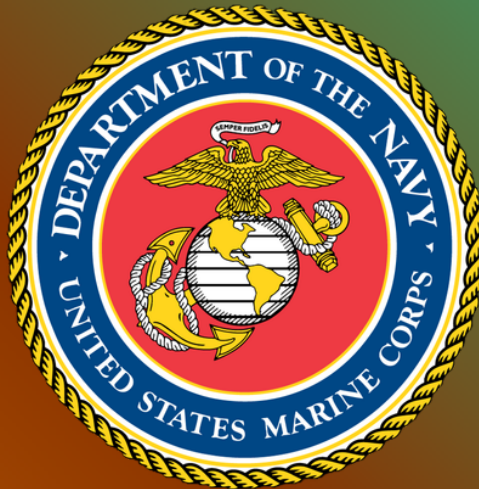


September-October 2026

LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERAN CONNECTION

"Serving those who served and sacrificed for America"



Presented By:

Lexington County Veterans Affairs

605 West Main Street, Suite B

Lexington, SC 29072

(803) 785-8400



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Have you ever wanted to go back in time to when you were in high school? How about returning to a former duty station stateside or overseas? Or how about looking up an old friend or buddy you served with? As we age, I think these things become important to us and remind us of simpler times in our life. Those of us that served America with our families have a special bond with those we served with and create lasting friendships. When we reunite, it is always a great trip down memory lane and marveling at how our kids have grown and now our grandchildren.

My family and I ventured to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri last month for the Army Basic Training graduation of our oldest grandson, Trey Lundeen. This young man decided to spend his entire summer in the scalding heat and humidity of Missouri, being yelled at and homesick away from family for 10 weeks and the only true communication were letters in the U.S. mail between us and him. The irony in this is I also graduated from Army Basic training at the same facility in February 1985 and had never returned for a visit, although I had planned to for many years. So, my being there was closure for me and extreme pride in my grandson at the same time. He stuck with it and did think about quitting but saw the bigger picture and made his entire family so deeply proud.

As Fall approaches and high school and college football ramp up, let us be mindful it is a sport played by young men with aspirations and dreams for the future. Each brings a host of family members who care about their player and sacrifice a lot for them to play sports and attend school. It is also a time for High School Marching Bands and the pageantry and the talent that accompany this. These kids also have aspirations and dreams for the future and bring a giant host of family members to not only football games, but Marching Band competitions all over South Carolina.

Lastly, your County Veterans Affairs team stands ready to help you with correct education on VA benefits and assembling documents to help your VA claim process smoothly. Many of you have become family to us and we are proud to provide quality service daily to those who served and sacrificed for America. Happy Fall y'all!

Enjoying the journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Ed', written in a cursive style.

YOUR SERVICE - YOUR BENEFITS

CALL TO SCHEDULE

(803) 785-8400



Don't forget

**Go to Welcome Center at
Dorn VA Hospital**

**Enroll in VA Healthcare
TODAY!!**

(803) 776-4000



NOTE

Lexington County
offices will be closed
for Labor Day



Monday, Sept 7

Email Us

Ed Lundeen, Director

elundeen@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov

**Jennifer Parler,
Veterans Affairs Supervisor**

jparler@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov

**Brittany Gunter,
Senior Benefits Counselor**

bgrunter@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov

**Jolene Bailey,
Benefits Counselor**

jbailey@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov

**Michelle Schrock,
Benefits Counselor**

mschrock@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov

**Annastasia Blake,
Administrative Assistant**

ablake@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov

Is Someone in Your Family Heading Back to School?

Education Benefits for Veterans' Spouses and Children

If you are a Veteran, your spouse or child may qualify for education benefits because of your service or VA disability status.

Federal VA benefits and South Carolina tuition assistance are separate programs.



IMPORTANT FOR FALL 2026

Chapter 35 students must verify their enrollment each month to keep payments coming.



Chapter 35 for Eligible Spouses and Children

- ✓ May help an eligible spouse or child pay for school or job training.
- ✓ Often applies when a Veteran is permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability.
- ✓ Payments are usually made directly to the student.



South Carolina Tuition Assistance

- ✓ A separate state program for certain War Veterans' children.
- ✓ May provide a tuition waiver at qualifying South Carolina public schools.
- ✓ Apply early, SC Department of Veterans Affairs (SCDVA) reports high application volume and possible delays.



Transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill

- Some spouses or children may use benefits transferred by an eligible service member.
- The transfer usually must be approved while the service member is still serving.

Starting School? Remember These Steps

- 1  Apply for the benefit.
- 2  Contact your School Certifying Official.
- 3  Verify your enrollment when required.
- 4  Report class changes quickly.

Not Sure Who to Call?



VA education benefits, Chapter 35, or GI Bill

888-442-4551
VA.gov/education



South Carolina tuition assistance

803-734-0200
scdva.sc.gov/education



Class or enrollment questions

Contact your school's Veterans Services Office or School Certifying Official.



Know the Difference

Chapter 35, transferred GI Bill benefits, and South Carolina tuition assistance are different programs. A family may qualify for one and not another.





What Your VSO *Wants You to Know*



Before and During the Claim

A few things we wish every Veteran knew before filing a VA claim.

1



Talk to us before you file.

A VSO can help protect a potential effective date, choose the correct form, and avoid filing a claim that is not ready. Accredited VSO assistance is free. We work for the Veteran, but we cannot control VA's timeline or guarantee the outcome.

2



File an Intent to File when you are not ready yet.

An Intent to File gives you one year to complete the claim and may protect an earlier effective date. It starts the clock, but it does not replace the completed claim.

3



A diagnosis alone is not enough.

For most direct service-connection claims, VA needs three basic things: a current condition, an event, injury, illness, or exposure during service, and evidence connecting the two. For an increase, VA needs evidence showing how the condition has worsened.

4



Tell us your entire service story.

Active duty, National Guard and Reserve service, deployments, temporary orders, training periods, duty status, jobs, injuries, exposures, profiles, and line-of-duty records or determinations can all matter. Tell us about it even if you believe VA already has the records.

5



The small details are often the important details.

We need to know which side was injured, when symptoms began, how they continued, what treatment or surgeries occurred, and how the condition affects you now. The complete story is more helpful than a brief complaint.



Accredited VSO help is free. Contact your
Lexington County Veterans Benefits Counselor today.



COULD SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION INCREASE MY VA DISABILITY BENEFIT?



If your service-connected disabilities are especially severe, you may qualify for a higher level of VA disability compensation called **Special Monthly Compensation (SMC)**.

Two terms you may hear are **Aid & Attendance** and **Housebound**.



AID & ATTENDANCE

Aid & Attendance may apply when your service-connected disabilities cause you to regularly need another person's help with personal care, such as:



Bathing or dressing



Eating



Using the bathroom



Staying safe in your daily routine



WHAT DOES "HOUSEBOUND" MEAN?

Housebound SMC has specific requirements.

It may apply when a Veteran has:

- 1 One service-connected disability rated **100%**, plus other separate service-connected disabilities rated **at least 60%**, or
- 2 Service-connected disabilities that **permanently and substantially confine** the Veteran to the **home or immediate area**.



Simply spending most of your time at home does **NOT**, by itself, qualify you for Housebound SMC.

Because the rules are specific, it is better to have your ratings and circumstances reviewed than to try to determine eligibility on your own.



AID & ATTENDANCE OR HOUSEBOUND?

These are **different levels** of additional VA benefits, not two payments that simply stack together. VA determines which SMC level applies to your situation.



ALSO GOOD TO KNOW

Aid & Attendance and Housebound can also increase **VA Pension or Survivors Pension** for some eligible Veterans and surviving spouses. These are separate, needs-based programs with different rules.



THINK SMC MAY APPLY?

Contact Lexington County Veterans Affairs for help reviewing your service-connected disabilities and determining what benefits may apply.

ACCREDITED VSO ASSISTANCE IS FREE.



PROTECT YOUR VA BENEFITS

FTC tips on avoiding pension and disability benefit scams



Scammers target Veterans and families. Know the facts, watch for red flags, and protect what you've earned.

1



KNOW THIS

- Applying for VA benefits is free.
- Free help may be available from VA-accredited VSOs, claims agents, or attorneys.
- No one can guarantee approval — only VA decides eligibility.

2



WATCH FOR RED FLAGS

- Upfront fees to file a claim
- Pressure to act fast
- Promises of guaranteed benefits
- Offers of cash now for your future payments
- Requests to deposit benefits into someone else's account

3



PROTECT YOURSELF

- Check that any helper is VA-accredited.
- Read contracts carefully before you sign.
- Get all details in writing.
- Never share your VA login or password.
- Use strong passwords and multi-factor authentication.

4



IF SOMETHING FEELS WRONG

- Walk away.
- Talk with a trusted family member or friend.
- Report suspected fraud at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).
- Questions about VA benefits: **800-827-1000**



SMART RULE: If someone wants money, control of your benefits, or quick decisions, **slow down** and verify first.



VETERANS CRISIS LINE



DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**



24/7 CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT
FOR VETERANS AND THEIR LOVED ONES.



CHAT ONLINE AT
VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat



TEXT **838255**

You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect!



VET CENTER



The community has your six!
Free, confidential counseling for
combat Veterans, Service Members,
and Families.



(803) 765-9944



1710 Richland Street, Suite A
Columbia, SC 29201

*No copays. No insurance needed.
Just support.*





Veterans Are Asking

★ Questions and Answers About VA Benefits ★



Why did my VA claim move backward, from Step 5 to Step 3, in the online claim tracker? Is something wrong?

Don't panic. VA may move a claim back when it needs more evidence, another exam, or needs to review something new. It does not automatically mean your claim is being denied. Keep an eye out for any requests from VA and respond if they need something from you.

Do I have to pay for a “nexus letter” to win my VA claim?

No. VA does not require you to buy a nexus letter. What you need is enough evidence to show a current condition, something that happened during service, and a connection between the two. Sometimes medical records, a VA exam, statements, or other evidence can establish that connection.

If VA says I had toxic exposure during service, does that mean all of my medical conditions are automatically service connected?

No. Some conditions are presumptive, meaning VA has already recognized a connection between certain exposures and certain illnesses. Other conditions may still be considered based on toxic exposure, but evidence may be needed to show the connection. Exposure by itself does not automatically make every diagnosis service connected.

My claim was denied. Should I file a Supplemental Claim or a Higher-Level Review?

It depends on what your case needs. If you have new evidence that VA has not seen before, a Supplemental Claim may be the better choice. If you believe VA made an error using the evidence already in your file, a Higher-Level Review may be best. A VSO can help you decide which route fits your situation.

Can I work if I'm rated 100% Permanent and Total?

Usually, yes. If you have a 100% schedular rating, VA does not generally limit how much you can work or earn. The rules are different if you receive Individual Unemployability (TDIU), which is based on being unable to maintain substantially gainful employment because of service-connected disabilities.

Can I claim a condition that developed because of a disability VA already service connected?

Yes. This is called secondary service connection. If a service-connected disability causes or worsens another condition, that new condition may also qualify for VA disability benefits. For example, a service-connected knee condition that changes the way you walk could lead to problems with your hip or back. The key is having evidence that connects the two conditions.

**My child is turning 18 but is still in school.
Will VA automatically keep them as my dependent?**

No. VA generally removes a dependent child from your award when they turn 18, even if the child is still attending school. However, you may be able to continue receiving additional compensation for an unmarried child who is between 18 and 23 and enrolled in an approved educational program.

You must notify VA that your child is attending school and provide the requested enrollment information. VA Form 21-674, Request for Approval of School Attendance, is commonly used for this purpose. Submit the form before or shortly after your child turns 18 to help avoid an interruption in dependent benefits. VA may also require updated information if your child changes schools, stops attending, graduates, or turns 23.

Why is VA sending me to another C&P exam when I already had one?

It doesn't necessarily mean something is wrong. VA may need another exam because it needs more information, clarification from an examiner, or an updated look at your condition. If VA schedules another exam, don't skip it, even if it feels repetitive. Missing a required exam can delay your claim or cause VA to decide it using only the evidence already on file.

Does an Intent to File guarantee that will be my back-pay date?

Not always. An Intent to File can protect an earlier possible effective date while you gather what you need for your claim. You generally have one year to file the completed claim. Your actual effective date depends on the claim and the evidence.

**I received a new diagnosis. Does that automatically mean my
VA rating should increase?**

No. VA does not increase a rating just because you received another diagnosis. For an already service-connected condition, VA looks at whether the disability has actually gotten worse and how severe the symptoms are. A new diagnosis may also be a separate condition that needs its own claim.

AGING AT HOME

VA Services That May Help You Stay Independent

Most Veterans would rather remain in their own home as they get older. If health problems are making everyday life harder, VA health care may offer services that can help.



HELP WITH DAILY ACTIVITIES

Homemaker & Home Health Aide Care

A trained aide may be able to come to your home to help with things such as:

- Bathing and personal care
- Dressing and grooming
- Eating
- Using the bathroom
- Moving safely around the home
- Grocery shopping

The amount of help is based on the Veteran's assessed needs.



MEDICAL CARE AT HOME

Home Based Primary Care

Veterans with ongoing or complex medical conditions may qualify for a VA health care team to provide care in the home.

Services can include primary care, nursing, social work, rehabilitation, nutrition, pharmacy and other support.

Good to know: You do not have to receive VA "Housebound" benefits to be considered for Home Based Primary Care.



NURSING OR THERAPY AT HOME

Skilled Home Health Care

When medically needed, VA may arrange services such as:

- Wound or catheter care
- Physical, occupational or speech therapy
- Help managing medications or illness
- Other skilled nursing care



SUPPORT FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Respite & Caregiver Support

Caring for someone at home can be demanding. VA may offer respite care to give a caregiver time away, along with education, support and help finding other resources.

Dorn Caregiver Support:

**803-776-4000,
ext. 56777**



COULD YOUR HOME BE SAFER?

VA also has programs that may help with medically necessary home changes or equipment. Depending on eligibility and medical need, this can include things such as ramps, accessible bathrooms, mobility equipment or other adaptations.



START WITH YOUR VA CARE TEAM

You do not need to know which program to request.

Tell your VA primary care team or VA social worker what you are having difficulty doing at home. They can assess your needs and explain which services may be available.

**Wm. Jennings Bryan
Dorn VA Medical Center**

803-776-4000

800-293-8262

Learn more: va.gov/Geriatrics

*Eligibility is based on the Veteran's clinical needs and the availability of services in the local area.
Copays may apply for some services.*



VA HEALTHCARE VS 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.
- ★ For your VA coverage to cover your care, you must generally receive health care services at a VA facility.

ELIGIBILITY FOR VA COVERAGE VS MEDICARE:

- ★ The VA health system is typically based on your military service, disability rating, and income levels. Most eligible Veterans who served on active duty and separated under any condition other than dishonorable can qualify for some level of VA health benefits. The VA determines your “priority group,” which dictates your out-of-pocket costs, if any.
- ★ Medicare is different. You generally qualify for Medicare at age 65 if you or your spouse worked and paid Social Security taxes for at least 10 years. This entitles you to premium-free Medicare Part A (hospital insurance). If you don’t sign up for Part B (medical insurance) during your initial enrollment period you could face penalties.

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 physicals 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.



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.



Questions about VA benefits and coverage?



VA Health Administration 803-776-4000
VA health benefits hotline 1-877-222-VETS (877-222-8387)
or visit www.va.gov/health-care

Veterans Medical Transportation



Free local transportation for eligible Veterans

Veterans Transportation Service (VTS):

Free local rides, first-come, first-served, within a 25-mile radius of the Columbia VA.

Request rides at least 7 days in advance, excluding weekends and Federal holidays. One caregiver, spouse, or family member may accompany the Veteran. The driver is not permitted to help lift or attend to any patient medically or physically. Any patient being discharged Against Medical Advice i.e. Irregular Discharge, or behavioral issues will not be transported using VTS vehicles.

VTS: (803) 776-4000 ext. 56398 / 57735

DAV Volunteer Transportation Network:

Schedule at least 2 weeks in advance; rides depend on driver availability. Riders must be able to walk (walkers allowed), need minimal assistance, and be mentally alert if traveling alone.

Call Adrienna Fludd at (803) 776-4000

Local transports: ext. 57199, Statewide transports: ext. 57949

Special Mode Transport

For non-emergency medical appointments: SMT scheduling may be limited and typically operates under a 3-day advance notice requirement.

(803) 776-4000 ext. 55237

Wheelchair ext. 51909

Stretcher ext. 54909

Uber ext. 51894

Administrative Eligibility for Either SMT (Ambulance or Wheelchair) or Common Carrier (Uber)

- SC 30% or more: May be transported to any VA authorized appointment
- SC < 30%: May be transported for service connected appts only
- VA Pension: May be transported to any VA authorized appointment
- Income below threshold: May be transported to any VA authorized appointment
- Beneficiary Travel Waiver: May be transported to any VA authorized appointment



Services may be unavailable during emergencies, inclement weather, or scheduled vehicle maintenance.



**Schedule Your VA Appointment
Transportation in Advance**



PLAN AHEAD: Your VA Benefits Are Part of Your Legacy

A little planning now can make things much easier for your family later. Here are a few important things to take care of while you are here to do them.

FILE CLAIMS WHILE YOU'RE HERE

If you have a medical condition you believe is related to your military service, consider talking with an accredited VSO about filing a VA disability claim.

Filing during your lifetime gives you the opportunity to explain what happened, identify treatment and records, and build an official VA record of your claim.

CHECK YOUR DEPENDENTS

If you have a VA disability rating of 30% or higher, you may qualify for additional compensation for eligible dependents.

Make sure VA has the correct information for your spouse and eligible children, especially after a marriage, divorce, birth, adoption, or other family change.

Already receiving VA compensation? It is worth checking that your dependents are listed correctly.

PLAN AHEAD FOR BURIAL

You can apply in advance for a VA Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for burial in a VA national or state cemetery.

A pre-need decision does not reserve a gravesite. It documents eligibility ahead of time, which can make arrangements easier for your family later.



LEARN MORE: [VA.gov/burials-memorials](https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials)



NATIONAL CEMETERY SCHEDULING OFFICE:
800-535-1117



A NOTE FOR YOUR FAMILY

VA disability compensation does not automatically continue to a surviving spouse after a Veteran dies.

Depending on the circumstances, eligible survivors may qualify for DIC, Survivors Pension, or other VA survivor benefits.

Planning today can help protect the benefits you earned and bring peace of mind tomorrow.

START WITH US

Lexington County Veterans Affairs can help with VA disability claims, dependent updates, and survivor claims.

We are here to help you and your family get the benefits you earned.

Lexington County Veterans Affairs

605 West Main Street, Suite B, Lexington, SC 29072

803-785-8400

FALL READY

Three things worth doing this season

A few simple steps now can help you stay healthy, safe and independent through the holidays and winter months.

1



STAY STEADY

Falls are not a normal part of aging, and many can be prevented. If you have fallen recently, feel unsteady, or are holding onto furniture for balance, tell your VA care team.

- Remove trip hazards and improve lighting in your home.
- Wear sturdy, nonslip shoes and keep your vision checked.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist if any medications could cause dizziness, sleepiness or low blood pressure.
- If needed, ask about physical therapy or fall-prevention services.

2



GET AHEAD ON YOUR HEALTH

September and October are good months for most adults to get a flu shot. Ask your VA provider which other vaccines are right for you.

- Check your prescriptions now. Columbia VA recommends requesting mailed refills at least 10 days before you run out. Use VA.gov or My HealtheVet to request and track refills.

3



BE READY FOR SEVERE WEATHER

South Carolina hurricane season continues through November 30. Keep several days of essentials on hand:



Water & food



Flashlights & batteries



Chargers



Important medical info



Medications & supplies

- Lexington County residents can sign up for **CodeRED** emergency and severe-weather alerts. Search "Lexington County CodeRED" online.

★ NEED VA HEALTH HELP? ★



VA HEALTH CONNECT
855-679-0214

24/7 nurse advice, health questions, prescription help and assistance connecting with your VA care team.



DORN VA MEDICAL CENTER
803-776-4000



PRESCRIPTION REFILLS
VA.gov
My HealtheVet

FOOD BANKS & PANTRIES

**Need food today?
Call 211 from
your cellphone
for additional
resources.**

Mission Lexington Food Pantry

📍 216 Harmon St, Lexington, SC 29072

☎ 803-785-6930

🕒 Food pantry: Mon–Fri, 10 AM–2:30 PM

🌐 missionlexingtonsc.org

Largest food pantry in Lexington County; also offers mobile pantry service.

Harvest Hope Food Bank – Midlands

📍 2220 Shop Rd, Columbia, SC 29201

☎ 803-254-4432

🕒 Emergency pantry: Mon–Thu, 9 AM–1 PM;
Fri, 9 AM–12 PM

🌐 harvesthope.org

Serves Lexington County and can help locate nearby partner pantries.

Calvary Chapel Food Assistance Ministry

📍 1156 Barr Road, Lexington, SC, 29072

☎ 803-951-2197

🕒 Tues and Thurs 9 am to 4 pm

🌐 cclexington.org

Christian Ministry Center

📍 1408 Summerland Ave, Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29070

☎ 803-532-0033

🕒 Mon, Wed, Fri 9 am to 12 pm

Chapin We Care Center

📍 1800 Chapin Rd. Chapin SC 29036

☎ 803.345.3244

🕒 Mon, Wed, Friday 9 am to 12 pm

🌐 chapinwecare.org

Corpus Christi Catholic Church Assistance Ministry

📍 2350 Augusta Highway, Lexington, SC 29072

☎ 803-359-6927

🕒 Tues, Wed, and Thurs 9 am to 11 am

🌐 corpuschristisc.org

ALWAYS CALL TO VERIFY HOURS AND HOLIDAY CLOSURES

HOMELESS RESOURCES

Local Housing Assistance



**LOCAL HELP. REAL SUPPORT.
STRONGER TOGETHER.**



SISTER CARE

Sistercare is a leading nonprofit serving battered women and their children in the Midlands, including Lexington County. It offers emergency shelters, counseling, legal advocacy and court accompaniment. Their services are free and confidential.



24/7 Crisis Line:

803-765-9428

803-926-0505



sistercare.org



SAMARITAN'S WELL CHRIST CENTRAL CHURCHES

Their mission is to help women and children in life transition, providing them with hope to live purpose-driven empowered lives.



129 Gibson Ct.

Lexington, SC 29072



803-699-7790



christcentralministries.org



MISSION LEXINGTON

Four churches founded Mission Lexington in 1978 to support individuals and families facing urgent needs and limited resources.



216 Harmon St.

Lexington, SC 29072



803-785-6930

or 803-975-6656



missionlexingtonsc.org



TRANSITIONS

Comprehensive shelter services for men, women, and children, including medical care, employment assistance, and housing support.



2025 Main Street

Columbia, SC 29201



803-708-4861



transitionssc.org



ALSTON WILKES SOCIETY/SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERANS FAMILIES

AWS helps Veterans experiencing homelessness or housing instability build the foundation for stable, independent futures. Through their Veterans Homes in Columbia and Greenville, AWS provides safe transitional housing and supportive services for male Veterans experiencing homelessness. The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program prevents homelessness by helping qualifying Veterans and their families



3519 Medical Drive

Columbia, SC 29203



(803)-995-8464

or (803) 799-2490



alstonwilkes.org/ veteran-services

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. HELP IS HERE.



SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL

THIS MEDAL RECOGNIZES QUALIFYING SERVICE IN THE
SOUTHWEST ASIA THEATER DURING THE GULF WAR PERIOD;
COMBAT PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY DEPEND ON OFFICIAL
SERVICE RECORDS CRITERIA.

AUTHORIZED

March 12, 1991, for service during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

August 2, 1990–November 30, 1995.

CAMPAIGN PHASES

- Defense of Saudi Arabia Aug. 2, 1990 – Jan. 16, 1991
- Liberation and Defense of Kuwait Jan. 17, 1991 – April 11, 1991
- Southwest Asia Cease-Fire April 12, 1991 to Nov. 30, 1995.

Over the inscription, in the top half of the medal, a desert landscape with a tank beneath a rising sun at the eleven o'clock position and an armored personnel carrier beneath attack helicopters at the two o'clock position; and, in the background, two camels. Beneath the inscription is a seascape with a naval vessel in the exergue and two attack aircraft sweeping upward in the eight o'clock position. An oil tanker appears in the distance at the five o'clock position.

The camels on the sand and the oil tanker in the background distinguish the Persian Gulf and the importance of the region. Each of the Armed Forces is represented in the military equipment and collectively they embody the spirit of cooperation among all forces.



We Want YOU



To Volunteer!

Veterans are invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance
at Lexington County Council meetings, held on the
2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.



Location:

County Council Chambers
2nd Floor, County Administration Building
212 South Lake Drive



Time

Meeting begins at 4:30 PM
Please arrive by 4:15 PM and check in inside the chamber



Interested in Participating?



.....
(803)785-8400

or email

ablake@lexingtoncountysc.gov



LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS GROUP



**Join the group every Tuesday from
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at American
Legion Post 7. On the first Tuesday
of each month, the group gathers
at a local restaurant instead.**

**American Legion Post 7
211 American Legion Dr
(off Harmon St.)
Lexington, SC 29072**

**All Lexington County Veterans
are cordially invited to attend
the weekly meeting.**



**Please contact us for more
information about joining!**

E.C. Murray 803-606-9571

Rich (Richard) Little 803-422-1113



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS (803) 785-8400

GENERAL SUPPORT & BENEFITS

MyVA411	(800) 698-2411
VA Benefits Hotline	(800) 827-1000
VA Education Hotline	(888) 442-4551
VA Home Loans	(877) 827-3702

WOMEN VETERANS & SPECIALTY SUPPORT

Special Issue Hotline (Blue Water Navy, Gulf War, Agent Orange)	(800) 749-8387
Caregiver Support Line	(855) 260-3274
Dorn Caregiver Support	(803) 695-6777
Quit VET (stop smoking)	(855) 784-8838
Women Veterans Call Cntr	(855) 829-6636

MILITARY, BURIAL & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ft. Jackson Natl Cemetery	(866) 577-5248
VA Headstones & Marker	(800) 697-6947
SGLI and VGLI	(800) 419-1473
All Other VA Life Ins	(800) 669-8477
DFAS	(800) 321-1080

HOUSING & CRISIS SUPPORT

Mission Lexington	(803) 785-6930
Transitions (Housing, Meals)	(803) 708-4861
VA Natl Homeless Center	(877) 424-3838
Veterans Crisis Line	Dial 988, then press 1
VA Suicide Hotline (Direct)	(800) 273-8255

MEDICAL & HEALTH SERVICES

Healthcare Eligibility	1-877-222-VETS (877-222-8387)
Dorn VA Medical Center	(803) 776-4000
Dorn Patient Advocate	ext: 5693
VA Pharmacy Refills	(800) 293-8262
Community Care	(800) 733-8387
CHAMPVA	(800) 733-8387
CHAMPVA Meds by Mail	(800) 385-0235
TRICARE (SE Region)	(800) 444-5445



National Veterans Legal Services
Program provides free legal representation to Veterans and their families in advanced VA cases. If you've been denied, are facing a complicated appeal, or need help correcting your military discharge, NVLSP's experienced attorneys can step in at no cost to you.

1-800-729-8387
www.nvlsp.org

Free legal help when your case needs the next level of support.

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SC 211 provides information and referral services for all of South Carolina to those needing assistance with rent, electric bills, food pantries, shelters, legal aid, etc.

211

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www.SC211.ORG