



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 Atkison, Sy Lichtenfeld, Spiritus Emeritus SAVC

NEXT SAVC MEETING – Tuesday March 19, 2024 – 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:



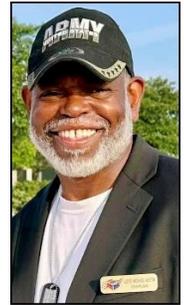
"February was a busy and productive month even with the roller-coaster weather. We must remember that March comes and goes like a lion or lamb--which will it be? Either way, we will see the days getting longer, pollen falling, and spring coming.

By the time you receive our newsletter voting will have taken place. We wish good luck and prayers to all those who were elected.

We have several Veteran Events taking place during March. We have the Tails & Trails event in McIntosh on 9 March, the ADVA "Veteran Well-Being Day" at the Nix Center in Fairhope at 1000-1200 hrs. on March 26 followed by the dedication of the new section at the Veterans Cemetery at Spanish Fort at 1300 hrs., and more importantly Vietnam Memorial Day on Friday 29 March. The SAVC will celebrate the day with a Day Light Flag Raising at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park at 0700 hrs. Please join us in Remembering our Fallen Brothers and Sisters of the Vietnam War."

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

Chaplains Corner:



Greetings everyone!

It's now faith

Read Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen."

Our faith should always be in the present moment. (NOW). Not just at a particular moment when we really need something from God. We should be able to pull on the faith right now, the faith that we have already built up through the hearing of the word. If we turn the word NOW around it spells WON, just think about that for a minute, we have won with our now faith. The substance is whatever things we are hoping for, the Bible says why hope for things that we already have? The evidence is that we already know that God has a winning record and that he can do anything but fail. We know that he can do it now, even if he doesn't do it now. Hence now faith!

In Jesus' Name Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain SAVC

Tuberville announces Lloyd Michael Austin of Mobile as February's Alabama Veteran of the Month



Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplains, SAVC

A veteran of both Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Austin joined the Army after graduating from Williamson High School, following in the footsteps of his WWII veteran father.

"For many of our veterans, their challenges don't end when they leave the military; no one knows that better than Sergeant Lloyd Michael Austin of Mobile, AL," Tuberville said.

After returning from combat, Austin suffered from PTSD. He felt isolated from his friends and family and attempted to self-medicate to cover the pain and suffering, both physical and mental. That eventually led to him attempting suicide.

"Some of our veterans come home with scars you can't see. They fight our battles and then come home to fight their own battles .

Sgt. Lloyd Michael Austin of Mobile is using his experiences to help other veterans. It's my honor to recognize him as the February Veteran of the Month."

-Senator Tommy Tuberville

FACEBOOK: [Facebook](#) Alabama Veterans For Better Healthcare

Alabama Veterans for Better Health Care

With the federal VA health care system overwhelmed and wait times of up to two to three months, Alabama's Veterans need better access to care tailored to their specific needs. HB197/SB135 - the Veterans Access-to-Care Bill - authorizes the **Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs** to establish and operate a health care system for the state's Veterans and immediate families.



(Sighted in Montgomery 2/29/2024! Urge your legislators to support House Bill 197/Senate Bill 135 - the Veterans Access-to-Care Bill!)

Since 2017, the **Alabama Department of Mental Health** has **spent \$40 million per year** on the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council... **with ZERO dollars allocated** to the specific care of **Veterans** or their families.

Meanwhile, **Veteran opioid overdoses** in Alabama **have soared**.

Alabama Veterans deserve better. Please **contact your legislators** and ask them **to support the Veterans Access-to-Care bill** (House Bill 197 and Senate Bill 135).

The Veterans Access-to-Care bill authorizes the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs to establish and operate a statewide integrated healthcare system for Alabama Veterans and their immediate families.

This state-run system is desperately needed because of the healthcare crisis facing the state's nearly 400,000 Veterans and the inability of existing systems to address the needs of Veterans.

Bills filed authorizing the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs to establish & operate a statewide integrated healthcare system for Alabama veterans and their families.

HB197 <https://www.legislature.state.al.us/pdf/SearchableInstruments/2024RS/HB197-int.pdf>

SB135 <https://www.legislature.state.al.us/pdf/SearchableInstruments/2024RS/SB135-int.pdf>

[Find My Elected Officials Map | Alabama Secretary of State](#)



Judge Michael Windom will be the guest speaker at the March 19 SAVC meeting.

Judge Windom will give us an update of the Veterans Treatment Court which he is pleased to say is working really well.

On Friday, August 25, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. the Mobile County Circuit Court launched a revamped Veterans Treatment Court. The docket focused on addressing the specific needs of veterans who are involved in the criminal justice system. The program is aimed at treating veteran mental health and substance abuse issues and reducing recidivism.

Mobile County Circuit Judge Michael Windom serves as the lead judge for the program.

The Mobile County Veterans Treatment Court offers qualified veterans an opportunity to access community resources in conjunction with existing Veterans Affairs resources. The program is free for the veteran except for a monthly drug testing fee.

Eligible veterans will participate in a 14-month program consisting of five phases during which an interdisciplinary team will work with them and track their progress. After successfully completing the program, their charges are dismissed.

This program provides an invaluable service to help veterans get back on their feet. Mentors stay in contact with those who qualify for the program and oftentimes will keep in contact even after they have graduated from the program.

Veterans Treatment Court meets every other Friday at 1:30 p.m. room 6400. You are welcome to attend.

JUSTICE FOR VETS

Provides training and technical assistance to Veteran mentors participating in the Veterans Treatment Court program, connecting them with services available all levels. Justice For Vets, a division of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, is dedicated to transforming the way the justice system assesses and treats Veterans, leading the national effort to put a Veterans Treatment Court in reach of every Veteran in need.

One of their resources:



Mission Statement

Help individuals and families live more productive lives through counseling, assistance, referrals, and education.

SAVC through its Grant Program donated to the Veterans Treatment Court in 2023



Lou Lartigue & Mobile County Circuit Judge Michael Windom, Veterans Court Lead Judge

The Mobile County Veterans Treatment Court is modeled after the Baldwin County Treatment Court which has been a huge success.

The Baldwin County Veterans Court program has been used as a model and is now being used in almost every county in Alabama.

Baldwin County Veterans Court is held every other Tuesday at the Baldwin County Satellite Courthouse in Foley. You can also donate to the program through the Baldwin County Veterans Court Foundation, a non-profit organization.

Baldwin County District Judge Michelle Thomason founded the Baldwin County Veterans Court in Feb. 2014, with a vision to provide “genuine people who genuinely care about your well-being and want you to succeed,” to veterans who have been involved with the court system.

This is her story:

[Judge inspires with story of Veterans Treatment Court | News | cullmantimes.com](#)

2024 Military Appreciation Luncheon

March 27, 2024 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CDT)

Description



FOLLOW THE LINK TO REGISTER:
[2024 Military Appreciation Luncheon Events - Mobile Chamber](#)



It's that time again. Your Career Center's Veterans' Team is hosting its Annual Job Fair, scheduled for April 16, 2024, from 9 am to 3 pm at the Fort Whiting Amory. The first hour is the Veterans' Priority Hour, however, no one will be turned away if a non-veteran.

Contact Mrs. Brendlyn Newman for a registration form for the event. Please have your registration returned by close of business, Thursday, 4 April 2024. This date allows us time to tie up any loose ends for the event. Your point of contact is Mrs. Brendlyn Newman, LVER, Cc Line, at brendlyn.newman@alcc.alabama.gov.

Lastly, they are seeking 2-3 sponsors for the event to provide lunch and refreshments. If you are willing to sponsor, they will do the leg work and provide 3 lunch estimates. Their sponsor will make the final decision.

Should you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Eric or Brendlyn. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Eric L. Marshall

VETERANS' SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE, EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

251-461-4447 | Eric.Marshall@alcc.alabama.gov
515 Springhill Plaza
Court Mobile, AL 36608
Labor.Alabama.gov

FOLLOW THE LINK TO NOMINATE YOUR CHOICE

[General Gary Cooper Outstanding Service Award - Presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union Nomination Application \(google.com\)](#)



The General Gary Cooper Outstanding Service Award - Presented by Keesler Credit Union is in honor of Mobile native, Major General J. Gary Cooper, USMC, and is given to a member of the community who best embodies the attributes that General Cooper displayed throughout his incredible career.

WWII & Korean War Veteran honored at the February MOAA Luncheon

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at the MOAA Luncheon at the Heron Lakes Country Club, Colonel Steve Carey, USAF (Retired), President of the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission presented the Korean War Veteran's Medallion to Chester Feagin, 98, a World War II and Korean War Veteran.

For Veterans Day 2003, the Korean War Veterans were selected as the Mobile Bay Area Patriots of the Year. The medallions were presented to all Korean War veterans commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the ending of the Korean War, however, Chester did not receive his medallion at that time. Thankfully, Steve was able to rectify that oversight.



Steve Carey, Col USAF (Ret), Chester Feagin





South Alabama Veterans Council

VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

Tom Schwarz, Vietnam Veteran Treasurer, South Alabama Veterans Council

Tom joined the Navy in February 1971, after attending Pekin Community High School in Pekin, IL. He graduated boot camp in San Diego, CA in May, and was stationed on the USS Orleck DD-886, a Gearing-class destroyer. While serving on the Orleck, the “Grey Ghost of the Vietnam Coast,” the crew was ordered to Yankee Station in the South China Sea and maintained a position at the DMZ until the end of the year. He transferred to Treasurer Island, CA, where he earned a G.E.D. and received an Honorable Discharge in March of 1972.

In 1975, he met Dale Young at Mardi Gras in New Orleans, LA, and married her in 1979. On June 15, 1979, thirteen days after his marriage to Dale, he suffered a life-changing injury while diving off a bridge in Mississippi. His injuries left him temporarily paralyzed from the neck down. Three years later, he was able to walk with a cane, but time has taken its toll. With limited dexterity, Tom now uses a mobility cart to get around.

Tom’s career as a volunteer began in 1993 when he helped with the Mobile Air Show. In the spring of 1994, he joined the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 701, which had just received their charter in November 1993. He was invited to be the membership chair, and within a year, the membership had doubled. In 1996 and 1997, Tom was Awarded Outstanding Service as Membership Chair for the Alabama State Council while being the second Vice-President from 1996 to 1998. Tom was Chapter 701’s Veteran of the Year in 1998.

He has hosted numerous *Flag Day Ceremonies* at the Mobile County Court House. He was ASC Secretary from 1998 to 2000, and during this time, was Treasurer and Project Manager of the *Lower Alabama Vietnam Veterans Memorial*, which is located at Battleship Memorial Park. He and a team of six other members from Chapters 701 and 864 worked on the memorial each weekend. He was the co-chairman of the *Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall* when it was on

display in Mobile from April 21 through April 23, 2001. For his dedication and hard work, he was awarded the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce *Public Service Award*, and The ASC Verbon Evans Selfless Servant Award. In 2001, he served on the Steering Committee for the Korean Memorial.

From 1998 to the present, Tom has been the Treasurer of the South Alabama Veterans Council and was President from 2004 to 2006. In 1999, as Flag Chairman of the SAVC, he and his committee placed 1900 flags in Mobile County schools. In 2009 and 2012, Tom received the ASC *Hooper Award*. In 2010, he was again given the *Verbon Evans Selfless Servant Award*. He is a third-degree Knight of Columbus Council 4888, an active member of the Men of St. Joseph, and a Pilgrim Servant of Mary. In 2014, Tom was awarded *Vietnam Veteran of America, Alabama State Council’s Veteran of the Year*. He was given a beautiful plaque, but the best gift ever was the Quilts of Valor wrapping him in his quilt.

Education: AS Degree in Accounting Technology from Bishop State Junior College, 1995.

Tom and Dale have one daughter, Rachel, born in 1984, one granddaughter, Ari, and one grandson, Reed.



MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER SAVC MEETING MARCH 19

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Women's History Month | Month of March |
| Navy Reserve Birthday | March 3 |
| Hug a GI Day | March 4 |
| Seabee Birthday | March 5 |
| Daylight Saving Time Begins | March 10, 2024 |
| K-9 Veterans Day | March 13 |
| American Legion Birthday | March 15 |
| St. Patrick's Day | March 17 |
| Rosie The Riveter Day | March 21 |
| Medal of Honor Day | March 25 |
| National Vietnam War Veterans Day | March 29 |

A national holiday to recognize and honor Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War.

[Learn more about Vietnam Veterans Day here.](#)



STAND WITH US!

Proudly display your love for our military and support for our veterans by standing with Crusaders for Veterans.

HELP US DISSEMINATE
by sharing information on the events upcoming:

March 29, 2024, Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony at the Biloxi National Cemetery beginning at 10AM.

During this event Crusaders for Veterans will be presenting the Biloxi National Cemetery with a bronze plaque in respect and memory for our Vietnam veterans - to include those who have died as a result from their service in Vietnam.



July 19, 2024, Honoring Our Home Front, at the Diamondhead Country Club Grand Ballroom starting at 6PM.

During this event we will share an original poem being written AND a special Challenge Coin made in honor of those who kept the home fronts stable and carefree for our active duty deployed service members.

HELP US REACH AS MANY ACTIVE DUTY/VETERANS WHO WISH TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO WERE THERE FOR THEM!



THE BALLARD FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR FAMILY AS WE CELEBRATE
THE BALLARD FAMILY FRIENDS DAY
SATURDAY MARCH 16
11:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.
SEMME COMMUNITY CENTER
10141 MOFFETT RD
SEMME, AL



Bring your favorite covered dish to share

OUT OF THE DEEP GULF COAST VETERANS SERVICE A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

16

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 AT 6 AM – 1 PM

Inaugural Celebrity Fishing Rodeo

If you would like to Sponsor a Vet to fish in our inaugural fishing tournament you may Venmo any amount by scanning the QR code below or contact Captain Elijah Crawford. Your donation will allow a VET to fish with a celebrity on March 16. We thank you in advance for changing the lives of those who fought for ours.

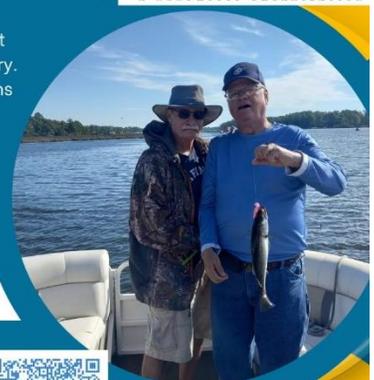
Building Bridges Changing Lives



The Charity Fundraiser is your invitation to be a part of something extraordinary. Together, let's turn dreams into reality, one heartfelt donation at a time.

- ✓ Online Donations
- ✓ Change a Vets life

DONATE NOW





Date and time: Saturday, March 9 · 10 am - 8 pm CST

Location: The Lodge at Double Gates, Frank Boykin Drive, Wagarville, AL, 850 Frank Boykin Drive Wagarville, AL 36585

Refund Policy: Contact the organizer to request a refund.

Eventbrite's fee is nonrefundable.

Agenda:

10:00 AM Registration, raffles, and vendors open

11:00 AM: Lunch is served 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Show & Shine Judging: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Live music by Mobile Second Line Society 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Flag Retirement Ceremony: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Raffle Drawing” 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Announcement of Awards: 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM

Dry Trail Ride - Red and Yellow Groups 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM

Jeep Photo - Green and Blue Groups 2:15 PM - 3:00 PM

Dry Trail Ride - Green and Blue Groups 2:15 PM - 3:00 PM

Jeep Photo - Red and Yellow Groups 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Quick Break Before Wet Trail Ride 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM

Wet Trail Ride 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Taco Truck Serving Dinner 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Light Competition - Sponsored by Audiowave Car Stereo = 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Jeremy Rowe Concert 7:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Firework Show - Presented by Trail Traders

VETERAN RECOVERY

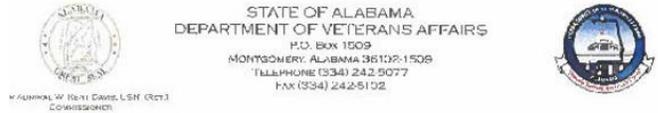
TO HELP END THEIR WAR, WE MUST OPEN THE DOOR. THEIR LIVES TO RESTORE, FROM WHAT THEY ENDURE.

WITH AN AFFORDABLE HOME, AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, ESTABLISH VETERAN OUTREACH, THROUGHOUT EACH COMMUNITY.

THE VETS' ROAD TO RECOVERY, LEADS TO RENEWED DISCOVERY. A SELF SUFFICIENT REALITY, AN END OF THE WAR MENTALITY.

Joe Lee Colman JOMAC - Poetry in Action

THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND CITY OF FAIRHOPE INVITE YOU TO A VETERANS WELL-BEING RESOURCE FAIR Tuesday, March 26 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. James P. Nix Senior Center (1 Bayou Drive, Fairhope, AL 36532) Keynote address provided by State Rep. Frances Holk-Jones LEARN MORE ABOUT: Mental Health Services, Community Resources, Veterans' Federal and State Benefits and more!



January 25, 2024

The City of Fairhope in partnership with Alabama's Challenge will host a Veteran's Well-Being Town Hall beginning at 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at James P. Nix Center in Fairhope on March 26. This is a special event to promote awareness of suicide among our service members, veterans, and their families, and to identify resources in the community that will meet their well-being needs.

Suicide is complicated. In 2021, 143 veterans died by suicide in Alabama. Experiences prior to, during, and following military service, coupled with the stigma associated with the simple act of asking for help have resulted in elevated suicide rates among Veterans.

Significantly lowering the veteran suicide rate requires in depth collaboration. Alabama's Challenge for Preventing Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) is an initiative aimed at creating an impactful, long-term outcome across the state. Members of the initiative are partnering with cities across the state to host Alabama Challenge's Town Hall meetings to learn at a grassroots level how to improve this issue.

By attending the town hall, we hope to increase understanding of this national suicide crisis, its prevalence and the risk factors for our military service members and veterans, and acquire tools for prevention, assessment, and intervention.

A promotional flyer is included if you wish to post this invitation for all interested parties. Should you have any questions, please call Sissy Louise Moore 334-242-5077. Thank you.

Sincerely,

W. Kent Davis

W. Kent Davis Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.) Commissioner



VETS RECOVER TRANSFORMING THE CULTURE OF CARE

“We are so grateful to the local Home Depot team that provided expert volunteers and supplies for the construction of a 1000-foot privacy fence at our new Detox & Residential Treatment Facility! Thank you for helping us ensure care for our area veterans, first responders, and their families along the Gulf Coast.” -Vets Recover Team



14

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024 AT 10 AM

Winged Wonders:
Birds, Conservation and Outdoor Discovery

Living History Crew Drill Every Month.



SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024 AT 8 AM

Living History Crew Drill

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park



SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024 AT 6:30 AM

Easter Sunrise Service

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

[The service is free of charge and open to the public.](#)

Join us for our annual Easter Sunrise Service presented by Government Street Baptist Church. The service is held on the grounds in front of the USS ALABAMA. Seating is limited so bring a chair, just in case.

BMP AMENITIES INCLUDE: Kennels, Bird Observatory, fishing pier, covered picnic tables, and also a bicycle repair station, and much more.

March 29, 0700 Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Day, SAVC - Flag Raising Ceremony at Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Battleship Memorial Park.

Buffalo Soldiers 92nd Inf Div – March 29, Revelation Baptist Church special Veterans Ceremony.



APR 19 AT 12 PM – APR 20 AT 3 PM

Dixie Division Military Vehicle Show

2703 Battleship Pkwy, Mobile, AL, United States, Alabama 36602

APRIL



NEWS | March 29, 2023

Vietnam War Veterans Day: a day to pay tribute, and honor those who served in Vietnam

By Linda Lambiotte USAG Rheinland-Pfalz Public Affairs

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany –

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day, a day meant to pay tribute to veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were prisoners of war or who were listed as missing in action.

Established as an observance in 2017 after the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act was signed into law by President Donald Trump, the day is also an opportunity to show appreciation for the involvement and support of allies during the Vietnam War.

On this day we honor those who, regardless of their personal feelings or family commitments, joined the service and served our country selflessly on the field of battle when their nation called.

According to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 310, more than 2.7 million Americans served in Vietnam. Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21, with the average age of killed service members being 23.1 years.

Vietnam veterans count for almost 10% of their generation. One out of every 10 of them was a casualty, and 75,000 were severely disabled. Despite this, Vietnam War veterans received little or nothing in terms of recognition and gratitude when they returned to the United States.

The very last American troop departed from Vietnam on March 29, 1973.

On Memorial Day 2012, President Barack Obama launched a Vietnam War Commemoration to remember the Vietnam War 50th anniversary over a 13-year period.

During this time, the Federal Government pledged to partner with local communities and private organizations to honor and recognize more than 58,000 patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation, the 150,000 who were wounded, and to do everything possible to bring home more than 1,700 service members who are listed as missing in action. (Data provided by the Defense Casualty Analysis System)

The 13-year commemoration will conclude on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2025.



NOW HIRING!
**HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS,
 DRIVERS, AND MECHANICS**

APPLY NOW

We are seeking individuals with a military background, with experience operating heavy equipment, mechanics and drivers. If you've served in the military and have experience with heavy machinery, we want to hear from you! Join our team and bring your expertise to the forefront. Apply now to be part of a dynamic, safe and rewarding work environment where your skills and dedication are valued.

Open Positions

Drivers: Starting at \$22.00

Mechanics: Starting at \$26.00

Heavy Equipment Operators: Based on Experience



Benefits

- Competitive wages based on experience and qualifications.
- Health Insurance, 401k, and other benefits available.
- Opportunities for advancement and professional development.
- Positive work environment with a supportive team culture.

How to Apply:

Please send your resume and cover letter to Tinson.asia@agseus.com

One More Point Here!

Add More Great Info Here!

You Have Room for Another One Here!

ALLIANCE GREEN SERVICES

800 Industrial Park drive
 Calvert, AL 36518
 251-533-2548



[American Legion Post 153 Has Moved](#)

5751 Highway 45, Prichard, AL, , 36613

New Commander: Jay Heatwole displaying their new Challenge Coin



The ADVA has 63 offices statewide that provide Veterans with free services, including counseling, hands-on assistance in submitting applications for VA compensation and pension claims, and assisting with all other state and federal veterans benefits and services. Find locations and office hours here:

<https://va.alabama.gov/serviceofficer/>

VETERANS MEMORIAL RECOVERY TEAM

Purple Heart & Silver Star recipient - When we find a Veteran who died serving our country, it makes our efforts so worthwhile. We haven't located his grave, but our cohorts, Jim & Georganne are getting close...Sam "The Cookie Man" Jarrell Small, Jr. was killed in-country on 8/11/1969. I will be adding him to our University of Vietnam gallery. RIP Cookie Man, your memory lives on. Fran, President **VMRT**

<https://www.photographybyfran.us/.../VIETNAM-KIA-OAKLAWN...>

<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/47969/SAM-J-SMALL-JR/>

<https://www.findagrave.com/.../150525197/sam-jarrell-small>



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.

MOBILE MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY
 MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES®



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

Women's History Month

March 1-31, 2024

Generations of women--in the air and on sea and ground--served in the U.S. armed forces with honor and pride.

If you're interested in the history of women in the United States' military, visit these links:

[The American Presidency Project: Presidential Proclamations](#)

[Department of Defense](#)

[Library of Congress: Women's History Month](#)

[U.S. Census Bureau: Facts for Features](#)

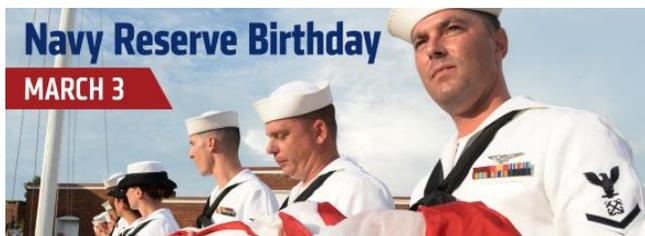
[National Women's History Alliance](#)

[History: National Women's History Month](#)

[VA Center for Women Veterans](#)

[WomenVetsUSA Historical Timelines \(many related resource links\)](#)

[WomenVetsUSA History/Heritage Library](#)



Happy birthday **Navy Reserve!** For 109 years, the Navy Reserve has been "Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere." Naval Reservists have served in every major war that the U.S. has fought in since they were created on March 3, 1915. Were you in the Navy Reserves? Tell us about your experience in the comments and tag a friend you served with to wish them a happy birthday!

South Alabama Veterans Council

Minutes February 20, 2024 Meeting

Breakfast was provided by Judge Richard Foreman

CALL TO ORDER: President Lou Lartigue called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. -38 attend - Location Saucy Q BBQ

OPENING PRAYER: Champlain Michael Austin

PLEDGE: Jim Jeffries

WELCOME: Lou Lartigue welcomed everyone, and recognized new attendees and candidates for the upcoming election. Lloyd Michael Austin was recognized for his award presented by Senator Tuberville as Alabama Veteran of the Month. Joana Bucci, candidate for district court Judge spoke briefly about her campaign. Nick Matranga spoke briefly about his campaign for License Commissioner, and Sharla Knox Circuit Court Clerk.

MINUTES: Minutes for the January meeting were mailed in the newsletter. Nine snail mail newsletters and 550 emails. Minutes approved as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: - Stamps for newsletter purchased. **GRANT:** Grant to Service Dogs Alabama, and QOV of Mobile. **SAVC** received a donation from Mobile Memorial Gardens.

Veterans Activities: Jim Jeffries reported on the American Legion 6th Annual Veterans Retreat.

State Veterans Cemetery – Pat Downing reported the dedication and consecration ceremony will be held on Tuesday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m. Total 3926 internments, 12 Guard and Reserves so far.

BMP - Col Patrick Downing – Teak deck project completion March 14. Getting a contractor to operate the Galley which is temporarily closed.

ADVA – Sissie-Louise Moore – Reported on the expansion at the cemetery, Dedication, and Consecration ceremony on March 26, coinciding with the Veterans Resource and Town Hall in Fairhope. TAPS is available 24/7.

Vets Recovery: John Kilpatrick invited everyone to come and check out the facility, Tentative Grand Opening on April 17, and residential services applied for. Grant to renovate the property next door, it will be converted into outpatient services. The restaurant will be available to host events

Buffalo Soldiers 92ND Infantry – Eddie Irby invited everyone to attend the "Miracle at St Anna" movie showing at the Toulminville branch library. At Revelation Baptist Church, March 29, a special program honoring Vietnam Veterans.

Special Guest - Judge Richard Foreman spoke on his campaign

Tax Commissioner Nick Matranga spoke on applying for veterans' tags

Out of the Deep – Capt Eli reported on the upcoming Fishing Celebrity Rodeo, American Legion Post 250 raffle to raise money for Veterans' fishing trips. OOTD donated \$250.00 to Vets Recovery.

Lou reported on the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Ceremony at BMP, on March 29, AFD/BSS scaled down this year.

VSO's reported on their upcoming events.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am

Fran Barber

Secretary, SAVC

February 20, 2024