

Alabama National Cemetery

Seventeenth Annual
Memorial Day Ceremony
Monday, May 26, 2025, 9 AM

Wreath Laying Participants:

Peggy Bourland Evans for Gold Star Wives of America

Charon Rivers for Gold Star Mothers

MAJ (Ret) Nancy Waller for U.S. Army

Marynell Winslow and Mary Ellen Schramm for U.S. Marines

Adam Watson for U.S. Navy

Andrew Bourland for U.S. Air Force

TSGT Jackson for U.S. Space Force

Nancy Bradley for U.S. Coast Guard

Kristi Averett for U.S. Merchant Marines

Tom Long for POW/MIAs



The Director and Staff of Alabama National Cemetery and the Chairman and Members of the Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery would like to express their sincerest gratitude to participants in today's ceremony and to our dedicated volunteers who placed graveside flags and assisted with ceremony preparation. Their generous contribution helps to preserve the memory of the men and women who answered our country's call to service.



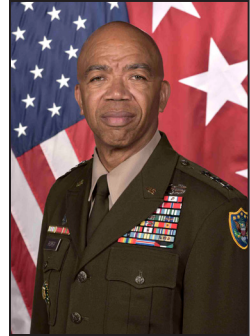
Emcee Prestley Skelton

Miss Prestley Skelton, a student at Jasper High School and this year's winner of the Alabama State American Legion Oratorical Contest.



Guest Speaker U.S. Army Lieutenant General (R) A.C. Roper

A.C. Roper has forged an extraordinary path as a transformative leader whose influence spans local grassroots initiatives to critical national leadership roles. With a career defined by service, innovation, and excellence, he has garnered national recognition, including appearances on respected platforms such as HBO, ESPN, and other major media outlets. A decorated Citizen-Soldier, A.C.'s military career spanned an impressive 42 years, culminating in his historic promotion to Lieutenant General in 2021, making him the first African American in U.S. Army Reserve history to achieve this rank. He retired in 2024 as the Deputy Commander of U.S. Northern Command, overseeing homeland defense and disaster response. His tenure included addressing high-stakes challenges such as North Korean missile launches, Russian long-range aviation, the Chinese high-altitude balloon, and operations supporting over 80,000 Afghan evacuees. For his distinguished service, A.C. earned numerous accolades, including the Combat Action Badge and the Defense Distinguished Service Medal—the Department of Defense's highest joint service decoration.



In civilian life, A.C. dedicated 33 years to law enforcement, including 10 years as Chief of Police for the Birmingham Police Department. Under his leadership, the department underwent a transformative reorganization, resulting in historic crime reductions and enhanced community trust. His efforts positioned Birmingham as a national model for community policing and citizen engagement.

A.C. holds a Bachelor of Science from Troy University, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Alabama, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He was also conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity from Oakland City University. His education includes prestigious training at the FBI National Academy, the FBI National Executive Institute, the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and the FEMA Crisis Leadership Vanguard Fellowship. He and Edith, his beautiful wife of 40 years are the proud parents of two adult daughters.

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Prelude Music

Homeland

Flyover

Patriot Flyers

Emcee

Ms. Prestley Skelton
State Winner, American Legion Oratorical Contest

Invocation

Mr. Duke Martin
Chaplain, SCALNC

Presentation of Colors

Sons of the American Revolution

National Anthem

Mr. Rob Robinson

Pledge of Allegiance

Sam Woodall

Eagle Scout

Introduction of Special Guests

Ms. Deborah Kendrick
Director, Alabama National Cemetery

Welcome Remarks and Guest Speaker Introduction

Ms. Prestley Skelton

Guest Speaker

A.C. Roper
U.S. Army Lieutenant General (R)

Musical Selections

Homeland

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Participants Listed on Back

Benediction

Mr. Duke Martin

Rifle Salute

USAF Honor Guard

Maxwell Air Force Base

TAPS

Mr. Patrick McCaghren
Bugles Across America – Alabama and U.S. Navy Veteran

Cannon Salute

Alabama Division of Reenactors