

Winter Edition 2023-2024



Lexington
County
Veterans' Affairs
Office



"Serving those who served
and sacrificed for America"

Lexington County Veterans' News



As a department in Lexington County government, we value honesty, respect, and service to country, patriotism, sacrifice and personal excellence. We acknowledge, respect and honor all Veterans for their service to America no matter how, when or where they served. We proudly pledge ourselves to creating and maintaining a customer service environment for Veterans and their survivors. We hold ourselves accountable to our customers, partners and each other. We have a passion for Veterans and firmly believe that excellence is not a goal, it is the standard. ¹

From the Director

Your VA Office Family

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December is upon us with all the festivities of the Christmas season and as this issue is being prepared, we are celebrating as an office family. We plan and prepare an office Christmas breakfast and gift exchange each year and these celebrations are always great. I look forward to this event with my work family every year.

2023 has been a great year for our office as we expanded to six full time staff and I have said it all year, this is the best VA team I have ever had since being appointed as your County VA Officer in 2011. It is an honor to serve Veterans and an honor to be surrounded by a great team. We look forward to a great 2024!

As we begin 2024 with this issue, we look forward to doing more claims, making more appointments and taking care of more Veterans than we did in 2023. The work we do is honorable and we love doing it and want to get better and better. The VA does make many changes throughout the year and we do internal training on a regular basis in order to keep pace with them. We want to always provide the best customer service possible.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day to all of you who take the time to read our quarterly office newsletter!

Enjoying the journey,
Ed Lundeen

World War II Victory Medal

The World War II Victory Medal was established by an Act of Congress on 6 July 1945 (Public Law 135, 79th Congress) and promulgated by Section V, War Department Bulletin 12, 1945. The medal was designed by Thomas H. Jones and approved by the Secretary of War on 5 February 1946. Consequently, it did not transition from a ribbon to a full medal until after World War II had ended. The World War II Victory Medal was first issued as a service ribbon, referred to as the "Victory Ribbon."

The Congressional authorization for the medal specified that it was to be awarded to any member of the United States military, including members of the armed forces of the Government of the Philippine Islands, who served on active duty, or as a reservist, between 7 December 1941 and 2 September 1945.

On 8 August 1946, the separate Merchant Marine World War II Victory Medal was established for members of the United States Merchant Marine who served during World War II.

The World War II Victory Medal was awarded for service between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946, both dates inclusive, with no minimum time in service requirement. The National Personnel Records Center has reported some cases of service members receiving the award for only a few days of service. As hostilities during the Second World War ended on 2 September 1945, there may be cases of service members who had enlisted, entered officer candidate school, or had been a cadet or midshipman at the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy or the U.S. Coast Guard Academy between 3 September 1945 and any date in 1946, receiving the medal without having been a Veteran of the period of active hostilities during the war; the reason for this late date is that President Harry S. Truman did not declare an official end to hostilities until the last day of 1946.

As every member of the United States Armed Forces who served from 7 December 1941 to 31 December 1946 was eligible for the medal, there were over twelve million eligible recipients, making the World War II Victory Medal the second most widely awarded military award of the United States, after the National Defense Service Medal.

The bronze medal is 1 ½ inches in width. The obverse is a figure of Liberation standing full length with head turned to Dexter looking to the dawn of a new day, right foot resting on a war god's helmet with the hilt of a broken sword in the right hand and the broken blade in the left hand, the inscription *WORLD WAR II* placed immediately below the center. On the reverse are inscriptions for the Four Freedoms: *FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND WANT* and *FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND RELIGION* separated by a palm branch, all within a circle composed of the words *UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1941 1945*.

The suspension and service ribbon of the medal is 1 ⅜ inches wide and consists of the following stripes: ⅜ inch double rainbow in juxtaposition (blues, greens, yellows, reds (center), yellows greens and blues); ⅜ inch White 67101; center ⅜ inch Old Glory Red 67156; ⅜ inch White; and ⅜ inch double rainbow in juxtaposition. The rainbow on each side of the ribbon is a miniature of the pattern used in the World War I Victory Medal.

Although the World War I Victory Medal included clasps, the World War II Victory Medal did not. This was because campaign medals were awarded instead.

War Time Dates

World War II: Dec. 7, 1941 through Dec. 31, 1946

Korean War: June 27, 1950 through Jan. 31, 1955

Vietnam War: Aug. 5, 1964, (Feb. 28, 1961 for Veterans who served "in country" before Aug. 5, 1964) through May 7, 1975

Gulf War: Aug. 2, 1990, through a date to be set

Links

<https://scdva.sc.gov/>

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home>

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>

<https://benefits.va.gov/columbia/>

<https://www.fisherhousecolumbiasc.org/>

Numbers

- Veterans crisis line 24/7, 800-273-8255, press 1
- Vet Center counseling 803-765-9944
- Women Veterans Hotline 855-829-6636
- Homeless Veteran call center 877-424-3838
- VA pharmacy refills 800-293-8262
- VA claims self-help line 800-827-1000
- Mission Lexington (803) 785-6930

Happy Birthday

To all of you with birthdays
during the months of
December, January, and
February!

Thank you to everyone who
Volunteered to say the pledge!

- Mike Gordon
- Mike Smith
- J. W. Hester
- Ed Lundeen

County Council Needs You!!



Veterans are still needed to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at County Council meetings on the **2nd and 4th** Tuesdays of the month. County Council meetings start at 4:30pm, so please be present around 4:15pm. Contact the office at 803-785-8400, if you are interested.



Ed Lundeen will be at the libraries below:

Gaston library – 1st Thursday of each month between 10am – 12pm

Chapin library – 1st Friday of each month between 10am – 12pm

Cayce library – 2nd Thursday of each month between 10am - 12pm

Batesburg library – 2nd Friday of each month between 10am – 12pm

We Will Be **CLOSED**

Christmas

Dec. 22nd, 24th, 25th, &
26th

New Year's Day

January 1st.

Martin Luther King

January 15th

Presidents' Day

February 19th

South Carolina Association of County Veterans Affairs Officers

The purpose of this Association is to assist Veterans Affairs Officers in the State of South Carolina in becoming more effective in performing their duties by studying, discussing and recommending improvement in Veterans Affairs; by investigating and providing a means for the exchange of ideas and experience between County Veterans Affairs Officers; and by encouraging education and assisting in the training of Veteran Affairs Officers. Annually the Association serves over 400,000 Veterans in the VA system in the state of SC. To accomplish this service, 46 Accredited County Veterans Affairs Officers and employees attend training. Two training sessions are held each year with one training session in Columbia and the other in the upper or lower part of the state. Representatives from the Federal VA, South Carolina VA and other agencies conduct the required training. These training sessions make us stronger as an Association in our service to each other and in our service to Veterans and their survivors. Education has always been the key to our success and we strive to be the most educated Veteran advocates. By attending the training sessions, our knowledge base is broadened and the tools necessary to assist Veterans and their survivors in securing the benefits they have earned are honed to better assist those that have served.

2023-2025 Officers

Dwight L. Bradham, President - Aiken County Director of Veterans Affairs

Kenisha L. Grimes, 1st Vice President - Orangeburg County Director of Veterans Affairs

Edward "Ed" Lundeen, 2nd Vice President - Lexington County Director of Veterans Affairs

Albertha Woodard, Secretary - Fairfield County Director of Veterans Affairs

David J. LeBlanc Sr. , Treasurer - Charleston County Director of Veterans Affairs

Robin Ghent, Judge Advocate - Lancaster County Director of Veterans Affairs

Ronald Elvis Jr., Immediate Past President - Horry County Director of Veterans Affairs

All WWII Veterans are eligible for VA health care!

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that all World War II Veterans are now eligible for no-cost VA inpatient and outpatient health care.

Under this expansion, all WWII Veterans who served between Dec. 7, 1941, and Dec. 31, 1946, are now eligible for VA health care, regardless of their length of service or financial status. These Veterans will not have to pay inpatient or outpatient copays, enrollment fees, or monthly premiums.

VA is reaching out by phone and mail to encourage WWII Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA care to apply today. Veterans who enroll may also keep their private providers, Medicare, and most other insurance to meet their health care needs.

“These members of Greatest Generation answered the call to serve when our nation – and the world – needed them most. Now, it’s our job to serve them in every way that we can,” said **VA under Secretary for Health, Dr. Shereef Elnahal**. “We are proud to provide world-class, low- or no-cost health care to these heroes at VA, and we encourage all of them to enroll today.”

All WWII Veterans are encouraged to enroll in VA health care – the best, most-affordable health care in America for Veterans. Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in overall quality ratings and patient satisfaction ratings.

Veterans who were not approved for VA health care in the past due to income limits should apply again; income levels no longer apply due to this expansion. VA cannot automatically enroll these Veterans in health care; WWII Veterans must apply for VA health care if they are not currently enrolled.

While World War II Veterans will no longer have to pay inpatient or outpatient copays, they may still have to pay modest medication or urgent care or long-term care copayments in some cases, depending on their eligibility and service connection.

This expansion is made possible through the Joseph Maxwell Cleland and Robert Joseph Dole Memorial Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2022 (Cleland-Dole Act), signed in December 2022.

To apply for VA health care, visit VA’s health care enrollment website, call 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411), or visit your nearest VA medical center or clinic.

Protecting your benefits



How to safely file for a claim

VA wants you to know there are some predatory companies, not recognized by VA, that are targeting you by offering to assist you with your VA benefit claim. These companies charge absurd fees or require you to pay a portion of your VA benefits. VA will never charge you to apply for the benefits you may be entitled to. If you think you're entitled to benefits, please review the following preventive measures to help guard against fraud and scams.

- Apply directly to your VA or your local VA county office. If you plan to file a claim, you may submit your claim in person at any regional office, county VA office, or online. The VA will help you gather the evidence you need to support your claim. There are no costs or hidden fees to file a claim for benefits.
- Be cautious of media advertisements from companies who provide information about the recent changes in law for toxic-exposure benefit claims and suggest Veterans can only obtain VA benefits with their help. These companies may not be recognized through the VA and may be trying to charge Veterans illegal fees. Use of the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) Accreditation Search to confirm and validate the credentials of anyone offering claims assistance.
- Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a fee to help you with your VA claim. There are accredited Veterans Service Organizations, agents and attorneys who may assist you.
- Be cautious of companies claiming to be contacting you on behalf of the VA. Contact VA directly at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of a message you've received.
- Review all documents thoroughly. Never sign a blank form for someone else to complete later. They should always review the completed form before signing and retain a copy of the completed form for their records.

VA and FCC make it easier for Veterans to get internet access

If you receive a qualifying VA pension, VA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are making it easier for you to get connected to the internet.

Qualifying VA pension recipients will now be able to more easily confirm their eligibility to participate in two FCC benefit programs (Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program), often without needing to submit paperwork to the FCC.

This makes it even easier for qualifying Veterans to get discounts on internet and phone services. Certain service providers may also offer a subsidized device, like a laptop or tablet, to qualifying Affordable Connectivity Program participants.

Discounts to help Veterans get online

These FCC programs help people get online. The Lifeline program gives eligible households a discount for internet and phone services. The Affordable Connectivity Program provides eligible households with a monthly discount toward internet service.

They offer a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from a participating provider if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price of the device.

Veterans can sign up for the programs through the FCC National Verifier or by contacting a participating internet service company. Veterans who want assistance signing up for the FCC's programs can get help from their VA care team through a Digital Divide consult.

Other Veterans can also receive benefits

Along with qualifying VA pension recipients, other Veterans are also eligible for Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program. You can qualify based on your household income or participation in other federal programs, though you may need to submit additional paperwork as part of the application process.

To see if you qualify, visit the Lifeline or Affordable Connectivity Program websites <https://www.fcc.gov/acp> or <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/ss20220624-get-connected-telehealth>

VA can also help you determine your eligibility through your VA care team and a Digital Divide Consult. The Digital Divide Consult helps connect Veterans with Lifeline, the Affordable Connectivity Program, and other programs to help with internet access.

VA has already helped more than 100,000 Veterans across the country through the Digital Divide Consult process.

If you want assistance getting internet access so you can connect with loved ones, online resources, or your VA services, VA wants to help you!

Wellness Wednesday Seminars for the US Department of Veterans Affairs

Click the link below to register for these classes!

<https://www.cvent.com/c/calendar/a66e4100-024f-4394-b9c8-1eb784a40434>

- **Transitioning Successfully into Retirement - 12pm Eastern**

13 December 2023 at 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm ET
US Department of Veterans Affairs

Description

This session will discuss the importance of managing cash flow, which benefits can stay with you after retirement, how to protect retirement savings, and the importance of estate planning.

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 | **Time:** 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (ET) | **Location:** via Zoom

- **Transitioning Successfully into Retirement - 3pm Eastern**

13 December 2023 at 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET
US Department of Veterans Affairs

Description

This session will discuss the importance of managing cash flow, which benefits can stay with you after retirement, how to protect retirement savings, and the importance of estate planning.

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 | **Time:** 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (ET) | **Location:** via Zoom

- **12pm (ET) - First Steps to Financial Freedom**

17 January 2024 at 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm ET
US Department of Veterans Affairs

Description

This session will cover the basics of budgeting, banking and credit, emergency savings, investing, and planning for retirement.

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 | **Time:** 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (ET) | **Location:** via Zoom

- **3pm (ET) - First Steps to Financial Freedom**

17 January 2024 at 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET
US Department of Veterans Affairs

Description

This session will cover the basics of budgeting, banking and credit, emergency savings, investing, and planning for retirement.

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 | **Time:** 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (ET) | **Location:** via Zoom

• 12pm (ET) - Fundamentals of Wills, Trusts, and Power of Attorney

21 February 2024 at 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm ET

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Description

In this session, we will discuss best practices for ensuring your assets are distributed as you wish and to whom you wish.

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 | **Time:** 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (ET) | **Location:** via Zoom

• 3pm (ET) - Fundamentals of Wills, Trusts, and Power of Attorney

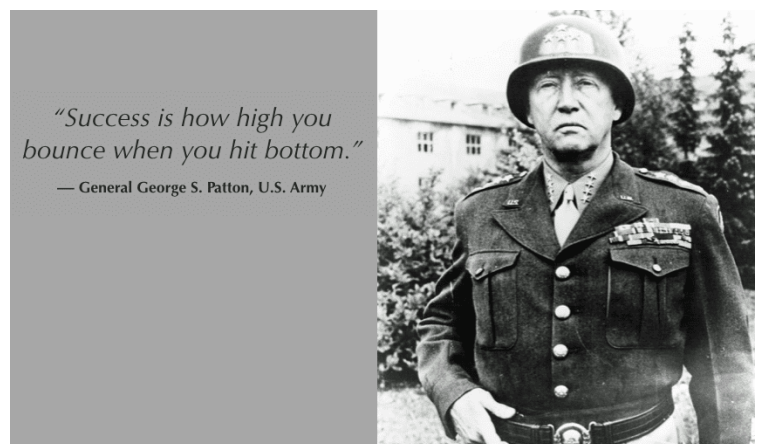
21 February 2024 at 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Description

In this session, we will discuss best practices for ensuring your assets are distributed as you wish and to whom you wish.

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 | **Time:** 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (ET) | **Location:** via Zoom



Lexington Events!

Fourth Annual Downtown Santa Scavenger Hunt

It's time for the fourth annual Downtown Santa Scavenger Hunt again and we have lots of giveaway prizes!

Here's how it works:

First, like this post <https://www.facebook.com/TownofLexingtonSC/> and tag two friends to be entered to win a gift certificate to one of the participating restaurants! Next, find Santa's friends in downtown Main St. restaurants [they'll have a Downtown Santa tag on them so you know you've found the right one]. Then, match 6 out of 18 Santas to the correct business.

Drop off your form in the big red drop box before December 22 at Town Hall to be



DOWNTOWN SANTA SCAVENGER HUNT



**FIND MY FRIENDS IN
DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON
BUSINESSES**



**MATCH 6 OUT OF 18
SANTAS TO THE
CORRECT BUSINESS**

<input type="checkbox"/> SOUTHERN SMOKED <input type="checkbox"/> HAZELWOOD BREWING <input type="checkbox"/> OLD MILL BREW PUB <input type="checkbox"/> CREEKSIDE <input type="checkbox"/> O'HARA'S PUB <input type="checkbox"/> O'HARA'S BAKERY	<input type="checkbox"/> BODHI THAI <input type="checkbox"/> KEG COWBOY <input type="checkbox"/> NICKY'S PIZZERIA <input type="checkbox"/> GROUCHO'S <input type="checkbox"/> CRIBB'S <input type="checkbox"/> ALODIA'S	<input type="checkbox"/> CRAFT AXE THROWING <input type="checkbox"/> BARRIO <input type="checkbox"/> BUBBA'S BISCUIT <input type="checkbox"/> LIBBY'S <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> MEDITERRANEAN CAFE
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PLACE COMPLETED FORM IN THE RED DROP BOX LOCATED IN TOWN HALL BY 12.22.23 TO BE ENTERED TO WIN.


NAME	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS


2023 SNOWBALL FESTIVAL AT ICEHOUSE AMPHITHEATER


107 W. Main Street, Lexington, SC 29012


UPDATED SCHEDULE

 **Thursday, November 30**
4-8pm - Christmas Craft Fair

 **Saturday, December 16**
9am-1pm - Carnival

 **Friday, December 1**
4-8pm - Christmas Craft Fair
6:30pm - Carolighting Ceremony

 **Thursday, December 21**
6pm - The Grinch (PG)

 **Sunday, December 3**
3pm - Christmas Parade

 **Friday, December 22**
6pm - The Santa Clause (PG)

VISIT ICEHOUSEAMPHITHEATER.COM FOR DETAILS



Biography Template

Pledge of Allegiance County Council Meeting



(Please fill out and return to the Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office)

Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office
605 West Main Street, Suite B
Lexington, SC 29072
803-785-8400
803-785-0115 fax
ablake@lex-co.com

We are always looking for Veterans to volunteer to say the pledge at the beginning of the County Council meetings every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month. This program allows Veterans to have their military experience to be recognized and honored.

The County Council Meetings are held in the
Council Chambers located on the second floor of the
County Administration Building
212 South Lake Drive

The meeting starts at 4:30, and we will meet you inside the chamber at 4:15 on the
right hand side close to the podium.

Bio Template

Name:

Contact Information (number and/or email address):

Served in Branch and Dates of Service:

Veteran of Wars:

Military Medals and Awards:

Lives where:

Works at or retired from: (if retired – number of years worked)

Volunteer work or organization:

Married to:

Number children:

Number grandchildren:

Number great-grandchildren:



Farm to Table Cooking Classes-December 16th class

When we come together to prepare a meal and eat with our friends or family, we are building lasting connections through the shared experience of eating together. For those that are struggling and feeling isolated, preparing a meal with trusted peers is a great way to create joy and purpose in their lives. Our Farm to Table cooking classes, taught by Farm to Flame Chef Jason Dersch, offer our Warriors the opportunity to learn new recipes and connect with their peers each month at the BRBR!

Veterans and First Responders are eligible to participate in this class. Spouses may also attend, as long as they fill out their own registration form and attend the class with the Veteran or First Responder. Farm to Table cooking classes fill up quickly, so please be advised that you may be asked to participate in a later course due to capacity.

Have You Tried our FREE

Yoga and Tai Chi Classes Yet????

Veterans, Active-Duty service members, First Responders, and their immediate family members are eligible to attend any of our four FREE yoga and tai chi classes throughout the week, every week! Yoga and tai chi have been found to have numerous mental wellness benefits through the guided movements and controlled breaths it requires.

Any and all skill levels are welcomed to attend these classes. Please see our event calendar <https://www.thebigredbarnretreat.org/events> to sign up for your yoga or tai chi class today!

Class Schedule

All yoga and tai chi class sessions are held at:

830 Lorick Road, Blythewood, SC 29016 (the Cabin Garage)

Mindful Movement: Mondays at 6:30PM

iREST Yoga Nidra: Tuesdays at 5:30PM

Tai Chi: Wednesdays at 5:30PM

Flow and Restore Yoga: Thursdays at 5:30PM

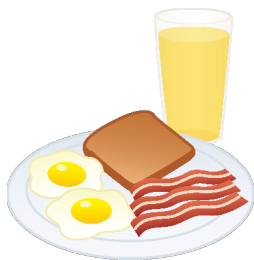
Chapin American Legion

Post 193



LET'S PLAY BINGO!

Chapin American Legion Post 193 hosts BINGO on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the OLE Oak Barn, 1155 Holy Trinity Church Road, Little Mountain, SC. Admission is \$3.00, and Game packets (13 games) are just \$20.00. Doors open at 5:30 pm and games begin promptly at 7:00 pm. Concessions are available on-site so please no outside food or beverages. Ages 6 and up can play! All proceeds benefit Chapin American Legion Post 193 New Building Fund.



Monday Morning Veterans ONLY Breakfast

Every Monday morning unless otherwise posted on our website

<https://www.americanlegionpost193.com>

Coffee is on at 7:30 am with breakfast served from 8:30am-9:15am. The cost is \$6.00 per person. (Eggs including made to order, hash browns, grits, various types of meat, fruit, a yogurt bar, and home-baked goods, juice, and coffee.)

Chapin American Legion Post 193
102 Lexington Ave, Chapin, SC 29036

This is a Veteran ONLY event to foster fellowship and conversation



This looks like FUN! If you would like to join Chapin American Legion Post 193 on a cruise, please see the information on the next page.

Chapin American Legion Post 193 is actively recruiting new members! We are a dynamic Post and one of the fastest growing Posts in the State of SC For more information, please contact our Post Adjutant, Steven Goulet, at (803) 553-2806 or adjutant@americanlegionpost193.org

Chapin American Legion Post 193 is also conducting a fundraising Military Appreciation Cruise in conjunction with Dream Vacations. Come join us as we set sail November 9-16, 2024, aboard the Norwegian Joy on a cruise of the Western Caribbean. Pricing includes gratuities, specialty dining, shore excursion credit, a premium drink package, and more. It is per person double occupancy. For more information contact Betty Barrett, Dream Vacations consultant, babarrett@dreamvacations.com, (803) 618-6011. Each cabin booked and sailed provides our Post will funds to help us in our mission of serving Veterans and the local community. See you onboard!



MILITARY APPRECIATION CRUISE

Find your happy place on board Norwegian Joy. Enjoy a rush like no other as you race in the middle of the ocean on a thrilling two-level race track. Stroll along the Waterfront, a quarter-mile oceanfront promenade that connects you with the ocean while experiencing some of Norwegian's signature dining venues, bars and stunning views. Be pampered in luxury in our new, spacious and beautifully appointed Concierge accommodations. Enjoy vacation experiences that will delight your senses and calm your soul on Norwegian Joy.

PRICING IS PER CABIN BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY AND INCLUDES: UNLIMITED BEVERAGES, SPECIALTY DINING, WIFI, SHORE EXCURSION CREDIT, GRATUITIES & TRAVEL INSURANCE

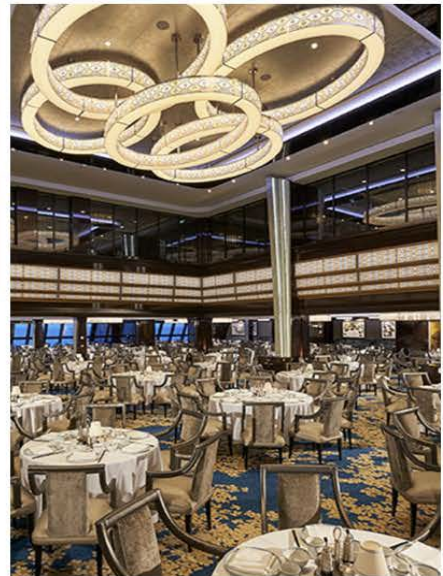


NORWEGIAN JOY
NOV 9, 2024 - NOV 16, 2024

Balcony Mini-Suite
\$3690.00

Balcony
\$3380.00

Inside
\$2660.00



DREAM VACATIONS
BETTY BARRETT
babarrett@dreamvacations.com
 803-618-6011

**ASK ABOUT THE 2-FOR-1
 AIRFARE SPECIAL!**



Are You A Veteran? Military Discounts May Apply!
Save More Money With A Cruise First Certificate - Ask Me How



Lexington County Veterans Group

- If anyone has another person in mind for special guest speaker, share the information with Rod, the Group Leader.
- We miss all our members that are absent and hope to see you soon!

Thank you for being supportive and reach out to members



All Lexington County Veterans are cordially invited to attend the weekly meeting. The group meets on Tuesdays from 10am-12pm at The American Legion Post 7. The address is 200 American Legion Drive (off Harmon St.) Lexington, SC 29072



Ed

Jennifer

Kathy

Christy

Brittany

Annastasia



Wishes everyone a



Fall Edition 2023



**Lexington
County
Veterans' Affairs
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**"Serving those who served
and sacrificed for America"**

Lexington County Veterans' News



As a department in Lexington County government, we value honesty, respect, and service to country, patriotism, sacrifice and personal excellence. We acknowledge, respect and honor all Veterans for their service to America no matter how, when or where they served. We proudly pledge ourselves to creating and maintaining a customer service environment for Veterans and their survivors. We hold ourselves accountable to our customers, partners and each other. We have a passion for Veterans and firmly believe that excellence is not a goal, it is the standard. ¹

From the Director

Your VA Office Family

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Telephone # 803-785-8400

Fax # 803-785-0115

Happy Fall!

Every year I look forward to the autumn season and this year is no different. It is a time of harvest for our farmers, cooler weather, high school and college football, high school band competitions and a time of thanksgiving. The leaves turn into brilliant colors that dot the landscape and make beautiful photographs. Indeed it is a special time of year!

We have changed the labeling of our office newsletter to reflect the four seasons of the year because it feels more appropriate. For quite some time we provided a monthly and bi-monthly newsletter and changed to a quarterly format in 2022. Moving forward, our quarterly issues will reflect the season of the year and events that surround that. There will be more local flyers that are themed and organic to the time of the year. We also publicize events of our Lexington County Veteran's group as well as local Veteran's Service Organizations.

As we approach Veterans Day activities both in our County and the Midlands, we are mindful of the service of all Veterans. We are grateful for their sacrifice and that of their family. We are honored to serve them every day. This large issue is chock full of discounted or free meals for Veterans to honor the Veterans Day holiday. Please share this information with Veterans or those still serving on active duty that you know.

Also, our upcoming Veteran's Parade on Sunday, November 5 at 3pm is always a great event. We hope to see you there as we honor and celebrate all Veterans that call Lexington County home.

We have had a landmark and heavy claims year due to the PACT ACT that was signed into law last year. This act has provided VA benefits to Veterans and surviving spouses that thought they would never get anything. It has been met with much emotion as many VA decisions have been positive and we are so proud of this and the work we are fortunate enough to do. If you feel you are eligible for benefits under this new law, please give us a call and schedule an appointment for us to go over it with you.

Enjoying the journey,

Ed Lundeen

Outstanding Volunteer Service Military Medal & Military Ribbon



A. Authorization. E.O. 12830 of 9 January 1993.

B. Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal Eligibility Requirements. The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) may be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 31 December 1992, perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature. To be eligible, an individual's service must:

- (1) Be to the civilian community, including the military family community;
- (2) Be significant in nature and produce tangible results;
- (3) Reflect favorably on the Military Service and the Department of Defense; and
- (4) Be of a sustained and direct nature.

C. Guidelines

(1) While there is no specific time period to qualify for the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM), approval authorities shall ensure the service to be honored merits the special recognition afforded by the medal. DON views the sustained time period to be three years. The Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) is intended to recognize exceptional community support. Over time, not a single act or achievement. Further, it is intended to honor direct support of community activities. For the purpose of this award, attending membership meetings or social events of a community service group is not considered qualifying service; however, manning a community crisis action telephone line for a sustained period of time is considered qualifying service. The overall level of volunteer participation and impact of an individual's community service is the key to determining whether award of the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) is justified.

(2) The Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) recognizes service provided to a community over time; therefore multiple awards of the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) during a single tour of duty are not authorized. However, approval authorities may consider a sustained record of significant community service performed during successive tours when adjudicating recommendations for award of the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM).

(3) Service recognized by award of the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) shall be of a voluntary nature, not detailed or tasked, nor performed as part of a military mission (for example, a unit project).

(4) Volunteering with the following types of organizations are examples of qualifying service: youth programs such as Boy/Girl Scouts; YMCA or YWCA; 4H; Big Brothers/Sisters; sports programs such as Little League and Special Olympics; abuse/rape/suicide hot line volunteers; hospital/blood drive volunteers; education programs such as volunteer teachers, D.A.R.E., and literacy programs; CFC organizations such as March of Dimes, Make-a-Wish Foundation, Salvation Army; volunteer fire department/rescue squad; community centers; neighborhood watch; Meals-on-Wheels; homeless shelters; senior citizens programs; working with the hearing impaired; fund drives and telethon support; public library story hour; museum guide; local beautification projects such as Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Highway; military affiliates such as USO, Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, and Navy League' Sea Cadet programs.

(5) An Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) recommendation may be submitted by anyone senior to the individual being recommended, on the appropriate personal award recommendation form, to the individual's commanding officer. The commanding officer shall certify that the eligibility requirements have been met, and that the member's service has been honorable throughout the award period. Service Medal (MOVSM) is delegated to officers

d. Awarding Authority. Authority to award the Outstanding Volunteer who have authority to award the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal or Joint Service Achievement Medal and above. The awarding authority shall issue a letter of authorization which includes the period recognized and the organization(s) for whom the qualifying service was performed, as well as any commendatory remarks desired by the awarding authority. For Navy personnel, copies of the approved OPNAV 1650/3 will be forwarded to NPC (PERS-312). For Marine Corps personnel, a copy of the approved Award Processing System award recommendation will automatically be forwarded to MMSB for inclusion in the Marine's official military record. No citation or certificate will be issued.

War Time Dates

World War II: Dec. 7, 1941 through Dec. 31, 1946

Korean War: June 27, 1950 through Jan. 31, 1955

Vietnam War: Aug. 5, 1964, (Feb. 28, 1961 for Veterans who served "in country" before Aug. 5, 1964) through May 7, 1975

Gulf War: Aug. 2, 1990, through a date to be set

Links

<https://scdva.sc.gov/>

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home>

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>

<https://benefits.va.gov/columbia/>

<https://www.fisherhousecolumbiasc.org/>

Numbers

- Veterans crisis line 24/7, 800-273-8255, press 1
- Vet Center counseling 803-765-9944
- Women Veterans Hotline 855-829-6636
- Homeless Veteran call center 877-424-3838
- VA pharmacy refills 800-293-8262
- VA claims self-help line 800-827-1000
- Mission Lexington (803) 785-6930



To all of you with birthdays during the months of October, November !

Thank you to everyone who Volunteered to say the pledge!

- Charles Larsen
- David Rosin
- Mike Spears
- Daris Adams
- William Wendling

County Council Needs You!!



Veterans are still needed to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at County Council meetings on the **2nd and 4th** Tuesdays of the month. County Council meetings start at 4:30pm, so please be present around 4:15pm. Contact the office at 803-785-8400, if you are interested.



Ed Lundeen will be at the libraries below:

Gaston library – 1st Thursday of each month between 10am – 12pm

Chapin library – 1st Friday of each month between 10am – 12pm

Cayce library – 2nd Thursday of each month between 10am - 12pm

Batesburg library – 2nd Friday of each month between 10am – 12pm

We Will Be **CLOSED**

Veterans Day
Nov. 10, 2023
&
Thanksgiving
Nov. 23rd & 24th

VHA-Uber Health Connect expands Veterans' access to transportation

Transportation remains one of the greatest barriers to increasing Veterans' access to health care. Veterans may face a wide range of transportation challenges ranging from not having access to transportation to relying on a caregiver who may be unavailable or to needing a long-distance drive to their nearest VA.

Following a successful pilot at 10 VA medical centers in 2022, the VHA-Uber Health Connect (VUHC) Initiative is now expanding to 60 new VAMCs to continue addressing this challenge. Eligible Veterans in 18 states and Puerto Rico will have access to supplemental transportation to and from their medical care, expanding access to the soonest and best care. The program proved a success with more than 32,000 rides completed across over 450,000 miles. Survey feedback from 2,300 participants shows that 83% of Veterans would not have been able to access their medical care without the VUHC program.

Since expanding in April 2023, VA staff have been eager to offer the program as another means of transportation for eligible Veterans. From April to June 2023, VUHC completed more than 5,700 rides, making an immediate and tangible impact on Veterans' access to care. As the program expands, more Veterans across the country will have increased access to reliable transportation and fewer barriers to care.

Eligibility requirements for Uber transports are the same as for Special Mode Transportation (SMT) - with the exception that the Veteran must be ambulatory and not require assistance ambulating. One of the following will qualify the Veteran:

- 1) Service-connected disability of 30% or more for transport to any VAMC appointment or VA authorized community-care appointment
- 2) Service-connected disability of less than 30% qualifies for transport only to service-connected appointments
- 3) Receives a VA pension
- 4) Receives VA Aid and Attendance
- 5) Income is below the national pension level

If eligible, to arrange the transport, the Veteran needs to contact his social worker or provider to request a BT Common Carrier Consult and specify the date, time, and place of the appointment for which he is requesting transportation. Once the consult has been entered, the SMT staff will be notified and set up the transport. Please know that scheduling an Uber transport does not necessarily ensure that the Veteran will be transported since it is dependent upon driver availability.







2023's Best and Worst States for Military Retirees

As military personnel retire, whether they faced active combat or not, they may find it difficult to readjust to civilian life. Many retirees face major struggles including Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, disability and homelessness, which are especially difficult to deal with during this period of economic difficulty. These Veterans must also consider how state tax policies on military benefits vary, along with the relative friendliness of different job markets and other socioeconomic factors, when choosing a state in which to settle down.

In order to help ease the burden on our nation's military community, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia based on their ability to provide a comfortable military retirement. Our analysis uses a data set of 28 key metrics, ranging from Veterans per capita to number of VA health facilities to job opportunities for Veterans.

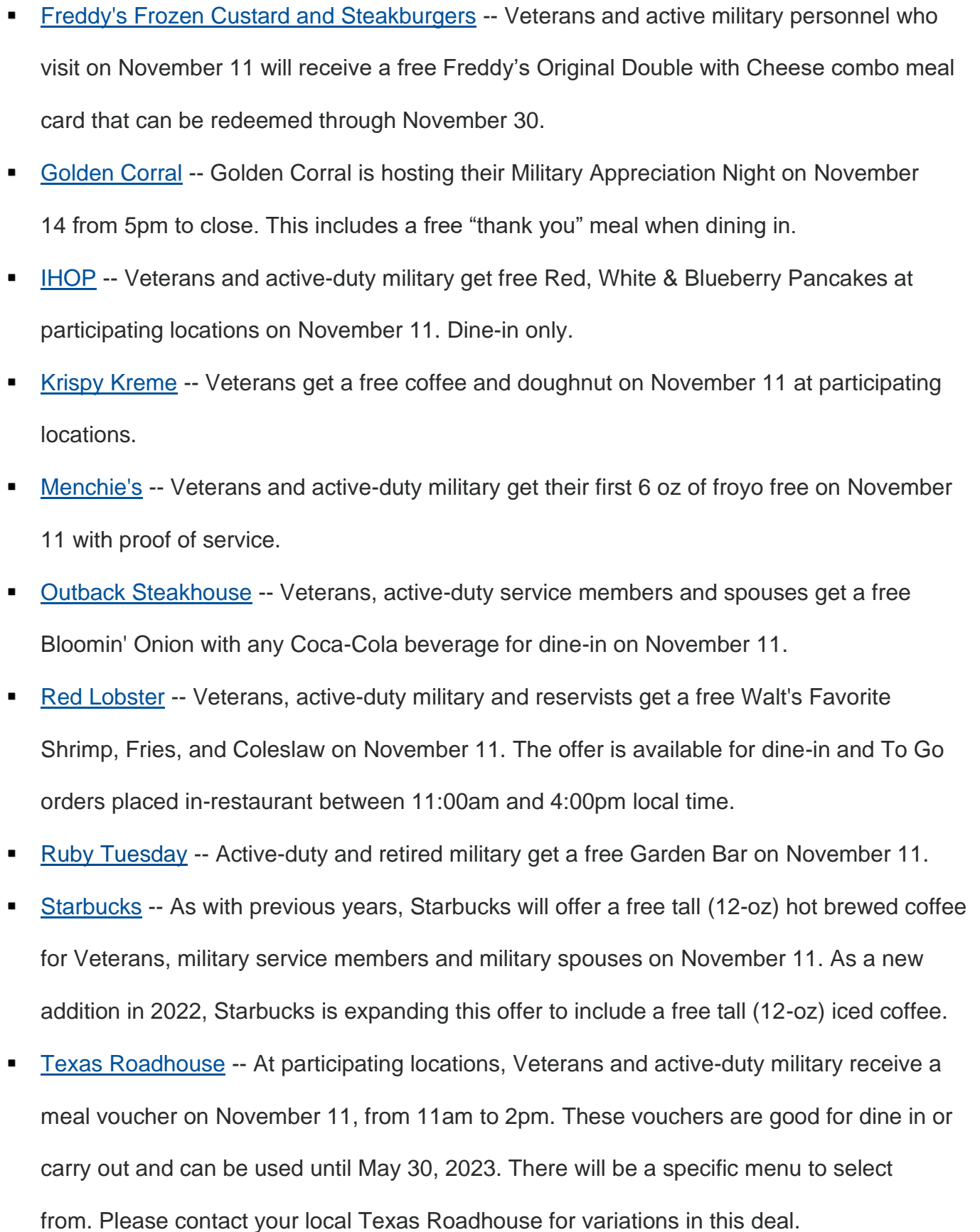
Look where South Carolina is on the list!!

Best States for Military Retirees

Overall Rank 	State	Total Score 	Economic Environment 	Quality of Life 	Health Care 
1	Florida	61.14	6	3	19
 2	South Carolina	60.82	15	2	9
3	Virginia	60.45	4	5	17
4	Minnesota	59.22	18	36	1
5	Connecticut	57.78	35	21	2
6	New Hampshire	57.47	14	8	12
7	Maryland	57.31	23	1	29
8	South Dakota	56.99	13	25	7
9	North Carolina	56.51	5	16	21
10	North Dakota	55.11	1	28	30

Veteran's Day Specials

- **Chick-fil-A**--Veterans will receive a free meal on Veterans Day with a valid military I.D. Some participating Chick-fil-A locations may offer specials or discounts
- [Applebee's](#) -- Active-duty military, Veterans, Reserves, and National Guard receive a free meal when dining in from a special menu on November 11. And when dining in on November 11, military guests will receive a \$5 Bounce Back Card to redeem for dine-in, To Go, or delivery within a three-week redemption window.
- [BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse](#) -- On November 11, current and former military members receive a free meal from a select menu. Dine-in only.
- [Buffalo Wild Wings](#) -- Veterans and active-duty service members get a free order of 10 boneless wings and fries on November 11. Must show valid proof of service. Dine in only.
- [Carolina Ale House](#) -- Veterans and military members get a free rib platter with the purchase of a drink on November 11.
- [Carrabba's](#) -- Veterans and active-duty military that dine in on November 11 receive an appetizer or dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage with show of military ID.
- [Chicken Salad Chick](#) -- On November 11, veterans and active-duty military will receive a free meal at all locations.
- [Chili's](#) -- Veterans and active-duty service members get a free meal from a select menu on November 11. Available for in-restaurant only.
- [Cracker Barrel](#) -- Veterans get a complimentary slice of Double Chocolate Fudge Coca-Cola Cake in-store or online on November 11.
- [Denny's](#) -- On November 11, Denny's offers a complimentary Grand Slam to all active, non-active and retired military personnel. The offer is valid for dine-in only at participating locations from 5am to noon with a valid military ID or DD 214.
- [Dickey's Barbecue Pit](#) -- Veterans and active-duty military get a Free Pulled Pork Sandwich on November 11. Valid in-store, and online/app for carryout.
- [Dunkin' Donuts](#) -- Veterans and active-duty military get a free donut of their choice on November 11 at participating locations. Offer available in-store only. Not available for orders placed using On-the-Go Mobile Ordering through the Dunkin' Mobile App.

- 
- [Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers](#) -- Veterans and active military personnel who visit on November 11 will receive a free Freddy's Original Double with Cheese combo meal card that can be redeemed through November 30.
 - [Golden Corral](#) -- Golden Corral is hosting their Military Appreciation Night on November 14 from 5pm to close. This includes a free "thank you" meal when dining in.
 - [IHOP](#) -- Veterans and active-duty military get free Red, White & Blueberry Pancakes at participating locations on November 11. Dine-in only.
 - [Krispy Kreme](#) -- Veterans get a free coffee and doughnut on November 11 at participating locations.
 - [Menchie's](#) -- Veterans and active-duty military get their first 6 oz of froyo free on November 11 with proof of service.
 - [Outback Steakhouse](#) -- Veterans, active-duty service members and spouses get a free Bloomin' Onion with any Coca-Cola beverage for dine-in on November 11.
 - [Red Lobster](#) -- Veterans, active-duty military and reservists get a free Walt's Favorite Shrimp, Fries, and Coleslaw on November 11. The offer is available for dine-in and To Go orders placed in-restaurant between 11:00am and 4:00pm local time.
 - [Ruby Tuesday](#) -- Active-duty and retired military get a free Garden Bar on November 11.
 - [Starbucks](#) -- As with previous years, Starbucks will offer a free tall (12-oz) hot brewed coffee for Veterans, military service members and military spouses on November 11. As a new addition in 2022, Starbucks is expanding this offer to include a free tall (12-oz) iced coffee.
 - [Texas Roadhouse](#) -- At participating locations, Veterans and active-duty military receive a meal voucher on November 11, from 11am to 2pm. These vouchers are good for dine in or carry out and can be used until May 30, 2023. There will be a specific menu to select from. Please contact your local Texas Roadhouse for variations in this deal.



VETERANS OF THE U.S. MILITARY - STAY CONNECTED FOR LIFE!

This website www.togetherweserved.com is for all those who served in the U.S. Military. Here is where you can reconnect with your former brothers and sisters-in-arms, share in the camaraderie of other Veterans, and preserve a record of your military service that will live on for future generations.

Hold your phone camera over QR Code to go to your branch of service or click on branch of service, press the control key then left double click on mouse.





BIG RED BARN RETREAT
FALL JAM
AT THE
BALLPARK

★ ★ ★
BENEFITTING VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Multi-Platinum Selling Country Music Artist

CHRIS JANSON

IN CONCERT

Saturday, October 7th

— ★ ★ ★ —
Segra Park: Home of the Columbia Fireflies

— ★ ★ ★ —
Tickets On Sale July 14th



Hits include:
Fix a Drink
Buy Me a Boat
Good Vibes
All I Need Is You



Fall Jam 2023: Featuring Chris Janson Live at Segra Park on October 7th.

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR TICKETS TO FALL JAM?

This year's headliner is Grand Ole Opry Member and Multi-Platinum Country Music Songwriter and Artist CHRIS JANSON. CHRIS JANSON Hits include *Fix a Drink, Buy Me A Boat, Good Vibes, and All I Need is You!*

[Click Here to Buy Tickets](#)

<https://www.fireflietickets.com/web/event/1785/2023-big-red-barn-retreat-fall-jam-10-07-2023/>

"His Stage Presence is Incredible!"

Chris Janson really knows how to work the crowd. Not only does he shred on the harmonica, but continues to dance like nobody is watching.

Janson is such a genuine man and humble. He usually will toast the crowd and really appreciates the fans!

Janson's deep country twang and honky tonk silliness are the perfect combination for a FUN SHOW!!!

Also Performing, Brooks Herring

A Favorite performer in the Midlands, Brooks Herring is a singer-songwriter, recording artist, and performer from Columbia, SC, based in Nashville, TN. Brooks writes and performs original music, and covers a wide variety of music from nearly every genre and generation!



MILITARY APPRECIATION DAYS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 | MONDAY, OCTOBER 16
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Active and retired military and their dependents
(with proper military identification cards) will be admitted free.
Dependent children 14 years old and older must present ID.

MEET ME AT THE

ROCKET

OCT 11-22

SCSTATEFAIR.ORG

SOUTH CAROLINA
State Fair



NEW REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN *Located in the Ruff Building*



Discover this traveling tribute to our military fallen from the Global War on Terror. Remembering Our Fallen, a photographic war memorial showcases 34 tribute towers, honoring not only those who made the ultimate sacrifice but also those who served in combat zones and succumbed to invisible wounds. Additionally, a tribute tower has been included to pay homage to our brave military personnel who tragically lost their lives in stateside or non-combat training accidents. Join us in honoring their service and sacrifice at the profound memorial.

For more information: scstatefair.org/attractions/remembering-our-fallen/



USC VETERANS DAY 5K 2023



Please join us on Sunday afternoon, November 12th, to celebrate our Nation's Veterans, and the 105th anniversary of Veterans Day (former known as Armistice Day)!

The 6th Annual Veterans Day 5K is a celebration of the 105th Anniversary of Veterans Day (formerly known as Armistice Day) and honors our service members and Veterans here in Columbia. The route features many monuments and landmarks, both of the University Campus, and of South Carolina's Veterans, including the Horseshoe, the World War memorial, the Russell House, the South Carolina Veterans Memorial by the State House, and more!

The 5K is a fundraiser benefitting the Range Fore Hope Foundation (FRHF), a local and registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Range Fore Hope Foundation's mission is to foster and encourage its participants to use golf as a therapeutic resource and an adaptive alternative to combat the effects of PTSD. RFHF aspires to continue providing programs and resources to active-duty service members, Veterans, military family members, and adaptive golfers that will improve participants' physical, mental, and social well-being.

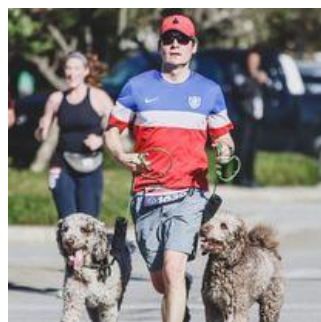
The 5K will take place on November 12th, 2023, starting at 2:00 p.m., and all are encouraged to join in whether you prefer to run, walk, or ruck.

Event Location:

[700 Lincoln St, Columbia, SC 29201](https://www.google.com/maps/place/700+Lincoln+St,+Columbia,+SC+29201)

Registration:

<https://raceroster.com/events/2023/71018/6th-annual-usc-veterans-day-5k#:~:text=The%205K%20will%20take%20place,run%2C%20walk%2C%20or%20ruck.>



Farm to Table with Chef Jason Dersch



BBQ Workshop

We will be having a BBQ Workshop for our October Farm to Table class. This event will be held at the Pavilion and will be an outdoor event. Space is limited so sign up today.

Veterans and First Responders are eligible to participate in this class. Spouses may also attend, as long as they fill out their own registration form and attend the class with the Veteran or First Responder. Farm to Table cooking classes fill up quickly, so please be advised that you may be asked to participate in a later course due to capacity.

SCAN ME

Registration



FARM TO TABLE
Food Rescue
with Jason N. Dersch

MUSHROOM STROGANOFF

INGREDIENTS:
(2 Servings)

- 1lb Assorted Mushroom, roughly chopped
- ¼ Lemon, Juice only
- ½ Red Onion, Lyonnaise cut
- ¼ C Brandy
- 2 Cloves Garlic, minced
- ½ C Vegetable Stock
- 4 each Cornichon and Pickled Pearl Onion, chopped
- 1t Smoked Paprika
- 1T Capers, drained
- 1t Thyme
- ½ Bunch Parsley leaves, chopped
- Salt and Pepper, to taste
- ½ C Crème Fraise
- EV00

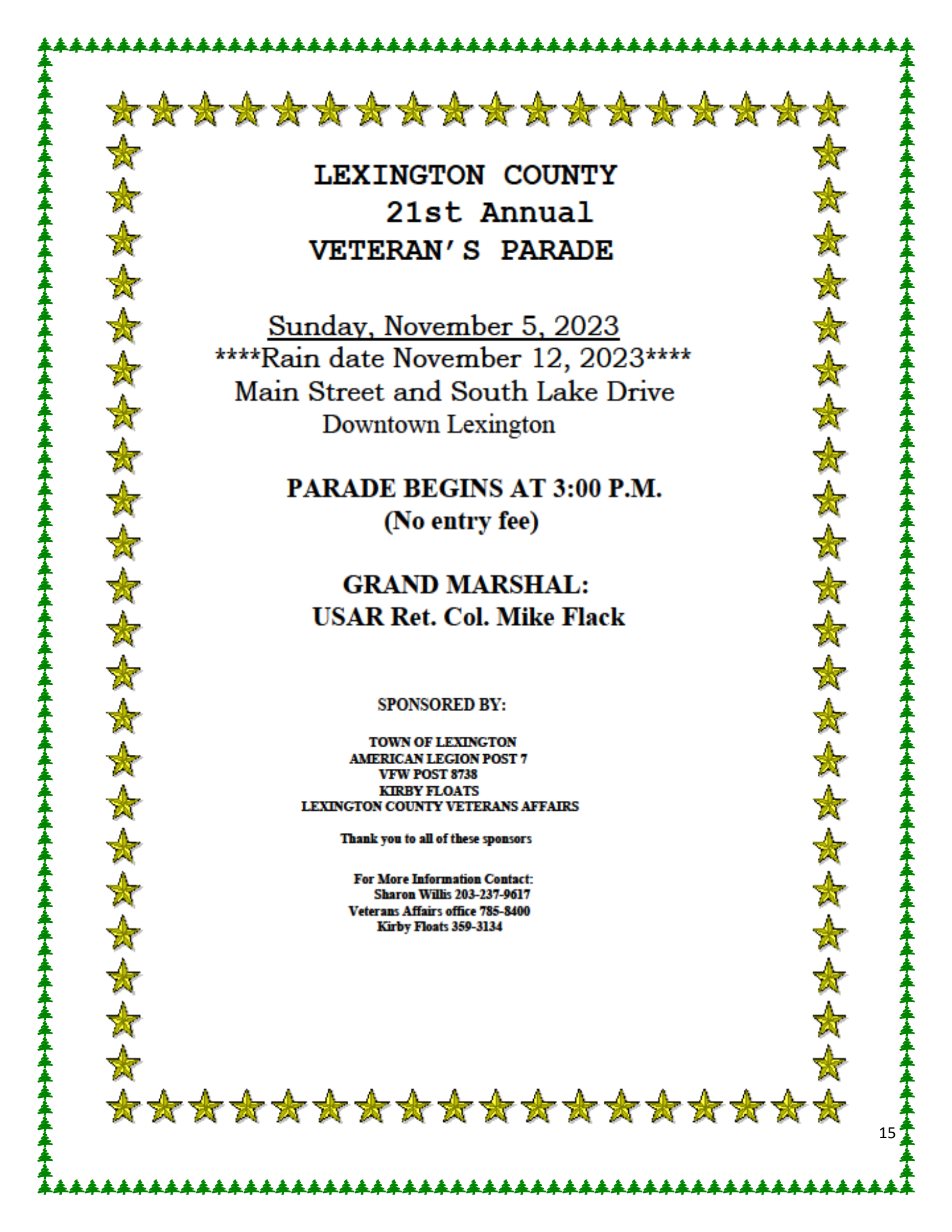


PREPARATION

1. Heat sauté pan over Med heat, NO OIL, Add mushrooms, toast 3-5 minutes (enhances nutty flavor)
2. Add onion and garlic, sauté 1 minute
3. Season w/ Salt and Pepper, add Thyme and a drizzle of EV00, sauté 1 minute
4. Add Cornichons, Pickled Onions, Capers and Paprika, sauté 1 minute
5. Add Brandy and Flame mixture
6. Turn off heat, add Crème Fraise, Lemon Juice and Vegetable Stock, stir until sauce is formed
7. Adjust seasoning and add Chopped Parsley
8. Plate and serve over Basmati Rice or Egg Noodles, Garnish with Smoked Paprika

 The relaxing nature of cooking is another wellness practice the BRBR offers to help Veterans & First Responders continue their journey to Posttraumatic Growth.

The Farm to Table program is supported through grant funding from Colonial Life. Thank you!



**LEXINGTON COUNTY
21st Annual
VETERAN' S PARADE**

Sunday, November 5, 2023

****Rain date November 12, 2023****

Main Street and South Lake Drive
Downtown Lexington

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

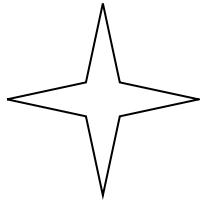
**GRAND MARSHAL:
USAR Ret. Col. Mike Flack**

SPONSORED BY:

TOWN OF LEXINGTON
AMERICAN LEGION POST 7
VFW POST 8738
KIRBY FLOATS
LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS

Thank you to all of these sponsors

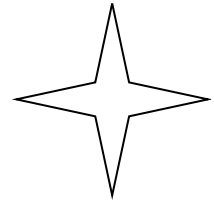
For More Information Contact:
Sharon Willis 203-237-9617
Veterans Affairs office 785-8400
Kirby Floats 359-3134



2023 Lexington County Veteran's Parade Application

Sunday, November 5th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Rain date will be Sunday, November 12th, 2023



NO ENTRY FEE, SIGN UP DUE BY OCTOBER 20th, PLEASE

(IF YOU MISS THE DEADLINE, GIVE ME A CALL, EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN THIS PARADE)

PLEASE DROP OFF ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR GROUP AT HAYGOOD STREET AND YOU CAN PARK AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT FOR PICK UP. **PLEASE, DO NOT TAKE UP SPACES AT MCDONALD'S FOR PARKING. WE CAN NO LONGER PARK IN THE LARGE PAVED PARKING LOT BEHIND THE NEW BUSINESSES ON MAIN STREET. THANKS,**

PARADE ROUTE WILL LINE UP AT BUTLER AND HAYGOOD STREET, ENTER MAIN STREET TAKE A LEFT, GO DOWN MAIN STREET, TURN RIGHT ON SOUTH LAKE DRIVE AND THEN LEFT, ENDING AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT.

Group Name & Entry Description: _____

Group Contact Person: _____

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

Telephone: _____ Fax #: _____

Email address: _____

Mail Applications To:
Lexington County Veterans Parade
Attn: Sharon Willis
P O BOX 84631
Lexington SC 29073

For More Information Contact:
Sharon Willis 803-237-9617
Veterans Affairs office 803-785-8400

Applications can be emailed to you also. Contact Sharon at sjswillis57@yahoo.com

I WILL DO MY BEST TO PLACE YOU IN THE LINEUP THAT SHOWCASES YOUR ORGANIZATION AT THE BEST POSSIBLE SPOT. ONCE THE LINE UP FOR THE PARADE HAS BEEN DETERMINED YOU WILL RECEIVE A MAP AND LOCATION FOR YOUR PLACE IN THE PARADE. **PLEASE ENTER THE PARADE LINE UP ROUTE AT BUTLER STREET. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER FROM COLUMBIA AVENUE OR MAIN. PLEASE TAKE CAUTION AT THE ONE-WAY STREET ON NORTH AND SOUTH CHURCH STREET.** TURNING FLOATS AND TRAILORS AROUND IS VERY DIFFICULT. HAYGOOD STREET MUST BE KEPT OPEN FOR THE LINEUP. THE MAIN STREET WILL BE CLOSED DOWN AT 2:45 SO PLEASE ARRIVE AT YOUR LOCATION BY 2:30.
THANK YOU FOR WANTING TO BE A PART OF THIS PARADE. SHARON

ALL OF THE VETERANS APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND THEY THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

NEED A FLOAT? CONTACT KIRBY FLOATS @ 803-359-3134.

FOR EVERYONES SAFETY, THE TOWN OF LEXINGTON REQUESTS; PLEASE DO NOT THROW CANDY DURING THE PARADE. IT CAN BE HANDED OUT IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE WALKING WITH YOUR GROUP TO DO THIS. THANK YOU



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

2023 Wreath Sponsorship Order Form



Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local and community cemeteries each December for National Wreaths Across America Day.

Your donation will ensure the placement of a veteran's wreath for one or more veterans laid to rest at the participating location of your choice.

All sponsored veteran wreaths are shipped directly to the location selected by the sponsor on this form. Wreaths are not shipped to individual wreath sponsors.

SPONSORSHIP TYPE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,700.00		

Please make checks payable to:
Wreaths Across America
 PO Box 249
 Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.
Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

For quicker processing and the convenience of paying with a credit card, debit card, Google Pay, or PayPal, veteran wreaths may be sponsored online by scanning the QR Code above or by visiting: www.wreathscrossamerica.org/SC0015

You should be the only one to enter your credit card information at checkout on the Wreaths Across America website. For your security, do not share this information with anyone else who offers to place an order for you. To verify the validity of the QR Code, always check that wreathscrossamerica.org is part of the web address when sponsoring wreaths online.

If you prefer to pay with a check, please complete this form and mail it along with your check to Wreaths Across America at the address listed in the box above.

To split your donation between multiple groups and/or locations, please list the IDs and dollar amounts for each.

CHECK #	CHECK DATE	SPONSOR NAME FOR DISPLAY	EMAIL ADDRESS
GROUP ID(s)	SC0015	<i>If different than name on check.</i>	
LOCATION ID(s)	SCFJNC	PHONE #	
DOLLAR AMOUNTS(s)		MAILING ADDRESS	

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.

IN MEMORY OF REQUEST	The "In Memory Of" Name will be listed on the Wreaths Across America online Remember Wall, along with your personal message.
NAME FOR MEMORY WALL POST	
SPONSOR EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	

IN HONOR OF REQUEST	An email will be sent to your chosen recipient from Wreaths Across America letting them know of your donation of sponsored veteran wreaths in their honor.
RECIPIENT NAME	
RECIPIENT EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	



Wreaths Across America Fort Jackson National Cemetery

3 for 2 Sponsorship Program

In 2008, we held our first Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery to Remember and Honor Our Veterans and to Teach Our Children that Freedom Is Not Free. The cemetery was only 1 year into existence and had 346 gravesites. From the very beginning, with the help of the Midlands Community, Veterans and Civic Groups, Businesses and Corporations, we have kept our commitment to have a wreath for every gravesite at the cemetery. This year, our goal is 17,000 wreaths. With your help, for our 15th year, we will continue to keep that commitment! **Thank you to all who have and will continue to support our Mission!**

We welcome everyone to join us on December 16, 2023, for our Wreaths Across America ceremony. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO VOLUNTEER TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY AND HELP PLACE THE WREATHS!**

Everyone will have the opportunity to help place the wreaths. If you would like to volunteer to help work with the setup the morning of the event or other areas we will be needing assistance, please email:

Volunteers.waaf.jackson@gmail.com and we will send you information on the areas you can help. For all other inquires, please email: waaftjackson@gmail.com

Ways to Donate

You can mail your check and donation form to:

Wreaths Across America,

P.O. Box 3356 West Columbia, SC 29171,

Go online to: www.wreathscrossamerica.org/SC0015 or Scan the

QR code with your smart phone!

For every 2 wreaths sponsored using the web address or QR Code, we will receive a 3rd. wreath FREE!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



SOUTH CAROLINA STATEHOUSE CEREMONY

Monday, December 11, 2023, 12:00 Noon at the SC Veterans Memorial
Located on the Assembly Street side of the Statehouse grounds. **The public is invited to attend.**

FORT JACKSON NATIONAL CEMETERY CEREMONY

Saturday December 16, 2023, 12:00 Noon

Fort Jackson National Cemetery 4170 Percival Rd. Columbia, SC 29229

This ceremony is open to the public. Parking will be at the Blue Cross Blue Shield parking lot across from the cemetery. We will have shuttle buses to bring you to and from the cemetery starting at 10:00am with family wreath placement from 10:00am until 11:30am the morning of the ceremony. There will be limited handicap parking in cemetery with proper identification.

For more information email waaftjackson@gmail.com or call Carol Davis (803) 467-4482

Follow us on Facebook: Wreaths across America – Fort Jackson National Cemetery, Columbia, SC

Donated by:





DECEMBER 16, 2023

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION CUTOFF DATE IS 11/25/23

NAME OF GROUP, FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL: _____

REGISTER YOUR GROUP NOW, BUT YOU MUST PROVIDE ALL NAMES OF THOSE 18 & OLDER ATTENDING FROM YOUR GROUP BY 11/25/23

AREAS YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER:

EQUIPMENT SET UP AT THE CEMETERY & BCBS: _____

REPORT TIME 6:00AM

WREATH DISTRO FROM TRAILERS INTO CEMETERY: _____

Report time is 6:30am at the Blue Cross Parking Lot on Percival Road. You will be directed to a location in the lot to meet with the Distribution Leader and given your assigned unloading and setup procedures. You will then board our shuttle buses that will take you into the cemetery to the area you have been assigned.

INFORMATION DESK: _____

GRAVE SITE LOCATOR DESK _____ GRAVE ESCORT: _____

Need Adult Escorts to assist families with their wreath placements prior to the ceremony.

BUS GREETER: _____ BUS RIDE CAPTAIN: _____

GUIDE ASSIST (handicap & elderly): _____

FIRST AID (with qualifications): _____

EARLY JANUARY CEMETERY CLEANUP (Date TBD): _____

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP LEADER CONTACT INFO:

We will need the names of all adults 18yrs. and older that will be attending by 11/25/23.

NAME: _____

Email address: _____

Cell Phone number: _____

IS YOUR GROUP ADULTS _____ YOUTH _____ BOTH _____

APPROXIMATE No. OF VOLUNTEERS: ADULT _____ YOUTH _____

For safety requirements, we require one (1) Adult for every Five (5) Youth 18yrs and younger.

SEE BACK OF FORM FOR MORE INFORMATION

First: If your interest is only attending the noon ceremony and helping place the wreaths at the grave sites after the ceremony, YOU DO NOT NEED TO REGISTER. This form is only for those who would like to help with the set-up and preparation prior to the ceremony.

To Group Leaders:

Please fill out the form and return it as soon as possible letting us know the approximate number of volunteers from your group and where they want to help. We realize these numbers can change by the cutoff, so wait until then to send us the names of those attending, but please return your form now to register your group.

The Volunteers must commit for the entire day, starting as early as 6:00am Saturday Morning 12/16/23 depending on what you volunteer for, and go directly to the BlueCross BlueShield parking lot on Percival Rd. down from the cemetery. The Ceremony is at noon and once it is over and the public wreath placement is completed, we will then start removing all our equipment etc., determine the wreaths have been placed properly and do the necessary cleanup at both the Cemetery and the Blue Cross Parking lot. We estimate to be through by 3:30pm. It will be a long morning, so we suggest you eat before you come and put a few snacks in your pockets to hold you over until we are finished. We will have water for you.

EVERYONE WILL ENTER AND EXIT THE CEMETERY BY SHUTTLE BUS ONLY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS:

SONYA JOHNSON AND HEATHER JOHNSON

EMAIL: Volunteers.waft.jackson@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US

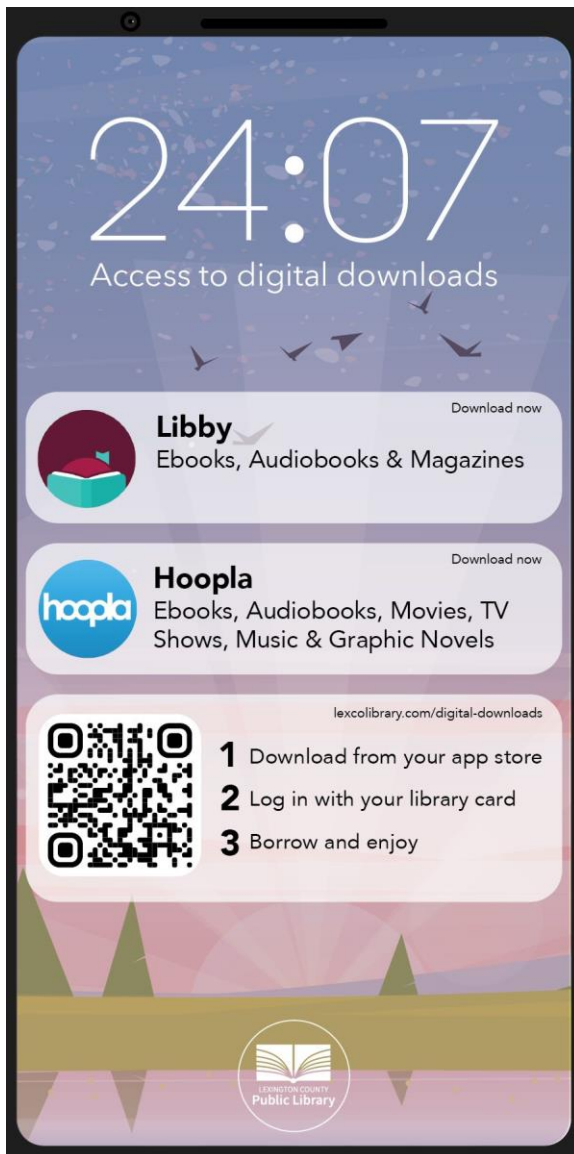
REMEMBER AND HONOR OUR VETERANS



TECH 101

Learn how to use your computer, tablet or smartphone. We can help you set up email, navigate the internet, download library materials and more. Sessions are 30 minutes each. Scan the QR code to book a librarian or call your local branch for more information.

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Gale Legal Forms
 Official state specific, federal, business, personal, real estate & general forms covering hundreds of legal subjects.

Heritage Quest
 American genealogical sources rich in local and family histories, research guides, interactive census maps and more.

Mango Languages
 Over 70 foreign and over 20 English language courses available to take online.

80+ ONLINE RESOURCES



Lexington Events!



LEXINGTON COUNTY VETERAN'S PARADE

Nov. 5th at
3pm

Icehouse Amphitheater

Nov. 30th 4pm-8pm –

Dec. 1st 4pm-8pm



Christmas Craft Fair



TOWN OF
Lexington
SNOWBALL FESTIVAL

Icehouse Amphitheater

Dec. 1 6:30pm-7:30pm



Carolighting CEREMONY



TOWN OF
Lexington
SNOWBALL FESTIVAL



MOVIE NIGHT THE GRINCH

Icehouse Amphitheater Dec. 1st at 7:30pm



CARNIVAL & MOVIE

TOWN OF
Lexington
SNOWBALL FESTIVAL

Icehouse Amphitheater Dec. 2nd 1pm-7:30pm



CHRISTMAS PARADE

Dec 3rd
3pm-
5pm

TOWN OF
Lexington
SNOWBALL FESTIVAL



To be in the parade, please contact Heather Danley by email at

lexingtonjayceeparade@gmail.com or by phone at 803-530-2604. The entry deadline is

November 21st.

Chapin American Legion

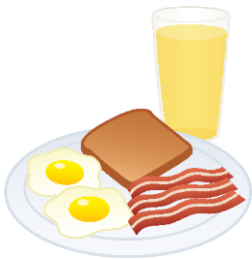
Post 193



LET'S PLAY BINGO!

Chapin American Legion Post 193 hosts BINGO on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the OLE Oak Barn, 1155 Holy Trinity Church Road, Little Mountain, SC. Admission is \$3.00, and Game packets (13 games) are just \$20.00. Doors open at 5:30 pm and games begin promptly at 7:00 pm. Concessions are available on-site so please no outside food or beverages. Ages 6 and up can play! All proceeds benefit Chapin American Legion Post 193 New Building Fund.

Monday Morning Veterans ONLY Breakfast



Every Monday morning unless otherwise posted on our website

<https://www.americanlegionpost193.com>

Coffee is on at 7:30 am with breakfast served from 8:30am-9:15am. The cost is \$6.00 per person. (Eggs including made to order, hash browns, grits, various types of meat, fruit, a yogurt bar, and home-baked goods, juice, and coffee.)

Chapin American Legion Post 193
102 Lexington Ave, Chapin, SC 29036

This is a Veteran ONLY event to foster fellowship and conversation



November 10, 2023, Chapin American Legion Post 193 will be holding a Boot Drive Fundraiser for our New Building Fund in the downtown Chapin area. Please watch for our "Boot Holders" and please give generously. Every donation brings our new building closer to reality!



On November 10, 2023, Chapin Chapter 193 of American Legion Riders will be conducting a drive-by parade of local elementary schools. This parade is a favorite among the local youth, and we all look forward to it. This event is open to any American Legion Rider. KSU at 8:00 am in Boland's Ace Hardware parking lot on Route 76 in Chapin. Hope to see you there!

Chapin American Legion Post 193 is actively recruiting new members! We are a dynamic Post and one of the fastest growing Posts in the State of SC For more information, please contact our Post Adjutant, Steven Goulet, at

(803) 553-2806 or adjutant@americanlegionpost193.org

Chapin American Legion Post 193 is also conducting a fundraising Military Appreciation Cruise in conjunction with Dream Vacations. Come join us as we set sail November 9-16, 2024, aboard the Norwegian Joy on a cruise of the Western Caribbean. Pricing includes gratuities, specialty dining, shore excursion credit, a premium drink package, and more. It is per person double occupancy. For more information contact Betty Barrett, Dream Vacations consultant, babarrett@dreamvacations.com, (803) 618-6011. Each cabin booked and sailed provides our Post will funds to help us in our mission of serving Veterans and the local community. See you onboard!



MILITARY APPRECIATION CRUISE

Find your happy place on board Norwegian Joy. Enjoy a rush like no other as you race in the middle of the ocean on a thrilling two-level race track. Stroll along the Waterfront, a quarter-mile oceanfront promenade that connects you with the ocean while experiencing some of Norwegian's signature dining venues, bars and stunning views. Be pampered in luxury in our new, spacious and beautifully appointed Concierge accommodations. Enjoy vacation experiences that will delight your senses and calm your soul on Norwegian Joy.

PRICING IS PER CABIN BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY AND INCLUDES: UNLIMITED BEVERAGES, SPECIALTY DINING, WIFI, SHORE EXCURSION CREDIT, GRATUITIES & TRAVEL INSURANCE

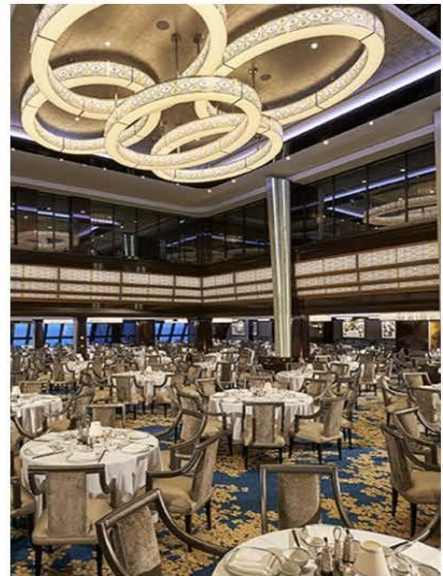


NORWEGIAN JOY
NOV 9, 2024 - NOV 16, 2024

Balcony Mini-Suite
\$3690.00

Balcony
\$3380.00

Inside
\$2660.00

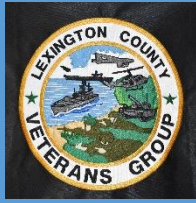


DREAM VACATIONS
 BETTY BARRETT
babarrett@dreamvacations.com
 803-618-6011

**ASK ABOUT THE 2-FOR-1
 AIRFARE SPECIAL!**



Are You A Veteran? Military Discounts May Apply!
Save More Money With A Cruise First Certificate - Ask Me How



Lexington County Veterans Group

- If anyone has another person in mind for special guest speaker, share the information with Rod
- We miss all our members that are absent and hope to see you soon!

Thank you for being supportive and reach out to members who may need a phone call.



All Lexington County Veterans are cordially invited to attend the weekly meeting. The group meets on Tuesdays from 10am-12pm at The American Legion Post 7. The address is 200 ²⁶ American Legion Drive (off Harmon St.) Lexington, SC 29072



Ed



Jennifer



Kathy

Christy



Brittany



Annastasia

Wishes everyone a

Happy Fall
Y'all