



Volume 3, Issue 4

105 Sumter Ave. Summerville, SC 29483

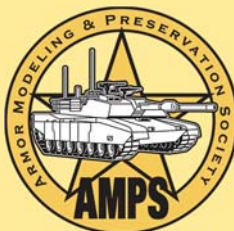
April, 2025

Next Gathering: Wednesday, April 2nd, 6:30 pm



The next gathering of the Clarence A. Dunning American Legion Post 21 will be April 2nd. Come early and enjoy a light meal before the meeting starts. The Coastal Carolina Modelers will be Guest Presenters at the meeting. They will be doing a "Show and Tell" about the scale models they build. There will be a variety of their finished models on display.

See you then!



The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.

Christopher Celiz to get Memorial Sculpture

Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Christopher A. Celiz will be memorialized with a sculpture in Summerville. On Monday, Jan. 6, the town finance committee voted to match funds with Dorchester County – not to exceed \$15,000 – as a tribute to Celiz's sacrifice.



Christopher Celiz (second from left) pictured as a sophomore cadet at The Citadel.

Celiz, who was from Summerville, died during his fifth deployment. According to army.mil, Celiz used his body to shield his team from enemy fire in Afghanistan. He is survived by his wife, Katie, and their daughter. "Not many people are willing to make that kind of sacrifice, especially now, and I think it's important for people to see freedom is really not free," said town council member Bob Jackson, who helped secure funding for the sculpture. "That sounds a little cliché, but it's the truth." of Honor posthumously. The sculpture will appear in the relocated veterans monument garden when 500 North Main is redeveloped. It will feature Celiz with his wife and daughter behind him, paying

tribute to the whole family. Jackson estimated the project will be completed in one or two years. Sculptor Susie Chisholm is the artist responsible for memorializing Celiz, and she previously created a life-sized bronze statue of Coach John McKissick for Summerville High School. Sculpture in the South is also sponsoring the project. "He was a man with a family, not



just a soldier in the movies," Jackson said. "His legacy lives on." Those who wish to support the project may contribute donations online at www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/chris-celiz-memorial.

Christopher Celiz as a young cadet at The Citadel. The Summerville native died in Afghanistan and he is being awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.



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Post Meeting Photos





Did You Know?

Nurse 2nd Lt. Ernestine Koranda

2nd Lieutenant Ernestine May "Carmen" Koranda was born 30 May 1912 in Lesterville, South Dakota. She was the daughter of Joseph Koranda and Matilda Winter. A graduate of the Ancker Hospital School of Nursing in St. Paul, Minnesota, Koranda enlisted in the Army Nurses Corps in 1942. In 1943, she was serving at the Army's 12th Station Hospital in Townsville, Queensland, Australia. On 19 December 1943 she was a passenger aboard the C-47A #43-30742 ("Hoosier Traveler" of the 22nd Troop Carrier Squadron) when they departed from Townsville-Garbutt Airfield in Australia during a ferry flight to Brisbane-Archerfield Airport in Queensland. The aircraft exploded and disintegrated in the air crashing at Canal Creek about 30 miles NW of Rockhampton, Queensland. All 31 aboard were killed, including three nurses. This was the second worst crash in Australian aviation history. Sadly, Koranda was on her way to Sydney to wed her fiancée. "Carmen," as her friends playfully called her, was 26 years old. She is buried in Wadena Cemetery, Wadena, Minnesota

Awards and Commendations

- ⇒ Nurse Corps Badge
- ⇒ World War II Victory Medal
- ⇒ American Campaign Medal
- ⇒ Army Presidential Unit Citation
- ⇒ Army Good Conduct Medal
- ⇒ Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal



Koranda was honored by the U.S. Army who bestowed her name on the former freighter Dorothy Luckenbach. It became a Hospital Ship.



Photo: Hospital Ship USAHS Ernestine Koranda



Photo: United States Army Nurse Corps Lt. Ernestine Koranda giving injection to St. James Visaki of Burlington, NJ, 1943

RIFLE RAFFLE

Rifle Raffle sales were held at Allied Arms on Old Trolley Road on March 22. A big Thank You to Robert Waterman, Karl Naugle & John Bacon for their help. I can't do it without them and the rest of you guys.



We had an enjoyable day with the following results:

Total Tickets Sold:	11
Gross Sales:	\$275
Cash Sales:	7 x \$25 = \$175
Charge Sales:	4 x \$25 = \$100
Square charges:	\$3.00
Net to Post:	(11 x \$10 - \$3.00) = \$107.00





Backpack Buddies

We supply Summerville Elementary with food for children that might not otherwise have food over each weekend. This program feeds 36 children from Summerville Elementary. Please bring the following items to the Post meeting each month, or bring cash to donate.

Breakfast: Packages of instant grits
Packages of instant oatmeal
Mini-muffins (Little Bites)
Small individual boxes of cereal
Breakfast bars (such as NutriGrain bars)

Drinks:
Sunny D (individual bottles)
Orange juice (individual bottles)
Horizon Organic Milk (not refrigerated, individual servings of plain, vanilla or chocolate)
Capri Sun juices
Juice boxes of any flavor
Yahoo chocolate milk in boxes or cans
Nesquik Chocolate drink (individual bottles)

Entrees:
Beanie Weanies (small cans that can be microwaved)
Chef Boyardee meals in cans (with pop tops)
Individual boxes of tuna and crackers or chicken and crackers
Vienna sausages
Hormel Compleat meals (individual meals, available in packages of 3 at Walmart)
Macaroni and cheese (individual servings that you can microwave)


Snacks:
Applesauce in individual cans/plastic containers
Cheez-its (individual bags)
Rice Krispie treats
Pirate booty (individual bags)
Cheese or peanut butter crackers
Boxes of raisins
Popcorn (individual servings)
Chocolate pudding cups
Buddy Fruits (these look like drinks but they are fruit snacks)
Little Debbie oatmeal cakes
Pringles chips in individual containers

We try to put an apple or orange in the bags at least once a month, so a bag of fruit is also welcomed.

THIRD THURSDAYS

 5:30p-8:30p (unless otherwise listed)

EVERY Third Thursday of the Month

 Hutchinson Square, W. Richardson &
Short Central



- EVERY Third Thursday of the month
- 5:30 PM-8:30 PM – Rain or shine (unless otherwise listed)
- Hutchinson Square, W. Richardson & Short Central

On the third Thursday of each month, Historic Downtown Summerville transforms into a special marketplace featuring local entertainment, craft vendors and artisans, to complement the extended hours of our eclectic shops, boutiques and restaurants.

Third Thursday traffic is rerouted from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM from the following streets; Little Main Street, W Richardson to Central (closed for traffic). There is plenty of FREE parking throughout the downtown including the town garage behind Town Hall.



A Blast From the Past

Early Summerville Photos



Summerville Photos from the Great Earthquake



Dorchester County Veterans Affairs



Summerville

500 N. Main St.
Summerville, SC 29483

Please use the Main St.
Entrance.

Office Hours:

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Monday - Friday

Phone: (843) 832-0050

The Dorchester County Veterans Affairs Office assists veterans and their families who reside in Dorchester County in all matters that pertain to veterans and Veteran Benefits. You can contact the Veterans Affairs office at (843) 832-0050 to schedule an in-person or virtual appointment.

The Veterans Affairs office assists all ex-service personnel with financial compensation claims including but not limited to:

- Hospitalization
- Training
- Insurance Benefits

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of ex-service personnel.

If you need support for a specific mental health problem - or if you're having problems sleeping, controlling your anger, or readjusting to civilian life - you are not alone. You don't need to be enrolled in VA health care to get care. To access free VA mental health services right away:

- Call or walk-in to any VA Medical Center - anytime, day or night
- Call or walk-in to any Vet Center during clinic hours

If you have questions about enrolling in VA health care, please contact the VA via phone at 1-877-222-VETS (1-877-222-8387) Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST. Veterans with hearing loss are asked to use the TTY phone number 1-800-877-8339.

Newly separated service members can expect three calls from qualified VA Solid Start representatives over the first year of separation. VA will attempt to contact you several times around 90, 180 and 365 days post-separation, so make sure your contact information is up to date in eBenefits.

VA Solid Start representatives will not ask you for financial information and will only discuss topics you are comfortable with. Remember that phone scammers often target Veterans, so always be vigilant and protect your financial information when talking to someone you don't know over the phone.

For questions about VA Solid Start, call 1-800-827-0611, Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST.

St. George

201 Johnston Street
St. George, SC 29477

The St. George office is
located on the Raysor St.
side of the building, behind
DSS.

Office Hours:

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday

Phone: (843) 563-0116

VA Clinics

Trident VA Clinic

9237 University Boulevard
North Charleston, SC 29406-8908
Phone: 843-574-1010

North Charleston VA Clinic

6450 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29406-4882
Phone: 843-818-5100

Charleston VA Clinic

2424 City Hall Lane
Community Resource & Referral Center
Suite B
North Charleston, SC 29406-6538
Phone: 843-789-6804
Mental health: 843-577-5011

Goose Creek VA Clinic

2418 NNPTC Circle
Goose Creek, SC 29445-6314
Phone: 843-818-6999, ext. 343100
Mental health: 843-577-5011

Ralph H. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

109 Bee Street
Charleston, SC 29401-5799
Phone: 843-577-5011

Beaufort VA Clinic

1 Pinckney Boulevard
Beaufort, SC 29902-6122
Phone: 843-770-0444

