



**Department of  
South Carolina  
The American Legion**

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July 10, 2014

## **SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE**

**Nothing is impossible; the word itself says 'I'm possible'.**

### **Salute from the Shore V**

Here is something you might want to check out. It was recently received from Howard Metcalf and I would like to share it with you. Please go to the following site and view it. Attached is a link to the video of Salute from the Shore V, a 4th of July South Carolina tribute to the men and women of the military.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bvz6AIA05V8&feature=youtu.be>

### **National Convention**

The time is coming rapidly for this year's National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. It will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center from August 23, 2014 thru August 28, 2014. The hotel the South Carolina delegation is assigned to is the Charlotte Marriott City Center, 100 West Trade Street, Charlotte, NC 28202. All interested in attending this year's convention must have the convention confirmation and order form into department headquarters along with one night's deposit and all ticket and registration fees **no later than July 15, 2014**. You can go on the department's website and get a copy of the aforementioned form with all the information shown. Once on the site under **Members** the form is titled National Convention Reservation Form.

### **Legion Baseball**

Both the Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball state tournaments will be starting soon. For the Juniors the tournament starts **July 19** and runs to **July 23** at the Florence Legion Field. It is a 8 team double elimination tournament.

The Senior tournament starts with a banquet on **July 25** with games being played commencing on **July 26** and runs to **July 30**. The banquet and games will be held at the historic Riley Park, Sumter. To see the game times and team brackets, please go to the department website, [scarolinalegion.org](http://scarolinalegion.org) and click on **Programs-SC**

**Baseball-2014 Brackets.** Any other information can be obtained from Mr. Buck Swing or Mr. Legree Oswald. If at all possible, let's attempt to go see some up and coming baseball players in their early stages of play and support our program.

### Vietnam Era Vets

Senator Tim Scott is hosting a Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Ceremony scheduled for Saturday August 2nd. The Senator is honored to have the opportunity to express our gratitude to these Vietnam War Era veterans and will present each one with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition and a pin.

We scheduled the event in a central location - downtown Columbia. At 10 AM on August 2nd, we will be recognizing these brave men and women at the First Baptist Church of Columbia, at 1306 Hampton Street. We are enlisting your help to spread the word about this event within your organization and throughout the community. This Recognition Ceremony cannot be a success without the involvement of our Veteran partner organizations. There is no fee to participate in or attend this event. We do ask these veterans and the surviving families of deceased veterans to contact us to register. You can do this online at: <http://scott.senate.gov/veterans> <[https://outreach.senate.gov/iqextranet/iqClickTrk.aspx?&cid=quorum\\_scott-iq&crop=14308.6409133.5232973.7131919&redirect=http%3a%2f%2fwww.scott.senate.gov%2fveterans](https://outreach.senate.gov/iqextranet/iqClickTrk.aspx?&cid=quorum_scott-iq&crop=14308.6409133.5232973.7131919&redirect=http%3a%2f%2fwww.scott.senate.gov%2fveterans)> or by phone, at 844-820-0146 (toll free). The Vietnam War era was one of the most challenging in our nation's history, and it is truly my honor to host these brave men and women who fought for freedom this year. Their sacrifices, as well as those made by their families, will never be forgotten.

Thank you for your support of our Veterans and the Vietnam War Era Veterans Recognition Ceremony. I hope to see you and your fellow veterans in Columbia on August 2<sup>nd</sup>!

### Legion & VA Info

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 8, 2014) -- The American Legion is sending a team of its experts to St. Louis, Mo., in response to a recent Department of Veterans Affairs internal investigation that showed long wait times for veterans seeking specialist treatment in the VA St. Louis Health Care System. An internal VA investigation showed that new patients seeking specialist care were waiting an average of 86 days to see a specialist.

Members of The American Legion's System Worth Saving Task Force will hold a town hall meeting and operate a crisis center for local veterans and family members affected by delays in getting access to their health care at the VA St. Louis Health Care System. The town hall meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on July 14 at the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum, 1315 Chestnut St., St. Louis. The meeting is open to the general public, and local veterans are encouraged to attend – especially those affected by wait-time delays.

The American Legion's Veterans Crisis Command Center is July 15-18 at the St. Louis University School of Law Clinic, 100 No. Tucker Blvd., Suite 726, St. Louis. Members of the Legion's national staff, along with local Legionnaires, staff from VA facilities and volunteers from other organizations will be on hand to assist veterans and their families. Services provided will include assistance in filing for VA appointment scheduling, grief counseling, benefits claims, and help with enrollment in VA health care.

Operating hours for the crisis center are noon to 8 p.m. on July 15, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the 16th and 17th, and 8 a.m. to noon on the 18th. The American Legion, with help from the VA and other organizations, has been operating week-long crisis centers for veterans and family members since early June in Phoenix, Fayetteville, N.C., and El Paso, Texas; another is going on in Fort Collins, Colo., July 15-18. The Legion plans to operate such centers throughout the summer in several cities affected by delayed VA health care.

See more at: <http://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/223187/legions-veteran-crisis-center-coming-st-louis#sthash.FgTv7ZwT.dpuf>

### RSVP Request

I recently was contacted by Ms. Beverly Brandt, Director, RSVP of the Midlands inquiring about veterans volunteering to assist in various avenues for seniors 55 and older. There are many areas that RSVP could use the assistance in and the only requirement is that the individual be 55 and older and have the time to do so. Anyone interested can either contact Ms. Brandt at 803-252-7734 ext. 246 or go to the following website [www.seniorresourcesinc.org](http://www.seniorresourcesinc.org) and check things out. Some of the many avenues are School volunteer Liaison, Receptionist, Armed Forces Casework Family Follow-up Volunteer, Library Assistant, Clerical Assistant, Women's Clinic.

### Flag Amendment

On May 22, 2013, **House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 47** was introduced by Rep. Spencer Bachus (AL). This legislation is a proposed constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration. Its text states simply: "*The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.*" The measure currently has 29 cosponsors. On June 13, 2013, Sen. Orrin Hatch (UT) introduced **Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. Res.) 17**, a companion bill to H.J. Res. 47. This measure has 23 cosponsors.

The task before us now is finding additional cosponsors for these two measures. Please contact your representative and senators, and ask them to become cosponsors of the flag amendment in their respective chambers. [Resolution 272-2012]

### 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.

**What's Happening**

**July 15 Deadline for 2014 National Convention order form to Department.**

**July 19, Saturday** – District 18 Florence Post #1 12noon

**July 26, Saturday** – District 13 Easley Post #52, 118-A Legion St., 10 a.m. Light refreshments

**Post Officer Listings**

**District and Post 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.

Proud To Serve

Lloyd H. Woods  
Department Adjutant