




Department of



South Carolina
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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

Quality is not an act – it is a habit.

Gov't Failing Vets

Sen. John Walsh, D-Mont., said the [Veterans Affairs](#) Department and congressional leaders are not doing enough to care for American veterans.

"I do not," Walsh replied when [CNN's Candy Crowley](#) asked if the government was keeping its "promise" to service members. "You know, I think that our veterans need -- we need better health care for our veterans. And, for example, in a state like Montana, we've built additional VA Clinics, because when you look at how rural Montana is, having to travel from Miles City, Montana to Helena, where the VA Is, is really unrealistic."

The recently-appointed senator and Iraq veteran has proposed legislation to help treat soldiers at risk of suicide. "You know, I think we do a pretty — a very good job of taking that citizen soldier and making a warrior out of him," Walsh said. "But we aren't doing a very good job of taking that warrior and reintegrating him back into society."

Walsh isn't the only one who thinks so. Former [President George W. Bush](#) discussed a "divide" between American civilians and soldiers when launching a study on how to reintegrate veterans into civil society.

"We've got a problem," Bush told ABC's Martha Raddatz [in February](#). "Too many veterans are unemployed. And there's what we call a civilian-military divide. In other words, the returning vets think one thing, the civilian population thinks another and our aim is to get people to understand each other better for the good of the veteran community."

Retired Navy Adm. Mike Mullen put the onus on American civilians to improve relations with veterans. "Our culture is a culture of 'if you're here, we love you, and if you are not, please carry on [with] whatever it is,'" Mullen, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under Bush, said in January while discussing military families who have lost a loved one to combat.

Jane Horton, a Gold Star widow whose husband died in Afghanistan, leveled that complaint at [President Obama](#) following the 2014 [State of the Union speech](#).

"Why do we live in an America where we refuse to acknowledge the losses we have suffered, the men and women who have given their lives, and the blood and treasure that has been sacrificed to water the tree of liberty?" [she wrote](#) in the *Washington Examiner*. "I sat on eggshells during the president's speech, waiting, anticipating for Chris to have his moment. For the commander-in-chief of our nation's armed forces to acknowledge his sacrifice, his life. I waited in vain."

2015 Post Data Forms

The following posts have not sent in their 2015 Post Data Forms to Department. This information is truly needed for both the Department of South Carolina and National. The closing date is April 25, 2014.

District #1: #174, #215

District #2: #136, #145, #241

District #4: #41

District #5: #270

District #6: #126

District #7: #91, #253

District #8: #105

District #9: #43, #201

District #10: #70, #129

District #11: #16, #17, #63, #203

District #12: #53, #74, #80, #94, #134, #213

District #13: #14, #44, #51, #163, #184

District #14: #230

District #15: #154, #232

District #16: #185

District #17: #29, #68, #140, #175, #202

District #18: #5, #73, #85, #118, #144, #249, #266

District #20: #64

IRS Information

The National Office of the National Judge Advocate recently sent a memorandum to all Department Adjutants advising of information that is available from the Internal Revenue Service on publications. **Publication #4221-NC** titled Compliance Guide for Tax-Exempt Organizations, **Publication #598** titled Tax on Unrelated Business Income of Exempt Organizations and **Publication #3079** titled Tax-Exempt Organizations and Gaming. If you desire to obtain a copy, please contact IRS and order them for your post. A limit of 5 can be ordered at any one time.

VA Dental Info

For the first time in history, the U.S. government has authorized a national dental insurance program for veterans enrolled in Veterans Affairs health care and individuals enrolled in VA's CHAMPVA program. Premium rates will vary depending on your geographic region and the plan option you select. There are three options that are available: basic, enhanced and comprehensive. These plans range from about \$8 for the basic up to about \$27 for comprehensive. Veterans will not be getting dental care done by the VA but veterans must be signed up with the VA for health care to be eligible for the dental insurance plan.

As stated above, this is the first time that the VA has actually assisted veterans with dental care except for those veterans rated at 100 percent service-connected, have a service-connected disability for a dental injury, or on the VA Voc-Rehab program. More information can be found by going to Delta Dental at deltadentalvadip.org.

Legacy Fund News

Last year the challenge for The American Legion Legacy Fund was met by a total of \$764,000 being raised. The Fund provides educational assistance to the child/children, or the legally adopted child/children, of active duty United States military, Guard and Reserve personnel who were federalized and died on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Since 2004, more than 100 grants of educational assistance have been awarded, and the number of grant requests continues to grow each year as more and more children enter college. We do not want to turn any eligible child away. The American Legion Riders have organized and will execute the ninth annual American Legion Legacy Run and it is scheduled for August 17-21, starting in Indianapolis, IN, and ending in Charlotte, NC, site of this year's 96th National Convention. The Riders will be leading the National Convention Parade in downtown Charlotte. All monies go directly into The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. The National Commander's goal is to raise \$400,000 for the Legacy Fund and in order to meet this goal your support is needed. Any checks should be made payable to **THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA and in the memo section, Legacy Scholarship Fund** and send it to the department address of **P.O. Box 3309, Irmo, SC 29063**. We will place the funds in an account and present it to National at the Convention in Charlotte. Your help and assistance will be appreciated.

2013 Enhancements

Just a note to remind all that the 2013 enhancements are due in department no later than April 30, 2014 in order for the post to be considered in good standing and to participate in the 2014 Department Convention and any of the programs of the Department of South Carolina. At this time there are only 11 posts that need to pay the 2012 enhancement. Please check to see if your post has paid on the 2013 amount due and encourage the responsible officers to do such. It will be greatly appreciated.

Veterans Memorial Day Golf Tournament

Golf Tournament will be held at the Tara Golf Course, 300 Country Club Drive, Savannah Lakes Village, McCormick, South Carolina 5/26/2014. Shotgun start at 10 a.m. Please arrive one hour early so you can be paired with your sponsors. **Thirty-two veterans will be sponsored by community members.** Each foursome will consist of one sponsored veteran and three community sponsors for a total of 32 teams All veterans will be

treated to lunch. All veterans not participating in the Memorial Day tournament may play either at Monticello golf course or after the tournament at Tara for member prices. **Volunteers welcome.** Sponsored by McCormick County Veterans Affairs and SLV. Hold-in-one car sponsored by Quality Nissan. FMI, participants and volunteers please contact one of the following: Bob McIntosh, SLV Golf Director (864)391-4175, Gary Shafer, Coordinator (210) 391-5522 or Tara Clubhouse csmith@slv-sc.com (864) 391-4115.

**SSA Disability
Claims Processing**

Beginning on March 17, 2014 the Social Security Administration started a new process to expedite disability claims of veterans who have a compensation rating of 100 percent permanent and total (P&T) by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. Please share this exciting news with your members, colleagues, and other interested parties. For more information visit SSA website at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm.

What's Happening

April 26-27, Saturday & Sunday – SCALR Legacy Ride

April 26, Saturday – District 8 @ Summerville Post #21, Elections 105 Sumter Ave.

April 26, Saturday – District 16 @ Beaufort Post #207, Lunch 11 a.m., \$8.00 113 Harrington St.

April 26, Saturday – District 13 @ Pendleton Post #113, 304 Lebanon Rd., 10 a.m.

April 26, Saturday – District 2 @ Charleston Post #179, 1747 Ashley Hall Rd., Charleston, 9 a.m.

May 3, Saturday – District 1 @ Batesburg-Leesville Post #61, 10 a.m., 200 S. Hendrix St.

May 3, Saturday – District 3 @ Greenville Post #3, 430 N. Main Street, 10 a.m.

May 3, Saturday – District 10 @ Laurens Post #25, 206 Calhoun St., 10 a.m.

May 3, Saturday – District 18 @ Latta #266, Latta Community Center, Elections 12 noon.

May 10, Saturday – District 4 @ Little River Post #186, 4285 Pine Drive, 12 noon.

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 #79, #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.)

LIT AD&D FREE

Just a reminder of the free \$1,000 to the Legionnaire AD&D insurance available thru the LIT. Last year the program was expanded to cover up to \$5,000.00 free insurance IF you were travelling on official Legion business and were killed or had a dismemberment as a result of an accident. Official business would be travelling to or from a meeting either at the Post, District or Department (conference or convention). All the Legionnaire has to do is apply for it and is not automatic. I do not know of any family who could not use the additional funds at a time of necessity due to the loss of a loved one. In reviewing just what members of posts that are participating in the program, it is very eye opening that many, many members have not enrolled in this program.

To enroll all that is required is complete the application or call toll free 1-800-235-6943 with your membership number.

Home Depot News

The Home Depot Foundation added \$3.9 million in grants to organizations across the country that address veterans' housing needs. The recent round of grants brings the Foundation's financial contributions to the issue of \$65.7 million since launching its mission in the spring of 2011 of ensuring every veteran has a safe place to call home. To date, donations made by The Home Depot Foundation have impacted more than 10,200 units of veterans' housing. Some of the project funding included:

- \$1.7 million to nonprofits to repair or construct 323 units of permanent supportive housing for veterans, including 225 units that serve veterans with families.
- \$800,000 to nonprofits that will provide transitional housing to 131 homeless veterans.
- \$400,000 to a nonprofit organization that offers 58 women veterans and their families a permanent supportive housing solution.
- \$875,000 to provide critical home repairs and maintenance to 126 single-family homes owned by veterans and their families.

Proud to Serve

Lloyd H. Woods
Department Adjutant