



South Alabama Veterans Council

An organization for all people, to serve all veterans.

A coalition of Veterans, Friends and Organizations working together to further the cause of Veterans in the South Alabama area



Lou Lartigue

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SAVC e-mail: support@savc.info

Capt Hal Pierce, Bill Atkeison, Spiritus Emeritus SAVC

NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- March 21, 2023 – 8:30 a.m. - Saucy Q BBQ

1111 Government St–Mobile AL

On the web – <http://www.savc.info> - Facebook – South Alabama Veterans Council

Presidents Corner:



" The new year is well on its way and so is the SAVC. We are busy working on the 2023 Armed Forces Day & Blue Star Salute scheduled for 20 May 2023.

We are having our first field trip to the USCG ATC this month and have plans for more interesting trips for our SAVC.

We are also working on the Vietnam Memorial Day celebration on 29 March, and Memorial Day 29 May.

We need your input on what you would like to see and hear covered in our meetings. We hope you have a safe and fun Mardi Gras.

Remember to do that Veteran Buddy Check during these cold winter months."

Lou Lartigue, President US Army LTC (Ret)
South Alabama Veterans Council



Chaplains Corner:

Good morning!

It's the plumb line, Read Amos 7:7

"This is what he showed me: behold the LORD was standing beside a wall made with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand."

A plumbline is used to make sure something is straight and upright in a vertical position; such as a wall, or our lives. The plumb-line will identify if the wall is leaning or crooked, tilted, or unstable. That's what the word of God does for us. In this scripture, the Lord was standing by the wall built with the plumb-line. The Lord used the plumb-line in his hand to make sure that the wall was still straight. Every so often we need to pull out the plumb-line, which is the word of God, and make sure that we are still straight and upright.

In Jesus' Name Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain SAVC

Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery



The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the expansion at the cemetery will be on Saturday, 11 February at 11:00 AM in the vicinity of the Committal Shelter.

34904 AL-225, Spanish Fort, AL 36577

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) announced that the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP), which it oversees, has awarded a grant of up to \$5,174,322 to the state of Alabama for the expansion of Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spanish Fort.

Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery currently serves more than 56,000 Veterans and their eligible family members living within 75 miles of the cemetery. The grant will fund 1,756 pre-placed crypts, 960 columbarium niches, landscaping, and supporting infrastructure on approximately 2 acres of land.

For more information about the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery, contact Joseph Buschell, Assistant Cemetery Director, Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs at 251-626-9204 or email joseph.buschell@va.alabama.gov

VA-US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PRESS RELEASE January 13, 2023

Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA healthcare facility for free emergency healthcare
WASHINGTON – Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis will be able to go to any VA or non-VA healthcare facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

This expansion of care will help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no-cost, world-class care to Veterans in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/includes/viewPDF.cfm?id=5852>

NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE! **RSVP REQUIRED**

**There will not be a February meeting at
Saucy-Q BBQ**

**SAVC FEBRUARY 15 MEETING
SPACES ARE FILLED**

Which Charity Assists Disabled Veterans More?

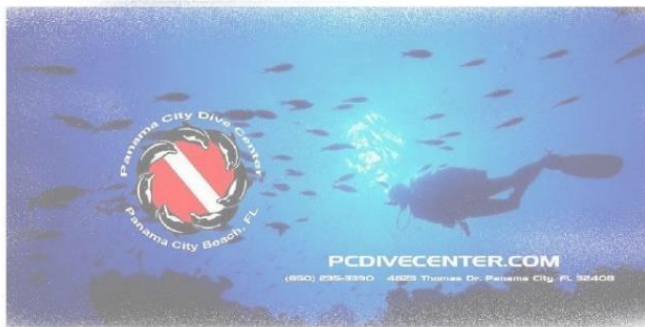
I am asked from time-to-time which charity assists veterans the most or what charity do I donate to that assists disabled veterans? First of all, I applaud any organization that is in the business of helping veterans. I am sure they all do some good for our veterans. However, as with any question like this people usually want to know if I would donate to the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) or the Disabled American Veterans (DAV)? Walter G. Ringler, a retired military pilot has web researched this question for hours and he has concluded this. WWP brings in a lot more money and provides more money to veterans, but it is at a high price. WWP gets a lot of attention because it receives many celebrity endorsements but all of that television air time comes at a high cost. The DAV may raise less money but more of the money that is raised goes to veterans in need. Some sources report that a veteran will see 58 percent of a WWP donation, while veterans will receive 97 percent of a DAV donation. Also, based on Charity Navigator's findings, DAV's transparent financial reports make it easy to see how much money goes to veterans in need, versus the less-clear WWP financial reports.

Mr. Ringler goes on to say that we should appreciate all the dollars that go to our veterans from WWP, but as individual donors we should want to see more of our dollars going to the actual veteran, rather than to administrative and other overhead costs.

Personally, another reason I donate to DAV and not WWP is that WWP does not assist World War II, Korean War or Vietnam War Veterans. WWP only supports veterans that have become disabled since 9/11. I would consider all the above when you are exploring where you should be contributing. But, to me, the bottom line: To maximize your personal monetary donation that will go to veterans, give to the DAV.

Patrick Downing, Vice President - SAVC

2023 Dates
Panama City Dive Center
Panama City Beach FL



2023 Dates:
March 12th : April 23rd : June 4th : June 18th
July 16th : August 5th : Sept 17th

HELPING TO OVERCOME

2023 Georgia Aquarium Dates

Dates for 2023 Trips to the Georgia Aquarium are now live! Please visit our website to sign up today!

- Feb 1st - Shark Cage Dive & Whale Shark Dive
- May 10th - Shark Cage Dive & Whale Shark Dive
- Aug 9th - Shark Cage Dive & Whale Shark Dive
- Nov 11th - Shark Cage Dive & Whale Shark Dive

Reminder: ONLY Veterans of the US Armed Forces are allowed to participate in the "in water" portion of this event. –

Please only sign up for ONE event at this time to allow others to experience this amazing trip.- Each veteran is allowed two (2) guests - Sign up today!

MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Port City has been a key location for the American military since General Andrew Jackson made camp in 1813 near what is now Royal Street in downtown Mobile. Since that time, numerous active and reserve units from all branches of the service have been assigned to Mobile. Mobile is currently home to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Mobile District), the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Mobile, and the U.S. Coast Guard Air Training Center (ATC), as well as U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Army Reserve, and Alabama National Guard units.

[Military Affairs - Mobile Chamber](#)

Armed Forces Day - Blue Star Salute **5K Run/Walk 1Mile Fun Run May 20**

Memorial 5K Run/Walk & 1 Mile Fun Run For Alabama's Fallen Heroes

5K race will start at 7:30 AM 1 Mile will start at 7:35 AM

Location:

USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park on the Causeway.

Benefits:

Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc. (www.bluestarsalute.org) Each runner will run with the name of one of Alabama's Fallen Heroes on their Race Bib, and afterward, during activities, they can visit the wall of Alabama's Faces of the Price of Freedom to see the faces of their fallen service member.

Enjoy a day full of entertainment, fun, and food at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park where there will be a variety of activities for everyone.

Aeronautical entertainment provided by Silver Wings and others. Music provided by Alabama's 151st Army National Guard Band. Join us in honoring Alabama's Military Service members, Veterans, and our Fallen Heroes. Many Veteran Service Organizations will be available for serving our military and Veterans. The day will begin with a Fallen Heroes Salute honoring Alabama's fallen military service members who have died since 9/11/2001

EVENTBRITE QR CODE 5K RUN:



EVENTBRITE Link:

<https://bluestarsalutefallenheroes5k2023.eventbrite.com>

Facebook Event Link - 5K Run/Walk 1Mile Fun Run:

[ALABAMAS FALLEN HEROES 5K RUN/WALK | Facebook](#)

Facebook AFD/BSS Event Link:

[ARMED FORCES DAY/BLUE STAR SALUTE | Facebook](#)

Armed Forces Day Web Site:

[Armed Forces Day Mobile AL](#)

Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc. [Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc.](#)

WE NEED MORE OF THESE IMMIGRANTS

Those who know REALITY IS REALLY IMPORTANT become important in their own right.

VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANT –

The difference between legal and illegal. This is something everyone in America should read. It looks like we did some good after all!

On Saturday, July 24th, 2010 the town of Prescott Valley, AZ, hosted a Freedom Rally. Quang Nguyen was asked to speak on his experience of coming to America and what it means. He spoke the following in dedication to all Vietnam Veterans. Thought you might enjoy hearing what he had to say:

Start Quote:

"35 years ago, if you were to tell me that I am going to stand up here speaking to a couple thousand patriots, in English, I'd laugh at you. Man, every morning I wake up thanking God for putting me and my family in the greatest country on earth. I just want you all to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream. I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first-generation Vietnamese-American, but I'd rather speak to you as an American.

"If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people. I am a proud U.S. citizen and here is my proof.

It took me 8 years to get it, waiting in endless lines, but I got it, and I am very proud of it.

"I still remember the images of the Tet offensive in 1968, I was six years old. Now you might want to question how a 6-year-old boy could remember anything. Trust me, those images can never be erased. I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf.

"35 years ago, I left South Vietnam for political asylum. The war had ended. At the age of 13, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings or parents again. I was one of the first lucky 100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the U.S. Somehow, my family and I were reunited 5 months later, amazingly, in California. It was a miracle from God.

"If you haven't heard lately that this is the greatest country on earth, I am telling you that right now. It was the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight. I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way. My high school counselor told me that I cannot make it to college due to my poor communication skills. I proved him wrong. I finished college. You see, all you have to do is to give this little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take and run with it. Well, I took the opportunity and here I am.

"This person standing tonight in front of you could not exist under a socialist/communist environment. By the way, if you think socialism is the way to go, I am sure many people here will chip in to get you a one-way ticket out of here. And if you didn't know,

the only difference between socialism and communism is an AK-47 aimed at your head That was my experience.

"In 1982, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life.

"Fast forwarding, somehow I finished high school, finished college, and like any other goofball 21-year-old kid, I was having a great time with my life I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California. In some way and somehow, I had forgotten how I got here and why I was here.

"One day I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I don't know what made me do it, but I walked over and asked if he had served in Vietnam. He smiled and said yes. I shook and held his hand. This grown man's eyes began to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked. This was a profound moment in my life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back.

"You see, America is not just a place on the map, it isn't just a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept. And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must accept this concept, and most importantly, you have to fight and defend this concept This is about Freedom and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing up here Brothers and sisters, to be a real American, **the very least you must do is to learn English and understand it well**. In my humble opinion, you cannot be a faithful patriotic citizen if you can't speak the language of the country you live in. Take this document of 46 pages - last I looked on the Internet, there wasn't a Vietnamese translation of the U.S. Constitution. It took me a long time to get to the point of being able to converse and until this day, I still struggle to come up with the right words. It's not easy, but if it's too easy, it's not worth doing

Before I knew this 46-page document, I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for this little boy. I learned of the 58,000 names inscribed on the black wall at the Vietnam Memorial. You are my heroes. You are my founders.

"At this time, I would like to ask all the Vietnam veterans to please stand. I thank you for my life. I thank you for your sacrifices, and I thank you for giving me the freedom and liberty I have today. I now ask all veterans, firefighters, and police officers, to please stand. On behalf of all first-generation immigrants, I thank you for your services, and may God bless you all."

Quang Nguyen
Creative Director/Founder
Caddis Advertising, LLC
"God Bless America"

"One Flag, One Language, One Nation Under God"

For those who understand, no explanation is needed.

For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible.

The first Mardi Gras celebration in the United States happened in Mobile in 1703.



**USS Gunston Hall LSD 44 will be docked at
Mobile Cruise Ship Terminal
Feb 17 – Feb 22 for Mardi Gras.
Welcoming ceremony Feb 17
at approximately 11:00 am,
the public is invited, ship tours will be
conducted while in port.**



International Radio Call Sign:

November - Golf - Uniform - November

NGUN

Awards, Citations and Campaign Ribbons



Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation

**Precedence of awards is from top to bottom,
left to right**

Top Row - Navy Unit Commendation - Navy Battle "E"

Ribbon (7) - National Defense Service Medal

Bottom Row - Southwest Asia Service Medal - Global War
on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal - Armed Forces Service
Medal (10)

Whidbey Island Class Dock Landing Ship:

☐ Laid down, 26 May 1986, at Avondale
Shipbuilding, New Orleans, LA.

☐ Launched, 27 June 1987

☐ Commissioned **USS Gunston Hall (LSD-44)**,
22 April 1989, CDR. John P. Jeffcoat in command

USS Gunston Hall is a unit of the US Atlantic Fleet
assigned to **COMPHIBGRU TWO**,
COMPHIBRON TWO, and is homeported at NAB
Little Creek, VA.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February

- 2/1 National Freedom Day
- 2/2 Army Nurse Corp Established (1901)/Groundhog Day
- 2/3 USO Incorporated
- 2/3 Four Chaplains Day. A day set aside to honor the four US Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others when the troop ship USAT Dorchester sank during WWII
- 2/13 Marine Corps Women's Reserve Established (1943)
- 2/19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 2/20 Presidents Day
- 2/23 Iwo Jima Flag Raising (1945)
- 2/27 Persian Gulf Cease-Fire Day

Artificial Intelligence - ChatGPT

ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer) is a complex [machine learning model](#) that is able to carry out natural language generation ([NLG](#)) tasks with such a high level of accuracy that the model can pass a [Turing Test](#).

In the 1950s, mathematician Alan Turing released a paper entitled "[Computing Machinery and Intelligence](#)." Turing was interested in the idea that under the right circumstances, a machine could think like a human being. He proposed modifying an activity called the Imitation Game to gather data and hopefully, answer the question.

ChatGPT and Education

The latest version of ChatGPT produces text that is so humanlike that educators have rung an alarm about how the model is being [misused by students](#). In response, some schools have outright banned ChatGPT. Others are testing out plagiarism tools designed to [statistically identify](#) the models' linguistic watermarks.

[What is ChatGPT? - Definition from Techopedia](#)

AMERICAN DREAM

*In this our land of liberty, from sea to shining sea.
Where Everyone lives free, while others yearn to be.
A job, a home, and security, Bill of Rights the guarantee.
As each generation's history, determine powers yet to be.*

Joe He Coomes
JOMAC - Poetry in Action

Flags of Glory-Julius Powell Mobile Memorial Gardens-SAVC Corp Sponsor and Veteran sponsor presented the Non-Veteran Award to Beverly Moritz.



Lou Lartigue, Beverly Moritz, Julius Powell

Julius also presented thank you cards to Michael Austin-Veterans Recovery Resources, Tom Morrison-American Legion Post 250, MGySgt Cynthia House-Montford Point Marines, and Rick Moritz-PGR.



Julius Powell, Lloyd Michael Austin



Julius Powell, Tom Morrison



Julius Powell, MGySgt Cynthia House



Rick Moritz, Julius Powell



With the help of Albert Nelson-AL Career Center LVER, flags were purchased and presented to the Army National Guard Honor Team for practice purposes. SSG Justin Mizel and Sgt Julian Perez were present to receive the flags.



Grants were presented to Linda Tipp and Joyce Reed from Quilts Of Valor.

MOBILE BAYKEEPER

As part of a nationwide effort to honor Martin Luther King's vision of a "beloved community," Mobile Baykeeper joined Mobile United this past Saturday for the 9th Annual MLK Day of Service. The event featured a designated cleanup site in each of Mobile's seven city council districts.

More than 200 volunteers turned out for the event and collected 1,615 pounds of trash, while also removing 5,737 pounds of debris. Forty-eight pounds of recyclables were also collected.

Mobile Baykeeper hosted sites in District 2 (First Baptist Church Carvers Home) and District 7 (Zeigler Blvd.).

Osprey Initiative, Alabama Coastal Foundation, Dog River Clearwater Revival, Keep Mobile Beautiful, Andy Citrin Injury Attorneys, and The Peninsula of Mobile also took part in the event.

Mobile Baykeeper wishes to thank Mobile United for honoring King and hosting this event, as well as volunteers who turned out on a Saturday morning and made a difference for their city.



**Mobile United**

9th Annual Day of Service
Engaging all Mobile City Council Districts

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve.” Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE
CITYWIDE CLEANUP
BY THE NUMBERS:

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS:
203

POUNDS OF TRASH COLLECTED:
1,615

POUNDS OF RECYCLABLES COLLECTED:
48

POUNDS OF DEBRIS REMOVED:
5,737

Thank you to all our volunteers, Mobile City Council, City of Mobile, Andy Citrin Injury Attorneys, and our partner organizations who helped make our 9th Annual MLK Day of Service possible. We simply could not do it without you!



U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Training Center

USCG-ATC had the distinct honor to host WWII veteran and former POW Mr. Sy Lichtenfeld, US Army. Thank you Mr. Lichtenfeld for sharing your powerful message of courage and resilience.



USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

Now hear this!

Battleship Memorial Park will begin the search for the 2023-2024 USS ALABAMA Crewmates on January 23. The Crewmate program is open to young women 19 to 21 years of age. Application packets will be available at our Ticket Office and on-line beginning January 23. Deadline for submission will be February 17. Thank you Tad Denson Photography and Airwind Studios for this great photo of our crewmates.



Some updates in the Medal of Honor Pavillion at BMP.

Airplanes that Jimmy Buffett donated to BMP, a Stearman, and a Grumman Goose are assembled and will soon be on display. The newly restored B25 Mitchell Bomber has been moved inside the Medal of Honor Pavilion, and the A-12 -Blackbird CIA Spy plane will be moved outside.

Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

As progress continues at the Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home in Enterprise, we want to clarify that the admissions and employment processes have not begun. The department will announce when applications are being accepted. The State Board of Veterans Affairs (SBVA) recently selected Rabren General Contractors to build the Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home in Enterprise. The state-of-the-art skilled-care nursing facility will be approximately 182,000 square feet and house 174 residents. Construction is scheduled to begin July 5, and the facility is expected to open in 2024.

LEARN MORE:

<https://va.alabama.gov/rabren-general-contractors.../>

[Facebook](#)



What does Operation ReConnect do? Simple - We give military families the 'Gift of Time' together after being separated for Months/years after a deployment. Learn more and JOIN FORCES with us at: www.OperationReConnect.org



THIS FROM JOYCE REED QUILTS OF VALOR:

I have 6 quilt kits almost ready for our Feb. 4 National QOV sew date. Four of those are spoken for. I will also have split back star blocks ready to work on. It is not too late to let me know if you need a kit. See you at Regency Church of Christ around 9:30. Lunch provided. Hand Stitchers, cutters, pressers, welcome.

VETERANS WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TEAM

In conjunction with the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, the John 9:3 Foundation is proud to offer the first installment of the Eagles Adapted Athletics, the only adapted athletics program for disabled athletes in our area.

We are working to put together a team to compete at the NWBA military national tournament in Birmingham, AL (April 21-23). We are currently looking for players and sponsors. For more information please email:

info@john93foundation.com.

EAGLES ADAPTED ATHLETICS

VETERANS WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

We are assembling the first ever wheelchair basketball league for disabled veterans

Presented to you by:

NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION & JOHN 9:3 FOUNDATION

INTERESTED?
CONTACT US NOW!!

(251) 298-7346
info@john93foundation.com
www.nwba.com
www.john93foundation.com

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
Wheelchair basketball follows a similar format as running basketball, except the players utilize wheelchairs to move around the court.

FUTURE PROGRAMS
There are plans to expand the sports available to the disabled community in 2024.
Sports like tennis, archery, swimming, pickle ball, cycling, football, softball and more!

SPONSORSHIP
The biggest obstacle to playing adaptive athletics is the financial burden. We want to alleviate that by providing equipment and facilities at no cost to the athlete. To be able to do that, we need your help.

GET IN THE GAME

SOAR ON!!!

OUR BEST PEACE OFFICERS

*The Nobel group who serve and protect,
With courtesy, pride & all due respect.
Devoted to duty and to their community,
Listening & caring at each opportunity.*

*Sworn to uphold the law in an unbiased way,
In each area they work both at night or day.
The aristocrats of those who wear the blue,
Ensuring all lives matter in all they do...*

*The men and women of this group are the ones,
Using all reasonable means before using guns.
In situations putting their training to a test,
Is when they show that they are truly the best.*

Joe the Command
JOMAC - Poetry in Action

Mobile, AL

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Mobile, AL 36605-3002

Tel: 251-478-0916

Fax: 251-478-4658

- Jimmy White, Port Agent
- Lauren Liles, Admin Asst.

DECK DEPT

SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION
Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship



Unlicensed Apprentice Program

Eligibility: No prior experience necessary

Length of Training: 14 months (varies)

Salary Range after completion: \$5,000 to \$7,500 per month onboard a ship. This includes base wage, ot, and vacation pay



Tuition-Free Training

• Room and Board Provided

• State of the Art Training Facility

• Guaranteed 1st Job for Graduates

• Travel the World

• Competitive Pay

• Benefits

• Guaranteed Opportunity for Advancement



WWW.SEAFARERS.ORG



STEWARD DEPT SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION

Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship
Offers Two Culinary Programs:

Unlicensed Apprentice Program

Eligibility: No prior culinary experience necessary

Length of Training: 7 weeks (varies)

Salary Range after completion: \$5,000 to \$7,500 per month onboard a ship. This includes base wage, ot, and vacation pay

Galley Assessment Program

Eligibility: Culinary School Degree/Certificate -or- Veterans rated as a Culinary Specialist. ServSafe Management cert

Length of Training: 4 weeks

Salary Range after completion: \$5,000 to \$7,500 per month onboard a ship. This includes base wage, ot, and vacation pay



Tuition-Free Training

Room and Board Provided

State of the Art Training Facility

Guaranteed 1st Job for Graduates

Travel the World

Competitive Pay

Benefits

Guaranteed Opportunity for Advancement

SEAFARERS HARRY LUNDEBERG SCHOOL

45353 St. Georges Avenue
Piney Point, MD 20674

www.seafarers.org

- Steward Unlicensed Apprentice
- Galley Assessment Program



VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

HIRING NOW

The Department of Veterans Affairs and other organizations are hiring! Earn up to \$2042 per paycheck!

[Veteransaffairs - Job Listings](#) | [CareerBoutique](#)



ALABAMA
VETERANS RESOURCE

In partnership with the SAVC and Scuttlebutt Radio Network, we are creating a Veteran Owned Business List. Please register if you are a VOB or an organization helping veterans/military and share with other Veteran business owners. This effort aims to provide support to and increase awareness of Veteran Owned Businesses.



Veterans Recovery Resources

Committed to Veterans Like You 251-405-3677

Stringent training, deployments, frequent moves and, for some, combat, put unique stresses on our Veterans and their families. Our team of health professionals created a unique approach that speaks to a unique set of mental wellness challenges.

VRR – John Kilpatrick, renovation of the detox facility is on track to open in November 2023 around Veterans Day.



Pictured: Lou Lartigue-SAVC Pres, Pat Downing-SAVC VP, Tom Schwarz-Treasurer, John Kilpatrick-CEO VRR, Anthony D. Haines, CFRE Chief Development Officer (CDO) at Veterans Recovery Resources

As a VA Community Care Network provider, VRR is here to help Veterans in their time of crisis. Contact us today.

Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for free emergency health care

**Veterans Recovery Resources can help,
24 hours a day / 7 days a week.
(251) 405-3677**

www.vetsrecover.org #vetsrecover

See official statement via the link below: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/includes/viewPDF.cfm?id=5852>

MONTFORD POINT MARINES:

For his 108th birthday, an original member of the Montford Point Marines – the group of the first Black troops to enlist in the Marine Corps – was recognized for his years of dedicated service across three military conflicts.

Cosmas D. Eaglin Sr. of Fayetteville, North Carolina, was presented earlier in January with a certificate of appreciation and a challenge coin from the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, [according to a statement from the department.](#)

[108-year-old original Montford Point Marine honored for his service \(militarytimes.com\)](#)



988 is the new Suicide Prevention Hotline.

988

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

THESE THREE DIGITS COULD SAVE A LIFE

THE HOLIDAYS CAN BE A TOUGH TIME FOR SOME PEOPLE. PLEASE CALL, TEXT, OR CHAT ONLINE IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE.

[Veterans for Hope | Alabama's Challenge for Preventing Veteran Suicide \(vetsforhope.com\)](#)

**MOBILE MEMORIAL
GARDENS CEMETERY**
MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES®



6100 Three Notch Rd., Mobile, Alabama 36619
(251) 661-1333

South Alabama Veterans Council Minutes January 17, 2023 Meeting

- Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Lou Lartigue – 30 in attendance - Location Saucy Q BBQ
- Opening Prayer – Chaplain Michael Austin
- Pledge – Jim Jeffries
- Lou Lartigue – Welcomed the new people, Tod Morrison, Commander Post 250 and Chaplain of Honor Guard Post 250, Larry Vahle-VA Clinic Mobile, Melvin Ford-Vietnam Veteran, Layton Little-Mobile Chamber Director of Governmental Affairs, and Military Affairs at Chamber, Linda Tipp-QOV Baldwin County, Jim White Seafarers International Union, Tony James-Veterans Recovery Resources.
- Minutes were preapproved and will be mailed in conjunction with the Newsletter in the future.
Newsletters: 7 snail mail newsletters and 435 emails.
- Treasurer's report – Grants were presented to Linda Tipp and Joyce Reed from Quilts Of Valor. With the help of Albert Nelson-AL Career Center LVER, flags were purchased and presented to the Army National Guard Honor Team for practice purposes. SSG Justin Mizel and Sgt Julian Perez were present to receive the flags.
- **VSO Report** - Jim Jeffries – Hats off to Willie Dunning and Fran Barber for getting information out via the newsletter and emails. American Legion Disaster Relief Committee is working to help storm disaster victims throughout the state. Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Admiral in Mobile, MajGen Cobb will be the keynote speaker. The City of Mobile Military Affairs Committee will be meeting at the Mobile Chamber, the committee has been revitalized and is open to all who want to attend.
- **Flags of Glory**-Julius Powell Mobile Memorial Gardens=Corp Sponsor and Veteran sponsor presented the Non-Veteran Award to Beverly Moritz. Julius also presented thank you cards to Michael Austin, American Legion Post 250, MGySgt Cynthia House, Patriot Guard
- **Veterans Affairs:** Pat Downing
- **State Veterans Affairs (Oversees the Alabama Dept of Veterans Affairs) meeting Jan 6.**
There are 375,000 veterans in the state of Alabama, as of Jan 1, 2023, there are 3432 internments at Arlington South (Alabama State Veterans Cemetery, Spanish Fort, AL)The planned 2nd phase expansion at Arlington South is scheduled to start in February. Ground Breaking Ceremony is planned for February 11. State Board of Veterans Affairs voted to implement Public law 117-103 the Burial Equity for Guard and Reserve Act, and also voted to recommend two new specialty license plates to be added to the collection of special plates for the state of Alabama, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Space Force. And Air Medal recipients. Some of the funding left over this year will

be used to cover the shortfall at the new Veterans Home in Enterprise.

Admiral Davis announced he has stage 4 melanoma and will be going through chemotherapy for the next 3 months.

CMD SGT Benny Adkins's Home is on schedule.

Battleship Memorial Park -

The teak deck is 41% complete, the bow is done, and working on the aft.

A proposal was approved to make items out of the old teak that is removed.

Airplanes that Jimmy Buffett donated to BMP, a Stearman, and a Grumman Goose are assembled and will soon be on display. The newly restored B25 Mitchell Bomber has been moved inside the Medal of Honor Pavilion, and the A-12 -Blackbird CIA Spy plane will be moved outside.

AFD/BSS – Meeting Tuesday, Jan 24, organizational meeting.

VMRT – Fran Barber reported the Mobile Baykeepers worked in the Oaklawn Area on Jan 14. City Councilman Carroll was also there. JROTC will have its annual cleaning project Friday, Jan 20.

VRR – John Kilpatrick, renovation of the detox facility is on track to open in November around Veterans Day.

92nd Infantry Division – Eddie Irby, introduced Jim White from the Seafarers International Union. The SIU is hiring, contact him if you are interested.

Humana – Kesha Chambers spoke about the benefits offered to Veterans

DAV & USCG Auxiliary – John Joe Dec looking for caseworkers, has one who volunteered

Forging a Difference – Jerry Gardner reported on the event at the Battleship which was a huge success.

Navy League – Julius Powell reporting for Pete Riehm, USS Gunston Hall LSD 44 will be docked at Mobile Cruise Ship Terminal Feb 17 – Feb 22 for Mardi Gras. Welcoming ceremony Feb 17 at approximately 11:00 am, the public is invited, ship tours will be conducted while in port.

Little Red Hen/Port City Pacers – Flynt Christian, requesting volunteers For Azalea Trail Run
Scuttlebutt Network 106.5 - Tom Claxton, Gardberg and Kimmerly will be on with lots of veterans information.

VA Gulf Coast VA Health Care Local Recovery coordinator-Guellette thanked everyone for coming out on Jan 11 for the Recovery Resource Fair at the VA Clinic in Mobile.

Korean War Veteran and local chapter President, Walter Ballard is home from the hospital, keep him and Admiral Davis in your prayers.

LOU – Next SAVC meeting is RSVP at USCG ATC, 40 spaces are filled, and we can put you on a waiting list, more information is forthcoming.

Fran Barber- Secretary, SAVC - January 17, 2023