



Southeast Alabama AMVETS

Post 7

P O Box 724 • Daleville AL 36322

Membership Newsletter • June 2025

Your elected and appointed post servants:

Kevin Turley, Commander
Travis Parker, 1st Vice Commander
Margaret Johnson, 2nd Vice Commander
Richard Saunders, Finance Officer
Reverend John Logsdon, Adjunct & Chaplain

Upcoming Events:

- Thursday, July 3, 2025 1800: June meeting at the SECTC.



From your Post Commander

The success of our AMVETS post and our continued service to our fellow veterans is dependent upon each of us. Our investment of time and other resources allows us to make an improvement in the lives of others. Even those few minutes you take out of your day to send a text message to someone to check on them can make a huge difference in their life and, sometimes, can mean the matter of a life changing decision they may make.

We have an amazing family at our post and I think it is outstanding that many of our members are a part of multiple veteran service organizations and other organizations that give back to the community. This clearly shows your hearts are in the right place and it is a blessing to know each of you as a brother or sister.

Let's reach out to fellow veterans and invite them to our next meeting on Thursday, July 3rd, at 6 pm at the Southeast Community Training Center. Let's have fellowship and work on our program activities.

Respectfully,

Kevin Turley



From your Post First Vice Commander

On June 3–4, the Wiregrass Honor Flight embarked on its very first journey, honoring eight brave veterans from the Korean and Vietnam wars. It was a trip they'll cherish forever.

The traveling party included not just the veterans, but also their guardians—many of whom had also served in the military—and a dedicated support team. They set off from Daleville on

Tuesday, June 3, and what a send-off it was! Law enforcement provided a grand escort die most of the way to Birmingham. Along the way, police departments from multiple towns and three county sheriff's offices joined the parade, with a sheriff's helicopter offering aerial support up to Troy, where a State Trooper chopper took over.

After a night in Birmingham, the veterans hit the road again the next morning, escorted by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department to the Birmingham airport for their morning flight. An unforgettable moment awaited them—on their departure, the group's plane was greeted with a "water cannon salute," courtesy of two fire trucks. This was only the third time that particular honor had been bestowed at that airport in the last two years!

Upon arriving in Washington, D.C., the veterans were warmly welcomed by representatives of Congressman Barry Moore, who had meant to greet them in person, but had to return to Alabama due to a family emergency.

As they made their way to Arlington National Cemetery, the group enjoyed a quick tour of the city. At Arlington, they had reserved seating for the solemn Changing of the Guard ceremony. The guards kept their silence, but acknowledging and honoring the veterans by scuffing their shoes or adjusting their steps, a quiet nod to their respect.

Next, they stopped by the World War II Memorial for some group photos before heading to the Korean War Memorial, then the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, and finally, the Lincoln Memorial. They caught a bite to eat on the bus, but the adventures weren't over! They continued to the Iwo Jima/Marine Corps Memorial and capped off the day at the Air Force Memorial, where the Air Force Honor Guard put on a special demonstration.

After a whirlwind of a day, it was time to return to the airport, where once again, their arrival in Birmingham was marked by another water cannon salute. But the ultimate surprise awaited them upon landing and going inside of the terminal: a "Welcome Home" celebration that blew everyone away. A vibrant crowd had gathered, including the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard, The Law Enforcement Memorial Pipe and Drum band, National Guard members, ROTC Cadets, Scouts, and hundreds of flag-waving citizens cheering and holding up signs.

With a police escort guiding them through Birmingham's bustling interstate, the group stopped for a meal at Sweet Creek Market, just south of Montgomery. The owner was so touched he stayed an hour late just to make sure the veterans were served. One incredibly heartwarming moment came when retired Admiral Kent Davis—who had just flown in from a meeting out of state—waited for an hour and a half just to serve the veterans himself and express his gratitude.

As they continued their journey south, Patriot Guard Riders and American Legion Riders joined their convoy in Troy. A sheriff's helicopter once again provided cover, flying from south of Troy right through Ft. Novosel back to Daleville. Near Brundidge, the Dale County Sheriff's Department took over and smoothly handed the convoy to Military Police on Fort Novosel, who then passed the honor to the Daleville Police Department for the final leg.

At the Daleville Convention Center, a second homecoming awaited them—complete with a bagpiper, family, friends, flags, custom signs, and, of course, hugs and cheers. A brief ceremony wrapped up the day, ending with a cannon firing to celebrate an unforgettable day of honor.

For more highlights and a full photo spread, don't miss the front page of the June 12 issue of The Ozark Southern Star. WDHN also has video clips featuring an embedded reporter who accompanied the group on this remarkable journey.

Travis Parker

1st Vice Commander



Photos from recent events:



AMVETS RIDERS



There is interest in forming an AMVETS RIDERS chapter within the Southeast Alabama AMVETS Post 7. If you enjoy riding your motorcycle and have it in your heart to intertwine your passion for riding with service to the AMVETS mission, then let's put your minds and strengths together to forge this chapter.



Every member of the Southeast Alabama AMVETS Post 7 family is important and valued. We also know the importance of growing our family, as there is strength in numbers and it is important to seek various opinions, ideas, and solutions. Membership is open to ALL who are currently service or who have been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces to include reserve and national guard.

There is a national committee which has set aside funds to pay for the first year membership dues for female veterans. This will continue until their funds are exhausted. Please reach out to the post for more information.

The Southeast Alabama AMVETS Post 7
meets on the FIRST THURSDAY of each month at 6 pm
at the Southeast Community Training Center located at
195 U S Highway 84 West • Daleville, Alabama

For more information, text/call Kevin Turley at 334.379.8286.

AMVETS HISTORY

Our commitment to service traces its roots back to 1944 when veteran volunteers first began helping veterans of World War II obtain the benefits promised them by the federal government. As the number of returning veterans swelled into the millions, it was evident that some sort of nationally organized assistance for them would be needed. The older established national groups wouldn't do; the leaders of this new generation of veterans wanted their own organization.

With that in mind, eighteen of them, representing nine veterans clubs, met in Kansas City, Missouri and founded The American Veterans of World War II on Dec. 10, 1944. Less than three years later, on July 23, 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 216, making AMVETS the first World War II organization to be chartered by Congress.

Since then, the original charter has been amended several times to admit as members those who served in different eras. Today, membership in AMVETS is open to anyone who is currently serving, or who has honorably served, in the U.S. Armed Forces from World War II to the present, to include the National Guard and Reserves.

As a volunteer-led organization, we annually elect and/or appoint officers at the national, district, department and post levels. Each August, representatives from these levels attend the AMVETS national convention to make decisions on issues affecting veterans and the organization.

The AMVETS organization has grown and evolved over the years to best serve each new generation of veterans and their families.

As the organization moves further into the 21st century, it does so with the conviction that its focus on preserving freedom, supporting America's defenders and serving her communities remains a clear blueprint for continued service to God and country.

Veterans helping veterans and their communities.

- **Visiting veterans in assisted living**
- **Providing assistance to veterans in need**
- **Honoring fallen veterans and their surviving family members**
- **Assisting veterans with obtaining the benefits they have rightfully earned**
- **Bringing awareness of veterans needs to our communities and our elected servants**

