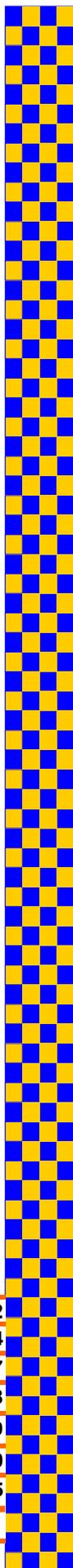




LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"

May/June 2014



Lexington, SC.

YOUR VA OFFICE STAFF

ED LUNDEEN

ELUNDEEN@LEX-CO.COM

DIRECTOR

JENNIFER HENDRIX

JHENDRIX@LEX-CO.COM

VETERANS ASSISTANT/
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

KATHY DEBERRY

KDEBERRY@LEX-CO.COM

VETERANS SPECIALIST

JOANNE SCHIRATO

JSCHIRATO@LEX-CO.COM

VETERANS CLERK

OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESS

VETERANSAFFAIRS@LEX-CO.COM

605 WEST MAIN STREET,
SUITE 101

LEXINGTON, S.C. 29072

TELEPHONE: (803) 785-8400

FAX: (803) 785-0115

TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Lexington Main Office: 785-8400

From Batesburg/Leesville: 332-8400

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**At A Glance Calendar
May/June**

Weekly on Tuesdays/May	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @ 12 noon
Thursday, May 1st	Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday, May 2nd	Chapin Outreach
Saturday, May 3rd	American Legion District Meeting
Friday, May 9th	Confederate Memorial Day County Offices Closed
Sunday, May 11th	Mother's Day
Tuesday, May 13th	County Council Meeting
Friday, May 16th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach
Saturday, May 17th	Armed Forces Day
Tuesday, May 20th	Generex Speaking Engagement
Monday, May 26th	Memorial Day County Office Closed No van run scheduled Caughman-Harman Memorial Day Service 10am to 1pm Ft. Jackson National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony 9am to 11am
Tuesday, May 27th	County Council Meeting
Weekly on Tuesdays/June	Lexington County Veterans Group Meeting @12 noon
Sunday, June 1st through Wednesday, June 11th	Director on Normandy Trip
Thursday, June 5th	Gaston/Swansea Outreach
Friday, June 6th	Chapin Outreach
Tuesday, June 10th	Primary Election Day
Friday, June 13th	Batesburg/Leesville Outreach County Council Meeting
Saturday, June 14th	Flag Day
Sunday, June 15th	Father's Day
Saturday, June 21st	Summer Begins
Tuesday, June 24th	County Council Meeting
Sunday, June 29th	Patriotic celebration @ Grace Baptist Church

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



What Memorial Day Means to Me

From the Director...

To me, this holiday is one of the most important holidays in America because it is a day the Nation pauses and remembers the heroes who did not make it home. No matter where they came from, what war they served in or where they gave the ultimate sacrifice, the men and women who died for our freedom should always be remembered. We, who serve Veterans every day, are mindful of this sacrifice and listen to stories of Veterans or their survivors when we assist them with benefits. Sometimes their stories are filled with tears of memory or tears of hurt. Their stories are important and we always listen intently and respectfully.

Sadly, this holiday has become one of commercialism, beach parties and barbecues. A lot of companies work their employees and some schools are open on this important holiday. As a Nation most citizens have forgotten or don't care what the day is all about. We pay tribute to the men and women who lost their lives for our freedom because they lost two lives, the one they were living and the one they would have lived. More than 1.2 million Americans have given their lives for America and this is why we pause, why we honor and why we remember.

Memorial Day is not about celebrating the beginning of the summer season or a holiday from work. Memorial Day is a solemn day of remembrance, a day that should be properly set aside for contemplation. Ask yourself where you would be without the personal sacrifice made by these men and women. Eight who lost their lives in Iraq or Afghanistan called Lexington County home. Locally, there are several events planned to commemorate this special day and I hope you can support these. Fort Jackson National Cemetery hosts a Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony at 9am on May 26, 2014, and the public is invited. Caughman-Harman Funeral Home in Lexington hosts a special

Continued on page 7

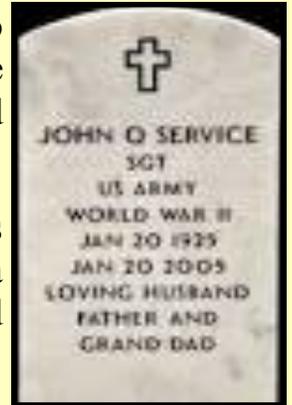
HEADSTONES, MARKERS AND MEDALLIONS

General Information

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

For eligible Veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a Medallion to be affixed to a privately purchased headstone.

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. The style chosen must be permitted by the officials in charge of the private cemetery where it will be placed.



When burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state Veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative.

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state Veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however, arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense.

Setting Government Headstones and Markers

Cemetery staff in national, military post, and military base cemeteries are responsible for setting the headstone or marker at no cost to the applicant. Some state Veterans' cemeteries may charge the applicant a nominal fee for setting a Government-furnished headstone or marker.

Arrangements for setting a Government-furnished headstone or marker in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all placement costs are at private expense.



Continued on page 4

HEADSTONES, MARKERS AND MEDALLIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Checking Status of a Headstone, Marker or Medallion Request

If more than 30 days have passed since your claim was submitted to the VA in Washington, D.C. by you, or someone assisting you, please call the Applicant Assistance Unit between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, at **1-800-697-6947** to verify they are in receipt of your claim.

If more than 60 days have passed since submitting your claim and the grave is still not marked, you should contact the cemetery, funeral home, or other party responsible for accepting delivery of the headstone, marker or medallion to see if they have received it. If they have not received it, you may call our Applicant Assistance Unit between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, at **1-800-697-6947**.



Please Note: The above telephone number is for questions related to headstones, markers and medallions only.

For assistance in obtaining Veterans' records or for information on other VA benefits, please call our office or your local Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at **1-800-827-1000**.

Memorial Headstones and Markers

Memorial headstones and markers, for individuals or groups, are furnished for eligible deceased active duty service members and Veterans whose remains are not recovered or identified, are buried at sea, donated to science or whose cremated remains have been scattered.

Memorial headstones and markers may also be furnished in national, military post/base or state Veterans cemeteries to eligible spouses whose remains are unavailable for interment, whether or not they predecease the eligible Veteran.



These headstones and markers bear an *"In Memory of"* inscription as their first line and must be placed in a recognized cemetery.

Memorial headstones and markers for spouses and other dependents are not available for placement in private cemeteries.

Please contact our office to schedule an appointment to complete VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker.

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.



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.



VA Removes Annual Income Reporting Requirement

Eliminates Burden on Veterans, Improves Customer Service

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is eliminating the annual requirement for most Veterans enrolled in VA's health care system to report income information beginning in March 2014. Instead, VA will automatically match income information obtained from the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration.

"Eliminating the requirement for annual income reporting makes our health care benefits easier for Veterans to obtain," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "This change will reduce the burden on Veterans, improve customer service and make it much easier for Veterans to keep their health care eligibility up-to-date."

Some Veterans applying for enrollment for the first time are still required to submit income information. There is no change in VA's long-standing policy to provide no-cost care to indigent Veterans, Veterans with catastrophic medical conditions, Veterans with a disability rating of 50 percent or higher, or for conditions that are officially rated as "service-connected."

VA encourages Veterans to continue to use the health benefits renewal form to report changes in their personal information, such as address, phone numbers, dependents, next of kin, income and health insurance.

For more information, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/cost or call VA toll-free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

"Veterans are Fathers, Mothers, Sons, Daughters, Brothers, Sisters, Friends and Lovers. They are the elderly people who can barely stand but refuse to sit when old glory passes by. They are the people who sit quietly thinking of a plan when everyone else is panicking. They are the ones who stand up for somebody's rights even though they may disagree with them. They are the ones who celebrate Memorial Day and Veterans Day everyday of the year. They are the people who keep going when everybody else gives up. They know the meaning of "The Ultimate Sacrifice" and are willing to make it without a second thought. They do not ask for praise or glory, only that you Honor those who have given their all."

Author: Robert A. Sanchas

Affordable Care Act And What Veterans Need To Know

- There are more than 1.3 million Veterans & 950k dependents of Veterans without insurance. In South Carolina, there are an estimated 420,000 Veterans and 119,000 are enrolled in VA health care. Most uninsured Veterans are eligible for VA health care but they must apply.
- If you are enrolled in VA health care, you do not need to take any additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards.
- If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time.
- Veterans receiving VA health care will see no change in their benefits or out-of-pocket costs when the law takes effect.
- Veterans' family members and Veterans not eligible for VA care may secure coverage through the Marketplace at www.HealthCare.gov.
- More information is also available on the VA web at <http://www.va.gov/health/aca/index.asp> or call the health care eligibility center at 1-877-222-8387.

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.



From the Director... Continued from page 2

Memorial Day service at 10am on May 26, 2014, in the chapel that is well attended every year. Many local Veteran service organizations also conduct observances in American Legion huts, DAV chapters and VFW posts. Please check with them for dates and times.

Lastly, I want to wish a Happy Fathers Day to all the Dads out there and hope you have a special day with family and friends.

It is an honor to serve Lexington County!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'EQ' or similar, written in a cursive style.

VA HEALTHCARE VERSUS MEDICARE

You can have both Medicare and Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. However, Medicare and VA benefits do not work together. Medicare does not pay for any care that you receive at a VA facility.

- In order for Medicare to cover your care, you must receive care at a Medicare-certified facility that works with your Medicare coverage.
- In order for your VA coverage to cover your care, you must generally receive health care services at a VA facility.

Medicare Part B and VA Coverage:



Many Veterans use their VA health benefits to get coverage for health care services and items not covered by Medicare, such as over-the-counter medications, annual physical exams and hearing aids. However, you may want to consider enrolling into Medicare Part B (medical insurance), even if you have VA coverage. Part B may cover services you receive from Medicare-certified providers and provide you with

medical coverage outside the VA health system. In addition, if you do not enroll into Part B when you are first eligible to do so, you will most likely incur a Part B premium penalty for each 12-month period you were without Medicare Part B coverage. In addition, you may also experience gaps in coverage.

Medicare Part D and VA Coverage:

Some Veterans only use their VA drug coverage to get their medications, since VA drug coverage may offer more generous prescription drug coverage than Medicare Part D, the Medicare prescription drug benefit. Since VA drug coverage is considered creditable, meaning it is as good as or better than the Medicare prescription drug benefit, you can delay enrolling into Medicare Part D without penalty. If you do lose VA drug coverage, make sure you enroll into a Part D plan within 63 days of losing your VA benefits.

Note that although you can have both Medicare Part D and VA drug coverage, the two do not work together. VA benefits only cover the drugs you get from VA pharmacies and Part D plans usually only cover drugs you get from pharmacies that are within the plan's network.



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MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION



Monday, May 26, 2014

9:00am to 11:00am

**Fort Jackson
National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, SC 29229**



Remembering Those Who Served.

All Gave Some, Some Gave All.

Gone But Never Forgotten!

A Brief History of the American Red Cross

As one of the nation's premier humanitarian organizations, the American Red Cross is dedicated to helping people in need throughout the United States and, in association with other Red Cross networks, throughout the world. They depend on the many generous contributions of time, blood, and money from the American public to support our lifesaving services and programs.



Clara Barton and a circle of her acquaintances founded the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C. on May 21, 1881. Barton first heard of the Swiss-inspired global Red Cross network while visiting Europe following the Civil War. Returning home, she campaigned for an American Red Cross and for ratification of the Geneva Convention protecting the war-injured, which the United States ratified in 1882.

Barton led the Red Cross for 23 years, during which time they conducted their first domestic and overseas disaster relief efforts, aided the United States military during the Spanish-American War, and campaigned successfully for the inclusion of peacetime relief work as part of the global Red Cross network—the so-called “American Amendment” that initially met with some resistance in Europe.



The Red Cross received their first congressional charter in 1900 and a second in 1905, the year after Barton resigned from the organization. The most recent version of the charter, which was adopted in May 2007, restates the traditional purposes of the organization which include giving relief to and serving as a medium of communication between members of the American armed forces and their families and providing national and international disaster relief and mitigation.

Prior to the First World War, the Red Cross introduced first aid, water safety, and public health nursing programs. With the outbreak of war, the organization experienced phenomenal growth. The number of local chapters jumped from 107 in 1914 to 3,864 in 1918 and membership grew from 17,000 to over 20 million adult and 11 million Junior Red Cross members. The public contributed \$400 million in funds and material to support Red Cross programs, including those for American and Allied forces and civilian refugees. The Red Cross staffed hospitals and ambulance companies and recruited 20,000 registered nurses to serve the military. Additional Red Cross nurses came forward to combat the worldwide influenza epidemic of 1918.

After the war, the Red Cross focused on service to Veterans and enhanced their programs in safety training, accident prevention, home care for the sick, and nutrition education. They also provided relief for victims of such major disasters as the Mississippi River floods in 1927 and severe drought and the Depression during the 1930s.



Continued on page 17

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.





Annual Patriotic Service

Sunday, June 29, 2014
10:00am through 12:00pm
Grace Baptist Church
416 Denham Avenue
West Columbia, SC 29169
803-794-8237



**We will be honoring POWs.
Guest speaker will be
Dr. Jerry Fisher.**



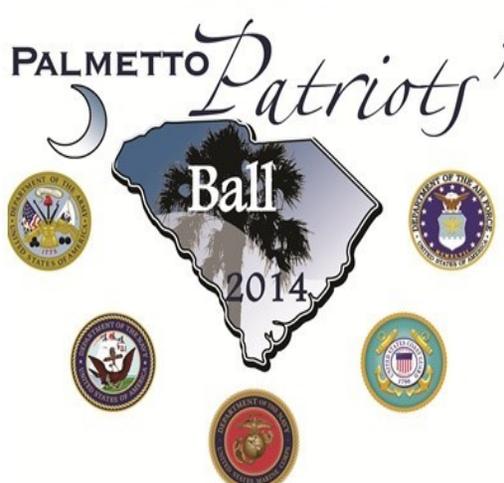
VA Healthcare versus Medicare continued from page 8

You may want to join a Part D plan in certain situations. You may want to enroll in a plan if you move into a nursing home outside of the VA health system and need coverage for medications from the nursing home pharmacy. You may also want to enroll in a Part D plan if you qualify for Extra Help, the federal assistance program that helps people with Medicare afford their Part D drug costs.

If you have questions about VA benefits and coverage, contact the VA Health Administration Center at 1-800-733-8387 or 1-877-222-VETS (877-222-8387).

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

PALMETTO Patriots'
Ball
2014



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.

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online, or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is also available.



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.

Attention Veterans and Active Duty Military!

Are You in NEED of Home Repairs?



Weatherization Assistance Program.... Working in your Community

"Making communities stronger, one family at a time!"

Obtain needed repairs to your home through grant programs. The Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation & Weatherization Program is available to make repairs for low-medium income homeowners. Available to veterans or active duty members of any branch of the US Military that are currently serving, have served, or their surviving spouse!

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

INCOME GUIDELINES:

Must identify and verify all sources of income for each household member. Verification of income must be within 90 days of submission

OWN OR BUYING A HOME:

Must have thirty (30) days ownership.

STATEMENT FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTION:

Must submit last two (2) months of bank statements for all accounts.

COPY OF DEED:

Must be registered and recorded.

PROPERTY TAX:

Must be paid and current.

DD 214:

Or other proof of service.

Please contact Capital Rehab Management

George Lesesne: Phone - 803.238.4375 or email GeorgeLesesne@yahoo.com

Joyce Pue: Phone - 803.261.5772 or email Pues112@yahoo.com

This program is for Veterans, their surviving spouse or active duty members and does have income requirements. The grant money does not have to be repaid and is distributed on a first-come first-served basis each year. The grant allows for repairs such as roofing, windows, doors or HVAC. There is so much the grant can provide for low income Veterans and their surviving spouses to improve their homes, so please call Gorge Lesesne or Joyce Pue at the numbers on the bottom of the flyer.



TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR VETERANS



Veterans who are 100% disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs are entitled to many extra benefits. One of these is the opportunity to relax at the Shades of Green hotel and resort on the grounds

of Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. It is one of the most popular Armed Forces Recreation Centers and provides oversized rooms and discount tickets to all the favorite theme parks and shows in the area. Please visit their website for more information and book your trip to Disney today! Check out their red, white & blue salute package or their sunrise package. Visit their website at:



<http://www.shadesofgreen.org/>

*Summer begins
June 21st*



Memorial Day - C W Johnson

*We walked among the crosses
Where our fallen soldiers lay.
And listened to the bugle
As TAPS began to play.
The Chaplain led a prayer
We stood with heads bowed low.
And I thought of fallen comrades
I had known so long ago.
They came from every city
Across this fertile land.
That we might live in freedom.
They lie here 'neath the sand.
I felt a little guilty
My sacrifice was small.
I only lost a little time
But these men lost their all.
Now the services are over
For this Memorial Day.
To the names upon these crosses
I just want to say,
Thanks for what you've given
No one could ask for more.
May you rest with God in heaven
From now through evermore.*





You are invited to a
Memorial Day Service

“The hero is commonly the simplest and obscurest of men.”
~ Henry David Thoreau

Monday, May 26, 2014
10am to 1pm

Caughman~Harman Funeral Home Chapel
503 North Lake Drive
Lexington, SC 29072
803-359-6118

*Come help us remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice upon our
Nation’s Altar of Freedom.*

Light refreshments will be served following the service



A Brief History of the American Red Cross continued from page 10



The Second World War called upon the Red Cross to provide extensive services once again to the U.S. military, Allies, and civilian war victims. They enrolled more than 104,000 nurses for military service, prepared 27 million packages for American and Allied prisoners of war, and shipped over 300,000 tons of supplies overseas. At the military's request, the Red Cross also initiated a national blood program that collected 13.3 million pints of blood for use by the armed forces.

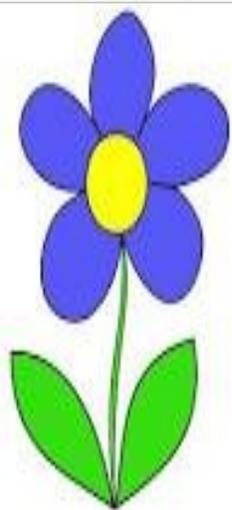
After World War II, the Red Cross introduced the first nationwide civilian blood program that now supplies more than 40 percent of the blood and blood products in this country. During the 1990s, they engineered a massive modernization of their blood services operations to improve the safety of their blood products. They continued to provide services to members of the armed forces and their families, including during the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf wars. The Red Cross also expanded their services into such fields as civil defense, CPR/AED training, HIV/AIDS education, and the provision of emotional care and support in the wake of disasters. Since 2006, the Red Cross and FEMA have worked together helping government agencies and community organizations plan, coordinate and provide feeding, sheltering and family reunification services for people affected by disasters.

Today, the supporters, volunteers and employees of the American Red Cross provide compassionate care in five critical areas:

1. People affected by disasters in America
2. Support for members of the military and their families
3. Blood collection, processing and distribution
4. Health and safety education and training
5. International relief and development



***HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!***



*Happy
Mother's
Day!*

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Did you know that the following events occurred during the months of May and June in history...



May 5, 1862— Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in Mexico.



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



May 20, 1932—Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.



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



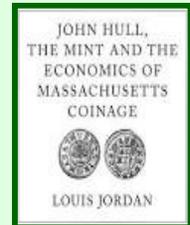
May 25, 1787—The constitutional Convention began in Philadelphia with delegates from seven states forming a quorum.



May 30, 1922—The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated.



June 6, 1944—D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy, France.



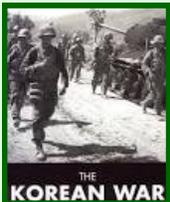
June 10, 1652—The first mint in America was opened by John Hull in Massachusetts.



June 15, 1775—George Washington was appointed to command the Continental Army.

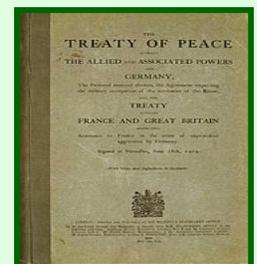


June 20, 1782—The U.S. Congress officially adopted the Great Seal of the United States of America.



June 25, 1950—The Korean war began as North Korean troops crossed the 38th Parallel and launched a full scale invasion of South Korea. The U.S. entered the conflict five days later.

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



June 30, 1971—the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was enacted granting the right to vote to American citizens 18 years or older.



Featured Medal:

Air Medal

The **Air Medal** is a military decoration of the United States Military. The medal was created in 1942 and is awarded for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.

The Air Medal was established by Executive Order 9158, signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, on 11 May 1942. The Air Medal was awarded retroactive to 8 September 1939. The medal is awarded to anyone who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Armed Forces of the United States, distinguishes himself or herself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.

During World War II the medal's award criteria varied widely depending on the theater of operations, the aircraft flown, and the missions accomplished. In Europe some bomber crewmembers received it for five sorties; elsewhere, the Pacific and CBI much higher criteria were used. The Distinguished Flying Cross would be given to a commissioned officer where the Air Medal would be awarded to an enlisted man.

The Air Medal may be awarded to recognize single acts of merit or heroism, or for meritorious service. Award of the Air Medal is primarily intended to recognize those personnel who are on current crew member or non-crew member flying status which requires them to participate in aerial flight on a regular and frequent basis in the performance of their primary duties. However, it may also be awarded to certain other individuals whose combat duties require regular and frequent flying in other than a passenger status, or individuals who perform a particularly noteworthy act while performing the function of a crew member but who are not on flying status. These individuals must make a discernible contribution to the operational land combat mission or to the mission of the aircraft in flight.

Examples of personnel whose combat duties require them to fly include those in the attack elements of units involved in air-land assaults against an armed enemy and those directly involved in airborne command and control of combat operations. Also to include personnel performing "Dustoff" Medevac operations. Awards will not be made to individuals who use air transportation solely for the purpose of moving from point to point in a combat zone.

Subsequent awards of the Air Medal are denoted in the U.S. Army by award numerals displayed on the medal and ribbon. The Army originally used oak leaf clusters, however it changed to numerals during the Vietnam War when the number of Air Medals awarded became too large to be annotated on a single ribbon. The Army and the Air Force also awards the Air Medal with the "V" Device for acts of heroism.

The Secretary of the Air Force approved the "V" device for Air Medals awarded for heroism effective 21 Oct 2004. This applies to all Air Force members (Active Duty, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard), retirees, and veterans. It is not authorized for wear on the medal for an earlier date.

The Air Force does not utilize numerals on the Air Medal. Subsequent awards are annotated with the traditional oak leaf clusters. Enlisted members are also awarded three points toward promotion.



Picture of
Air Medal and Ribbon.

Coming in the Next Issue...

100% Permanent and Total benefits, Reconsideration versus Appeal
and Fugitive Felon/Incarcerated Veterans