



LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

March/April 2014

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**At A Glance Calendar
March/April**

Weekly on Tuesdays/March	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @ 12 noon
Wednesday, March 5th	Ash Wednesday
Thursday, March 6th	Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday, March 7th	Chapin Outreach
Saturday, March 8th	Dang-it Doll Workshop
Sunday, March 9th	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Monday, March 10th	Veterans Fair hosted by Joe Wilson, 10am—2pm
Tuesday, March 11th	County Council Meeting
Monday, March 17th	St. Patrick's Day
Thursday, March 20th	Spring Begins
Friday, March 21st	Gilbert Center Senior Presentation, 10—11:30am
Tuesday, March 25th	County Council Meeting
Weekly on Tuesdays/April	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @12 noon
Tuesday, April 1st	April Fools Day
Tuesday, April 1st thru Friday April 4th	Director @ SCACVAO training in Myrtle Beach
Tuesday, April 8th	County Council Meeting
Sunday, April 13th	Palm Sunday
Friday, April 18th	Good Friday
Sunday, April 20th	Easter Sunday
Tuesday, April 22nd	County Council Meeting Earth Day
Wednesday, April 23rd	Administrative Professionals Day Veterans Rally @ State House from 10am to 2pm
Monday, April 28th	Holocaust Remembrance Day

Purple—Holidays/Special Days	Brown—County Council Meetings
Blue—Outreach dates	Pink—Special Events throughout the County
Red—County Offices Closed, No van scheduled, and Special Notices	Orange—Special event, Director Out of Office
Black—Director's appearances in the County	Green—Lexington County Veterans Group Meetings



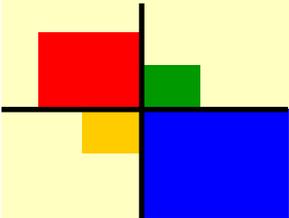
From the Director...

Change usually comes with fear, frustration and the unknown. At times, many people resist change and those that bring it about because of the fear. The changing season from winter to spring brings hay fever and warmer weather. The change from Eastern Standard Time to Eastern Daylight Time brings with it one less hour to sleep but also more light during the day. Many people want things as they are and so they oppose the change because it won't seem routine anymore. Usually, the change was worth it and makes things better once everyone adapts to it.

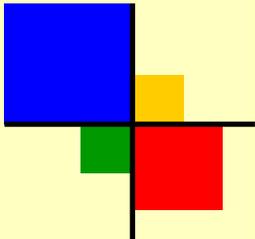
When a Veteran joins the military as a young, brash kid, he/she is not prepared for the changes they are about to undertake. Changes in attitude, behavior, location, rules, clothing, grooming and even language and so much more are only a portion of what military life is like. It can be the biggest change a person lives through and yet, the most rewarding. Parents always recognize the good changes when we return home because we are well-mannered and respect authority. We respect the flag, honor Veterans and cherish home cooking.

We have had quite a few changes in our office environment in order to remain an effective and informative team for our Veterans. Many of these changes have been internal and all have helped us become better advocates for the people we serve. We have come through some trials and are a stronger team for it. I am incredibly proud of your Lexington County Veterans' Affairs team and we stand ready to provide the best service possible for who we call the greatest people in the world-our Veterans!

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!



NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVISTS BENEFITS



Eligibility for VA Benefits

Reservists who serve on active duty establish Veteran status and may be eligible for the full-range of VA benefits, depending on the length of active military service and a discharge or release from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable. In addition, reservists not activated may qualify for some VA benefits.

National Guard members can establish eligibility for VA benefits if activated for federal service during a period of war or domestic emergency. Activation for other than federal service does not qualify guard members for all VA benefits. Claims for VA benefits based on federal service filed by members of the National Guard should include a copy of the military orders, presidential proclamation or executive order that clearly demonstrates the federal nature of the service.

Qualifying for VA Health Care

Effective Jan. 28, 2008, Veterans discharged from active duty on or after Jan. 28, 2003, are eligible for enhanced enrollment placement into Priority Group 6 (unless eligible for higher Priority Group placement) for 5 years post discharge. Veterans with combat service after Nov. 11, 1998, who were discharged from active duty before Jan. 28, 2003, and who apply for enrollment on or after Jan. 28, 2008, are eligible for this enhanced enrollment benefit through Jan. 27, 2011.

Activated reservists and members of the National Guard are eligible if they served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998, and, have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Veterans who enroll with VA under this "Combat Veteran" authority will retain enrollment eligibility even after their five-year post discharge period ends. At the end of their post discharge period, VA will reassess the Veteran's information (including all applicable eligibility factors) and make a new enrollment decision. For additional information, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Disability Benefits

VA pays monthly compensation benefits for disabilities incurred or aggravated during active duty and active duty for training as a result of injury or disease, and for disabilities due to injury, heart attack, or stroke that occurred during inactive duty training.

Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve

Members of reserve elements of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, and members of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, may be entitled to up to 36 months of educational benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) – Selected Reserve. To be eligible, the participant must:

- Have a six-year obligation in the Selected Reserve or National Guard signed after June 30, 1985, or, if an officer, agree to serve six years in addition to the original obligation.
- Complete initial active duty for training.
- Have a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before applying for benefits.
- Remain in good standing in a Selected Reserve or National Guard unit.

Reserve components determine eligibility for benefits. VA does not make decisions about eligibility and cannot make payments until the reserve component has determined eligibility and notified VA.

Continued on page 4

National Guard and Reservists Benefits - continued from page 3

Period of Eligibility: Benefits generally end the day a reservist or National Guard member separates from the military. Additionally, if in the Selected Reserve and called to active duty, VA can generally extend the eligibility period by the length of time on active duty plus four months for each period of active duty. Once this extension is granted, it will not be taken away if you leave the Selected Reserve.

Eligible members separated because of unit deactivation, a disability that was not caused by misconduct, or otherwise involuntarily separated during Oct. 1, 1991, through Dec. 31, 2001, have 14 years after their eligibility date to use benefits. Similarly, members involuntarily separated from the Selected Reserve due to a deactivation of their unit between Oct. 1, 2007, and Sept. 30, 2014, may receive a 14-year period of eligibility. Payments: The rate for full-time training effective Oct. 1, 2010, is \$337 a month for 36 months. Part-time benefits are reduced proportionately. For complete current rates, visit www.gibill.va.gov/. DOD may make additional contributions.

Training: Participants may pursue training at a college or university, or take technical training at any approved facility. Training includes undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate courses; State licensure and certification; courses for a certificate or diploma from business, technical or vocational schools; cooperative training; apprenticeship or on-the-job training; correspondence courses; independent study programs; flight training; entrepreneurship training; remedial, deficiency or refresher courses needed to complete a program of study; or preparatory courses for tests required or used for admission to an institution of higher learning or graduate school. Accelerated payments for certain high-cost programs are authorized effective Jan. 28, 2008.

Work-Study: Participants who train at the three-quarter or full-time rate may be eligible for a work-study program in which they work for VA and receive hourly wages. Students under the work-study program must be supervised by a VA employee and all duties performed must relate to VA. The types of work allowed include:

- VA paperwork processing at schools or other training facilities.
- Assistance with patient care at VA hospitals or domiciliary care facilities.
- Work at national or state veterans' cemeteries.
- Various jobs within any VA regional office.
- Other VA-approved activities.

***MGIB** – Selected Reserve work-study students may also assist with an activity relating to the administration of this education benefit at DOD, Coast Guard, or National Guard facilities.

[Reserve Educational Assistance Program \(REAP\)](#)

This program provides educational assistance to members of National Guard and reserve components – Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) – who are called or ordered to active duty service in response to a war or national emergency was declared by the President or Congress. Visit www.gibill.va.gov for more information.

Eligibility: Eligibility is determined by DOD or the Department of Homeland Security. Generally, a service member who serves on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, for at least 90 consecutive days or accumulates a total of three or more of years of service is eligible.

Payments: Reserve or National Guard members whose eligibility is based upon continuous service receive a payment rate based upon their number of continuous days on active duty. Members who qualify after the accumulation of three or more years aggregate active duty service receive the full payment allowable.

Continued on page 5

National Guard and Reservists Benefits - continued from page 4

Reserve Educational Assistance Rates

Active Duty, Reserves and National Guard members	Monthly Payment Rate for Full-Time Students
90 days but less than one year	\$570.40
One year but less than two years	\$855.60
Two or more continuous years	\$1,140.80

*Effective October 1, 2010

Training: Participants may pursue training at a college or university, or take technical training at any approved facility. Training includes undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate courses; state licensure and certification courses; courses for a certificate or diploma from business, technical or vocational schools; cooperative training; apprenticeship or on-the-job training; correspondence courses; independent study programs; flight training; entrepreneurship training; remedial, deficiency, or refresher courses needed to complete a program of study; or preparatory courses for tests required or used for admission to an institution of higher learning or graduate school. Accelerated payments for certain high-cost programs are authorized.

Period of Eligibility: Prior to Jan. 28, 2008, members of the Selected Reserve called to active duty were eligible as long as they continued to serve in the Selected Reserve. They lost eligibility if they went into the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR). Members of the IRR called to active duty were eligible as long as they stayed in the IRR or Selected Reserve.

Effective Jan. 28, 2008, members who are called up from the Selected Reserve, complete their REAP-qualifying period of active duty service, and then return to the Selected Reserve for the remainder of their service contract, have 10 years to use their benefits after separation.

In addition, members who are called up from the IRR or Inactive National Guard (ING), complete their REAP-qualifying period of active duty service, and then enter the Selected Reserve to complete their service contract, have 10 years to use their benefits after separation.

Work-Study Program: Reserve Education Assistance Program students in the work-study program may also assist with an activity relating to the administration of this education benefit at DOD, Coast Guard, or National Guard facilities.

Home Loan Guaranty

National Guard members and reservists are eligible for a VA home loan if they have completed at least six years of honorable service, are mobilized for active duty service for a period of at least 90 days, or are discharged because of a service-connected disability.

Reservists who do not qualify for VA housing loan benefits may be eligible for loans on favorable terms insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), part of HUD.

Continued on page 6

Life Insurance

National Guard members and reservists are eligible to receive Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), and Family Service members' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI). They may also be eligible for SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection if severely injured and suffering a qualifying loss, Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance if they receive a service-connected disability rating from VA, and Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance if approved for a Specially Adapted Housing Grant.

Burial and Memorial Benefits

VA provides a burial flag to memorialize members or former members of the Selected Reserve who served their initial obligation, or were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or died while a member of the Selected Reserve.

Re-Employment Rights

A person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the armed forces is entitled to return to the job after discharge or release from active duty if they:

- Gave advance notice of military service to the employer.
- Did not exceed five years cumulative absence from the civilian job (with some exceptions).
- Submitted a timely application for re-employment.
- Did not receive a dishonorable or other punitive discharge.

The law calls for a returning Veteran to be placed in the job as if he/she had never left, including benefits based on seniority such as pensions, pay increases and promotions. The law also prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion or other advantages of employment on the basis of military service. Veterans seeking re-employment should apply, verbally or in writing, to the company's hiring official and keep a record of their application. If problems arise, contact the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) in the state of the employer.

Federal employees not properly re-employed may appeal directly to the Merit Systems Protection Board. Non-federal employees may file complaints in U.S. District Court. For information, visit www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/main.htm.

National Guard and VA Partnership to Assist Veterans

The Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) program within the National Guard (NG) Office of Warrior Support places a NG/VA trained expert at the NG Headquarters in each of the 50 states and PR, GU, VI and District of Columbia, as an advocate for Guard members and their families as well as other geographically dispersed military members and families. In collaboration with state directors of Veterans Affairs and other state and local coalition partners, the Transition Assistance Advisor provides enrollment, referrals and facilitates access for Veterans through the overwhelming maze of programs, with the compassion of someone who knows what it's like to transition from Guard to active duty and to civilian status.

Transition Assistance Advisors receive annual training by VA experts in VA health care and benefits to assist Guard members and their families' to access to VA health care facilities and TRICARE facilities in their network. To find a local Transition Assistance Advisor call 1 877 577-6691 or go to www.taapmo.com/TAAprogram.htm

Prints for Sale

We have several copies of the Veterans Memorial and Gibson Pond prints for sale in our office. The Gibson Pond print is 32x24 and the Monument print is 24x15. Both are suitable for framing. The cost is \$10.00 each. The proceeds will be placed in our Veteran's Fund and/or Van Fund. Your donation is tax-deductible and a receipt can be provided. Come by the office to have a closer look at the prints. Please stop by our office M-F from 8 to 5 to purchase one or more of these beautiful prints!



Looking for Volunteer Van Drivers

The van runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, taking Veterans to appointments at DORN VAMC for their scheduled appointments between 9am and 1pm. If you can volunteer to drive the DAV van at least 1 day a month, contact the office at 803-785-8400.



As of December 2013, VA had a 15% cost of living increase. To see the new rates, go to va.gov.

County Council Needs You!

Veterans are 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 you would need to be present around 4:15pm. Contact the office at 803-785-8400 if you are interested.



OUTREACH DATES AND TIMES

Please be aware that our outreach dates and times have changed. The correct dates and times are listed below. Appointments are strongly encouraged.



Batesburg/Leesville Outreach - 2nd Friday of the month at the Batesburg/Leesville Library from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Chapin Outreach - 1st Friday of the month at the Chapin Library from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.



Gaston/Swansea Outreach - 1st Thursday of the month at the Gaston Library from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Cayce/West Columbia Outreach has been cancelled effective immediately due to poor response.

Special Adaptive Housing Benefits

Housing Grants for Disabled Veterans

VA provides grants to Servicemembers and Veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities to help purchase or construct an adapted home, or modify an existing home to accommodate a disability. Two grant programs exist: the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant and the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant.

Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant

SAH grants help Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities live independently in a barrier-free environment. SAH grants can be used in one of the following ways:

- Construct a specially adapted home on land to be acquired
- Build a home on land already owned if it is suitable for specially adapted housing
- Remodel an existing home if it can be made suitable for specially adapted housing
- Apply the grant against the unpaid principal mortgage balance of an adapted home already acquired without the assistance of a VA grant

Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) Grant

SHA grants help Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities adapt or purchase a home to accommodate the disability. You can use SHA grants in one of the following ways:

- Adapt an existing home the Veteran or a family member already owns in which the Veteran lives
- Adapt a home the Veteran or family member intends to purchase in which the Veteran will live

Help a Veteran purchase a home already adapted in which the Veteran will live

Eligibility

If you are a Servicemember or Veteran with a permanent and total service-connected disability, you may be entitled to a Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant or a Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant. The table below provides an overview of VA's housing grant programs for Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities.

Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant

Eligibility	Living Situation	Ownership	Number of Grants You Can Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of or loss of use of both legs, OR • Loss of or loss of use of both arms, OR • Blindness in both eyes having only light perception, plus loss of or loss of use of one leg, OR • The loss of or loss of use of one lower leg together with residuals of organic disease or injury, OR • The loss of or loss of use of one leg together with the loss of or loss of use of one arm, OR • Certain severe burns, OR • The loss, or loss of use of one or more lower extremities due to service on or after September 11, 2001, which so affects the functions of balance or propulsion as to preclude ambulating without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair 	Permanent	Home is owned by an eligible individual	Maximum of 3 grants, up to the maximum dollar amount allowable

Continued on page 9

Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) Grant

Eligibility	Living Situation	Ownership	Number of Grants You Can Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blindness in both eyes with 20/200 visual acuity or less, OR • Loss of or loss of use of both hands, OR • Certain severe burn injuries, OR • Certain severe respiratory injuries 	Permanent	Home is owned by an eligible individual or family member	Maximum of 3 grants, up to the maximum dollar amount allowable

Benefit

The SAH and SHA benefit amount is set by law, but may be adjusted upward annually based on a cost-of-construction index. The maximum dollar amount allowable for SAH grants in fiscal year 2014 is \$67,555. The maximum dollar amount allowable for SHA grant in fiscal year 2014 is \$13,511. No individual may use the grant benefit more than three times up to the maximum dollar amount allowable.

A temporary grant may be available to SAH/SHA eligible Veterans and Servicemembers who are or will be temporarily residing in a home owned by a family member. The maximum amount available to adapt a family member's home for the SAH grant is \$29,657 and for the SHA grant is \$5,295.

How to Apply

To apply for a grant, fill out and submit VA Form 26-4555, Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation Grant. You can access this form by:

1. Applying online via www.ebenefits.va.gov
2. Downloading VA Form 26-4555, Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation Grant and mailing it to your nearest Regional Loan Center
3. Calling VA toll free at 1-800-827-1000 to have a claim form mailed to you
4. Or by visiting our office

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have little."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt



Remember to wear green...
St. Patrick's Day is March 17th





DANG-IT DOLL REMINDER

There will be a Dang-It Doll workshop on Saturday, March 8th, from 10:00am until 3:00pm at the Cayce Masonic Lodge. The Lodge is located at 1701 12th Street, Cayce, SC 29033. The Lodge Brothers will be preparing their famous hot dog lunch.

To date, over 100,780 Dang-It Dolls have been shipped all over the world. There are volunteers ranging in age from 5 years to 90 years old. There is something for everyone to do. The more the merrier.

If there are any questions, contact Carol Davis with Operation Military Stress Relief Dolls, Inc., at 803-739-2774.

Lexington County Veterans Group

All Lexington County Veterans are invited to attend the weekly meetings. The group meets weekly on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 2:00 pm in the auditorium at 605 West Main Street, Lexington, SC. The group meets for Health Issues and PTSD counseling with a licensed Counselor.

Our Veterans also participate 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 contact the Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office @ 803-785-8400.



**Don't forget to
turn your clocks
back on Sunday,
March 9th.**



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 | 5. Assisted Living Facility Services |
| 2. Medicare Part D Premiums | 6. Nursing Home Services |
| 3. Insurance Premiums for medical insurance | 7. Long Term Care Insurance |
| 4. Home Health Services | 8. Medical Monitoring Program (like Life Alert) |

VA Announces Rollout of Secure Veteran Health Identification Cards



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced the phased roll out of newly designed, more secure Veteran Health Identification Cards. The new cards are distinguished by additional security features and will have a different look and feel.

In addition to being more secure, the card has been transformed into a Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC). Similar to a typical health insurance card, the VHIC displays the Veteran's Member ID, a new unique identifier, as well as a Plan ID, reflecting the Veteran's enrollment in VA health care.

"VA is committed to providing high quality health care while ensuring the personal security of Veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "These new identification cards are an important step forward in protecting our nation's heroes from identity theft and other personal crimes."

The VHIC is personalized to display the emblem of the Veteran's branch of service. It also provides features that make it easier to use, such as the addition of "VA" in Braille to help visually impaired Veterans, and the printing of VA phone numbers and emergency care instructions on the cards.

The card replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC), which was introduced in 2004. As part of a phased rollout, starting this month, the card will only be offered to newly enrolled and other Veterans who have not been issued a VIC. Then, in early April, VA will begin a three month effort to automatically issue the more secure VHIC to current VIC cardholders. VA recommends Veterans safeguard their VIC as they would a credit card, and cut up or shred the card once it is replaced. While not required to receive VA health care, all enrolled Veterans are encouraged to get a VHIC.

Enrolled Veterans can get more information about the VHIC by visiting their VA medical facility enrollment coordinator or the website www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic, calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility.

Veterans who are not enrolled in the VA health care system can apply for enrollment at any time by visiting www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, Calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility.





Happy Easter



The Midlands Chapter of Blue Star Mothers presents
the 5th Annual

PALMETTO Patriots'



A Salute to South Carolina Patriots
Saturday, May 17, 2014

This event allows South Carolinians an opportunity to convey gratitude and support to our active and retired members of the United States Armed Forces. We recognize those who have dedicated their lives to the protection of our country and the preservation of our freedom and liberties.

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.

Mark Your Calendars

The 12th annual
Lexington County Veterans Parade
will be held on
Sunday, November 2, 2014
at 3pm.



For information and questions, please check out our webpage at
www.lex-co.sc.gov/departments/DeptRZ/va/Pages/index.aspx
We have also moved the
Veterans Service Organizations in Lexington County to our Webpage.

The "Star Spangled Banner"

Making the Star Spangled Banner

In June 1813, Major George Armistead arrived in Baltimore, Maryland, to take command of Fort McHenry, built to guard the water entrance to the city. Armistead commissioned Mary Pickersgill, a Baltimore flag maker, to sew two flags for the fort: a smaller storm flag (17 by 25 ft) and a larger garrison flag (30 by 42 ft). She was hired under a government contract and was assisted by her daughter, two nieces, and an indentured African-American girl.



The larger of these two flags would become known as the "Star-Spangled Banner." Pickersgill stitched it from a combination of dyed English wool bunting (red and white stripes and blue union) and white cotton (stars). Each star is about two feet in diameter, each stripe about 24 inches wide. The Star-Spangled Banner's impressive scale (about one-fourth the size of a modern basketball court) reflects its purpose as a garrison flag. It was intended to fly from a flagpole about ninety feet high and be visible from great distances. At its original dimensions of 30 by 42 feet, it was larger than the modern garrison flags used today by the United States Army, which have a standard size of 20 by 38 feet.



History of "The Star Spangled Banner"

The words of "The Star Spangled Banner" were first written on September 14, 1814 by Francis Scott Key as a poem titled, "The Defense of Fort McHenry."

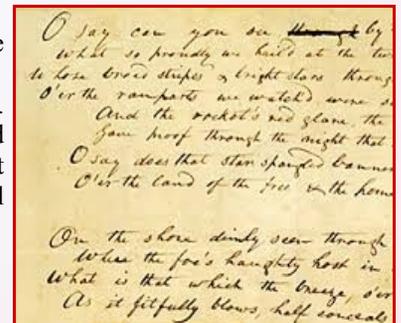
Key, a lawyer and an amateur poet, was being detained on a British warship during the British naval bombardment of Baltimore's Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. When the bombardment subsided and Key witnessed that Fort McHenry was still flying its huge American flag, he began writing his poem.

Key recommended that his poem be sung as a song to the popular British tune, "To Anacreon in Heaven." It soon became known as "The Star Spangled Banner."

Becoming the National Anthem

"The Star Spangled Banner" was published in a number of newspapers at the time, but by the Civil War it had become one of the most popular patriotic songs of the United States.

By the late 19th century, "The Star Spangled Banner" had become the official song of the U.S. military, but it wasn't until 1931 that the United States officially made "The Star Spangled Banner" the official national anthem of the country. On March 3, 1931, U.S. President Herbert Hoover signed an act that officially made "The Star Spangled Banner" the national anthem for the United States.



Believe It or Not

Interestingly, it was Robert L. Ripley of "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" that spurred the interest of the American people to demand "The Star Spangled Banner" to become the official national anthem.

On November 3, 1929, Ripley ran a panel in his syndicated cartoon stating that "Believe It or Not, America has no national anthem." Americans were shocked and wrote five million letters to Congress demanding Congress proclaim a national anthem.



Please join
Congressman Joe Wilson
as he hosts a
Veterans Fair

**Monday, March 10, 2014
10AM-2PM**

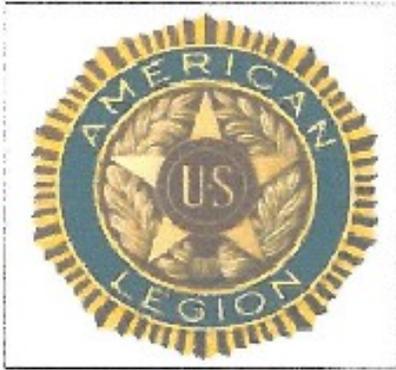
**West Columbia Veterans Fair
Brookland Baptist Church Health and Wellness Center
1066 Sunset Boulevard
West Columbia, SC 29169**

**Participants Include:
Social Security Administration
SC Works
Hidden Wounds
Veterans Affairs
South Carolina National Guard
Lexington Medical Center
United Parcel Service
Honor Flight SC**

***Additional organizations are invited to attend**

For more information, please visit www.joewilson.house.gov/veteransfair or contact the office at (803) 939-0041

***Printed and paid for at taxpayer expense.**



THE AMERICAN LEGION
CAYCE MEMORIAL, INC.

POST 130

402 NAPLES AVE, CAYCE, SC 29033

"CALLING ALL VETERANS"

VETERANS, ACTIVE-DUTY, FAMILIES
YOUR ARE INVITED TO A RECEPTION

MARCH 7, 2014- FRIDAY- 4P-6P

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
PAUL DILLARD**

**SPONSORED BY
LOCAL VETERANS OF CAYCE MEMORIAL**

Contact: Darlene Walton, Commander

803-622-0300/djwalton26@gmail.com

The American Legion, largest Veterans' organization

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY- APRIL 12, 2014

8AM-5PM

“ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT VETERANS PROJECTS”

BAKE SALE

HOT DOGS & FIXINS-10A-5P

LADIES AUXILIARY



CONTACT: DARLENE WALTON-803-794-7624

**CAYCE MEMORIAL POST 130,
402 NAPLES AVE., CAYCE, SC**

TABLES AVAILABLE-

\$10.00 MEMBERS

\$12.00 NON-MEMBERS

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Did you know that the following events occurred during the months of March and April in history...



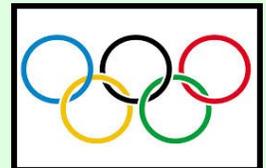
Yellowstone becomes the United States' first National Park—**March 1, 1972**



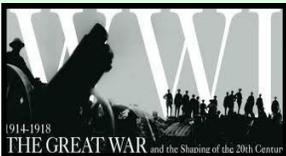
United States issues paper money for the first time—**March 10, 1862**



Pony Express service began—**April 3, 1860**



The first Olympics of the modern era were held in Athens, Greece after a break of 1500 years—**April 6, 1896**



United States entered into WWI—**April 6, 1917**

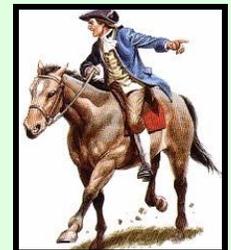
Civil War Ended—**April 9, 1865**



Civil War Begins—**April 12, 1861**



The Titanic sank @ 2:27am. Of 2224 persons on board 700 were saved and over 1500 drowned—**April 15, 1912**

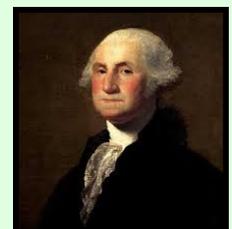


Midnight ride of Paul Revere—**April 18, 1775**



“In God We Trust” was included on all newly minted United States coins by an act of Congress—**April 22, 1864**

George Washington became the first President of the United States—**April 30, 1789**





STAND UP. BE HEARD.

You have fought for your Country,
now fight for your rights

Keynote Speaker: Captain Michael Haley

“RALLY FOR OUR
VETERANS”

Wednesday, April 23, 2014
10am - 2pm
North End State House Steps



Organized by the South Carolina Veterans' Advocacy Council

Featured Medal:

Prisoner of War Medal

The Prisoner of War Medal is a military award of the United States armed forces which was authorized by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on 8 November 1985. The United States Code citation for the POW Medal statute is 10 U.S.C. § 1128.

The Prisoner of War Medal may be awarded to any person who was a prisoner of war after April 5, 1917 (the date of the United States' entry into World War I was April 6). It is awarded to any person who was taken prisoner or held captive while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing Armed Force; or while serving with friendly forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing Armed Force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. As of an amendment to Title 10 of the United States Code in 2013, the medal is also awarded for captivity under circumstances "which the Secretary concerned finds were comparable to those circumstances under which persons have generally been held captive by enemy armed forces during periods of armed conflict." The person's conduct, while in captivity, must have been honorable. This medal is awarded posthumously to the surviving next of kin of the recipient.

No more than one Prisoner of War Medal may be awarded. For any subsequent award of the medal, service stars will be awarded and worn on the suspension and service ribbon of the medal.



Picture of Prisoner of War Medal and Ribbon.

National Guard and Reservists Benefits - continued from page 6

Outreach for OEF/OIF (New Dawn) Veterans

VA's OEF/OIF New Dawn Outreach Teams focus on improving outreach to members of the National Guard and Reserve by engaging Guard members throughout the deployment cycle with targeted messages and face-to-face encounters with VA staff. These Teams are located at VA Medical Centers to help ease the transition from military to civilian life. Cost-free VA health care and medications may be provided for conditions potentially related to combat service, including full access to VA's medical benefits package.



Spring
Begins on
March 20th

***Don't forget
Arbor Day on
April 25th...
Plant a tree!***



Coming in the Next Issue... – Headstones, markers and Medallions and VA healthcare versus Medicare