



Department of



South Carolina
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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

For the good of all veterans everywhere.

Holiday Closing

Just a reminder that the department headquarters will be closed for the Christmas holiday week during the week of December 23 thru December 27. We will be open for regular business on December 30 at 8:30 a.m. The officers and staff wish each and every one a very happy and merry Christmas and healthy and happy New Year. Please be careful and return to us safe, sound and healthy on Monday, December 30.

Mid-Winter Conference

The annual Mid-Winter Conference will be held Jan. 17-19, 2014 at the Myrtle Beach Hilton, Myrtle Beach, S.C. There will be various training given to those attending and it promises to be another great training weekend for all. We hope as many as can be possible to attend such meetings as there is a lot of information given out and everyone should be aware of it. Everyone is invited to attend and get the latest information pertaining to our organization and how it is to operate. It also is a time to see old acquaintances and to make new ones. Cut off date for Legion room rate was **December 16, 2013**.

Please note: Post Everlasting listings is due to Maggie by January 10, 2014.

Legion to Senate

American Legion National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger is calling upon the U.S. Senate to remove a provision from the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 that would reduce cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for military veterans aged 18-62.

“How inappropriate is it for Congress to pass a bill that will reduce the quality of life for about a million of our veterans, then go home and celebrate Christmas with their families?” Dellinger said. “The Senate is going to pass the House bill with bad provisions, just for the sake of looking bipartisan. This is a horrible idea, and if the law passes, the Legion will do everything in its power to repeal those sections that are aimed at harming veterans and their families.

“Taking away COLA benefits from our veterans will save the government \$6 billion over 10 years. Congress can save that amount of money in so many different ways. They have plenty of other options to find another \$6 billion to cut. Why must they force our country’s retired veterans – many of them disabled – to make do with less? The American Legion is horrified that the Senate may pass a bill today that is so unfair to those Americans who have served honorably in uniform.”

While several bills have already been written that seek to restore military retirees’ pay to the same COLA that everyone else nationwide will receive, American Legion Legislative Director Louis Celli said “there is a huge difference between passing a bill and introducing one. The Legion is concerned that, once signed by the president, an attempt to repeal the COLA provision later will meet with too much opposition because Congress won’t be able to agree on replacement funding.”

Dellinger said he is “absolutely sickened by the thought that the only group targeted by the budget bill to lose direct income is the American veteran, including veterans who have been medically retired from military service due to catastrophic injuries sustained in battle.”

Fraud Alert

FRAUD ALERT: Veterans should be aware of a marketing scam targeting callers trying to reach the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Call Center or GI Bill Call Center. A marketing company has established two fraudulent numbers that differ from the two official VA call center numbers by one digit. If the fraudulent number is dialed by mistake, the answering party will offer a gift card and try to obtain personal and financial information, including credit card information, from the caller. The answering party may even transfer the caller to the VA after the caller’s information is obtained. Note that VA will never ask you for a credit card number or banking information over the phone. Before giving personal sensitive information over the phone make sure you know who you are taking to.

The numbers to be avoided are:

800-872-1000 (the VA National Call Center number is 800-827-1000)

888-442-4511 (the VA GI Bill Call Center number is 888-442-4551)

VA has notified law enforcement authorities to address this situation. Please pass this information along and post on your websites.

What's Happening

December 21 – 12 noon. Andrews Post #69, 1067 N. Morgan Avenue, Andrews is sponsoring a public benefit lunch for a member and his family who recently lost everything in a house fire. Menu will be chicken pileau with a donation of \$7.50 per person.

December 21 – 7:00 p.m. Andrews Post #69 hosting a Holiday Christmas Party to all veterans and the public. DJ at 9:00 p.m. FMI contact Ed Jayroe 843-325-7740 or Greg Bennett 843-543-4652 or Bbafk9@aol.com

Sick Call

If one of your past post commanders, district commanders, present post or district commanders is listed on sick call then also please let me know. This is provided for our membership knowledge and will not be published if the individual or their family requests that it not be published.

Condolences

This would also be specific to past post, district or department commanders and/or spouses of those individuals. Past department officers and present officers are included here as well.

Kudos

Andrews Post #69 for assisting a local member and his family who lost all possessions in a recent house fire. The post has given the family \$250 in assistance and Past Commander Ronald Love donated clothing to the family. This is a fine example of "Veterans Serving Veterans." Congratulations to the members and officers of the post.

Post Officer Listings

District Commanders Please Note: This means also that even though you may have the same officers in the same positions for the 2013-2014 year, you should also submit a listing to department. Also, for those that have email addresses, please indicate that on the listing. Your assistance and attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated. The following is a listing of the posts. If they are in your district, please contact them and request they submit the information as soon as possible. This information is as of today, 12/19/2013.

District #1 – Posts #90, #142, #174, #217

District #2 – Posts #136, #145,

District #3 – Post #231

District #6 – Post #126

District #8 – Posts #21, #105, #128

District #10 – Posts #24, #70

District #11 – Post #63

District #12 – Posts #60, #74, #80, #92, #213

District #13 – Posts #51, #67, #113

District #14 – Post #100

District #15 – Posts #77, #153, #154, #168, #169, #232

District #17 – Posts #35, #202

District #18 – Posts #47, #118, #266

District #19 – Posts #8, #114

District #20 – Posts #64, #78, #156

(The blank form is on the website to be used if needed.)

Oratorical News

Just a reminder of the important program of oratorical contests that we promote throughout The American Legion. All post contests should be completed by January 11 with the quadrant contests by February 15. The department final is held March 1, 2014. Please contact your respective Vice Commanders for the locations for the quadrant contests and let's support the contests in your respective areas.

Holiday Wishes

I would like to wish each and every one of the members of the Department of South Carolina and families a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year this coming holiday season. Let us not forget those young men and women who are serving in the military on this holiday in places far from their homes, their families and their communities. May the good Lord keep and protect them and bring them home safe and sound to the waiting arms of their loved ones.

