



**Department of  
South Carolina  
The American Legion**

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July 31, 2014

## **SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE**

**What we need is more people that specialize in the impossible.**

### **Commanders “Project 94”**

Commander Collins' Commanders Project 94 is doing great. His project this year is to honor the 94 men and women who have given their lives for us and our country since 9-11. He had some pins made up and is handing them out to anyone who wants one to wear either on their jacket, Legion cap, wherever. He is not selling these pins but will accept donations of any size that will go to the National program called Operation Comfort Warriors where The American Legion obtains comfort items for those returning from war that need items. The Commander is hoping to raise \$100.00 for each of the 94 who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. If you desire to donate, please send a check to the Department Headquarters and earmark the check Project 94. Those funds will go into a special account and will be sent to National for O.C.W.

### **State Baseball Results**

Two South Carolina American Legion Baseball teams have been crowned State Champions. For the Junior League, this year's champion is Florence #1. For the Senior League the team that is crowned as State Champion is from Florence Post #1. Congratulations to all of the various teams who played hard during the games in the tournaments as well as all season. Each and every one of you should consider yourselves winners. Good luck in all that you attempt to do in the future.

## Boys Nation Results

By a vote of 52 to 46, Matthew Ellow of Lacey's Spring, Ala., was elected Boys Nation president for the Class of 2014, narrowly defeating his opponent Joshua Cook from Knoxville, Tenn. Louis Lombardo of Arlington, Texas, was elected Boys Nation vice president, beating out Michael Hill of Broken Arrow, Okla., by a 73 to 24 vote with one abstention. Before elections, the platforms of the Nationalist and Federalist parties were presented to the senators gathered at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. Ellow and Cook then made their final campaign speeches to the Boys Nation senators.

Ellow spoke about the need to restore belief in each other, our Constitution, Americanism and patriotism. Cook said that America needs more than politicians – it needs leaders who will re-establish America as a global powerhouse. Lombardo drew applause from the senators when he said that people like to point fingers at Congress, but Congress “is a collection of voices from voters. Speak to your congressmen and tell them you do not approve.” Hill said he completely agreed that Congress “needs to make some compromises. If this doesn't happen, then Congress will shatter.”

- See more at: <http://www.legion.org/boysnation/223501/alabama-youth-elected-boys-nation-president#sthash.1kF4uVL5.dpuf>

## National Commander Message

July 25, 2014

Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

Today, I want to share with you a joint statement regarding the inappropriate posturing by members of Congress following a request made by Sloan Gibson, acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Gibson requested [emergency funding of \\$17.6 billion](#) to help repair access problems for veterans seeking VA health care.

What follows is a joint statement from myself representing The American Legion, Stewart Hickey, executive director of AMVETS (American Veterans), and Pete Hegseth, chief executive officer of Concerned Veterans for America:

“Regardless of the merits, a last-minute VA request for \$17.6 billion dollars in additional spending only hampers an already difficult VA conference committee negotiating process. Both the House and Senate VA reform bills that passed were centered on two things—accountability and access. It is disgraceful and utterly painful to see bipartisan efforts erode and lawmakers lose sight of what's important. Negotiations, which should happen in public, not behind closed doors, must stay focused on ensuring VA leadership is held accountable and veterans have timely access to care. All other discussions only undermine a critically important process.

“We urge Congress to take immediate action to regain their focus on ensuring the VA Secretary exercises their authority to hold management and staff accountable for their inappropriate behavior, and immediately stop the corruption and mismanagement within the VA. Before asking for more money, the VA must start making good on the nation's promise to its honored veterans.”

/s/Daniel Dellinger

### **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.

The event is scheduled 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>!

### **Possible Job Hiring**

On August 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. there will be a Hiring Event held at OCtech for those who would want to be a truck driver or who are a driver now but looking for a new employer. More than 20 employers have been invited to interview and hire potential candidates. You are not required to have your Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to attend this event. Some of the companies are All American, Averitt, Carolina Cargo, Comcar, Epes, G&P, Senn, Tidewater & Trimac. For more info contact Amanda at [eismanan@octech.edu](mailto:eismanan@octech.edu) or 803-535-1386.

### **New VA Burial Rule**

An announcement dated July 7, 2014 regarding New Burial Compensation Rules, new regulations effective on 7/7/2014 will now allow the Department of Veterans Affairs, (VA) to automatically pay the maximum amount allowable under law to most eligible surviving spouses more quickly and efficiently, without the need for a written application.

Under former regulations, VA paid burial benefits on a reimbursement basis, which required survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally paid at the maximum amount permitted by law.

“VA is committed to improving the speed and ease of delivery of monetary burial benefits to Veterans’ survivors during their time of need,” said Acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson. “The recent changes allow VA to help these survivors bear the cost of funerals by changing regulations to get them the benefits more quickly.”

This automation enables VA to pay a non-service-connected or service-connected burial allowance to an estimated 62,000 eligible surviving spouses out of a projected 140,000 claimants for burial benefits in 2014. Surviving spouses will be paid upon notice of the Veteran’s death using information already in VA systems. The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.

This revised regulation will further expedite the delivery of these benefits to surviving spouses, reduce the volume of claims requiring manual processing, and potentially make available resources for other activities that benefit Veterans and their survivors.

For more information on monetary burial benefits, visit [www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-burial.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-burial.asp)

### 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  
\* September 18, 2014  
\* November 20, 2014

\* August 21, 2014  
\* October 16, 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.

### For Sale

Post #7, Lexington has a commercial grade gas 6 burner range and oven for sale. Price negotiable. It is a Franklin brand stainless steel gas oven and 6 burner range top. For more information contact Commander David Griffith, Post #7-Lexington at (803)359-1278 or email at [dgriff4726@aol.com](mailto:dgriff4726@aol.com).

### What's Happening

**August 16, Saturday** – District 5, Boiling Springs Post #200 at Unity Presbyterian Church, 750 Rainbow Lake Rd. 10 a.m.

**August 22-28** – National Convention, Charlotte, N.C.

**August 23, Saturday** – District 4, Grand Strand Senior Ctr, 1268 21<sup>st</sup> Ave., N. Myrtle Beach 1:00 p.m.

**August 26, Tuesday** – District 17 Post #15, 34 South Artillery, Sumter 6:00 p.m.

### 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