

Alabama National Cemetery

Eighteenth Annual
Memorial Day Ceremony
Monday, May 25, 2026, 9 AM

Wreath Laying Participants Escorted by CAP Cadets

Peggy Bourland Evans for Gold Star Wives of America

Charon Rivers for Gold Star Mothers

Larry Wojciechowski for U.S. Army

Keith Schramm & George Winslow for U.S. Marines

Master Chief Petty Officer Matt Horn for U.S. Navy

Kellie Bourland for U.S. Air Force

SSgt Jericka Thomas for U.S. Space Force

Janice Hamilton & Sherrell Dean Hamilton for U.S. Coast Guard

Lindsey Joseph 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 Senior at Jasper High School and this year's winner of the Alabama State American Legion Oratorical Contest.



Guest Speaker

US Air Force (Ret) Brigadier General Jeffrey Newton Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs

Governor Kay Ivey appointed Brigadier General Jeffrey Newton to serve as the commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) March 19, 2025. With more than four decades of military service and a deep commitment to Alabama's veteran community, Commissioner Newton brings extensive leadership and experience to the role that will serve all 400,000 of Alabama's veterans and their families.



Prior to his appointment, Commissioner Newton served as interim commissioner of the ADVA. Before joining the department, he was the director of the Joint Staff of the Alabama National Guard, overseeing joint military operations related to state and national emergencies.

His distinguished 41-year military career with the United States Air Force and the Alabama Air National Guard included multiple overseas deployments with the 117th Air Refueling Wing, based in Birmingham, Alabama. He played a critical role in supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

His exemplary service has been recognized with numerous military awards, including the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Air Force and Army Commendation Medals and the Alabama Distinguished Service Medal. In 2021, he was inducted into the United States Air Force's Enlisted Heritage Hall – Wall of Achievers, further cementing his legacy of service.

A proud alumnus of Samford University and Auburn University, Commissioner Newton is dedicated to making Alabama the most veteran friendly state in the nation.

Alabama National Cemetery Eighteenth Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

Prelude Music

Jon Garlick

Alabama Law Enforcement Memorial Pipes & Drums

Flyover

Patriot Flyers

Welcome

USAF Colonel (Ret) Eldon Woodie

Chairman, SCALNC

Emcee

Ms. Prestley Skelton

State Winner, American Legion Oratorical Contest

Invocation

Mr. Duke Martin

Chaplain, SCALNC

Presentation of Colors

Civil Air Patrol Cadets

National Anthem

Mr. Anthony Smith

Pledge of Allegiance

Zachary Woodall

Boy Scout Troop 548

Introduction of Special Guests

Ms. Deborah Kendrick

Director, Alabama National Cemetery

Welcome Remarks and Guest Speaker Introduction

Ms. Prestley Skelton

Guest Speaker

USAF (Ret) Brigadier General Jeffrey Newton

Commissioner Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

Musical Selections

Mr. Rob Robinson

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Participants Listed on Back

Benediction

Mr. Duke Martin

Musket Salute

Sons of the American Revolution Musket Team

TAPS

USAF (Ret) Brigadier General Jeffrey Newton

Cannon Salute

Alabama Division of Reenactors

Post Ceremony Music

Jon Garlick