



Department of South Carolina The American Legion

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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon and the truth.

Patriots Point

AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall will be at Patriots Point from October 9-12th in the Grove, landside of the USS Yorktown. Opening ceremony in the evening of October 9th. An 80% replica Vietnam Wall will be coming to Patriots Point in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and ongoing commemoration programs. For volunteer opportunities, please contact Bobby Kotlowski (843)881-5989 or bkotlowski@patriotspoint.org. The largest traveling replica of the iconic Vietnam Memorial Wall will be on display at the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime museum Oct. 9-12. The 360-foot long, eight-foot tall American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) Wall is 80 percent scale of the memorial in Washington D.C. It contains the names of every one of the 58,272 men and women who died in the more than decade long war. "We are honored to offer our community a special chance to pay tribute to the fallen heroes of the Vietnam War," said Patriots Point Executive Director Mac Burdette. "This will be a very special event for countless people across our state. It creates an opportunity for those who cannot travel to our nation's capital to feel the emotions and connection with their lost friends and loved ones that is only attained through viewing the famous memorial."

A special opening ceremony is planned for the evening of Oct. 9. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will include Medal of Honor Recipient Maj. Gen. James E. Livingston, several state and local officials and a performance by the US Marine Corps Band at Parris Island.

The Traveling Wall will be free and available to visitors around the clock from 5:00 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9 to 12:00 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12 in the Grove at Patriots Point. Rubbing sheets and pencils will be provided. Normal admission rates will apply to those who also want to tour the museum. This event is part of the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum's ongoing efforts to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War over the next few years.

New Venture

The American Legion and Grammy Award-winning artists, The Oak Ridge Boys, are uniting to raise awareness and support for needs of U.S. military veterans, including better detection and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), help with the VA benefits process, and education and career opportunities for those who served our nation in uniform.

The Oak Ridge Boys will participate in a national fundraising and awareness campaign to support the detection and treatment of mental health issues among veterans, 22 of whom are lost each day to suicide.

The American Legion has conducted an extensive focus in the last four years to help veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). VA estimates that upwards of 20 percent of veterans from the recent wars are confronting PTSD.

New VA Regulation

On September 23, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published its final regulations and fact sheet related to the Camp Lejeune historical drinking water contamination as required by law. VA announced the publication of two regulations: one providing health care for Camp Lejeune Veterans, and the other reimbursing for health care expenses of their family members potentially affected by contaminated drinking water at United States Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The regulations implement provisions of the “Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.”

The first regulation, entitled *Hospital Care and Medical Services for Camp Lejeune Veterans (AO78)*, took effect immediately. The second -- *Payment or Reimbursement for Certain Medical Expenses for Camp Lejeune Family Members (AO79)* – will take effect in 30 days. The published regulations now allow VA to reimburse eligible Camp Lejeune family members for out-of-pocket health care costs related to any of the 15 covered medical conditions listed in the 2012 Act. Under that law, VA can reimburse costs from March 26, 2013, onwards. Family members can start applying 30 days after the regulation publication date. For information about VA's Camp Lejeune program, including eligibility and how to apply, visit <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune> or call 1-877-222-8387. Since the passage of law, VA has enrolled and provided health care to those Veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987.

Background:

President Obama signed the *Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012* into law on August 6, 2012. In compliance with the law VA provides healthcare for those Veterans who meet the criteria for health care. From 1957 to 1987, people living or working at Camp Lejeune were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with chemicals known as volatile compounds, including industrial solvents and benzene from fuels.

The law provides that Veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 will be eligible to receive health care through VA, and exposed family members will be reimbursed for health care costs, for the following medical conditions:

Esophageal cancer; Lung cancer; Breast cancer; Bladder cancer; Kidney cancer; Leukemia; Multiple myeloma; Myelodysplastic syndromes; Renal toxicity; Hepatitis steatosis; Female infertility; Miscarriage; Scleroderma; Neurobehavioral effects; and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. For family members, VA will be the last payer and will provide reimbursement after all other health insurance coverage and reimbursement is received, as required by law.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Who is eligible for the Camp Lejeune program?

A: Veterans may be eligible for Camp Lejeune coverage if they meet the following criteria:

- Served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for no less than 30 days between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987, and
- Meet all the qualifications for VA benefits, including meeting the VA definition of “Veteran,” and receiving a discharge other than dishonorable. Additional qualifications can be determined by completing the 10-10EZ form and enrolling in VA benefits.

Family members may be eligible for the program if they resided on Camp Lejeune as a dependent of an Active Duty Servicemember, or were in *utero*, for no less than 30 days between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987, and have one of the illnesses or conditions listed in the law. VA may reimburse costs associated with hospital care and medical services, as the last payer, for the eligible family members for the 15 illnesses or

conditions. Once those family members have submitted claims to their insurance companies, they can apply to VA for reimbursement of the remaining balance of charges and fees connected to the qualifying illnesses.

Q: How do Veterans and family members apply for the Camp Lejeune program?

A: For Veterans: Veterans seeking to enroll in VA health benefits can enroll online at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply or at their local VA Health facility (www.va.gov/directory). Veterans seeking more information about VA's Camp Lejeune Program or to apply via phone can call 1-877-222-VETS (8387). Veterans should locate relevant documentation to show proof of Camp Lejeune residency of not less than 30 days (e.g., copies of orders, base housing records, medical or school records, etc.). This information will be utilized by the Veteran Health Administration to validate eligibility for care under this authority.

For family members: Once the family member regulation is effective, interested family members will be able to apply online. Submitted applications and supporting documentation will be reviewed to determine family member eligibility for the program. Once deemed eligible for the program, family members who have received care for one of the 15 Camp Lejeune conditions since March 26, 2013, can submit a claim for reimbursement. Family members should keep receipts for medical expenses related to the covered illnesses/conditions. Because the Camp Lejeune law only reimburses expenses, as the payer of last resort, related to the 15 conditions, family members should not change their existing health insurance. Family members who have questions regarding applying for Camp Lejeune Family Member Program benefits, claims payment, appeals, or other related matters should call toll-free 1-866-372-1144 between the hours of 7 am and 4:30 pm CST.

Q: Is the reimbursement for care retroactive?

A: No, reimbursement is only from the point in time the Veteran enrolls in VA, if after 8/6/12 or reimbursement of VA copayments back to 8/6/12, if already enrolled and identified as a Camp Lejeune member within 2 years of publication of the rule. VA began providing Veteran care for Camp Lejeune on 8/6/12, following the passage of the "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012".

Q: Does this law provide Veterans with disability compensation?

A: No. This law allows Camp Lejeune Veterans to enroll in VA health care. It does not provide service connection and compensation. Veterans who believe they have an injury/illness related to their military service may file a claim for disability for their condition at their Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office.

MIAP

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 13 previously unclaimed Veterans at 10:30 a.m. on 30 October 2014, at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery in Columbia, SC. This will be the eighth 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 36.5 years. Eight of these heroes served in the United States Army two served in the United States Navy and three served in the United States Air Force. They served during World War II, the Korean War 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 13 Veterans will be escorted from Chapin American Legion Post 193, 102 Lexington Ave. Chapin, SC 29036 at 09:40 a.m. Thursday, October 30th 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 10:30 a.m. An Honor Guard from Fort Gordon Georgia, American Legion Post 71 the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force 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 Volunteer - 803-732-9569
Larry Truax - MIAP-SC Assistant State Coordinator - 843-855-7050

Half Staff Notice

In accordance with Public Law 107-51 the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation for the United States flag to be displayed at half-staff in observance of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland, which will be celebrated Sunday, October 12, 2014. When issued the proclamation will be found on the White House website @ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions>.

LIT Information

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust is pleased to announce that online enrollment is now available for the LegionCare No Cost Accidental Death benefit. Please be sure to let your Department know about this one-of-a-kind benefit offered exclusively to Legionnaires.

LegionCare provides all Legionnaires with:

- \$5,000 in Accidental Death Coverage for covered accidents that occur if you are traveling on official Legion business.
- \$1,000 for all other covered accidents.
- 24/7 protection that covers Legionnaires at home, at work and while they are travelling away from home available for all Legionnaires in your Department.

To learn more or to sign up, please visit <http://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare>.

Position Announcement

The Department of South Carolina is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of Department Adjutant for the Department of South Carolina. This is a full-time paid position with health, dental, vision and other benefits.

As the Chief Operations Officer, Chief Fiscal Officer and Finance Officer of the department, incumbent will be responsible for the administration of policies and procedures of both the National and Department American Legion, as well as the policies and mandates of the Department Convention, Department Executive Committee and as prescribed by the Constitution. He/she shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office. Applicants must have a valid South Carolina operator's license and must travel throughout the State of

South Carolina on business for the department. Applicant must be a member of The American Legion in good standing and be assigned a Post in South Carolina and be an honorable discharged veteran from a branch of the U.S. military. Thorough knowledge of The American Legion programs and procedures is expected.

Resume' must be received in the Department office on or before close of business October 10, 2014. Submit to Department Adjutant Search Committee, P.O. Box 3309, Irmo, South Carolina 29063. Also submit with resume' explaining interest in the position and salary history.

PUFL Information

Since last reported one month ago, the Paid Up For Life (PUFL) campaign has added just over 2,000 new members. To date 15,424 American Legion members have become PUFL members. 56% paid in full with the remainder opting for the 12 month time payment option. 73%, are Vietnam era veterans and later with the overall applicant average age being 65. An email blast was sent over a week's time to about 200,000 members, thus providing the spike in new PUFL applicants. Becoming a Paid Up For Life member in The American Legion is easier than ever before. For more information regarding the fund go to www.legion.org/pufl . After providing a name and ID number, the member will receive a cost quote; he or she can pay by credit card or print out a personalized form and mail it in with a check. Those without an ID number can contact Customer Service at **1-800-433-3318** for their personalized offer.

What's Happening

October 18, Saturday-District #5 Woodruff #133 10a, 6998 Hwy 101 N, meal following. Please RSVP # attending to District Commander Jack Wright 864-680-7114 (c), 864-578-1933 (h), jpb200@aol.com

October 18, Saturday-District #8 St. George #105 10a, 5429 Memorial Blvd.

October 20-22, Florence Airport Wings of Freedom Tour honoring WWII veterans. P-51, B-17 and B-24 aircraft be landing and on display for viewing. Adults \$12 children 12 and under \$6. **FMI** Hunter Chaney 800-568-8924

October 28, Tuesday-District #3 Greer Post #115 7 pm Corner of Main St & Snow St., Coffee & Doughnuts

November 1, Saturday-District #13 Central Post #151, 375 Garvin Rd, Liberty 10a-12 noon light refresh.

November 3, Monday-District #4 6p meal 7p meeting Loris #41, 2556 Main St., Loris

November 18, Tuesday-District #15 6:30p Johnston Post #154, 99 Edisto St. **RSVP** Cmdr Dandy (803)649-6752

November 25, Tuesday-District #17 6p Post #15 Sumter

Task Force Marshall

Ms. Davis advises that planning for the 7th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for our deploying Sailors will be held on Sunday, November 16, 2014 at the National Guard Armory on Bluff Road. There are a number of food and non-food items that will be needed for the dinner. A listing of those items is separate from this article. More information will be forthcoming for interested to sign up to volunteer to help with the set-up and decorating of the Armory as well as helping serve and other areas where help will be needed the day of the dinner. **FMI** Carol Davis (803)739-2774/(803)467-4482.

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.

New Provider

LifeStation, a newly authorized discount provider for The American Legion, will be mailing a promotional offer to some of our members. LifeStation is a provider of home medical alert products and offers these products to our members at a discounted price. In order to promote their products, they are mailing the attached letter to members in their primary age group. Over the next 3 weeks, about 60,000 of our members who are ages 80 and 81 will receive this letter from LifeStation. I wanted to make you aware of this mailing so that you could respond to inquiries from members in your department. Several important factors that should be noted in response to any questions are:

1. LifeStation is an authorized discount provider, and does have an agreement with The American Legion to provide its products and services to our members.
2. This mailing was mailed from The American Legion's mailing operation in Indianapolis.
3. Our members' names have not been sold or given to any outside companies or services, for this mailing.
4. The discount is available to all members, and not only those receiving the mailing.
5. Information about LifeStation is available on our website at: www.legion.org/benefits/home

If you have any questions or concerns about this mailing, please feel free to contact Greg Roth, Director, Membership Support Services Division, Phone 317/860-3040; Fax 317/860-3001

RSVP Volunteers

As requested by RSVP of the Midlands, here are some of the positions that are available and are being sought to assist others: Packer, Meals on Wheels, Van Driver, Product Rescue Volunteer, Food Pantry worker, Receptionist, Armed Forces Casework Family Follow-up, Disaster Services, Shuttle Driver and many others. If interested or for more information contact Senior Resources at 252-7734 ext. 246 or 248.

Proud To Serve

Lloyd H. Woods
Department Adjutant