




**Department of**



**South Carolina**  
**The American Legion**  
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May 22, 2014

## SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

**Well done is better than well said.**

### Holiday Closing

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

### National Commander Response

The following is the National Commander's response to President Obama's announcement recently.

"The American Legion applauds President Obama for committing himself to hold leadership at the Department of Veterans Affairs more accountable for their actions. If this system-wide failure is to be corrected, it is paramount for our commander-in-chief to be personally involved. The president needs to ensure that every veteran who relies on the VA can do so secure in the knowledge that he or she will receive the best and most timely care humanly possible. "The question is this: if the administration has known about these issues for at least four years, why is it just now taking action? "Moreover, the president's decision to keep Secretary Shinseki at his post is an unfortunate one. The VA has been aware for some time that inappropriate scheduling procedures are widespread among its medical facilities. Yet Secretary Shinseki has taken no initiative in correcting the problem. Veterans continue to die waiting for their health care, senior VA executives continue to get their bonuses, and only after all of this is the secretary now pledging to fix what's wrong.

“So now America’s veterans are told, in effect, wait a while longer and things will get better. Meanwhile, care is delayed or denied and veterans and their families suffer. Words are nice, and even somewhat comforting, but when will the VA’s house be cleansed of those who are soiling it and dishonoring the system?”

**Flag Placement Help**

Anyone wishing to assist in placing grave flags at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery tomorrow, Friday, May 23 please arrive at 2:45 at that location. The placement will begin at 3:00 p.m. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated. It is expected that over 2,000 flags will be placed. The more people assisting the quicker it get done.

**Law Cadet Program**

Since the establishment of this program, districts have been asked to try to have 4 candidates attend the program each year. At last count, we have only 20 candidates for the program for this year. We ask that you review the program and see what can be done about getting to the goal of 4 from each district or 80 attendees. That would be a great accomplishment. Please see what can be done.

**Next Edition**

With Department Convention being conducted next week, there will be no edition of the SC NEWSLINE published. The next edition will be published, hopefully June 5.

**MIAP Internment**

The Missing in America Project (MIAP) with assistance from Legionnaires from American Legion Post 71 North Augusta, SC, and Post 193 of Chapin, SC, will conduct a full military honors funeral service for seven previously unclaimed Veterans at 1:30 p.m. on 6 June 2014, at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery in Columbia, SC. This will be the seventh ceremony held in South Carolina since Governor Haley signed an Act in May 2012 TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, by adding CHAPTER 12 TO TITLE 25, which authorized Veteran Service Organizations to receive from funeral homes and coroners the unclaimed cremated remains of Veterans and have them interred at National Cemeteries beside their Brothers and Sisters in Arms. The Veterans being interred have collectively served our Country for more than 23 years. Six of these heroes served in the United States Army and one served in the United States Navy. They served during World War II, the Vietnam War and the Cold War. Little more is known about these Veterans other than

the fact that they honorably and faithfully served their Country. When these men left the world, they had no one to claim them and to ensure that they received the proper dignified burial they earned and rightfully deserved. Members of the Missing in America Project, members of the American Legion, Patriot Guard Riders and other Veteran Service Organizations from South Carolina, will make sure that these heroes are buried with dignity, honor and respect. This interment is being supported by Veterans and community members from across the State of South Carolina the Kornegay & Moseley Funeral Home is providing the MIAP with a hearse and staff to transport the cremated remains of these heroes and Juveniles from the SC Department of Juvenile Justice are building the urns and will also attend the service.

The cremated remains of these seven Veterans will be escorted from Chapin American Legion Post 193, 102 Lexington Ave. Chapin, SC 29036 at 12:40 p.m. Friday, June 6, 2014 by members of the Missing in America Project, as well as American Legion Riders of South Carolina and the Patriot Guard. The funeral procession will travel to the Fort Jackson National Cemetery for the ceremony which will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Chaplain Emeritus Tom Fincher will officiate the ceremony, an Honor Guard from Fort Gordon Georgia, American Legion Post 71 and the U.S. Navy will provide Full Military Honors. The public is invited to attend the ceremony to honor our American Heroes.

The Point of Contact for this information is:

Steve Goulet - MIAP-SC State Coordinator - 803-732-9569

Larry Truax - MIAP-SC Assistant State Coordinator - 843-855-7050

**Aiken County Vet  
Affairs Office  
Address**

Following is the new address of the Aiken County Veterans Affairs Office, now located in the new county administration building:

Aiken County Veterans Affairs  
1930 University Parkway, Ste 2305  
Aiken, South Carolina 29801

The telephone numbers will not change. The above is from the VAO Jim Harris.

**New ALR Chapter  
Officers**

Please welcome the American Legion Riders of Post 186 new Chapter Officers and members of the ALRSC Executive Committee:

Director - Pete Smith - You can contact Pete @ [psmith134@sc.rr.com](mailto:psmith134@sc.rr.com); 843-446-5832

Asst. Director - Fred Hall - Contact Fred @ [cherylanne6357@gmail.com](mailto:cherylanne6357@gmail.com); 856-912-5443

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude for being able to work over the past two years with such a great group of veterans, auxiliary and SAL members, who work tirelessly to help the Veterans of the great State of South Carolina.

I look forward to seeing you at the American Legion and American Legion Riders upcoming State Convention.

Riding for God and Country,

Joe D.

### D-Day Anniversary

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum is hosting a not-to-be-missed symposium on June 6<sup>th</sup>, commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and our USS LAFHEY veterans. The USS LAFHEY, docked at Patriots Point, is **one of only two** Naval warships left in existence that were at the Invasion of Normandy. Two of the LAFHEY's veterans who were there on that historic day in World War II history are joining us. This symposium will include first person accounts of the invasion that resulted in the destruction of Nazi Germany. Video and music will enhance the event on board the USS YORKTOWN.

We are putting out an all-hands-on-deck **call for any veterans involved in the events that took place on or around D-Day**. Pilots, sailors, or even French citizens living in Normandy are all invited to contact us and participate in this event, or are welcome to simply attend as honored guests. If you or a loved one was a part of this important day in our world history, please reach out to Alaina Cordes at [acordes@patriotspoint.org](mailto:acordes@patriotspoint.org) or (843) 881-5976.

This symposium will be located on the USS YORKTOWN in the Smokey Stover Theater on June 6<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7pm. A meet and greet with the LAFHEY veterans and other D-Day guests of honor will begin at 5:30 pm.

Admission is free. For more information, visit [PatriotsPoint.org/News\\_Events](http://PatriotsPoint.org/News_Events), our Facebook page, or feel free to reach out to me directly.

### Pro Bono Info

Lawyers4Vets - Monthly Pro Bono Veterans Legal Clinic

**Introduction:** As a service to area Veterans, the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center has partnered with the Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center and members of the private bar to establish Lawyers 4 Vets, a Pro Bono Veterans Legal Clinic.

**Purpose:**

Lawyers 4 Vets connects low income and homeless Veterans with attorneys who provide legal advice and representation on certain issues.

**Legal Issues and Services:** The clinic will ONLY address the following topics:

- Obtaining identification (Social Security, South Carolina State ID, birth certificates)
- Child support and visitation issues (in South Carolina)
- Expungements and pardons (for convictions from South Carolina courts)
- Consumer protection
- Simple wills and healthcare power of attorney

**Eligibility:**

Veterans will be screened for eligibility, and if eligible will be given an appointment at the clinic. Lawyers 4 Vets will assist eligible Veterans regardless of military discharge status.

**Appointments:** Veterans who would like to be screened for eligibility should call the number listed below and leave a message including their name, phone number, and legal issue. The Veteran will be contacted within 2 business days by an intake volunteer who will ask the veteran a number of questions to determine if they are eligible. If the Veteran is eligible and has a qualifying legal issue, they will be given the next available appointment at the legal clinic. Appointments are required for a Veteran to receive a face-to-face meeting with a lawyer. Walk-ins will not be seen and will be directed to contact the telephone intake.

**Number to call:** Toll Free 1-877-289-6000

**Clinic Dates:** The Clinic will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. The 2014 Clinic dates are:

- \* May 15, 2014
- \* June 19, 2014
- \* July 17, 2014
- \* August 21, 2014
- \* September 18, 2014
- \* October 16, 2014
- \* November 20, 2014
- \* December 18, 2014

**Where: (BY APPROVED APPOINTMENT ONLY AND SPECIFIC LOCATION PROVIDED UPON CONFIRMATION):** Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center, 6439 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia SC 29209.

### 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.

### Defensive Driving Course

Rehab Services will be offering an eight-hour Defensive Driving course to all eligible veterans on 5/30/14 at the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia. The course may be good for a four-point reduction from one's driver record. The course will last from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and there is **NO CHARGE** for the course. (Similar courses in the community range in cost from \$55-\$85). To be eligible the veteran must be enrolled at the Dorn VA Medical Center. If the enrollment is at the Charleston VA Medical Center, the veteran should contact Alan Simmerson, RKT, at 803-776-4000, ext. 7052. The veterans must also be in possession of a valid South Carolina driver's license. Some car insurance companies allow for a 5-10% decrease in premiums if the insured has completed this course.

### What's Happening

**May 30, 31 June 1 – Department Convention, Greenville, Hyatt Regency 220 N. Main Street.**

**June 1, Sunday – Task Force Marshall** Graduation will be held at 1PM in Bldg. 3912 at Camp McCrady. 57 Sailors will be graduating.

**June 8 – Palmetto Boys State Legion night Anderson University.**

**June 8 – 13 Boys State in session, Anderson University**

### Post Officer Listings

**District Commanders Please Note:** Even though you may have the same officers in the same positions for the 2014-2015 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.

### 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