



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
251-471-4322
Council President

Pat Downing
251-751-6619
Council VP

Fran Barber
251-605-1290
Secretary / NewsLetter
Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain
251-391-8176

Tom Schwarz
251-649-8459
Treasurer / Chambless Fund

Pete Riehm
251-442-4349
LNO/MC

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:



"We have had a very interesting February and are charging into March. February saw the SAVC visiting the USCG ATC for a very interesting and informative tour of their mission and facilities to include the Aircraft. We will try to do more of these Military and Industry tours that have a bearing on our Veterans and fellow citizens in South Alabama.

March brings in a mixed weather challenge and an active SAVC challenge. We are deep in our planning for the AFD & BSS on 20 May. We are preparing to conduct our flag raising at the Vietnam Memorial on the Vietnam National Memorial Day on Wednesday 29 March at 0700 hrs.

We are working with the Alabama Military Officers Association of America to lobby for Veterans interest in the distribution of the \$250 Million of the Opioid Settlement Funds in Alabama. Join us and find out what is going on in our Veteran Community."

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



Chaplains Corner:

Good morning!
It's the gift of the Kingdom

Read Luke 12:32

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."
We know that some days are difficult to manage. However, our GOD knows everything that we have to face to make it over, and into the Kingdom. That's why He encourages us to fear not. He said I AM with you even to the end of the world.

Another truth about GOD is that He is a giver; He gave His Son, He gave us life, health, strength, hope, salvation, peace, love, joy, forgiveness, repentance, and the Holy Ghost; the list goes on and on. Not only did He give us all these things, but It's His good pleasure to give us the Kingdom too,

Hallelujah!
In Jesus' Name Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain SAVC

FACEBOOK Post (Margaret Coley)

Alabama State Veterans Cemetery Spanish Fort Alabama Feb 11, 2023

Groundbreaking for Phase 11 at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort took place today under cloudy skies ...but peaceful surroundings...very grateful to those who had the vision and worked tirelessly to create a place of honor ...the beautiful hallow grounds honor those who in days past helped preserve our freedom...and the expansion will provide a resting place of honor for future days ahead...



Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

There are some predatory companies that are targeting you by offering to assist you with your VA benefits claim. These companies charge absurd fees or require you to pay a portion of your VA benefits. VA will never charge you to apply for the benefits you may be entitled to. Veterans and survivors who think they might be eligible should apply for PACT Act benefits right now. For more information, talk to your local ADVA Veterans Service Officer today! --> <https://va.alabama.gov/serviceofficer/>

BE POSITIVE a poem from JoMac

Focus on the good in all others,
Find the positive in our brothers.
When everything seems to go wrong
Take time to sing a joyful song.

To always make good choices,
So the world still rejoices.
As whenever you feel down
With hope and joy rebound.

Forgiveness and mercy to extend
To enemy as if your only friend.
Bringing resentment to an end
Negative actions now to amend.

H.R. 236, Designate a week as "Battle Buddy Check Week"

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made the prevention of suicide among veterans one of its highest priorities and developed data models to continually monitor, improve and tailor suicide prevention strategies and initiatives for veterans. Recently, VA simplified the Veterans Crisis Line number of 988, launched the S.A.V.E. Suicide prevention training video, and began offering emergency care and treatment at VA and non-VA facilities for veterans in acute suicidal crises.

H.R. 236 would require the VA to designate one week per year as "Battle Buddy Check Week" for the purposes of organizing outreach events and educating veterans on how to conduct mental health wellness checks.



H.R. 1003/S. 326, the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2023

Cannabis is still identified as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act. As of Feb. 3, 2022, 37 states, three territories and the District of Columbia allow for the medical use of cannabis products. For years, veterans have claimed the benefits of cannabis for conditions they suffer—often as a result of military service. Veterans seeking relief for conditions such as chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which may be resistant to more conventional treatments, are eager to have additional options that may improve the quality of their lives.

DAV Resolution No. 128 calls for support of more comprehensive and scientifically rigorous research by the VA into the therapeutic benefits and risks of cannabis and cannabis-derived products as a possible treatment for service-related conditions.

<https://dav.quorum.us/campaign/45164/>



**Teen from Alabama in the Running to
Win a \$35,000 Scholarship from the VFW!**

Young people all across the nation recorded audio essays on the theme "Why is the Veteran Important" for the Voice of Democracy competition. One winner from each state has been chosen and now qualifies for the grand prize — a \$35,000 scholarship!

Listen to the top essays, including the winner from Alabama.

YOU ARE INVITED:

CAPT Christopher Hulser has been a tremendous asset to the USCG in our area, unfortunately for us, he has received a new assignment... You will be missed CAPT!!

PLEASE SEE THE RSVP LINK BELOW

R.S.V.P. by 14 March 2023

POC: [LT Michael Palomba](#)

(732) 586-2962

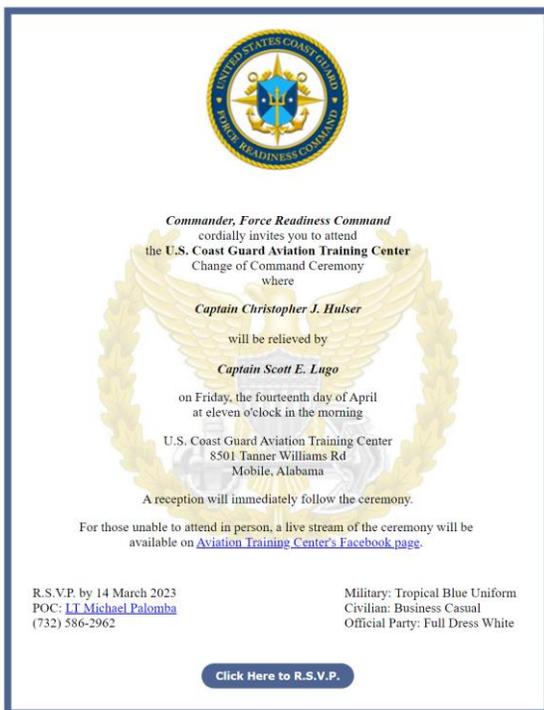
RSVP: [CG ATC Change of Command \(afit.edu\)](#)

DRESS FOR CEREMONY:

Military: Tropical Blue Uniform

Civilian: Business Casual

Official Party: Full Dress White



SAVC MEETING AT USCG-ATC FEB 15 2023



Joel Herron, Jonathan Laskiewicz
Lou Lartigue, LT Banning Lobbmeyer

SAVC MEETING AT USCG-ATC FEB 15 2023



SAVC February Meeting USCG-ATC



SAVC Pres, Lou Lartigue presenting certificate of Appreciation to Operations Officer, CDR James Heller



Lou Lartigue presenting donation to Jonathan Laskiewicz



**Armed Forces Day - Blue Star Salute
5K Run/Walk 1 Mile 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 1 Mile 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.](#)



REGISTER NOW - CPR & AED WORKSHOP

Sunpaws will be hosting a CPR & AED (Automated External Defibrillator) workshop, with certification of attendees, for the celebration of Sunpaws Pet Services' TWENTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY on that very day! MARCH 18th, 10 am-2 pm in Mobile (Tillman's corner)

BSS/AFD volunteers are welcome to attend! (this is a \$50 value!) - there are 12 spots open! additional spots might be available once I have a roster together the week of :-) **to register please EMAIL me at:**

puppies@sunpaws.com

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.

[The United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps](#)



The Army Old Guard marched in the Order of Inca Mardi Gras parade in Mobile, AL



The June Jam returns to Fort Payne on June 3rd of this year (2023) according to an announcement from ALABAMA members Randy Owen and Teddy Gentry.

That announcement came as the band members recently accepted the V.I. Prewett Lifetime Achievement Award at the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce Banquet along with Lisa Cook, wife of late ALABAMA member Jeff Cook. June Jam is expected to return at the VFW Fairgrounds in Fort Payne.

(WHNT/www.whnt.com)

[June Jam Returns to Fort Payne in 2023 - WEIS | Local & Area News, Sports, & Weather \(weisradio.com\)](#)

Mobile's Azalea Trail Run Description

* 45, years running the streets of Mobile at its blooming best – join us!

The Azalea Trail Run Offers USATF certified 10K and 5K race courses, plus a 2K Fun Run/Walk. All races start and finish in downtown Mobile. All courses are flat and fast. Water and comfort stations are provided along the courses.

[Azalea Trail Run #45 in Mobile, AL, Mar 25, 2023 - Events.com](#)

March – dates to remember

- 3/3 Star Spangled Banner Day
- 3/19 Iraqi Freedom Began (Iraq War)(2003)
- 3/19 National Poultry Day
- 3/20 Equinox Earth Day, First Day of Spring*, International Day of Happiness
- 3/21 National Teenager Day, International Day of Forests, World Down Syndrome Day, World Poetry Day
- 3/22 World Water Day, first day of Ramadan*
- 3/24 Kosovo Campaign Began (1999)
- 3/25 National Medal of Honor Day
- 3/29 Vietnam Veteran's Day/Palm Sunday
- 3/31 Somalia Campaign Ended (1995)

March: Women's History Month The national month of recognition was instituted by President Jimmy

The month of March officially became Women's History Month in 1987 and gives us the opportunity to acknowledge the historical contributions of women in the United States. International Women's Day is observed on March 8th.

[Women's History Milestones: A Timeline - HISTORY](#)

SERVICE MEMBERS OF THE YEAR, PRESENTED BY MILITARY TIMES OFFICIAL RULES 2023 [Nominate | Military Times Service Members of the Year](#)

1. **Eligibility:** Service Members of the Year (the “Contest”) is open only to people nominating (the “Nominators”) and those being nominated (the “Nominees”) who are 18 years old at the time of entry. The Contest is further only open to Nominators and Nominees who are legal residents of the 50 United States who are U.S. citizens. Nominees must be active military or a member of one of the military reserves. Employees of Military Times Foundation, Sightline Media Group LLC (the “Contest Organizer”), Military Times, their respective affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies, suppliers and their immediate family members and/or those living in the same household of each are not eligible to be a Nominee. Editorial staff members of Sightline Media Group LLC are allowed to participate as a Nominator. The Contest is subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Void where prohibited.

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS!!

[The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017](#) was signed into law by 45th U.S. President Donald J. Trump, designating **every March 29** as **National Vietnam War Veterans Day**.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, the Department of Defense and the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration created a permanent exhibit on the **3rd Floor, A-Ring, corridors 3-2 in the Pentagon** as a way to thank and honor the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans and their families. This award-winning exhibit tells the story of the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War through a timeline of events, artifacts, historic photographs, and video footage.

Enjoy this interactive virtual tour of the Pentagon Vietnam War Exhibit! Link below...
[krpano - 10-1 \(vietnamwar50th.com\)](#)



The SAVC will hold a Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial, Battleship Memorial Park, on March 29 at 6:30 a.m. Join us as we recognize and honor our Vietnam Veterans.

NOTICE TO VETERANS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Silverhill Veterans Memorial Organization will have a Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial in Silverhill. On this day, we will honor two Silverhill men killed in Vietnam. In addition, we will have an entire Vietnam Day ceremony. Please plan to attend.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Frankie Kucera, SVMO President

The Silverhill Veterans Organization will hold a Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Silverhill, AL on March 29 at 10:00 am. Special honors will be given to two local Vietnam Veterans who were Killed In Action during the day Vietnam War.

[Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

February 17 at 6:00 AM

Did you know the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs is not part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs?

The ADVA is a State of Alabama department that assists former members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their dependents in numerous capacities. We provide services that complement those of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This includes the preparing of claims for and securing compensation, hospitalization, education, vocational training, and other benefits or privileges which veterans may be qualified for under Federal or State Law, or regulation, by reason of their military service. Among our many facilities, we operate state veterans homes, a state veterans cemetery, and numerous Veterans Service Offices (VSO) around the state.

The separate U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is comprised of a Central Office (VACO) and field facilities throughout the nation administered by its three major line organizations: the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

Learn more about the ADVA here: <https://va.alabama.gov>

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ADVA AND VA?



When Japan Launched Killer Balloons in World War II (From the History Channel)

Japan's bizarre WWII plan to bomb the continental U.S. by high-altitude balloons claimed its first and only victims—an Oregon church group in 1945.

Christopher Klein – UPDATED: FEB 6, 2023, ORIGINAL: MAY 5, 2015

For Reverend Archie Mitchell, the spring of 1945 was a season of change. Not only were the minister and his wife, Elsie, expecting their first child, but he had also accepted a new post as pastor of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in the sleepy logging town of Bly, Oregon. Seeking to deepen their newly planted roots, the Mitchells invited five children from their Sunday school class—all between the ages of 11 and 14—on a picnic amid the bubbling brooks and ponderosa pines of nearby Gearhart Mountain on the beautiful spring day of May 5, 1945.

After lumbering up a one-lane gravel road, Mitchell parked his sedan and began to unload picnic baskets and fishing rods as Elsie, five months pregnant, and the children explored a knoll sloping down to a nearby creek.

When 13-year-old Joan Patzke spied a strange white canvas on the forest floor, the curious girl summoned the rest of the group. “Look what we found,”

Elsie called to her husband back at the car. “It looks like some kind of balloon.” The pastor glanced over at the group gathered in a tight circle around the oddity 50 yards away. As one of the children reached down to touch it, the minister began to shout a warning but never had a chance to finish. A huge explosion rocked the placid mountainside. Elsie, the unborn baby and the five children were killed almost instantly by the blast. When a forest ranger in the vicinity came upon the scene, he found the victims radiating out like spokes around a smoldering crater and the 26-year-old minister beating his wife's burning dress with his bare hands.

What U.S. military investigators sent to the blast scene immediately knew—but didn't want anyone else to know—was that the strange contraption was a high-altitude balloon bomb launched by Japan to attack North America. After American aircraft bombed Tokyo and other Japanese cities during the Doolittle Raid of 1942, the Japanese military

command wanted to retaliate in kind but its manned aircraft were incapable of reaching the West Coast of the United States. What the Japanese military lacked in technology, however, it made up for in geography.

Between November 1944 and April 1945, the Japanese military launched more than 9,000 of the pilotless weapons in an operation codenamed “Fu-Go.” Most of the balloons fell harmlessly into the Pacific Ocean, but more than 300 of the low-tech white orbs made the 5,000-mile crossing and were spotted fluttering in the skies over the western United States and Canada—from Holy Cross, Alaska, to Nogales, Arizona, and even as far east as Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In March 1945, one balloon even hit a high-tension power line and caused a temporary blackout at the Hanford, Washington, plant that was producing plutonium that would be used in the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki five months later. None of the balloons, however, had caused any injuries—until Mitchell's church group came across the wreckage of one on Gearhart Mountain.

Citing the need to prevent panic and avoid giving the enemy location information that could allow them to hone their targeting, the U.S. military censored reports about the Japanese balloon bombs. Although many Bly locals knew the truth, they reluctantly followed military directives and adopted a code of silence about the tragedy as the media reported that the victims died in “an explosion of undetermined origin.”

By the end of May 1945, however, the military decided in the interest of public safety to reveal the true cause of the explosion and warn Americans to beware of any strange white balloons they might encounter—information divulged a month too late for the victims in Oregon.

Ultimately, Fu-Go was a military failure. Few balloons reached their targets, and the jet stream winds were only powerful enough in wintertime when snowy and damp conditions in North American forests precluded the ignition of large fires. The only casualties they caused were the deaths of five innocent children and a pregnant woman, the first and only fatalities in the continental United States due to enemy action in World War II.

[When Japan Launched Killer Balloons in World War II - HISTORY](#)

BAMA-QT
Way Down South

GRILLING AT THE BATTLESHIP
April 22, 2023
Mobile, AL

EVENT LOCATION
2703 Battleship Parkway
Mobile, AL 36602

ENTRY FEES
Steak A Only \$160
Steak A&B \$320
Anything Halls Cajun Sausage \$25
Anything Moon Pie \$25
Kids Ribeye \$25

PROMOTER INFO
Michael Smith - 334-791-6229
mike@bama-q.com
David Calametti - 251-623-1751
david@alabamacoasting.com

EACH STEAK PAYOUT

1st Place \$1000
2nd Place \$500
3rd Place \$400
4th Place \$300
5th Place \$200
6-10th Place \$100

ANYTHING SAUSAGE C
ANYTHING MOON PIE

PAYOUT

1st Place \$125
2nd Place \$75
3rd Place \$50
4th Place \$25
5th Place \$25





KIDS PAYOUT

1st Place \$100
2nd Place \$75
3rd Place \$50

EVENT TIMELINE

10am Cooks Meeting
Steak Selection A & B
11:00 Judges Meeting
12-12:15 Kids Turn In
1-1:15 Sausage Turn In
2-2:15 Moon Pie Turn In
3-3:30 Steak A Turn In
4:30-5 Steak B Turn In
6:00 Awards

SCA REPS
Kandis Rodgers
870-225-6749
Carol Burdison

SIGN UP AT STEAKCOOKOFFS.COM

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

 **VETERANS RECOVERY RESOURCES**

www.vetsrecover.org #vetsrecover

Helping 2 Overcome

What's new?!? How about our new H2O ;IGY6 Membership!

Who: Veterans, Active / Reserve Military Members / First Responders / Dependent Family Members
Cost: Free

Built in discounts on Charters / Apparel / Specialty Courses / and Travel!

Learn more here:

https://vrr-h2oprogram.org/products/igy6_registration_o



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 \(vetsforhope.com\)](http://vetsforhope.com)



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.



**2023 National Legion College
application online**

The 2023 National American Legion College (NALC) is scheduled for Nov. 12-17 in Indianapolis at American Legion National Headquarters. Visit legion.org/college/application to download a fillable student application. All applications must be endorsed by your respective department and submitted to National Headquarters by July 31.

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