



Serving Those Who Served

Lancaster County veteran News

Issue 52

April 2016

STAND UP! BE HEARD!!

April 20, 2016—Columbia SC

**STAND UP!
BE HEARD!**

*You have fought for your Country,
Now fight for your rights!*

Keynote Speaker:
Major General Steve Siegfried (Ret)

**“Honoring”
All Vietnam Veterans**

**“Rally for our
Veterans”**

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016
10am – 2pm North End
State House Steps**

Organized by the South Carolina Veteran's Advocacy Council



Calendar of Events:

- Apr 4 — American Legion meeting @ 7:00
- Apr 5 — Fort Lawn Veteran Service Grp
- Apr 11 — DAV meeting @ 7:00pm
- Apr 14 — Job Fair, 10-2; Florence SC
- Apr 20 — Veteran Rally, Columbia SC
- Apr 23 — IL VFW meeting @9:30am
- Apr 26 — MCL meeting

We have on site every Wednesday a VetCenter Counselor and every Thursday a

Contact Us:

Lancaster County VA
 1033 West Meeting St
 PO Box 1809
 Lancaster SC 29721
 Phone: 803-283-2469
 Phone: 803-416-9497
 VAOffice@lancastercountysc.net

Lawyers 4 Vets

For low income veterans

Lawyers 4 Vets connects lower-income Veterans living at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines with local attorneys who provide one-on-one pro bono legal advice or representation. Beginning May 15, 2014, Lawyers 4 Vets will assist Veterans by appointment only with:

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

Veterans seeking information about the clinic should call 1-877-289-6000.

Free counseling for war time veterans

VetCenter

A counselor from the Vet Center is available twice a month in Lancaster for war time veterans and their dependents. The Vet Center offers a wide range of services to help you make a successful transition from military to civilian life. You have earned these benefits and there is no cost to you or your family members.

- Individual & group Counseling
- Family Counseling for military related
- Bereavement counseling for families
- Military sexual trauma
- Outreach & education
- Substance abuse assessment & referral
- Employment assessment & referral
- VBA benefits explanation & referral
- Screening & referral for medical issues



House Passes Bill

Allow Inurnment of WASPs at Arlington Cemetery

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passes H.R. 4336, introduced as the Women Airforce Service Pilot Arlington Inurnment Restoration Act. The bill, as amended, would ensure that the cremated remains of Active Duty Designees would be eligible for inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery. The bill would also require the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to Congress with recommendations for extending the capacity of Arlington National Cemetery.

H.R. 4336 now awaits consideration by the Senate. Following House passage of the bill, Chairman Miller released the below statement.

“This bill will ensure that Active Duty Designees, including Women Airforce Service Pilots, will be eligible for inurnment with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, a distinction they have earned. In light of Women’s History Month, it’s more important than ever to recognize the instrumental service of the WASPs during World War II. I encourage my Senate colleagues to move forward with this legislation and get it to the Presidents desk in a timely manner.” Rep. Jeff Miller, Chairman, House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

JOB FAIR

April 14, 2014 — Veterans & General Public

SC Works Pee Dee is hosting a Job Fair

April 14, 2016

From 10:00a.m.—10:30am VETERANS ONLY

10:30—2pm General Public

SIMT—1951 Pisgah Rd, Florence SC 29501

For More information please call (843) 519-1228

Professional Attire REQUIRED!

Come Dressed to Impress!!





LARS Program

Now available for Local Veterans

Our office has partnered with the following Veterans Service Organizations; The American Legion Post 31 and the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 14, to provide free transportation to veterans in need.

At this time these organizations have purchased prepaid tickets that can be used for local trips only (grocery store, bank, local private doctor, etc.).

How to use this benefit?

You will need to contact our office at 803.283.2469 to obtain a ticket or two depending on if you need a round trip. These tickets do not expire. You will then have to call LARS at 803.285.6956 to schedule your reservation on their vehicle.

We do have a limited quantity of tickets and they will be issued on a first come first serve basis.

Charlotte VA Health Care Clinic

Opens in April 2016

3506 W. Tyvola Rd, Charlotte NC 28208

Services that will be provided in April:

Audiology	Primary Care
Endoscopy	Rotating Medical and Surgical Clinics
Imaging	Pharmacy
Laboratory	Primary Care
Mental Health	Primary Care
Minor Procedures	
Optometry	

Future Services:

Day Surgery
Dental Clinic
Dialysis
Infusion Clinic
Rehab Medicine

Lancaster DAV Van Schedule for April 2016:

Columbia:

Wednesday, Apr 6
 Thursday, Apr 7
 Wednesday, Apr 13
 Thursday, Apr 14
 Wednesday, Apr 20
 Thursday, Apr 21
 Wednesday, Apr 27
 Thursday, Apr 28

Rock Hill:

Friday, Apr 8
 Friday, Apr 15
 Friday, Apr 22
 Friday, Apr 29

Please note that these dates may be subject to change due to volunteer driver availability.

SC Works - Veterans Services

Do you fall in one of the following categories?

- A veteran with a service connected disability (have a percentage from VA)
- A veteran that is homeless or feel that you may be homeless
- A veteran lacking a high school diploma or GED
- A veteran who has been released from incarceration within the last 12 months
- A recently separated service member who has been unemployed for 27 weeks or more in the last 12 months or 18 to 24 years old

One on One Case Management and Individual Employment Plan

- Career/job counseling, local labor market information on jobs and employers in the area
- One on one assistance in tailoring resumes for area jobs
- Help with expanding your job search area and how to search
- Providing referral for jobs, family support, social service, and other community programs

If you would like to make an appointment to meet with a member of the SC Works Staff just call 803-313-7385 or come into a SC Works Office.

Michael E O'Donnell

Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Representative
 SC Department of Employment and Workforce—Veteran Services SC Works
 803-313-7385—Lancaster
 803-328-3881 Ext 110 — Rock Hill
modonnell@dew.sc.gov

SC Works

Are you work ready? Contact Lynda!

Lynda Burke

Veterans Coordinator Catawba/LVER
 SCDEW/SCWORKS
 705 North White Street
 Lancaster SC 29720
 803-313-7388 (work)
 803-287-5930 (cell)
lburke@dew.sc.gov

SC National Guard

Service Member and Family Care

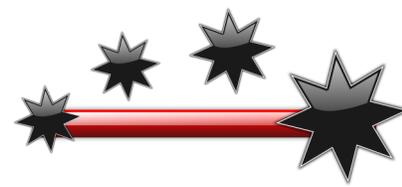
Brad M. Ware is the Employment Advisor with the SC National Guard.

You may contact him at:
 National Guard Armory
 126 Airport Road
 Rock Hill, SC 29732
 Cell—803-288-2635

Email—Brad.m.ware.ctr@mail.mil

Meet Gene Wallace

Highlighting Lancaster County Veterans—One at a time



Gene Wallace proudly served in the US Navy from July 1950 to August 1956. He then joined the US Airforce and served from June 1957 to July 1971. Gene grew up on Brooklyn, here in Lancaster. He left school at the age of 16 to go work in the cotton mill. Then he left the cotton mill to go to the US Navy. He enlisted at 19 years old. "I would have went before but had a bad tooth, they turned me down. But then the war came along and changed things. I served on the Destroyer Isabelle and the Battleship New Jersey." Gene stated.

Like his father, Gene always had a desire to serve in the military. His dad served in the US Army during WWII, did guard duty at ammunition sites. His uncle also served in the US Army during WWII, serving in the Pacific.

During his time in the US Navy, he was a deck hand, "Kept the ship clean, did most of the work." Gene stated. He sailed many places to include: Mediterranean, Caribbean, Pacific, North Atlantic, Norfolk and Guantanamo Bay. While in the US Airforce he was in supply, material control. He was stationed several places; Washington State, Brit-

ish Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Charleston SC, Saudi Arabia and McGuire AF Base in New Jersey where he retired from service.

"Something funny that happened while I was in the Navy on a destroyer. We picked up a bunch of refugees in the middle of the night in the middle of the ocean. They put the refugees in our sleep quarters. The one that was using my bunk peed on it. We dropped them on the shore of Korea. No two days were alike." Gene said laughingly. "During the Cuban Crisis, I worked straight days then went to nights. Any little thing can change everything."



While serving he met and married his wife, Lib Wallace. They raised 3 girls. They were all born in different places, one in British Columbia, one in Delaware and the other in Fort Dix New Jersey. Gene and Lib have four grandchildren, 3 girls and 1 boy. He is very proud of his grandchildren, one is graduating from Coker College, one is at the University of South Carolina, one is at Anderson University and the youngest is still attending high school.

Since service Gene has been actively involved with The American Legion Post 31 here in Lancaster. He joined in 1965 for a short while leaving in 1976 to return in 1980. In 2009, he took the role

of the Finance Officer which only lasted for about 2 weeks before somethings changed and he became the Adjutant. Gene currently still holds this office. Gene also worked with the American Legion Baseball team for quite a few years with Ward Faulkenberry and Head Neely. He is also a life member of the VFW. Gene's words of wisdom; "Every young man should serve at least one year in the military. It would make for a better country."



Critical Home Repair Program

Habitat for Humanity of Lancaster County has now received a grant for critical home repair for veterans and the elderly. If you are interested in more information or want an application please contact our office.

You can also call 803-283-1203 to speak to someone with Habitat for Humanity of Lancaster County. There are certain eligibility criteria that will need to be met.

Direct Deposit

What is the fastest way to enroll or make a change to Direct Deposit? The fastest way is to call 1-800-827-1000. They will be able to change it over the phone. To enroll you will need to know your routing and account number along with the amount that will be deposited. If you are changing direct deposit you will need to know your old routing and account number along with your new information.

The American Legion

Was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans. The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.

Disabled American Veterans

We are very active in helping local veterans. Since July 2015 the DAV has spent over \$2200.00 helping veterans ranging from motel rooms for homeless veterans, to picking up and delivering medications. We have donated wheel chairs, walkers, crutches and batteries for electric wheel chairs. We work closely with Lancaster VA office and have supplied LARS tickets for veterans to use that services. Please all members come to the meetings—there is no limit what we can accomplish. Hopefully we can be more productive in 2016! Next Meeting April 11 at 7:00pm.



The U.S. Department of Treasury, in partnership with the SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority and SC Housing Corp., has made over \$295 million available to help eligible South Carolina homeowners avoid serious first mortgage delinquency and foreclosures.

Qualifications

SC Help is intended to assist borrowers who are facing first mortgage delinquency or possible foreclosure. There is no household income limit, the property must be an owner-occupied primary residence, applicants must have a minimum 24 months homeownership history and applicants do NOT have to be delinquent.

How to Apply

Applicants are encouraged to apply electronically at: www.schelp.com. Applicants without the internet may call 1-855-435-7472, toll free number for assistance. There is NO FEE required at any point during the SC HELP process. Once you have made an appointment with a representative you can meet at the SC Works office on White St, Lancaster.

Fort Lawn Veteran Service Group

Open to all Veterans who want to attend. We meet at the Fort Lawn Community Center the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. The address is 5554 Main St, Fort Lawn, SC 29714. If you need more information please contact Jim Gladden at 803-320-3537 or Lynda Burke at 803-287-5930.

Marine Corps League

The Lancaster County Leathernecks—Detachment 1169 — Marine Corps League meets the last Tuesday of each month in our building at 347 Brooklyn Ave at 7:00pm. We welcome all Marines and FMF Corpsmen to join with us.

Billy Helms, Commandant

Veterans of Foreign War

We meet the first Thursday of every month at The American Legion. This meeting is held at 7:00pm. We would love to see all members attend these meeting. If you are interested in becoming a member please contact Tim Catoe, Quartermaster for VFW Post 5936, at 803-285-7199 or 803-320-4675. You can also email him at tim.catoe@comporium.com

Veterans of Foreign War

Indian Land Post 12136

Next meeting is 4th Saturday of the month at 9:30am.
Location: 8083 Charlotte Hwy, Indian Land, SC 29707
Additional Information can be found on our following websites:
Www.indianlandvfw.org or www.facebook.com/indianlandvfw.com
Feel free to contact John Marker—Ph: 704.843.6930

Check Your Rep

How can you check if your representative is accredited with the Office of General Counsel? Just follow these simple steps to check to make sure you are working with an accredited representative:

1. Go to <http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp>
2. You choose between attorney, claims agent or VSO representative
3. Enter in Last Name and State
4. Click Search
5. Click on your representatives name
6. A list will display showing all accreditations that person has.

If your representative is not listed then they are not accredited with a veterans service organization

About Our Office

This Office is employed by Lancaster County not the VA. The Lancaster County Veterans Affairs Office is an advocate for veterans and/or their surviving dependents to provide the assistance needed in applying for benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and VA Hospitals. The Veterans Affairs Office assists former and present members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents in preparing claims. Types of benefits include but not limited to: Service-Connected disability and Non-Service Connected pension; death pension benefits; burial; medical care; educational assistance, including vocational rehabilitation; guaranteed home loans; government life insurance and other benefits.

DAV Van

Due to low volunteer drivers we will only go 3 days a week.

If you need to schedule a ride on our DAV van please call 803-283-2469. Currently we are scheduled to go to Columbia on Wednesdays & Thursdays and Rock Hill on Fridays. Please note that we will need a 48 hour notice for you to be scheduled to ride this van. We only pick up veterans if you live on the way to Columbia or Rock Hill. We can only pick up riders that do not have any other way to meet here in the parking lot. We have to coordinate with volunteer drivers.

Want to receive this newsletter by email? Contact
VAOffice@lancastercountysc.net to
be put on the mailing list.



Office Staff

Robin Ghent

- Veteran Affairs Director, Lancaster County
- President, SCACVAO (South Carolina Association of County Veterans Affairs Officers)
- Board member for South Carolina Veteran Advocacy Council
- Board member for South Carolina Veterans Trust Fund
- Legislative Committee member for National Association County Veterans Service Officers

Accredited with:

1. National Association of County Veteran Service Officers
2. South Carolina Division of Veteran Affairs
3. The American Legion
4. Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
5. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
6. Vietnam Veterans of America
7. Retired Enlisted Association

**Received the appropriate training to be accredited and to have access to the Federal VA Claims system

Beth Raffaldt

- Deputy Director Veterans Affairs, Lancaster County
- Public Relations Chairperson, SCACVAO (South Carolina Association of County Veterans Affairs Officers)

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1. National Association of County Veteran Service Officers
2. South Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs
3. The American Legion
4. Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
5. Vietnam Veterans of America
6. Retired Enlisted Association
7. Military Order of the Purple Heart

**Received the appropriate training to be accredited and to have access to the Federal VA Claims system

Tiffany King

- Secretary/DAV Van Coordinator for Veterans Affairs, Lancaster County

