



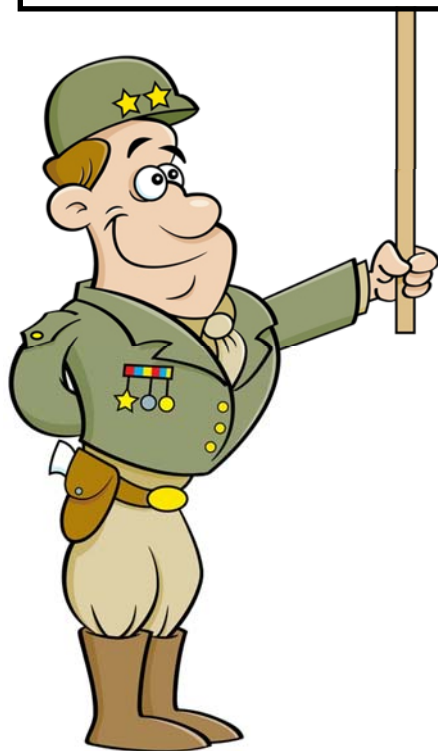
Volume 4, Issue 8

105 Sumter Ave. Summerville, SC

August, 2026



Next Meeting:
Wednesday, August 5,
6:30 pm.



What's Inside This Issue:

List of Post Officers.....	2
June Important Dates.....	3
History Lives Here.....	7
Did You Know?.....	10
A Blast From The Past.....	11
Local Area Events	14
Veterans Affairs Information.....	18

In this issue we honor the US Coast Guard, celebrating it's 236th Birthday August 4th.



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

Summerville Post 21



Position	Officer
Commander	Ken Thompson
First Vice Commander	Kim Shultz
Second Vice Commander	Bill Schmitz
Finance Officer	Brian Ponder
Chaplain	Karl Naugle
Sergeant at Arms	Bill Dutour
Historian	Dave Corvino
Post Adjutant	Bob Ticknor
Judge Advocate	Steve Smith
Webmaster	Ken Thompson



Post Website: <https://summervillepost21.org/>

American Legion Post 21 - Clarence A. Dunning - Summerville, SC

Empowering heroes through community
and resources.

JOIN US

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



MEMORABLE DATES AND MILITARY OBSERVANCES IN AUGUST

August 4: Coast Guard Birthday – Commemorates the founding of the U.S. Coast Guard in 1790 by Alexander Hamilton.

August 7: Purple Heart Day – Honors service members wounded or killed in combat; recognizes the oldest military award still given to U.S. members.

August 10: Agent Orange Awareness Day – A day to recognize those affected by Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War.

August 14: Navajo Code Talkers Day – Recognizes the Native American Marines who used their language as an unbreakable code during WWII.

August 16: National Airborne Day – Commemorates the first official U.S. Army parachute jump in 1940.

August 29: Marine Forces Reserve Birthday – Marks the establishment of the Marine Corps Reserve in 1916.

August 31: Military Appreciation Day – Concludes National Military Appreciation Month activities and state fair salutes.



Photos from Previous Meetings



Photos from the Flag Posting for Memorial Day



WIN A RESTORED HUMVEE FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION



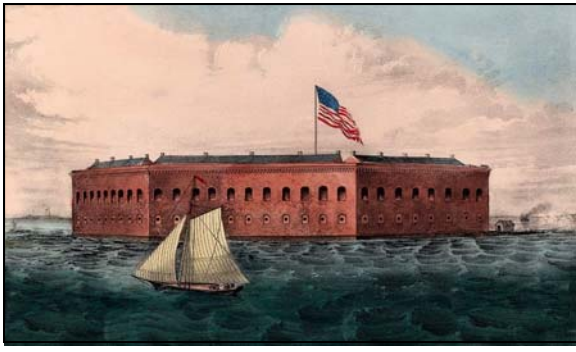
The Drive 4 Freedom Sweepstakes, which is free to enter, ends Dec. 19. See official rules for all details.

The American Legion is providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to a veteran to receive a unique piece of military equipment: a restored Humvee. That's thanks to The American Legion's Drive 4 Freedom Sweepstakes, in which one entrant will be randomly drawn to receive a restored Humvee.

This is your chance to win an unforgettable piece of American military history while helping fuel The American Legion's mission to support veterans, service members and their families. No purchase or contribution is necessary to enter or win the Drive 4 Freedom sweepstakes. A purchase or contribution will not improve your chances of winning.

Entry deadline is 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Dec. 19, 2026. Must be 21 or older.

See Official Rules for details: legion.org/sweepstakes-rules



History Lives Here

The Wreck of the SB Pulaski

The steamship SB Pulaski began her brief life in 1837 at the shipyard of John A. Robb located in Fell's Point, Baltimore, Maryland. Built for the Savannah & Charleston Steam Packet Company, she was a steam packet meant for carrying passengers, cargo, and mail up and down the East Coast.



The Pulaski was a brand-new and luxurious ship, affording her passengers a comfortable journey. She was favored by wealthy Southern families and businessmen whenever they needed to travel from the South up to the North and back again. Her cargo holds held trade goods and U.S. Post Office mail packets, earning further revenue for her owners. The Pulaski's voyage on June 14, 1838, started off normally. She had departed Charleston, South Carolina, at 6 AM, having come up from Savannah, Georgia. Captain John Dubois commanded the ship with a crew of 36 and with around 150 passengers aboard. Now bound for Baltimore, Maryland, the passengers settled in for a day heading out to sea. At 10

o'clock that night, the Pulaski was about 40 miles off the coast of North Carolina, sailing north at a steady clip in moderate seas. The First Mate, Mr. Hibberd, had charge of the ship and was pacing the promenade deck. As he later told the Wilmington Observer, he "found himself shortly after upon the main deck, lying between the mast and side of the boat." Regaining consciousness, Hibberd headed to the midships. There, he found the head of the starboard boiler blown out and the decks above torn apart. The hull was also damaged and Hibberd observed water rushing in whenever the ship heeled to starboard. Later



accounts would blame the ship's engineer for the explosion by letting the boilers run dry then refilling them with cold seawater while hot. The boiler explosion killed many passengers and crew instantly in their cabins. Captain Dubois was lost, presumed killed in the explosion. First Mate

Continued next page

Continued from previous page.

On the morning of Tuesday, June 19, the crew of the schooner Henry Camerdon came across a sight: a large portion of the deck of the S.B. Pulaski, barely afloat, containing 23 survivors. Once taken aboard, the survivors mentioned another piece of the wreck was floating nearby with more survivors. An hour later, the Henry Camerdon rescued a further seven survivors who were clinging to a piece of the wreck. The survivors, suffering from exposure and dehydration over four days, were brought back to Wilmington. The Fayetteville Observer newspaper then reported that a further thirteen survivors had come ashore at New Inlet. Of the 37 crew and over 150 passengers aboard, 59 were saved.

The Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum in Savannah, Georgia, features a detailed, historically accurate model of the SS Pulaski (often referred to as the "Titanic of the South"). The model has been a fixture at the museum since the 1990s, offering a glimpse into the tragic story of the luxury steam packet. The museum houses the exhibit "Rising to the Surface: A Summoning of Savannah's Titanic," which details the tragedy. It pairs the model with recovered historical artifacts from the shipwreck, such as pocket watches frozen at the time of the explosion, luggage tags, and jewelry.



CLARENCE A. DUNNING AMERICAN LEGION POST 21

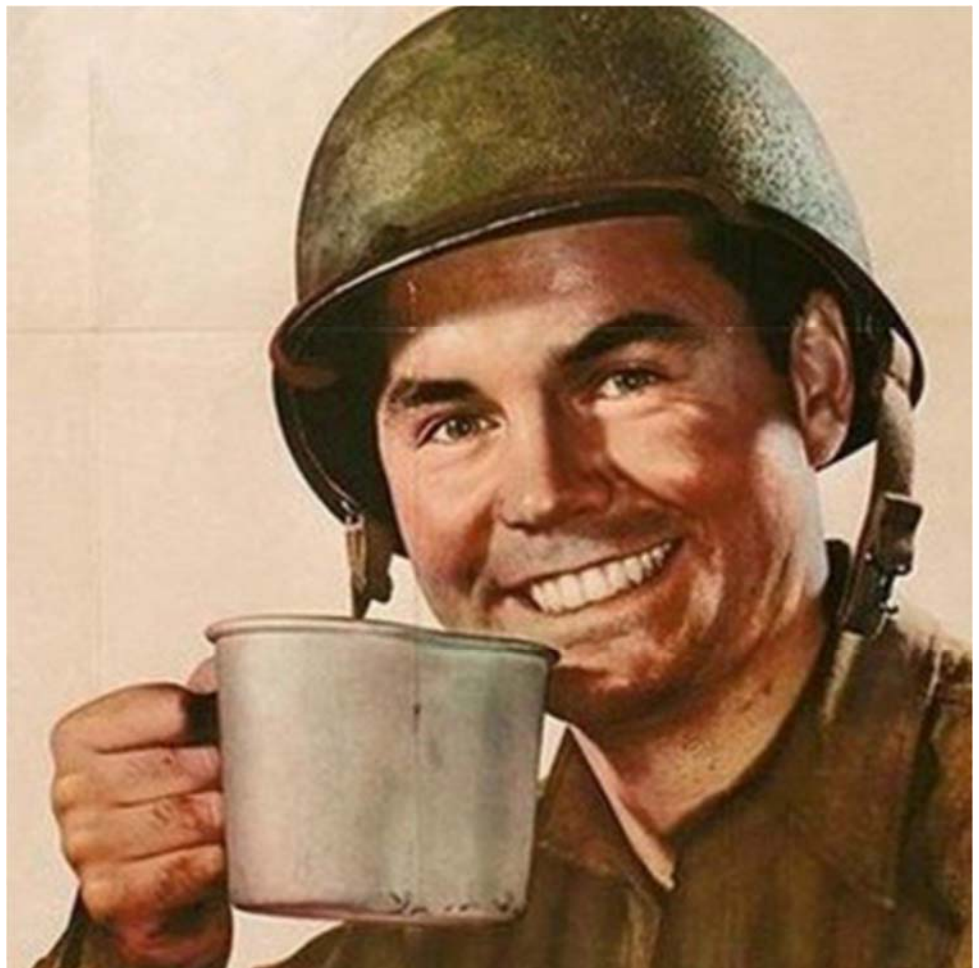
COFFEE WITH A VET



SUNDAY MORNINGS, 8:30 TO 12:00

AT POST 21

Come to Post
21 between
8:30 am and
12:00 Noon
every Sunday
and enjoy a cup
of coffee and
camaraderie!





Did You Know?

Local Residents Aboard the Steamship Pulaski

When the SB Pulaski sank in June 1838 after a catastrophic boiler explosion, it carried 21 passengers who boarded from Charleston. Only three of these Charlestonians survived, alongside a handful of plantation residents from the nearby Edisto Island area.

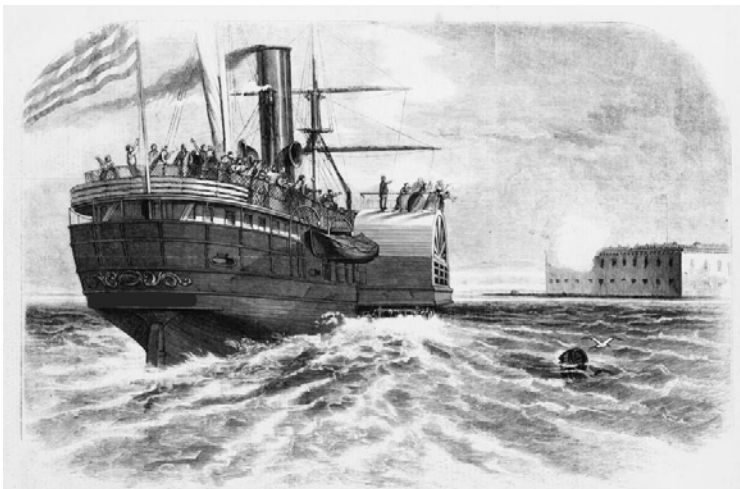
Charleston Survivors:

- Robert D. Walker
- Thomas Downie
- G.Y. Davis

Charleston Passengers Who Died:

- Hugh S. Ball, his wife, and their child (from the Comingtee Plantation)
- Thomas Pinckney Rutledge
- Edward J. Pringle

These passengers were among the people on board the "Titanic of its time". For more details on the maritime history of the ship, you can explore the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum in nearby Savannah, GA.



According to accounts of the time, this is the passenger list of those who embarked at Charleston:

Mr. Ed. J. Pringle, lady, child and servant
T.P. Rutledge and lady
H.S. Ball and lady, child and servant
B.F. Smith and lady
Rev. S.S. Murray, lady and four children
Mr. G.S. Davis and lady
Mr. J. Lengworth and lady
Mr. Eddings, lady and child
Mr. N. Smith, lady and child
Mr. Hubbard
Misses Evans
Mr. Merritt, lady and child
Miss R. W. Freeman
Judge Wm. B. Rochester
Charles B. Tappan
Judge S.A. Cameron
Master T. Whaley
Captain Daniel Britt and lady
J.D. Twiggs
Mr. Coy, lady and child
T. Dowaie
Major G.L. Twiggs
Lieutenant Thornton, USA
Misses E. Drayton, Rutledge, Heald, Trassier,
Michel, Clark and Greenwood
Messrs. R. Seabrook, S. Keith, R.D. Walker, E.
James, Joseph Anse, Bennett, C.W. Clifton, B.L.
Greenwood, E.W. Innis and W.C.N. Swift



The oldest structure entirely within the modern Summerville town limits is generally recognized as the Gelzer Brothers House, built circa 1819. Located at 413 Sumter Avenue, it is one of the original homes that established the village as a summer sanctuary for low-country planters. Other remarkably old and significant structures in the immediate vicinity include the Purcell House (224 Sumter Avenue): Built between 1811 and 1820, this early summer cottage now operates as the Price House Cottage B & B. Brailsford-Browning House (408 Sumter Avenue): Built



around 1830, this is another of the town's original 29 village homes. It was historically built high off the ground to ward off mosquitoes. Old Town Hall (201 West Carolina Avenue): If you are looking for the oldest public building in Summerville proper, visit this ca. 1860 structure, which currently serves as the headquarters and archives for the Summerville Preservation Society. Note for history buffs: If you are willing to step just outside the modern town limits, you can find



the bell tower of St. George's Anglican Church (built 1719) within the Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site, and the ruins of the Old White Meeting House (dating to the late 1690s/1700) located just a short distance from Colonial Dorchester on Dorchester Road..



U.S. Coast Guard



The Coast Guard is one of America's five armed forces and traces its founding to Aug. 4, 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue. Responsibilities added over the years include humanitarian duties such as aiding mariners in distress.

The Coast Guard is a multi-mission maritime military service. The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress that merged the Revenue Cutter Service with the Life-Saving Service, thereby providing the nation with a single maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws. The Coast Guard began to maintain the country's aids to maritime navigation, including operating the nation's lighthouses, when President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard in 1939.

In 1946, Congress permanently transferred the Commerce Department's Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard, thereby placing merchant marine licensing and merchant vessel safety under its purview. The U.S. Coast Guard's official history began Aug. 4, 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the 19th and early 20th centuries as the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service, the Coast Guard expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress that merged the Revenue Cutter Service with the Life-Saving Service, thereby providing the nation with a single maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws. The Coast Guard

(Continued from page 12)

began to maintain the country's aids to maritime navigation, including operating the nation's lighthouses, when President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard in 1939.

In 1946, Congress permanently transferred the Commerce Department's Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard, thereby placing merchant marine licensing and merchant vessel safety under its purview.

The Coast Guard adopted its trademark racing stripe design in 1967 as a result of a recommendation made to President John F. Kennedy in the spring of 1963 by the industrial design firm of Raymond Loewy/William Snaith Inc.

The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government, and until Congress established the Navy Department in 1798, it served as the nation's only armed force afloat. The Coast Guard protected the nation throughout its long history, and its members served proudly in every one of the nation's conflicts.

Since 2003, the Coast Guard has operated as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's frontline agency for enforcing the nation's laws at sea, protecting the marine environment and the nation's vast coastline and ports, and saving life. In times of war, or at the direction of the president, the Coast Guard serves under the Department of the Navy.



The Only Coast Guard Member with a Medal of Honor

Douglas Munro is the only Coast Guard member with a Medal of Honor.



Official Coast Guard painting of Signalman Douglas Munro's last moments while evacuating Marines at Guadalcanal. The painting's original title was "Douglas A. Munro Covers the Withdrawal of the 7th Marines at Guadalcanal," and was painted by artist Bernard D'Andrea

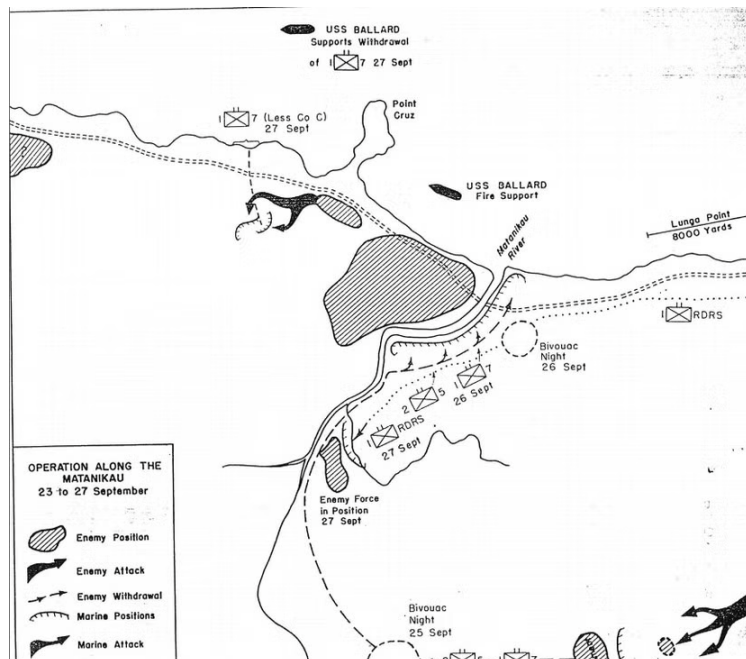
To the public, he's a World War II hero who also happens to be the only member of the Coast Guard with a Medal of Honor. To hundreds of Marines who fought at Guadalcanal on Sept. 27, 1942, Signalman 1st Class Douglas Munro was a savior.

Munro grew up in South Cle Elum, Washington, before enlisting in the Coast Guard in 1938. When the U.S. entered World War II a few years later, Munro had already risen in the ranks and become best friends with Cmdr. Ray Evans. Evans enlisted with Munro in 1939 and was stationed with Munro throughout Munro's entire time in the Coast Guard. "We were good pals," Evans said of Munro in a 2012 interview. "We both joined before the war, and we intended to make the Coast Guard a career. I did, and I know he would have."

Like Munro, Evans was also a signalman, and they both practiced their signaling craft with each other. "This is intense practice, and pretty soon you get proficient. That's how we learned," Evans said in a 1999 interview. "But we did do a lot of self-teaching where we worked together to get more proficient. He was the pusher, perhaps more than I was. He had the energy. Although we were working together on that, he was really the leader."



Coast Guard Signalman 1st Class Douglas Munro, Medal of Honor Recipient.



Map of Matanikau operations during Guadalcanal

When the U.S. entered World War II, Munro and Evans were ready to serve an important role along with other Coast Guardsmen: helping transport Marines to and from insertion points in the Pacific campaign. Of particular importance was the island of Guadalcanal, where Japanese forces were attempting to build a strategically valuable airfield. On Sept. 27, 1942, Munro was in command of several small Higgins boats as the Coast Guard dropped about 500 Marines at a beachhead known as Point Cruz near the Matanikau River. The goal: drive the Japanese from the river and establish an inland patrol base. But the Japanese were ready to counter the invaders, and the Marines quickly fell under heavy attack. With time of the essence and the Marines facing extermination, Munro stepped to the fore. Taking five of the small craft under his command, he mounted a rescue mission, all the while under continuous attack from the shore. As the boats were too small to transport all the Marines at once, Munro and his fellow Coast Guardsmen had to make several dangerous trips back and forth. At one point, a group of Marines came under particularly intense fire. In an effort to provide cover, Munro used his own boat as a shield between the beachhead and the other boats.

As the last group of Marines were evacuating from the island, Munro was hit by a fatal burst of enemy fire. Focused on his mission to the end, his dying words to his friend Evans, who was with him on the scene, were: "Did they get off?" His sacrifice had saved hundreds of Marines. In a letter to his bereaved parents, informing them of their loss, Munro's commanding officer wrote that, without exception, those under his charge had praise for Munro. His master sergeant wrote that Douglas was "kind, courteous, thoughtful, and, above all, courageous," the "kind of American that made [that] war worth fighting."

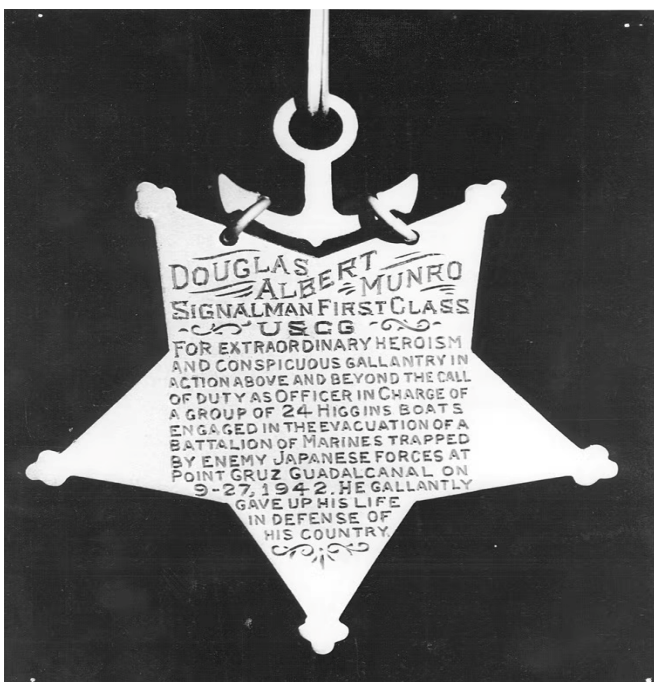
In recognition of Munro's bravery, President Franklin D. Roosevelt posthumously gave him the Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart on May 27, 1943. Munro's Medal of Honor is on display at the Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, New Jersey, with a memorial dedicated to him close by. The Coast Guard has named two cutters for Munro, including the Coast Guard National Security Cutter Munro,

(Continued from page 15)

which was launched in 2015. The Navy also named a ship in his honor, a destroyer escort that served in World War II and the Korean War. The Munro Building houses Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C.; Coast Guard recruits reside in Munro Barracks in Cape May; and Munro Hall at the Coast Guard Academy is where every Coast Guard officer is born.



One of the Coast Guard cutters named after Coast Guard hero and Medal of Honor recipient Douglas Munro.



The medal given to Douglas Munro

In a 2017 speech commemorating the 75th anniversary of Munro's actions, Coast Guard Admiral and Commandant Paul F. Zukunft offered the following eulogy: "Douglas Munro's story is one of the first we teach to our new recruits, as he is the ultimate forbearer of our service's core values and an enduring symbol of 'duty to people.' Douglas Munro was 'service to nation,' 'commitment to excellence,' 'duty to people' ... The Munro cutter, the HQ building, and barracks and hall at our training centers: They are all reminders, every day, of their namesake. Reminders of all that our service is and all that we strive to be. Today we honor Douglas Munro, the man and the legacy that lives time immemorial."

Summerville

FARMERS MARKET

MAKE IT A SUMMERVILLE DAY

Shop the market, visit unique shops and pick-up lunch all within a few square blocks. There is something great happening in Historic Downtown Summerville. There is plenty of FREE parking throughout the downtown including the town garage behind Town Hall.

All vendors are selected based on uniqueness, past participation and facility footprint. If you have questions about being a vendor please contact us at info@summervilledream.org.



- **First Citizens Bank 218 South Main Street behind Summerville Town Hall**
- **Every Saturday: April – Mid-November**
8:00am- 1:00pm
- **Historic Downtown Summerville**

Shop Local and KEEP IT SUMMERVILLE

The Market aims to offer a venue where Farmers, Growers, Specialty Foods, and Artisans can actively showcase and sell their handcrafted goods. We've established rules and regulations to create a fair sales environment that strongly promotes and honors local entrepreneurs and small business owners. Embracing the ethos of "I am because we are," we collaborate for collective success. Participants must adhere to these rules and regulations, as failure to do so may result in dismissal from the market.



Business Booth Opportunities

If your company is interested in supporting the Farmers Market you may apply to be a business vendor. Business vendors are provided with a 10x10 booth to display/demonstrate goods and services. Space is limited, fee is \$100 per week.

8:00 AM-1:00 PM | Rain or Shine

Summerville Farmers Market hosts local farmers, growers, artisans and specialty food vendors.

If interested in being a Market Vendor please fill out the application in full and submit all supporting documentation. Applications are reviewed by the Market Committee and assignments are made based on selection criteria.



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.



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

