




**Department of**



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May 9, 2014

## SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

**Every day may not be good, but there's something good in every day.**

**More VA News**

Congress issued a subpoena Thursday to Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki, seeking e-mails and documents regarding allegations of destroyed documents linked to delays of medical care for veterans at a Phoenix VA hospital.

A retired doctor at the hospital has alleged that up to 40 veterans have died there because of these delays.

After veterans groups met with Shinseki urging him to "go public" about the allegations and to reassure veterans, he conducted a series of media interviews saying that he was angry about reported delays of care and any deaths that resulted and had sought an investigation by the agency's inspector general.

Shinseki dismissed calls by members of Congress and the **American Legion**, the nation's largest service organization, for him to step down.

The 71-year-old former Army chief of staff and decorated combat veteran — he received three Bronze Stars for valor and two Purple Hearts from serving in Vietnam — promised "swift and appropriate" punishment for any employees involved in medical delays and alleged coverups.

He also urged patience, allowing time for investigators to do their job. The VA issued a statement Thursday saying the agency will conduct a "nationwide access review" that includes a "face-to-face audit" at each of the department's 820 out-patient clinics.

The action is designed to "ensure a full understanding of VA's policy and continued integrity in managing patient access to care."

USA TODAY reported this week that an internal VA investigation uncovered how employees at a VA outpatient clinic in Fort Collins, Colo., had been trained to falsify records so that wait times for patients appeared to fall within the agency's standard of 14 days.

The House Committee on Veterans Affairs issued the subpoena on a unanimous voice vote. It requested e-mails and written correspondence linked to the destruction or disappearance of any kind of waiting list at the Phoenix hospital.

The deadline for the VA to respond to this subpoena is May 19. After the deadline, the committee will review the materials provided by the VA and determine the next steps in its investigation.

The committee chairman, Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., said the panel had made calls and written a letter seeking information about the documents but did not receive a satisfactory response.

"The last few weeks have been a model of VA stonewalling, which precipitated the need for a subpoena," Miller said.

### Flags at Half-Staff

Governor Nikki Haley requests that flags be flown at half-staff Monday, May 12, 2014, as a tribute of respect for the memory and longstanding service of Congressman Butler Derrick.

Also, flags are to be flown at half-staff in observance of Police Officer's Memorial Day Thursday, May 15, 2014.

### Holiday Closing

Just a reminder that the department office will be closed for the Memorial Day weekend from 4e:30 p.m. Friday, May 23 to 8:30 Tuesday May 27.

### Equipment Request

Post 20 is investigating starting a bingo operation. The price for equipment is pretty steep.

In your next newsletter, can you ask if any Post has any equipment they're willing to sell or donate to us?

If they have any questions, they can contact Post 20 at (864) 223-3142 Monday - Fridays between 0800 - Noon.

### 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

### 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 10 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](mailto:csmith@slv-sc.com) (864) 391-4115.

### What's Happening

**May 10, Saturday – District 4 @ Little River Post #186, 4285 Pine Drive, 12 noon.**  
**May 30, 31 June 1 – Department Convention, Greenville**

### 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 #13** – Posts #51, #67, #113

**District #14** – Post #100

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

**District #17** – Posts #35, #202

**District #8** – Posts #21, #105, #128

**District #10** – Posts #24, #70

**District #11** – Post #63

**District #12** – Posts #60, #74, #80, #92, #213 (The blank form is on the website to be used if needed.)

**District #18** – Posts #47, #118, #266

**District #19** – Posts #8, #114

**District #20** – Posts #64, #78, #156

**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