



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



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Capt Hal Pierce, Bill Atkeison, Spiritus Emeritus SAVC

NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- June 20, 2023 – 8:30 a.m. - Saucy Q

1111 Government St–Mobile AL

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

Presidents Corner



Wow, time flies when you are having a good time!!
"The past month has been a rush and a great time for our SAVC. Again we pulled off another great Armed Forces Day & Blue Star Salute. This was our 9th Year and I think the best we have ever done. The day was wonderful. The prep was spot-on and we hit the ground running at 0730 hrs. We had over 350 runners for the 5 K Run
The program was great with the US Army Silver Wings Parachute Demo Team's jump and the expert flying of the Alabama National Guard with their UH-60 and static display. The program was flawless with a great guest speaker, and all the Blue and Gold Star participants.
We had a guest appearance from Thom Kaz of Whiskey Town at the end of the event. All-in-All it was a total success. Thanks to our great planning team and the volunteers who made it happen.
We also conducted the Flag raising and lowering of the National Colors at BMP at 0700 hrs. at the Vietnam Memorial. It too was a great event and a perfect way to start the Memorial Day Events to honor our Veterans who Gave All in support of our Nation."

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

Chaplains Corner:



Greetings!
It's ALL or nothing Read:
Mark 12:30

"And you shall love the LORD your GOD with ALL your heart, and with ALL your soul, and with ALL your mind, and with ALL your strength: this is the first commandment."
Jesus said give your ALL, don't hold back. Because we reap what we sow. When we give it ALL, we get it ALL... ALL the forgiveness, repentance, deliverance, salvation,
Holy Ghost, healing, breakthroughs, miracles, anointing, baptism, love, faith, power, joy, peace, benefits, and the list goes on and on. So make a point to give your ALL.

In Jesus' Name Amen!
Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin,
Chaplain SAVC



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mobile, AL: Today we are announcing that Veterans Recovery Resources will be rebranded as Vets Recover - Transforming the Culture of Care. We will continue to offer the same expert level of care for mental and physical health.

As of today, Vets Recover is one of only three Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) in Alabama, and the only CCBHC in the United States focused on Service Members, Veterans, First Responders, and their families. The CCBHC model is designed to increase access to behavioral health services, including crisis services, that respond to local community needs, incorporate evidence-based practices, and establish care coordination to help people navigate behavioral healthcare, physical healthcare, and social services. For more information visit: [Alabama - CCBHC](#).

Vets Recover Founder & CEO, John Kilpatrick said, "Changing our name to Vets Recover is another step in the evolution of our organization. We've used the term internally for years and our website URL has been [vetsrecover.org](#) since the beginning. We hope it simplifies things, especially for those in our community who are in desperate need of the life-saving care we provide."

The VRR team is continuously finding ways to remove barriers to care for all. Last year we served hundreds of unique individuals through clinical and community engagement. Services offered are:

- 24-hour Crisis Services
- Screening, Assessment, and Diagnosis
- Person-Centered Treatment Planning
- Outpatient Behavioral Health Services
- Outpatient Primary Care Screening and Monitoring
- Psychiatric rehabilitation
- Peer to Peer support
- Communication options such as TTD, TDY, and foreign language services
- Transportation assistance
- Telehealth

In short, we are taking an innovative approach focusing on the entirety of needs—from immediate behavior health to physical health to whole-person wellness. The goal is to be accessible, affordable, and empathetic.

The next phase of our journey is to open our Detox & Residential Treatment Facility in November of 2023 on Springhill Ave next door to the current clinic. The new facility will have 34 beds, create approximately 30 new jobs, and add \$3 million in annual payroll into this community; providing a level of care previously not available within a four-hour drive of Mobile.



VETS RECOVER

TRANSFORMING THE CULTURE OF CARE

Residential Treatment Facility Fact Sheet- May 17, 2023

The Care Provided by the VRR Residential Treatment Facility

- *Level III.7 Medically Monitored Withdrawal Management (highest level of care)
- *Level III.5 Intensive Residential Substance Use & Co-Occurring Mental Healthcare
- Interdisciplinary Culturally Competent
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Respite Care
- Peer Support

*For more information on levels of care:

<https://www.asam.org/asam-criteria/about-the-asam-criteria>

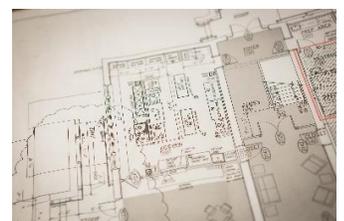
The Community Impact:

- Helping revitalize a disadvantaged area of the community
- Providing an economic boost to the area by offering 30 additional new job
- Committed \$8.4 capital investment to new facility

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The Detox & Residential Treatment Facility located next door to our Clinic- 1156 Springhill Ave., is scheduled to open by the end of this year. The facility will have 34 beds, create approximately 30 new jobs, and add \$3 million in annual payroll into this community, providing a level of care previously not available within a four-hour drive of Mobile.

Mission: Vets Recover will remove barriers to care, deliver quality integrated health care, and build a better community through recovery and connection.



HISTORY OF THE VETS RECOVER RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER BUILDING:



The brick Raphael Semmes School Building was built c. 1911 on Springhill Avenue in midtown Mobile, Alabama. The 1924 Sanborn Fire Insurance map features a brick, t-shaped, two-story building with a wood-frame one-story rear wing along the western property line. This rear wing served as the technical training school. A newspaper article from 1948 explains that Raphael Semmes Technical operated as two schools, providing specialized training for elementary and high school students. The 1955 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the same two-story, brick, t-shaped main building but the rear wing has changed. The wood-frame rear wing is connected via a breezeway and is now two stories tall. The building has also been moved to center behind the main building. This wood-frame rear addition is no longer extant, but the exterior of the main, two-story brick building remains largely unchanged. The history of the Raphael Semmes School Building in the 1960s was dominated by the prospect and later reality of desegregation. The building had operated as a whites only school until the white school district had been terminated due to a lack of students in 1958. For two years the building housed white students from other districts while new schools were under construction. The nearby black schools were operating on swing-shift schedules due to overcrowding, and a petition to convert the Raphael Semmes School to a black school had been filed. An August 1960 issue of the Mobile Press Register reported that, bowing to pressure from neighboring white property owners, the Mobile County School Board voted to accept proposals for the purchase of the property up to October 15 of that year rather than convert the building. However, it must be assumed that the property was not purchased, or the school board reversed their decision, as the Directory for Mobile Public Schools from 1961-1962 lists Northside Elementary at 1200 Springhill Avenue under the "Negro Schools" listings. The building continued to be used as Northside Elementary, offering grades 1-6, at least until 1966 as evidenced by the Mobile City Directories and the Directories of Mobile Public Schools up to the 1965-1966 publication. Later, resources refer to 1200 Springhill Avenue as Howard

Elementary School from the late 1960s to c. 1975. It is unclear exactly when the school became desegregated, but it can be assumed that it was by the late 1960s based on the progression of the desegregation of the Mobile County School system by 1970. In 1975, the building is listed as the County Board of Education Continuous Learning Center in the Mobile City Street Directory, which occupied the building through the 1980s.

The historic c. 1911 Raphael Semmes School Building has been incorporated into the Old Dauphin Way National Register Historic District through a boundary expansion. The district, listed in 1984, includes 766 acres and approximately 1,907 structures. The period of significance for the Old Dauphin Way Historic District is ca. 1830s-1940s and it is significant under Criterion C for Architecture and Criterion A for Community Planning and Development. The district is architecturally significant for its collection of middle class residential structures representing 19th and early 20th century architectural styles ranging from coastal vernacular during the early years to nationally standardized styles in the mid-1920s to ca. 1940s. In addition, the Old Dauphin Way Historic District serves as an example of the development and growth of a southern suburban neighborhood during the period of significance. The Raphael Semmes School Building joins two other schools listed as contributing within the boundaries of the Old Dauphin Way Historic District. School buildings help to represent the development of a neighborhood and therefore contribute to the Criterion A Community Planning and Development significance. In addition, they contribute to a sense of neighborhood and help to diversify the streetscape of thriving communities. The Raphael Semmes School Building contributes to the district's Criterion C Architecture significance as a representation of turn of the century institutional design. Overall, the historic character of the property has been largely preserved as the Raphael Semmes School Building retains the character and design of the c. 1911 institutional design. The institutional form of architecture, reserved for public education facilities, within the Old Dauphin Way Historic District, is reflected in the Raphael Semmes School and the other academic buildings within the district. The historic function of the buildings also lends substance to the narrative of offering public education within a largely walkable residential area, which was common at the time. -----

Stephen McNair, Ph.D. | McNair Historic Preservation, Inc.

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Website: mcnairhp.com

5 FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT D-DAY

1. A forecast that may have won the war

D-Day was originally scheduled for June 5, 1944 but poor weather predictions influenced General Dwight D. Eisenhower to delay the invasion. Eisenhower's chief meteorologist, British Capt. James Stagg stood alone in his assessment of impending rough seas and high winds for the English Channel against the predictions of his colleagues. The improved weather on June 6, while not ideal, is often cited in the overall success of Operation Overlord.

Read More:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2014/06/03/d-day-weather-forecast/9914207/>

2. The landing craft boats were originally designed for use in Louisiana swamps

Land Craft Vehicle Personnel Ship

Lumber businessman and former Nebraska National Guard Infantry Officer Andrew Higgins had a hard time extracting hardwood trees from the back swamps of Louisiana. His early 1900s era boats kept running aground in the shallow waters. To remedy this, he designed a shallow draft boat and continued to improve the design over the next few decades. The U.S. Government purchased more than 20,000 of the Land Craft Vehicle Personnel ships. His boats served in North Africa, Italy, Normandy, and the islands of the Pacific. General Eisenhower once called Higgins "the man who won the war for us."

Read more: <http://www.higginsmemorial.com/higgins.asp>

3. The son of a U.S. President stormed the beaches of Normandy

Theodore Roosevelt Jr., son of U.S. President and Spanish-American War Rough Rider Teddy Roosevelt, was no stranger to combat. He had been gassed and wounded in the battle of Soissons during World War I and was quick to volunteer for WWII. Brigadier General Roosevelt had already led troops in Northern Africa and Sicily when he was reassigned to England to assist in the Normandy Invasion. Roosevelt's several requests to land with the first wave of the invasion were denied, but his final petition was accepted.

Theodore Roosevelt Jr.

Roosevelt at 56 was the oldest man and only general in the first wave to storm the beaches of Normandy. In addition, he was the only father to serve with his son on D-Day. His son Capt. Quentin Roosevelt II landed at Omaha Beach. General Roosevelt who had longstanding health problems, arthritis, a heart condition, and injuries sustained in WWI, charged the beach with his cane and pistol. Upon learning that the unit had drifted a mile off course during the landing he modified the original plans under fire to attain objective success. Gen. Omar Bradley later recalled that Ted

Roosevelt displayed the single most heroic action he had ever seen in combat.

A little over a month after D-Day, Theodore Roosevelt Jr. died of a heart attack. He was buried at the American Cemetery in Normandy. Roosevelt was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the beach landing on Sept. 28 1944.

Read more:

<http://www.history.army.mil/html/moh/wwII-m-s.html>

4. Eisenhower and Churchill both feared defeat

Eisenhower's letter "In case the Nazis won"

General Eisenhower prepared a letter that was to be opened in the event of the invasion's defeat. It reads "Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air, and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone." He dated the letter July 5 instead of June 5, a simple error from a man under extreme pressure. The contingency letter was labeled "In case the Nazis won."

Winston Churchill knew defeat all too well. It was his decisions that resulted in the deaths of as many as 58,000 French and British troops during the Gallipoli campaign during WWI. Churchill was removed from his position as First Admiralty of the Navy and the botched invasion weighed so heavily on him that he volunteered to serve in the trenches on the western front.

The invasion of Normandy brought back all too familiar feelings of sending men to their deaths. The charismatic and confident leader confided in his wife on the night of June 5, "Do you realize that by the time you wake up in the morning 20,000 men may have been killed?"

Read more <http://www.euronews.com/2014/06/03/70-years-on-amazing-facts-you-may-not-know-about-d-day/>

5. At Omaha Beach, 9,387 Americans are buried

Thousands of Americans died during the invasion on D-Day and following operations. On D+2 (June 8) the U.S. Army created the American St. Laurent Cemetery adjacent to Omaha Beach to begin the burials of those who died in the past 36 hours. After the war, the cemetery was moved closer to the beach and rededicated as the Normandy American Cemetery. The next of kin of all the deceased were given the option to repatriate their loved ones to the United States or have them be buried at an American cemetery overseas.

The cemetery includes 3 Medal of Honor recipients, Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., his brother Quentin who was killed in WWI, Army Air Corps crews who were shot down over France as early as 1942 and two of the Niland brothers which the movie Saving Private Ryan is based on.

Read more: <http://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/normandy-american-cemetery>



A Historic Female Unit

Will Be Deactivated as the Marine Corps Continues Integrating the Force. More female recruits will head to San Diego as Marines shutter historic Parris Island battalion

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. --

In a milestone emphasizing the Marine Corps' successful standardization in recruit training, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island will deactivate its Fourth Recruit Training Battalion in a ceremony June 15, 2023, and realign personnel between the service's two recruit training locations.

"This is a moment to celebrate the legacy of so many of our Marines who made the transformation through 4th Recruit Training Battalion," said Gen. David H. Berger, the Commandant of the Marine Corps. "It's also a moment to celebrate progress. I'm proud to see our male and female recruits benefit from having access to the quality of all our leaders—at Parris Island and San Diego—through an unchanging, tough, and realistic recruit training curriculum."

Since 1949 and until recently, Parris Island served as the sole point of entry into the Marine Corps for all enlisted female Marines. Since that time, female Marines have trained under multiple guidons, with 4th Recruit Training Battalion transforming Marines since 1986. Male recruits began training within Fourth Battalion in 2020. Today, successful recruit training standardization makes an all-female training battalion unnecessary, as all recruits have been training in gender-integrated companies since 2022.

"On 1 November 1986, 4th Recruit Training Battalion was established as the Corps' only unit through which women could earn the title of U. S. Marine," said Brig. Gen. Walker M. Field, Commanding General of MCRD Parris Island and the Eastern Recruiting Region. "Since then, those Marines have transformed thousands of young women, and since 2021 men, through rigorous basic training and our Corps' cherished legacy, preparing them to win our nation's battles. On 15 June 2023, we will bid farewell to 4th Battalion in a deactivation ceremony that concludes her glorious tenure, closing the final chapter of integrating recruit training. We are forever grateful to the Drill Instructors, staff, and legions of Marines who so proudly call 4th Battalion home."

[Marines Standardize Recruit Depots, Deactivate Historic Battalion > United States Marine Corps Flagship > Press Release Display](#)



What is the 226th

Maneuver Enhancement Brigade?

As a major subordinate command in the Alabama National Guard, the 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade is tasked with a wide variety of missions, from helping civilians in their home state cope with the devastating effects of powerful hurricanes to handling critical support functions overseas that will enable front- ...

The Maneuver Enhancement Brigade enables, enhances, and protects the operational and tactical freedom of action of the supported force. It receives and integrates mission-tailored forces to Brigade Combat Teams and Support Brigades.

In 2013, for example, the 226th deployed to Kabul and trained more than 1,000 Afghans uniformed police, increasing their professionalism and confidence which in turn instills a sense of hope in the citizens they've sworn to protect. At the same time, the Brigade helped house and protect 7,000 U.S. military personnel, ensuring all received three nutritious meals a day and had ready access to bottled water. The unit also worked on lighting, roads, sewage lines, and medical clinics, all to bring hope that change is not only on the way, but it coming sooner than they can imagine.

Stateside, the 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade conducts annual hurricane exercises to help the Alabama Emergency Agency prepare in case a major storm system hits the state during the late spring through early fall. Based at Fort Whiting, the Brigade is the center of activity in terms of hurricane response; it is activated by the Alabama National Guard when a hurricane looms in the forecast and becomes Joint Task Force Tarpon, equipped with assets ranging from helicopter and boat teams to high-water evacuation squads and military police.

The 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Shoulder Sleeve Insignia draws heavily upon the imagery and history of its home state, from a red "X" taken from the state flag to the blue and gray borders on the patch that is also used on the Combat Service ID Badge.



DIXIE REAR DETACHMENT

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SAVC GRANTS supported by Combat Vets Org, Chapter 28-6; Reach Ministries, Fruitdale, AL.; Mobile Memorial Gardens, & anonymous donations.



Rick Moritz – PGR



Tonya Cain – Porch Ministries



[Facebook](#) BSSF Video of 2023

AFD/BSS Event at Battleship Memorial Park

AFD/BSS Event was a huge success, thanks to all the Hosts, sponsors, runners, vendors, and **VOLUNTEERS!**



Sure Cap Hal Pierce is smiling at this one! His daughter Jennifer Pierce Frankveronsky, an employee of Battleship Memorial Park is one of many volunteers for the event



BMP Crew Mates

with the the 90-year-old who runs the 5K Fallen Heroes run every year.



WHO THEY RUN FOR

The Alabama fallen heroes since 911



Soldiers of the American Revolution



The Event



Guest Speaker Gen Burford with the BMP Crewmates



Silver Wings, BMP Crew Mates, Tom Long, BSSF President

Enjoy images from the 2023 event at:

[AFD/BSS 2023 - photographybyfran](#)

**SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2023
VETERANS DAY PARADE**

The Mobile Bay Area Veteran’s Day Commission would like to give you a heads-up on the 2023 Veterans Day Parade. **Veterans Day is a U.S. Federal Holiday that is always celebrated on November 11th.**

If the Holiday falls on a Saturday, it is observed on the previous Friday. If the Holiday falls on a Sunday, it is observed on the following Monday.

The City of Mobile and the Veterans Day Commission will have its Annual Veterans Day Parade on Friday, November 10th

Alabama has been named a Regional Site for the celebration of Veterans Day by the Department of Veterans Affairs. As such it is one of approximately twenty locations in America whose Veterans Day Parade is Officially recognized by the federal government.



South Alabama Air Force Association

Proud to honor 2 outstanding science teachers at the Mobile County Board of Education meeting on May 25, 2023. Steve Carey, COL, USAF (Ret), presented \$250.00 checks to Jill Spencer, Denton Middle School, and Mike Fletcher, Davidson High School, for their work in robotics and engineering design. The Air Force Association recognizes the long-term impact of improving STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math – in our schools!



Jill Spencer, Mike Fletcher, Col Steve Carey USAF (Ret), Don Stringfellow, MCPSS Board VP



Col Steve Carey USAF (Ret)

“Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans”

**Presented by 92nd Infantry Div
Buffalo Soldiers, WWII Alabama Chapter**

Col Patrick Downing USA (Ret) was the guest speaker at the ceremony which was held at the Revelation Missionary Baptist Church.



Vietnam Veterans



Col Pat Downing

Date: June 12, 2023 – If you are in the area:

**Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center
Time: 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM CDT**

Event Description: Okaloosa County will be hosting its first annual recognition of Women Veterans Day at 8:00 A.M., Monday, June 12, 2023, make plans to attend to honor our women veterans.



**Silverhill Veterans Memorial Car Show –
again a huge success.
Proceeds go to the Silverhill
Veterans Memorial Park, Silverhill, AL.
“20 years of show and shine”**

This 1932 Ford Roadster was Ray Heathcoe’s car, driven by his wife, Pandora Jorgensen Heathcoe. Ray was a Vietnam Veteran who fell victim to Agent Orange in 2021.



Ray was known as one of the “street racers” in Mobile before graduating from Vigor High School in 1969. Drafted straight from high school, Ray began his career as a tank commander and sniper in the Army 17th Cavalry H-Troop on Highway One throughout Vietnam. Thus, falling victim to Agent Orange. He was awarded the Bronze Star among many other distinguished medals for his service.

Ray was a life-long volunteer and supporter of the Angel Ride Foundation, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation, the Wounded Warrior Foundation, the National Veterans Foundation, and various other local charities.

Returning home, Ray owned a diesel repair shop while continuing his “street racing” career. That career went on to blossom as Ray became an NHRA top fuel drag racer nationwide

His racing career also began long-term friendships with some of drag racing’s elite racers, allowing him to crew for Don Garlits during Don’s exhibition races with Shirley “Cha Cha” Muldoney. and doing PR for the Gwynn New York Yankees Racing Team.



Photo by Pandora

**Placing flags at the grave sites of the Alabama
State Veterans Memorial Cemetery in
preparation for Memorial Day.**



Photo by ALDVA

Special thanks to the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Patriot Guard Riders, families, & friends who honored our Veterans at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort/ Flags were placed on over 3500 headstones of individuals who served our great nation.



Photo by BLB

Veterans Cemetery was dedicated on Dec 7, 2012, with 3579 internments. The ten-year expansion is on schedule. Tents, stage, chairs, and sound system is provided by Baldwin County Commission, also provided Brat’s busses for transportation from the parking area at church to the cemetery.

The South Alabama Veterans’ Council (SAVC) hosted the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Cemetery , 1202 Virginia St. in Mobile Monday, May 29. Commissioner Connie Hudson welcomed all. Commanding Officer of Sector Mobile: Captain Ulysses Mullins, USCG was the main speaker.



CAPT Ulysses Mullins



**Alabama State Veterans Cemetery
Spanish Fort, AL**

Major General Janet L. Cobb was the guest speaker at the Memorial Day Ceremony



National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has requested that we discontinue using “Arlington South” when referring to our Alabama State Veterans Cemetery, Spanish Fort, AL. The NCA received a request from an Arlington National Cemetery official that we cease calling it that. It seems that some people were wrongly assuming that our cemetery was affiliated with Arlington and that we were an extension of the National Cemetery.

Memorial Day Flag Lowering Ceremony Battleship Memorial Park



P.L. Wilson MCL Detachment lowered the flags, CDR Pete Riehm was MC, Col John Kilpatrick read “In Flanders Field”, poppies were handed out to those attending the ceremony and Janie Bryant sang the National Anthem, Trent led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.



The Memorial Day Flag Relay began in Mobile near the USCG-ATC base, touched the flag at the National Cemetery, continued to the Battleship. Baldwin County continued the Relay, and Pensacola completed their relay at the Veterans Memorial in Pensacola, all to bring awareness to veteran suicide.

Memorial Day at precisely 3:00 pm, American Legion Post 250 Honor Guard bugler, Fred Phelps played Taps, as did many in our Nation, for the Taps Across America program.

Link to Honor Guard Bugles Taps: [Facebook](#)



American Legion Honor Guard Post 250 Fowl River

Gone From Our Lives Never From Our Hearts

In our memories, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women of the seven uniform services buried in these hallowed and sacred grounds will live forever

Joe McCormack JOMAC – POETRY IN ACTION



Montford Point Marines Chapter 33 -will have a fundraising event before Father’s Day, more information forthcoming MGynSgt Cynthia House.

Spanish Navy Ship, Juan Sebastian de Elcano, in Port of Pensacola until June 3

The Elcano is a four-masted top sail schooner and is one of the oldest tall ships sailing today. It was built in 1927 and named after “the Spanish explorer who completed Ferdinand Magellan’s first-ever circumnavigation of the earth from 1519 to 1522,” according to the release. The ship is the third-largest tall ship in the world at 370 feet long.



MOBILE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 6

IMPORTANT 2023 SPECIAL ELECTION DATES

JUNE 6TH Qualifying period begins	JUNE 20TH Last day to qualify	JUNE 28TH 1st Day to vote Absentee
JULY 10TH Last day to register to vote	JULY 18TH Last day to receive Absentee application by mail	JULY 20TH Last day to hand deliver an Absentee application
JULY 20TH Last day to vote Absentee in person	JULY 24TH Last day to apply for & submit an Emergency Absentee Ballot	JULY 25TH Election Day

A run-off election will be held on August 22 if necessary.

IMPORTANT DISTRICT 6 SPECIAL ELECTION DATES



Mental Health First Aid

Vets Recover is proud to share that we are offering Mental Health First Aid. This 8-hour course aims to elevate our community's response to the mental health crisis and educates community members on the value of building resiliency.

Those interested in registering for an upcoming training may do so at this website:

<https://vetsrecover.org/services/community-engagement/mental-health-first-aid/>

More training will be added throughout the year so please check periodically.

Melissa McKnight, MPH
Director of Community Integration

PTSD Awareness Month

D-Day	June 6
Womens Veterans Day	June 12
Army Birthday	June 14
U.S. Flag Day	June 14
Fathers Day	June 21
USCG Auxiliary Birthday	June 23
PTSD Awareness Day	June 27



HAPPY 248TH BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES ARMY

A Veterans widow would like to donate this accessible ramp to someone who needs one.

Contact Lou Lartigue loulartigue@bellsouth.net



JUNE 14 – FLAG DAY

Some key elements of the Flag Code include:

- The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade, except from a staff
- The flag should not be draped over cars or vehicles
- The flag, when carried in a procession with other flags, should be on the marching right
- No other flag or pennant should be displayed above the flag of the United States of America
- The flag should be displayed in a way that is respectful and never touches anything that is beneath it, such as the ground, water, or merchandise
- The flag should be displayed in a place of prominence

Flag Day is a time when we have a chance to not only honor the flag of the United States of America, but also all that the flag symbolizes, including honor, sacrifice, duty, independence, and liberty.



ALABAMA
VETERANS RESOURCE

We are creating a Veteran Owned Business List in partnership with the SAVC and Scuttlebutt Radio Network. 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.

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(251) 661-1333

**THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF 2023
ARMED FORCES DAY BLUE STAR SALUTE**



PEACE MERCY FORGIVENESS

For the Warriors who here lay, Each and every Memorial Day.
In our hearts their memory stay, For eternal peace we all pray.

Though is not an easy thing to do, Pray for enemy – their family too.
Each lost precious ones they knew, Mercy-forgiveness gets you through. Joe McCormack JOMAC – POETRY IN ACTION

**South Alabama Veterans Council
May 16, 2023 Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER: President Lou Lartigue called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. by– 43 in attendance - Location Saucy Q BBQ
OPENING PRAYER: Chaplain Michael Austin opened the meeting with a prayer.

PLEDGE: Jim Jeffries led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME: Lou Lartigue welcomed everyone, and recognized new attendees.

MINUTES: Minutes for the April meeting were mailed in the newsletter. Seven snail mail newsletters and 435 emailed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tom Schwarz - hat collected \$61.00 after expenditures of \$1200.00 balance is \$10,931.

GRANTS: Presented to the PGR, BSSF, & Porch Ministries.

MEMORIAL DAY: Flag Raising at BMP, ceremonies at various cemeteries.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAG RELAY: Admiral Lee, the run is from Mobile to Pensacola, 15th year.

VSO Report - Jim Jeffries

AVMC- Col Pat Downing – Cemetery dedicated Dec 7, 2012, 3579 internments. Ten-year expansion is on schedule. Tents, stage, chairs, and sound system provided by Baldwin County Commission, also provide Brat's busses for transportation from the parking area at church to the cemetery.

Battleship USS Alabama – Col Pat Downing teak deck on schedule, \$8.2 million dollars to replace the deck, schedule completion May 2024.

Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs – Sissy-Louise Moore gave a brief update on what's going on in ALDVA

Memorial Day Flag Relay – Chaplain Endel Lee reported on the Flay Relay in Mobile

Veterans Recovery Resources: John Kilpatrick reported on the grand opening of the inpatient facility on Veterans Day, 2023, and the name change to Vets Recover.

MEMORIAL DAY: Flag Raising at BMP, ceremonies at various cemeteries.

92nd Buffalo Soldiers – Eddie Irby, Jr reported on the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans program at the Revelation Missionary Baptist Church.

Unifi Fiber – Lou introduced James Parker, Unifi's veteran's organization "Proud to Serve" which has 42 members and supplies a lot of support to the veterans community. **Guest Speaker –** Col Pat Downing USA (Ret)

ALNG-MEB - Lt Col Marcus Young, Deputy Commander MEB 226 reported on upcoming deployments. Col Young is also president of MOAA.

LTC Will Hurd - reported on the Romanian 30th year to work together with Alabama through the State Partnership Program.

Female Marine Training Battalion - Carol Martin reported on the deactivation of the 4th infantry All Female Marine Training Battalion on June 15.

Montford Point Marines Chapter 33 -MGynSgt Cynthia House – they are having a fundraiser before Father's day.

The meeting adjourned at 1000am

Fran Barber

Secretary, SAVC

May 16, 2023