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Robert Lindler (WWII Veteran) with his wife Betty at Martha Franks.





In Rosemont Cemetery, Clinton, United States Flags mark the final resting places of military veterans as a Memorial Day tribute. The American Legion, Boy Scouts and Clinton High School JROTC place the flags.



### ABOVE

WWII veteran Bob Reasoner, of Mountville, stands with greatgrandchildren Gabriel (right) and Hallie Ruth Stumbo in front of the Clinton Veterans monument on Memorial Day, May 27.

### RIGHT

Palmetto Girls State delegates, meeting June 9-15 at Presbyterian College, made this poppy wreath in tribute to the nation's veterans. The red poppy is a tribute symbol of the America Legion Auxiliary, the sponsoring organization for Girls State, a leadership development activity.





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The Clinton Chronicle Salute to Veterans 2013



### Hospice of Laurens County ... because every moment matters since 1987

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The Buddy Poppy is a symbol of remembrance for the nation's war dead by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary. The American Legion Auxiliary uses the red "Flanders field" poppy as its remembrance; and on patriotic holidays the poppies, made by disabled veterans, are distributed with donations funding rehabilitative services.



Army veteran Socrates "Sonny" Ledda, police chief of Laurens and former police lieutenant for Clinton Public Safety, salutes the nation's fallen during the Memorial Day observance in uptown Clinton.

## We must never forget our veterans

# Honoring All Who Served

Thank you for your service and sacrifice!



# Larry Long - Army

### By Vic MacDonald

For Vet Salute 2013

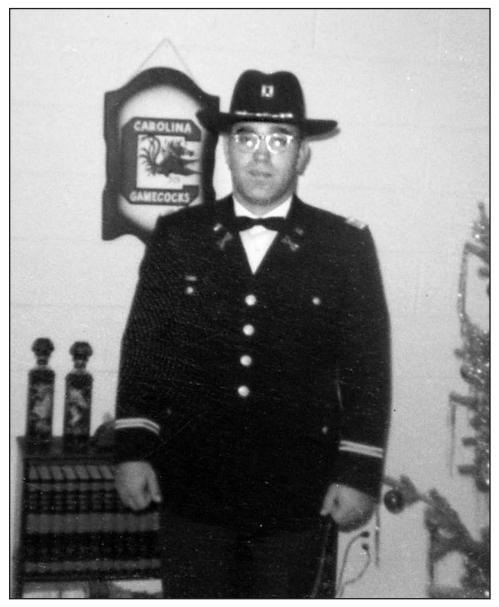
With duty stations at Fort Knox, Ky., Fort Collins, Colo., Korea, and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Larry Long's active duty military service was just getting started.

A 26 and a half years employee of Champion International, Long complemented his active duty service with two decades in the SC Army National Guard.

"I retired as Lt. Col. Larry E.

Long," he says, shoulders erect and chest held out. The boy who grew up in Silverstreet, a tiny Newberry County community, now lives at Bailey Manor Christian Retirement Community in Clinton. He, affectionately, is "Bubba".

Long served in Korea for 12 months, a 13-month deployment with a month home on leave. He was Platoon 54's supply officer and battalion intelligence officer. "My family was very supportive of me," he said of his time in, what some U.S. military experts have called,



Larry Long is shown in a family picture standing in uniform. A native of Silverstreet in Newberry County, Long is a Korea veteran and National Guard serviceman now living at Bailey Manor in Clinton.



Larry Long has a photo taken with his daughter, Lisa Chapman, at a Memorial Day luncheon at Bailey Manor.

### "the forgotten war."

"They better had been. I got several care-boxes from Janie," he said, of his late wife, Jane, who worked at Clinton's Whitten Center 33 years; she was in charge of all the residences and the employees in the care homes for mentally and physically challenged individuals.

"We've got what we think are seven good grandchildren," said Long, a widower since Sept. 11, 2012, the day Jane died. A granddaughter has that day as her birthday, so the family gave her "a new birthday" - May 7.

"I also have a first cousin whose birthday is May 7," Long said.

"Nanna and Buddy" as the grandchildren call them have two daughters.

Long's first duty station, after graduating Clemson ROTC as a second lieutenant, was Fort Knox, where he attended two schools. At the next station, Fort Carson, he spent two years, serving with the armored cavalry for eight months and becoming platoon leader and company motor officer.

Then it was on to Korea for the 13 months in combat battalions training on tanks.

"If the North Koreans decided to move south," Long said, "with their jets, it would take them 11 seconds to get to my station."

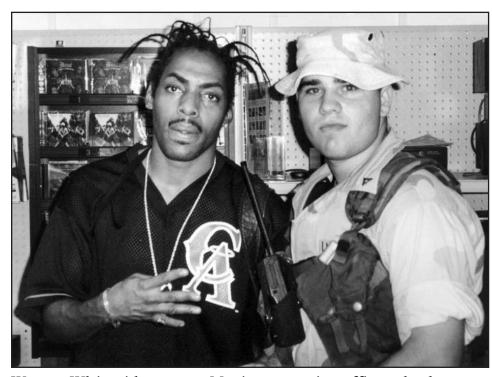
Readiness training was constant, to combat the North Korean threat. "I was looking for orders to Vietnam, but they were cutting back on Vietnam," Long said of the U.S. interest in the French incursion into the Vietnamese civil strife (prior to America's involvement in the Vietnam War).

Long received his discharge from Fort Leonard Wood in Sept., 1973.

"I had a lot of friends in the Newberry National Guard," he said. "I finally made up my mind, and I went to Columbia for apply to be admitted. I served 20 years and retired."

The Newberry Armory was his first SCNG station, and he later

### Larry Long, Page 15





Wayne Whitesides, as a Marine security officer, had an assignment to guard 1990s rapper Coolio during a USO tour in the Middle East.

### Whitesides, From Page 13

including police and fire services. Whitesides' Marine security duty was part of his four years of active duty. He spent a year at Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif., with the 3rd Battalion 4th Marines, and was stationed at the jungle warfare training center in Okinawa, Japan. Jungle training, he said, "is the

core of what we do" as Marines.

He took cold weather training in Bridgeport, Calif. His basic training was at Parris Island and Marine Corps security training took him to Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was ordered to Bahrain in 1997.

Enlisting in 1996 and leaving active duty in 2000, Whitesides entered the Marine Corps Reserves and was in "the pool" for being called up.



Wayne Whitesides receives his promotion to Lance Cpl. from then 2-star General Charles Bolden, of Columbia, who later became an astronaut.

He attended Lander University for four years and, he says, "luckily" graduated. With a semester left at Lander Whitesides enlisted in the Army National Guard in Greenwood. His battalion was called up for active duty in the 2002-03 invasion of Iraq; he was serving with the 111th Signal Battalion.

After six months training at Fort Benning, Georgia - this was the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom -Whitesides found out he

would not be deployed.

"They said they needed 200 guys, then they said, 'We need 100," he said.

On March 11, 2004, Whitesides left military service.

He might go back in.

National Guard bonuses for former soldiers are "very attractive," Whitesides said. Now with a wife, Jennifer, and children four years and six months old, he is looking at Guard service again.

"It's not the best if you get deployed," Whitesides said, "but they are winding down. Our Commander in Chief says by 2014 we will be out of Iraq. I need 11 years to get full pension.

"It might happen." Since 2006, Whitesides has worked for Amedisys in Laurens/Clinton. He and his young family live in Greenwood.

"I call on doctors, area healthcare providers, assisted living and skilled care nursing facilities," he said. "We market home-health services, in-home for short-term skilled nursing care and therapy.

"Our WWII guys now are very limited (in what they can do for themselves.) We take care of a lot of veterans.

"There are a lot of veterans in assisted living communities. They have programs with funding for

.....



Wayne and Jennifer Whitesides in a wedding day photo.

veterans. Fortunately, our veterans have a lot of programs."

With his office located in the same professional complex as Laurens County Hospital and Upstate Wound Care, Whitesides said there are good opportunities for collaborations to keep veterans and others healthy.

Reducing re-hospitalization rates is a major component of the healthcare industry and Medicare/Medicaid changes underway in the United States, Whitesides said.

"There will always be a need for home health," he said. "A lot of people just don't want to go to the hospital."

(Note: the Beirut Marine barracks bombing of Oct., 1983, killed 299 American and French servicemen, including 220 U.S. Marines. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility. The two suicide-bomber truck explosions occurred during the Lebanese Civil *War. The death toll represented the* largest loss of life for the Marines since Iwo Jima, WWII; the largest single-day death toll for the U.S. military since the first day of the Tet Offensive, Vietnam War; and the deadliest attack on Americans overseas since WWII.)

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Clinton's salute to fallen soldiers. L-r: Robbie Cruickshanks, president, American Legion Auxiliary; Lt. Col. (retired) Jimmy Young, speaker for the Memorial Day observance; and John Dowdle, Clinton City Council member, salute the colors on May 27, a day of remembrance for American servicemen and women.

## **Memorial Day** 2013 in Clinton

The Veterans Monument in uptown Clinton features a distinctive "V" design with a tribute red-white-and-blue wreath for Memorial Day.



The Clinton Chronicle Salute to Veterans 2013

to love this."

nice way."

served in Columbia. Two memories stand out from Korea - one, deadly serious; the other, not so much. Both involve money "I had to go to the DMZ (demilitarized zone, which still to this day divides north and south Korea) three or four times," Long said. "I didn't go enough to qualify for combat pay, but I drew combat pay while I was up there." Another time, the gregarious Long drew duty with a traveling

.....

## Hey, aren't you The Duke?

Alvin Ray has a "like yesterday" remembrance from Fort Benning during the Vietnam War-era. He was a jungle survival trainer and combat engineer, who along with the other trainers got a 6 a.m. daily start that included a look at the day's duty board.

One day it said, "Bat Jack". The commander told him, "You're going

The cast and crew of the military movie "The Green Berets" was onpost for filming. Ray knew that meant American film icon John Wayne, known worldwide for "standing tall" in western action and military films, would be there. And, sure enough, Ray encountered the "larger than life" film star walking at the fort. Wayne passed by Ray on Wayne's way to a trailer. "He stuck his head in there and told whoever was in there to pump more air (conditioning) into the building, the headquarters where they were filming," Ray said. "Except, he didn't say it in a very

Wayne exited the trailer, again walked by Ray and said, "Hot today." Ray said he's not sure what his response was.

"It was several years before I watched the movie," Ray said, "but I remembered places in the film." He also could recall where he was standing to watch the filming

when he was a soldier at Fort Benning.

Ray was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri when President John Kennedy was assassinated.

For the military, it was a time of heightened alert, bracing for an enemy attack on U.S. soil - at America's most vulnerable moment.

No attack ever came.

"We were put on alert," Ray recalled. "I was a young soldier, we didn't know what was going on. But everybody was talking about a Russian invasion (and a nuclear war)."

The fort held "a large" memorial service for the slain Commanderin-Chief, Ray said. "It was one of the saddest times I can remember."

Just like the Twin Towers collapse of 9/11/2001 and the Challenger space shuttle explosion claiming the lives of all aboard, the JFK assassination is a moment indelibly etched in the souls of Americans of a certain age.

"It was an honor to be in the military forces of this country," Ray said. "I think about how fortunate we are to be born an American, and to have the greatest military force in history."

In addition to his service stateside, Ray was deployed during the Vietnam-era to Germany. "During

## Larry Long

### Larry Long, From Page 4

USO show.

"There was this lady singer and her five-man band," Long recalled. "I drew some really good pay to do that, traveling all over South Korea for two months."

Earlier, while at Clemson University, Long had a decision to make about joining the ROTC. He turned to his dad.

"My dad said, 'Go into the ROTC. You will come out an officer.' I came out a second lieutenant," Long said proudly.

"I did what my daddy told me."

my three years there we were posturing back and forth with the Russians," he said. "Either the Russians or the Chinese were going to attack us, and Vietnam was ramping-up."

When his orders for deployment to Vietnam came through, Ray was summoned to his commanding officer. He has six months left on his military commitment.

The officer asked Ray if at the end of his commitment, he intended to re-enlist. Ray said, "No."

He was married, and it was time to go home, get a job and start a family. As a teen, Ray couldn't find work out of high school - every employer said, "You need to get your military obligation (the U.S. was drafting high school-age men into the military at that time) out of the wav."

Ray told his CO, if President Johnson does not declare combat engineers "essential" and blocks all departures for those soldiers from military service, he would not "reup".

### Alvin Ray

### Alvin Ray, From Page 8

have (always) rebuilt our former enemies.'

Serving in the military two decades after the second World War and a decade after the Korean Conflict - labeled by many military experts as "the forgotten war" -Alvin Ray has an active military and National Guard career stretching from the early days of Vietnam to "ethnic cleansing" in the Balkans.

Most of the men he saw go off to the shooting-war between North and South Vietnam got "in-country" just before the Tet Offensive. It was one of the bloodiest loses in U.S. military history.

Ray experienced military life from just after the administration of Dwight Eisenhower - the hero of WWII - to the foreign policies of Bill Clinton.

"My orders (for Vietnam) were

Johnson never made that declaration

The CO told Ray, "in that case, you're going to like what I'm going to tell you." The last six months of Ray's military service were stateside, not in Vietnam.

He also had National Guard orders to deploy to Bosnia rescinded. "They spent a year in Turkey and Bosnia," Ray said of his SC National Guard unit: he served with the 3648 out of Clinton, the 3649 in Columbia which later became the 751st maintenance unit.

With a military background going back to 1963, Ray now manages maintenance for Bailey Manor in Clinton. He has three sons from a former marriage, and a son and a daughter with his wife, Elaine. They have been married 15 years.

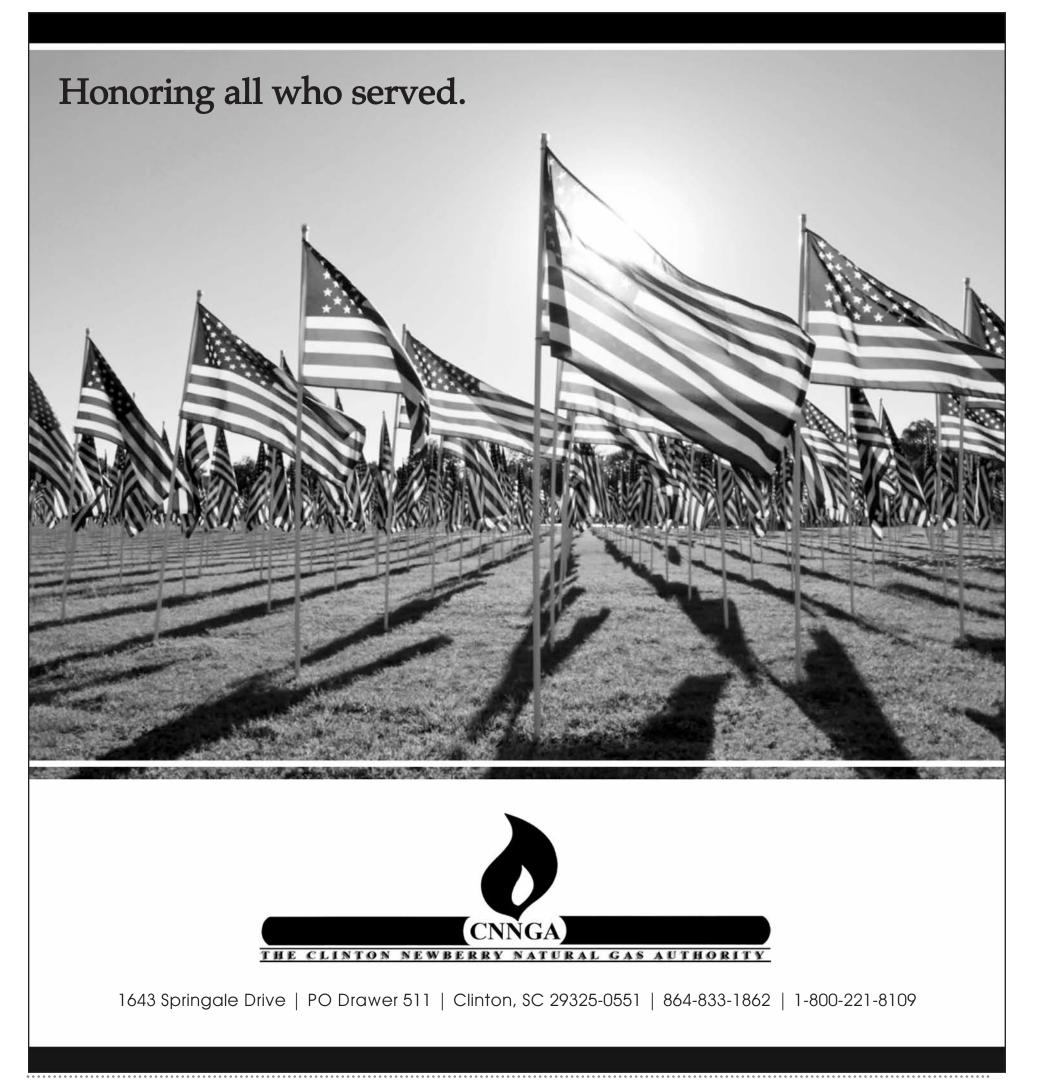
He remembers 1967 as the toughest time of his life. "It's been a long time ago," Ray said. "I try not to think about it a lot." - Vic MacDonald

cancelled, by the grace of God," he said. "At that time you were told go directly home if you lived off-post, which I did. There were a lot of protestors in the Vietnam era. (The soldiers) were there to do a duty they were sworn to do. But they were held in disdain because they were in the military. You felt dishonored. That's one of the reasons why I didn't finish my career in the regular military."

Today's honors for the Iraqi and Afghanistan U.S. veterans warm Ray's heart; "it's amazing the turnaround, after all those years. I just think about all the young men I knew - who didn't come home.'

However, encouraging times now - an increase in public appreciation for veterans - cannot always mitigate the past, along with personal and national tragedies.

"My darkest time was the Kennedy assassination," Ray said, "and sending friends off to war."



# Long May It Wave

In honor of the brave men and women who have so valiantly served our country. Thank you for our freedoms.

### **Danny Verdin**

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 9 Chairman Senate Agriculture And Natural Resources Committee





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# Alvin Ray - Army



### By Vic MacDonald

For Vet Salute 2013

Arabia. Persian Gulf.

2005).

in the world.

**Bv Vic MacDonald** 

For Vet Salute 2013

Vietnam-era veteran Alvin Ray, who twice missed deployment to active war zones, is thankful that on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and, really, throughout the year. Americans now are honoring their servicemen and women.

Unlike the treatment the returning Vietnam veterans received.

"The draftees and enlisted men (of the Vietnam era), they were all young, full of ambition. They wanted to go and try to do what they could," Ray said. "I lost a lot of friends during that time."

In the Army from 1963 to 68, Ray served in active duty in Europe and at Fort Benning, Ga., training infantry and jungle survival to soldiers headed for Vietnam.

He and two buddies got their orders to deploy to the Far East the same day. Ray's orders were rescinded. One buddy was killed, the other buddy sent Ray a letter about the incident. The surviving buddy made it home, went to Louisiana, and Ray has never heard from him again.

After spending 13 years out of uniform, Ray went into the South Carolina National Guard, serving with mechanical companies in Clinton and Columbia. A reunion of all three companies he served with comes up June 29.

In 1996 his National Guard mechanical company was deployed to Bosnia.

Ray's orders again were rescinded because, in his job at Torrington, somebody had to stay behind since most other workers in mechanics at the Clinton plant were headed to Bosnia.

"At Torrington, we (mechanical department) tried to keep the plant running," Ray said. "I went with the National Guard to Army depot working on everything from Jeeps to tanks. We retro-fitted the equipment, all of it had some age on it. I spent two weeks at Anniston Army Depot, we assembled one tank, from nose to tip; we worked on it



Alvin Ray keeps vehicles - and almost every else - running at Bailey Manor Christian Retirement Community, in Clinton.

### daily."

Ray admits to "always" being interested in tinkering with things mechanical. Now in his fourth career, Ray maintains everything mechanical at Bailey Manor Christian Retirement Community in Clinton.

"As a maintenance man, you take something that's not working and make it work," Ray said. "I was a combat engineer, we were trained to destroy stuff.

"As a combat engineer, you built bridges - and you blow up bridges. It is a thrill, to deal with something so destructive (as explosives). We had training classes for minefields. We would put out a minefield in the morning, and train at night on a minefield somebody else put out."

Ray said at one point in his Vietnam training, he found a mine with the knife-in-the-dirt-at-an-angle technique, disarmed the explosive device and then lifted it out of the ground.

Beneath the mine, a trip-wire. His commander, watching Ray work and knowing the trip-wire (a "mouse-trap fuse") was there, gave the young soldier no hint.

Since it was training, the mine was not triggered to explode.

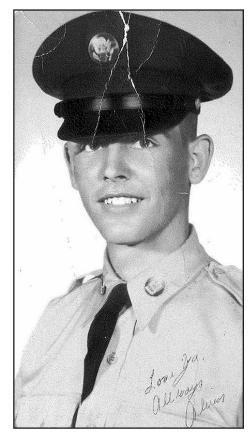
In combat, the device would have "vaporized" Ray.

As a combat engineer, Ray taught Vietnam-era soldiers how to survive jungle fighting, specifically how to build rope bridges to cross swamps and raging rivers.

The rope bridges, when properly installed, could get a battalion across a river along with most of its firearms and ammo. Large equipment could not cross that way.

"We had so many soldiers (to train), hundreds of soldiers," Ray remembered. "Four classes a day, 200 (soldiers) at a time. You felt like you were accomplishing something.

"You had to be diligent at all



times, to be sure they did it right. You realized, 'they will be doing this in a combat zone.' You had to ride them hard, so it would pay off for them."

They trained in the Chattahochee Swamp.

With the National Guard, Ray was ordered to Europe several times. Less than 20 years after the end of WWII. Germans he encountered - including his landlady were terrified that the U.S. would pull out, sending the soldiers to Korea and Vietnam, and leave the continent to be invaded by the Soviet Union.

"After the end of WWII there was a lot of construction going on," Ray said. "In '94 when I returned, I was shocked at how modern they were.

"The Germans had rebuilt, same with the Japanese, with the help of the United States - 'once your enemy is now your friend.' I think America's goal is world peace. I don't now if we'll ever achieve it.

"They say we are the most-hated country. I can't understate that. We

### Alvin Ray, Page 15

The Clinton Chronicle Salute to Veterans 2013

## **Wayne Whitesides-Marines**

Terrorism became a daily reality for millions of Americans on 9-11-2001. For the United States Marines, the awareness goes back much further - to a barracks bombing in Beirut, Lebanon, and the Kobar Towers attack in Saudi

Wayne Whitesides was one of the United States Marines troops who made up "the tip of the spear" in the Middle East just after the Khobar Towers attack.

Saudi pilots (and 19 U.S. servicemen) were killed when terrorists exploded a bomb at their barracks in Khobar, Saudi Arabia. Just across a causeway from the Saudi city was a U.S. installation in Bahrain, a tiny kingdom with the most strategic location in the

Control Bahrain, and you control all shipping in and out of the world's most volatile waterway. As a young Marine, Whitesides and others guarded Admiral Thomas Fargo (U.S. Navy 1970-

Whitesides said he and his fellow Marines didn't think much about it at the time, but they were assigned to protect from assassination one of the most important military men

Fargo was commander of the U.S. Fifth Fleet and Naval Forces of the Central Command for two years in contingency operations related to what would become Operation Iraqi Freedom. He later was the 29th Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, 1999-2002, among his many commands. Fargo was the inspiration for actor Scott Glenn's portrayal of Captain Bart Mancuso in the movie, "The Hunt for Red October.' "Marine security was protecting an installation and satellite and communications center (in Bahrain)," said Whitesides, who now in civilian life is sales rep for Amedisys, a home healthcare company located in the Professional Park near Laurens County Hospi-



Wayne Whitesides, a sales rep for Amedysis, a home-health products and services company in Professional Park located between Laurens and Clinton, has United States Marine Corps mementoes in his office. Whitesides had four years active duty with the Marines and tours of duty in the Marine Reserves and Army National Guard. He lives in Greenwood with his wife, Jennifer, and two children.

"We protected Admiral Fargo we were assigned to his house who was in charge of the whole continent. In retrospect, it was the highlight of my career."

Whitesides spent eight years total on active duty in the Marines and in two branches of the reserves - U.S. Marine Reserves and Army National Guard.

Although he was not assigned to Bahrain at the time, when Khobar

Towers in Saudi Arabia was blown up by a truck bomb in 1996, the Marines moved a small security company on Diego Garcia, an island off Africa, to Bahrain.

"That company moved into an abandoned British barracks across the causeway from Khobar," Whitesides said. That abandoned barracks transitioned into one of the most important U.S. military installations in the world, as tensions between Saudi Arabia and



Wayne Whitesides wears his "dress blues", the formal uniform for the Marine Corps.

Iraq escalated.

"There is still a Marine Corp unit in Bahrain," Whitesides said. "We were always anticipating a terrorist attack. (Khobar Towers) was similar to the Beirut, Lebanon, Marine barracks attack." (See note at the conclusion of this article.)

This was August 1997 going into 1998, and Osama bin Laden already was known to U.S. military intelligence as a major threat to security. When Whitesides and other Marines first traveled to Bahrain, they flew on a Dutch commercial flight; bin Laden had possession of all U.S. military flight schedules. U.S. intelligence warned at the time.

Bahrain did not have enough of a security force of its own to protect itself, Whitesides said. "It's the Las Vegas of the Middle East. It was a province of the United Kingdom - it's now a kingdom - but it contracts out all its public works,"

Whitesides, Page 17

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Now through September 30th, 2013, for those who have served in the military for 20 years or more and their spouses, The Clinton Presbyterian Community is offering a special discount for assisted living accommodations. We also offer a Distinguished Military Service Award incentive for patio homes and apartments. Call for details on eligibility.

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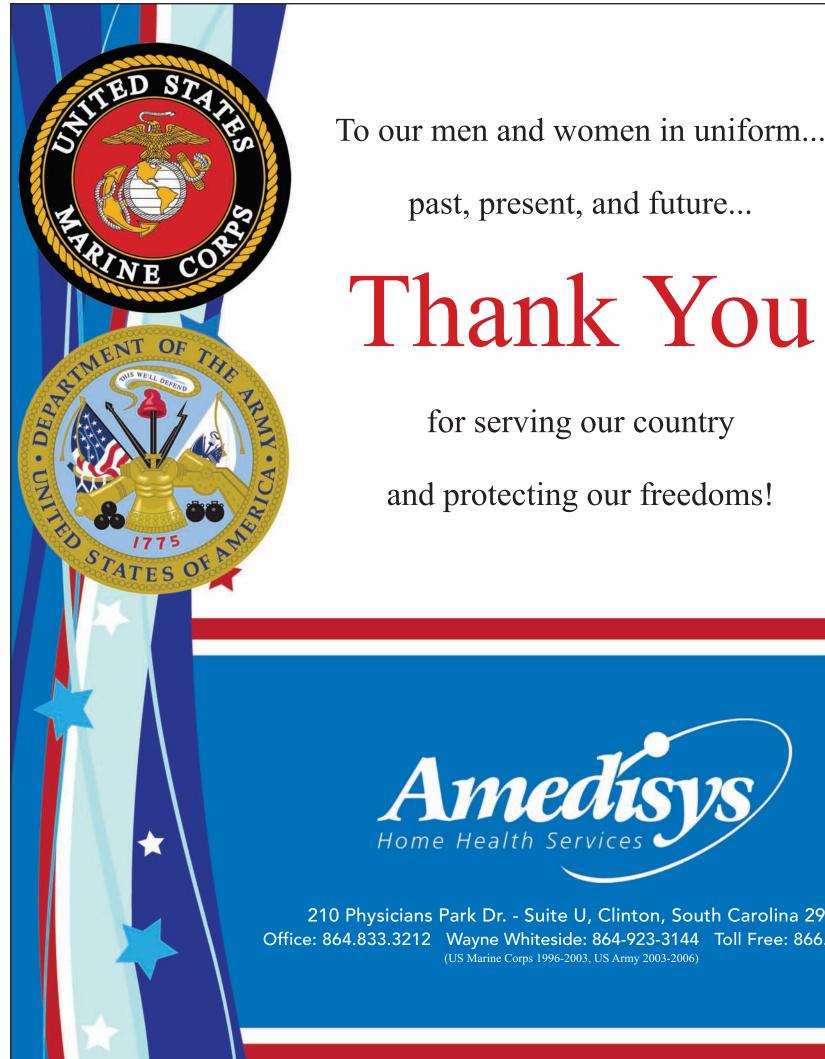
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### We're proud of our veterans.



and protecting our freedoms!



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10 -Section 1

SFreedow

We honor and give thanks to all veterans who served and sacrificed to ensure our freedom.

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