United States.

The committee based its conclusion on the fact that AL amyloidosis shares many biological and pathological similarities with multiple myeloma and certain B-cell lymphomas, which have been found to be associated with exposure to herbicides.

VA INTERNET ACCESS

VA LOCAL ACCESS

The Department of Veterans Affairs is represented by numerous Regional offices (VARO), State Benefit Offices, Vet Centers and medical facilities throughout the U.S. and its territories.

Locations of these facilities can be found at:

VARO: <http://www.vba.va.gov/benefits/ROcontacts.htm>

State Benefit Offices: <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>

Vet Centers: <http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter.asp>

Medical, cemetery, and all the above: <http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp>

The yellow pages of your local telephone directory under "Government Offices"



For questions or information, you can get an email response by asking your question at <https://iris.va.gov/scripts/iris.cfg/php.exe/enduser/home.phpU>

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

The DAV VAN will **NOT** RUN on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd, due to the Labor Day Holiday.

WANTED!

The SC State Guard is in desperate need of 30-06 blank ammunition for funeral details. If you have any available or know of a supply source, please contact COL Frank Whitlock at (803) 806-4238.

To talk to someone, you can go to your local VA office or call the following:



- ◆ **VA Benefits:** 1-800-827-1000 for Burial; Civilian Health & Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA); Death Pension; Dependency Indemnity Compensation; Direct Deposit; Directions to VA Benefits Regional Offices; Disability Compensation; Disability Pension; Education; Home Loan Guaranty; Life Insurance; Medical Care; Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment.
- ◆ **Education (GI Bill):** 1-888-442-4551
- ◆ **Health Care Benefits:** 1-877-222-8387
- ◆ **Income Verification and Means Testing:** 1-800-929-8387
- ◆ **Life Insurance:** 1-800-669-8477
- ◆ **Mammography Helpline:** 1-888-492-7844
- ◆ **Special Issues:** Gulf War/Agent Orange/ Project Shad/ Mustard Agents and Lewisite/ Ionizing Radiation: 1-800-749-8387
- ◆ **Status of Headstones and Markers:** 1-800-697-6947
- ◆ **Telecommunications Device for the Deaf:** (TDD) 1-800-829-4833
- ◆ **Suicide Call Center:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Source: VA website www.vba.va.gov

Quote for the MONTH: "It appears we have appointed our worst generals to command forces, and our most gifted and brilliant to edit newspapers! In fact, I discovered by reading newspapers that these editor/geniuses plainly saw all my strategic defects from the start, yet failed to inform me until it was too late. Accordingly, I'm readily willing to yield my command to these obviously superior intellects, and I'll, in turn, do my best for the cause by writing editorials – after the fact."

-Robert E. Lee, 1863

SALUTING THE FLAG

-When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered,

The Senate has passed legislation to ensure that veterans and service members can salute the flag when not in uniform.

The bill S.1877, sponsored by Sen. James Inhofe [R-OK], would address the ambiguity of current law, which states that veterans and service members not in uniform should place their hand over their hearts, without specifying whether they can or should salute the flag. Inhofe said, "The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service.

Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag."

Inhofe said he believes this is "an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans who have served in the military and remain as role models to other citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."

The House would have to agree to the legislation before it could become law. The bill does not address the ambiguity of veterans saluting during the Pledge of Allegiance and playing of the National Anthem.

Present policy for saluting is:



**a l l
the flag**

**should face
and salute.**

To salute, all persons come to attention

- ◆ **Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute.**
- ◆ **Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart and men with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over the heart.**
- ◆ **Members of organizations in formation salute upon command of the person in charge.**
- ◆ **The Pledge of Allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting.**

When the national anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note and hold the salute through the last note. The salute is directed to the flag, if displayed, otherwise to the music.





**LEXINGTON COUNTY
VETERAN' S PARADE**



Sunday, November 11, 2007
North Lake Drive and South Lake Drive
Downtown Lexington

PARADE BEGINS AT 3:00 P.M.
(No entry fee)

COME HELP HONOR OUR VETERANS !!
Grand Marshalls: Military Order of
The Purple Heart

SPONSORED BY:

LEXINGTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE COMMITTEE
AMERICAN LEGION POST 7
VFW POST 8738
LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS
TOWN OF LEXINGTON

For More Information Contact:
Sharon Willis 785-8201
Gary Baker or Barbara O'Connor 785-8400
Bob Hall 785-8349

**2007 County of Lexington Veteran's Day Parade Application
Sunday, November 11, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.**

****** PLEASE READ GROUP DROP OFF INSTRUCTIONS******

Name of Entry: _____

Type of Entry: Marching Band Beauty Queen Civic Float
(Please Circle Entry Type) Marching Group Dignitary Business Float

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

Number Participating: _____

Entry Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (W) _____ (H) _____

Additional Information for Your Entry Here:

Mail Applications To:
County of Lexington Veteran's Day
Parade Committee
Attn: Sharon Willis, Chairperson
440 Ball Park Road
Lexington SC 29072

For More Information Contact:
Sharon Willis 803-785-8121

Gary Baker 803-785-8400
Bob Hall 803-785-8349
*Monday - Friday 8-5 pm *

ENTRY IS FREE! DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS OCTOBER 26, 2007

*******ALL MARCHING BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE BUS PARKING LOT OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. PLEASE DROP OFF ALL MEMBERS OF THE BAND AND ROTC IN THE REAR BUS PARKING LOT ALSO. (Please enter off of North Lake Dr, to Corley Street then left on School Street. This will take you to the rear of school parking lot.) BANDS AND ROTC GROUPS WILL LINE UP AND ENTER THE PARADE FROM THE DRIVEWAY OF THE PARKING LOT. THANKS, *******

PARADE ROUTE:

START AT 116 AZALEA DRIVE IN FRONT OF LEXINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. TURN LEFT ON TO NORTH LAKE DRIVE - CONTINUING DOWN NORTH LAKE DRIVE CROSSING MAIN STREET TO SOUTH LAKE DRIVE. CONTINUE DOWN SOUTH LAKE DRIVE, TURNING LEFT ON FORT STREET, AND ENDING AT LEXINGTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOTS. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR ALL VETERANS TO RETURN TO THEIR VEHICLES AFTER REACHING THE PARKING LOTS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

**THE JOSHUA TORRENCE MEMORIAL FIELD HOUSE COMMITTEE
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
PROUDLY PRESENTS A**

PATRIOTIC PRIDE SALUTE



**A PATRIOTIC TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS AND FALLEN HEROES
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 2007
WHITE KNOLL HIGH SCHOOL
PROGRAM AT 7:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM FOR MILITARY DISPLAY VIEWING**

- MILITARY DISPLAYS
- VISIT WITH MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS
- LISTEN TO PATRIOTIC MUSIC BY AREA SCHOOL BANDS AND CHOIRS
- PARTICIPATE IN A SILENT AUCTION WITH PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE JOSHUA L. TORRENCE MEMORIAL FIELD HOUSE
- VETERANS RECOGNITION PROGRAM WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT 7 PM

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE A SPONSOR PLEASE CALL:
803-996-4564 or 996-**

4500

FLORENCE SOLDIER LAID TO REST

Corporal Juan M. Lopez, Jr. was laid to rest Monday, August 20, 2007, at Florence National Cemetery.

The first Florence resident to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Lopez was one of three Fort Bliss, Texas soldiers killed in Iraq after their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device August 13th.



Cpl. Lopez enlisted in the Army on Feb. 14, 2006, and was sent to Iraq in September.

He is survived by a sister, his parents, grandparents, 2 great-grandmothers, a great uncle, uncles, aunts and a host of other relatives and friends.

S C WOMAN KILLED IN IRAQ

Specialist Zandra T. Walker, 28, of Greenville, SC, was one of two Ft. Hood soldiers killed by enemy fire in Iraq last week, the Defense Department said. Walker was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Specialist Walker was serving her second tour with the Army, fueling helicopters, at the time of her death. Zandra died on August 15, 2007, in Taji, Iraq, when her position received indirect fire.

She leaves behind a husband, Kenneth Walker, who is currently serving in a civilian role in Kuwait, her parents and her sisters, all of Greenville.

Fifty-six members of the U.S. military with S.C. ties have died in the Iraq War, including four women.

*****new*****

SUPPORT GROUP FOR WIVES OF VIETNAM VETERANS

You are cordially invited to join our new support group specifically designed for wives of Vietnam veterans.

When? 2nd Monday of each month, beginning Sept. 10th at NOON

*Where? 605 West Main Street
Room 110 (Auditorium)
Lexington, SC*

What? Support, Encouragement and Fun

**Hosted by David Cox of the Columbia Vet Center
(Mr. Cox can be reached by calling 803-765-9944 or you can call
803-785-8400 for more information.)**

**VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE
OF LEXINGTON COUNTY
605 West Main Street, Suite 101
Lexington, SC 29072
(803)785-8400**

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH PROGRAM

Sept. 4th	8-12	Batesburg/Leesville
Sept. 11th	9-12	Chapin
Sept. 18th	8-12	Swansea
Sept. 25th	9-12	West Columbia

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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